

dreams. Their spouses have gone about the daily task of keeping the home fires burning, and have often sacrificed careers and other goals to provide stability at home during constant transitions. Furthermore, their children have learned to be resilient and appreciative of the cost of freedom. They are strong families who have contributed to our communities, and have defended our Constitution and freedoms.

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a mobile memorial dedicated primarily to the memory of fallen military members from Vietnam. The traveling unit centerpiece of a the American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a 380-foot exact replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and the AVTT includes memorial displays honoring the veterans of World War 2, Korean War, the Gulf War, September 11th attack victims and the current War on Terror.

A non-profit event owned by a retired Army Vietnam veteran, there is a patch and coin available from the AVTT that is inscribed, "I touched the Wall; the Wall touched me." This motto was so very true for a small group of veterans and citizens in Greene County, Ohio who formed a committee and hosted the AVTT in Xenia from October 10–14, 2012. They physically touched the Wall, but their lives were touched forever along with the lives of thousands of visitors who came to Xenia to see the AVTT.

Tim and Susan Spradlin of Xenia proposed the project in August 2011. Tim is a retired Air Force Reserve first sergeant, a member of the Greene County Veterans Service Commission plus he and Susan are very active members of the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders. A veteran of combat in Iraq, Tim was frustrated by the fact that age and injuries caused him to retire from the reserve in late 2008 at age 49 after 30 total years of service. He found new ways to serve the military with the Patriot Guard and the veteran's commission. In 2010 Susan and Tim rode a PGR escort mission in Sidney, Ohio for the AVTT display there. On seeing the entire display Tim told his wife, "...Steve Molden would love this", and so the idea of hosting the AVTT in Xenia was first born.

Steve Molden is a Vietnam veteran in Xenia, who proudly served with the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. Now retired from Greene County services department, Steve is also a former volunteer member of the Xenia Township Fire Department and Greene County Rescue, where Tim Spradlin had met him many years ago. For many years Steve had been frustrated in his efforts to organize Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies or parades in Xenia. Tim was aware of Steve's frustration and wanted to do something special for Steve and other Vietnam veterans like him. Activated in 1991 for the Desert Shield / Desert Storm conflict, Tim never forgot that there were Vietnam veterans across the nation who stood up in support of the new generation of military, loudly proclaiming that these war vets would not be abused or mistreated as many Vietnam vets had been. Tim suggested to the Veterans Commission that they could host the AVTT, and the committee was born.

First to join the local AVTT committee was Steve Molden and veteran's service office director Lane Woodward. Lance is a disabled Navy veteran who was part of the AVTT display planning in Clermont County, Ohio in 2003. Susan followed her husband and

agreed to serve as the treasurer for the group, and Steve's wife Karen joined as the volunteer coordinator, to honor her husband and her uncle, member of the Order of the Purple Heart for wounds in Vietnam.

Steve Molden also brought his old friend Jim McMichaels on board. Jim is a Navy veteran of Vietnam, a high school classmate of Steve, and they both personally knew some of the 34 sons of Greene County who were killed in Vietnam, and whose names were engraved on the Wall. Other members of the community stepped up to serve also, including Jim Kennedy and Helena Curtis. Helena is a former deputy sheriff and cancer survivor whose spirit and dedication as unmatched. She said she was inspired to serve on the committee in honor of her father and grandfather who were military war veterans. Jim Madsen, a retired Air Force officer and federal civilian was proud to join the group and dedicated hundreds of hours, stating it was his personal way to say thank you, that he felt the need to do more since he had never been tasked to go to war during his service years.

As the committee worked for a year to plan the AVTT event many other citizens, spouses, veterans and business people joined the effort. For Susan Spradlin it was hard work but a labor of love, honoring her husband as an Iraq vet, a tribute to her late father who was a Navy veteran of Korea, and her brother who was disabled due to service in the Gulf War. Betty Zentiara is 80 years old, a Marine Corps veteran of Korea and dedicated many hours of her time to working in the kitchen at the event to serve refreshments to the many volunteers. Master Sergeant Jason Larimore, an active duty member from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base joined the effort and recruited many active duty Air Force personnel to man the Wall at night, providing security. David "Smitty" Smith, retired Greene County deputy sheriff and 101st Airborne veteran of Vietnam was very honored to serve and inspired to bring out his motorcycle ad joined the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders as a result of his experience on the AVTT committee. Marine veteran Ed Vance tearfully told his fellow committee members that the experience had "changed his life". There were two church pastors who participated in the event and ceremonies; both were also Vietnam veterans. Many fire and law enforcement personnel also got involved, notably Captain Doug Cope, a shift commander with the City of Xenia Fire Division and a veteran of the rescue team deployment to New York City after the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center.

