

one of her former students was even elected to the highest level of State leadership as president of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association. She teaches her students not to simply attend college but to become leaders.

In addition to pursuing state office positions within the organization, Davoudi has led the students of SGA at Kingwood College in multiple community service projects such as food, clothing and toy drives for non-profit organizations and local area shelters for abused women and children. In the words of one of her colleagues, Dr. Davoudi is "changing the world one student at a time."

I salute Dr. Vida Davoudi for being a shining example of a distinguished scholar and advocate for lifelong learning. Her life and eternal gratitude for living in a country so richly blessed with opportunity and freedom is an inspiration to us all.

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COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
DR. WILLIAM "DOC" WILKERSON

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HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. William "Doc" Wilkerson. Dr. Wilkerson, who passed away on February 29, 2008, was one of the founders of Flower Mound, Texas and also the town's second mayor.

Doc Wilkerson was born in Madill, Oklahoma on December 21, 1917, and began working for a locksmith at age ten. This prompted his mother to enroll him in the Boy Scouts of America, where he later achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1935.

In 1954, Doc bought 150 acres of unincorporated rural land north of the newly-created Grapevine Lake. It was here that his fight for Flower Mound began. During the early 1960s, Wilkerson worked tirelessly to halt Irving's attempt to annex what is now the town of Flower Mound. Doc was ultimately successful in stopping the annexation. After this success, he worked to incorporate present-day Flower Mound.

Dr. Wilkerson was elected mayor of Flower Mound in 1968. He was only the second individual to hold the position of mayor for the young town, and he held this office until 1973. In honor of his passing, the town of Flower Mound will fly its flags at half-staff.

The first mayor of Flower Mound, Bob Rheudasil, once said about Doc, "No words are big enough to talk about him." This is certainly true; Doc's tireless dedication to Flower Mound greatly contributed to turning the small town into the thriving community it is today.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Doc's two sons, his brother and three sisters, as well as a long list of family members and friends. North Texas has lost a long-time friend and advocate. While Doc Wilkerson will be greatly missed by the community he helped found, he will forever be remembered for his dedication to the city of Flower Mound.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in north Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting, and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in north Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and America and north Texas will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

I interviewed Mr. Keith Fannon. He served in the United States Air Force. His beginning rank was just a basic airman, but he was able to rise all the way up being a Staff Sergeant when he finished his time of service. He served in the Korean War. Mr. Fannon may not have seen too much on the battlefield in itself, but he performed search and rescue missions for airmen who had been shot down through the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), helped civilians in need in Korea, and had been through six major offensives during his service time. Mr. Keith Fannon has been a family friend for about four years now, and I've solely gotten to know him for the person he is today. To be able to learn of Mr. Fannon's past in the Air Force, though, was a fascinating experience. It gave me more insight to Mr. Fannon as a whole, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Having the ability to learn even more about a friend, a veteran, and America's history from a first-person point of view all at the same time was mind-blowing. I would like to thank Mr. Keith Fannon and the Congressional Youth Advisory Council for giving me such a great opportunity.—Patrick Foster

For the Veteran's History project, I interviewed retired Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas, the most decorated Army officer of the 82nd Airborne, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Lt. Col. Megellas and his regiment fought through Europe in World War II from January 1943 to the end of the war in 1945, and were welcomed home to a victory parade in New York on January 12, 1946. He led his men as a Platoon Leader in many fa-

mous battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden, and the battle for Anzio, and he eventually participated in the American occupation of Berlin. Interviewing such an influential and heroic veteran truly affected my life in an undeniable and poignant way. Though Lt. Col. Megellas said that he does not agree with those who call him part of the "greatest generation," getting the chance to interview him reminded me that unbelievable heroism, valor, and selflessness can still exist in the face of a world where people's worth is often judged by their money and power in society. Whether he agrees with me or not, I believe that soldiers like Lt. Col. Megellas, including the brave men and women fighting in the military for America today, are the greatest of any generation in American history. As Lt. Col. Megellas put it, "We're blessed in many ways, but not more so than the quality of the young men and women who will step forward whenever we're been in trouble. They are the best of this generation."—Stephen Hayes

Howard Montfort, known to all his friends as Dusty, was born in Carrolton, Texas and has lived in Texas all his life, except for his time of service. He was originally drafted in 1966, but was unable to comply with his draft notice due to an infection of viral encephalitis. After recovering, he was given pardon and transferred from Texas A&M, where he had been going to school, to NTSU. There he was drafted a second time, but decided instead to visit the school's recruiter to join a program which allowed him to finish school while training for the Air Force. Dusty entered the Air Force in 1969, flying the infamous B-52. After joining the Vietnam Conflict, he quickly rose from Second Lieutenant to Aircraft Commander, and flew numerous Tours for a total of 141 combat missions. Dusty received the Air Medal and seven Oak Leaf clusters during his service. In addition, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in December 1972 for "Heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

In March of 1974, Dusty left the service after flying for five years. He is now married to Gila Montfort, his wife of thirty-eight years. Together, they have a son, Steven Montfort, who lives in Los Angeles and works as an actor. By conducting this interview, I have heard first-hand the experiences of an American veteran. These people have served our country. They have died to pay for our freedom, and I had the opportunity to speak to one of them. In addition, I learned more about the Vietnam Conflict than I previously knew. I am extremely thankful for the experience.—Weston Barker

Mr. Billie Bob Norris proudly served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps for 19 months during the Korean War. He was a member of the First Marine Air Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Air Group 12, Service Squadron 1. During that time, he was stationed in the frigid area of Wonsan, North Korea, shortly after its liberation by the South Korean forces. He then joined with the K27 Yonpo Airdrome as they went to Hamhung-Hungnam as part of the "Frozen Chosin" or "Chosin Few." He was also stationed in Pusan, South Korea, and later worked as a radio-radar technician in Japan for the duration of his service. Mr. Norris currently holds a bachelor's degree in industrial art, a master's degree in secondary school administration, and a specialist degree in vocational education. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and lives in Frisco, Texas with his wife, Armetha.

Throughout the process of writing this essay I have earned both a greater respect