

TO COMMEND DAVID PRATTIS BREWINGTON ON BEING AWARDED THE 2010 VETERAN'S AWARD BY THE NAACP-TALBOT COUNTY BRANCH

HON. FRANK KRATOVIL, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Prattis Brewington, of Federalsburg, MD, on being awarded the 2010 Veteran's Award by the NAACP-Talbot County Branch. The presentation will be made on October 9, 2010, in Easton, MD, at the Freedom Fund Banquet.

Mr. Brewington was born May 25, 1925, in Federalsburg, MD, and has been a lifelong resident. He entered the United States Army in 1944 during World War II, after receiving an education in Caroline County public schools. As a member of the 3716 Quartermaster Truck Company in the 2nd Army, Mr. Brewington drove supplies and gasoline to the front lines via tractor trailers and tankers. He served in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1946, Mr. Brewington returned to Federalsburg, MD, and became a long-distance truck driver for Service Trucking Co., where he worked for 22 years, as well as being elected as shop steward by his fellow Teamster Union members. He then started a small business as an owner-operator of dump trucks. After retiring from trucking, he started a second career for U-Star and Delmarva Community Transit in Easton, MD, as a van driver for senior citizens and the disabled. He celebrated his second retirement at the age of 82. He and his wife, Mary Henson Brewington, enjoy visiting their two daughters and grandchildren.

Mr. Brewington celebrated his 85th birthday this year. Throughout the past 47 years, he has served as an active and avid member of the Blake-Blackston American Legion Post 77. Having served as Commander, 1st Vice Commander and currently as Chaplain, Mr. Brewington exemplifies the drive and commitment our World War II veterans have exhibited in serving this great country.

I commend my constituent, David Prattis Brewington, on his many years of service and on his achievement of being named the recipient of the 2010 Veteran's Award by the NAACP-Talbot County Branch.

MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3421, the "Medical Debt Relief Act of 2010," which would address the issue of medical debt and the crippling effect that such debt can have on an individual's credit report, even long after it has been paid off. This bill will right an injustice in the credit scoring industry that unfairly penalizes thousands of families across the country.

I thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman KILROY, for her attention to this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, over 28 million Americans were contacted by debt collections agencies regarding medical debt. Unlike other forms of debt, however, individuals do not choose when to take on medical debt. The nature of serious illness is such that it often comes when we least expect it. Many people develop from low credit scores simply because they were forced to assume large amounts of medical debt when they did not expect it and were, thus, financially unprepared to do so. Unfortunately, these individuals' credit scores often remain low long after their debt has been paid off, and in some cases for the rest of their lives. This is an unfair penalty for individuals who have done nothing wrong.

H.R. 3421 will correct this problem by inserting a clause into the Fair Credit Reporting Act that to eliminate medical debt from credit reporting within 30 days of the debt being fully paid off. Credit reports are an important tool for lenders, and many other industries. This bill will ensure that credit reports reflect individuals' actual credit-worthiness, rather than providing an artificially low-score that is dragged down by medical debt from the past.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this H.R. 3421.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM "BILL" MCFARLING OF LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. William "Bill" McFarling of Lewisville, Texas, who passed away on September 15, 2010.

Bill was an active member of the Lewisville Bible Church, and his dedication to his community led him to co-found the Lewisville Football Association, helping to promote fellowship and sportsmanship to the area's youth. A respected member of the north Texas community, Bill also served as an active member of the Denton County Republican Party for over 35 years, receiving the organization's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Bill served as an advisor and mentor as I made the transition to public service late in my career, and I am thankful for his wise counsel and leadership.

As a member of the United States Army, Bill honorably served his country during the Korean conflict. His commitment to freedom and dedication to protecting his fellow citizens is honorable, and I am grateful for Bill's service to our country.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I proudly rise to remember Bill McFarling, a model citizen and outstanding American. His legacy of service to the north Texas area and this great Nation is one of honor, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family. It is an honor to have represented such an exceptional individual from the 26th District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING MICHAEL JONES FOR HIS WORK TO COMPLETE THE YUMA ARMED FORCES PARK

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Jones of Yuma, Arizona.

Mr. Jones served his country in Vietnam, receiving two Purple Hearts as well as many other citations for his service. He is the Past Commander of the Yuma Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). He was past National Vice President of the 173d Airborne Brigade as well as a committee member of the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation serving in an advisory capacity for the construction of their memorial currently under construction in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was also nominated for National Patriot of the Year for the MOPH.

In 2005, Mr. Jones responded to a plea for help from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, the Military Affairs Committee and the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce in an effort to complete the Yuma Armed Forces Park. The construction of the park had been stopped for some time after completion of Phase I due to lack of funds, all of which were donated by the community through various fundraising events.

Mr. Jones had a lifetime of experience in all phases of construction. After learning of their dilemma and meeting with the different entities, it was determined that not only was there a lack of funds to complete the park, but the park could not be completed as planned. Mr. Jones took it upon himself to lead the community through this crisis by scheduling various fundraisers, stimulating plaque sales and donations and becoming the supervisor for the construction of the remainder of the park. This included supervision of volunteer workers, all of which were active duty or disabled veterans who were members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Yuma Chapter 433.

Phase II of the park consisted of the construction of the amphitheater, and was the most difficult portion of the project. This phase involved a daily presence by Mr. Jones and members of the MOPH as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. These men and women, most of whom were 50–60 years of age, worked six and sometimes seven days a week to meet any deadline presented to them.

The project continued over 3½ years as funds became available through the various fundraisers, donations and plaque sales. Mr. Jones was a key player in these activities. Not only did Mr. Jones donate his time, he also donated thousands of dollars worth of tools and equipment to complete the park. He worked non-stop, making the park the most important task in his life, knowing that his fellow veterans needed to be recognized. During this time he put the completion of the park ahead of family health issues that in most cases would have been a priority.

Madam Speaker, Michael Jones was a leader when serving in Vietnam, and he continues to be in his civilian life. I want to thank him for his service to this country and to his community.