Steve and Karen Molden worked to create 34 plaques with the names, ranks, service information and dates for the Greene County citizens killed in Vietnam. These plaques were placed at the base of The Wall during the 4 day display, a touching personal memory of the local sacrifice paid by the community. Some of the families for those killed in action came to see the Wall in Xenia and they were presented with the plaque in honor of their fallen brother.

Over the 4 day display of the AVTT there was a motorcycle escort parade, music and concerts, a police and fire September 11th memorial service, and numerous interactions, reunions and fellowship. Steve Molden and Jim McMichaels were out at the Wall almost constantly, leaving late at night for some sleep and then back early the next day, walking, sit-

ting in a golf cart or on a bench, talking, teaching and sharing . . . not only were they paying tribute to the fallen, but they were honoring all veterans by educating others about Vietnam, the war and the people who fought it. Watching these veterans and others find healing through this project was so rewarding.

The pinnacle event was the military memorial service on Saturday October 13th. Guest speakers included Congressman Steve Austria, Ohio Patriot Guard captain Bob Woods (US Army Vietnam), AVTT owner Don Allen (US Army Vietnam) and Major General Ed Mechenbier, US Air Force Vietnam, who was shot down while flying an F4 aircraft and spent nearly 6 years in a POW cell. There was not a dry eye in the large crowd as the 34 names of Greene County KIA were read. "Sorry for crying, but I went to high school with some of these guys," explained a tearful Jim McMichaels as he and Vietnam vets Steve Molden, Sam Wallace, Pastor John Corcoran and Pastor Wes Barnhill read the details of the fallen. The end of the reading was followed by the USAF band, the bagpipes playing Amazing Grace and a bugler playing "Taps" as a memorial wreath was laid at the apex of the Wall. For Steve Molden, Tim Spradlin and Jim McMichaels it was the end of a long year, as they sat down on a park bench near the wall and shared tears of joy for the good they had done together, and the blessing of surviving their wars.

Inspired by the dedication and initiative of so many people, the Greene County Veterans Tribute Committee will continue to make a difference. After all the AVTT bills were paid, the committee donated part of their remaining funding to the Honor Flight program and part to the Wounded Warrior Project. The remainder will be kept in the non-profit endowment fund as the seed money for a new project; we have a vision to build a suitable large war memorial for all Greene County veterans and families on the lawn of the county courthouse. With the support of the community, the Members have no doubt that they can continue to serve local veterans, serve the community, the nation and with God's blessings create a permanent tribute to all Greene County citizens who have served in the United States Armed Forces or paid the ultimate cost of freedom.

I am grateful that Greene County, located within my district, was granted the opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of veterans and first responders through the American Veterans Traveling Tribute. All those who worked to make this event happen are to be commended for their time and efforts. It was a bittersweet time to remember both those who came home from Vietnam and other wars as well as those who never had the chance.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring our military veterans and their families for their continued and selfless service to the land of the free.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY  
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Sonoma Hispanic

County Chamber of Commerce, of Santa Rosa, California on the occasion of their 25th anniversary celebration.

The mission of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to promote and support Sonoma County businesses with a commitment towards creating a healthy business environment through education, civic, and economic programs. They are an association of individuals, organizations, and business professionals working together to enhance our local economy and foster a positive cultural image.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Sonoma County was founded in the spring of 1987, and has since greatly expanded its membership and endeavors. Originally known as the Latino Breakfast Club, it formalized into a network of professionals, entrepreneurs, business people, and community leaders—Hispanic and non-Hispanic—who recognize the importance of the Hispanic community and its impact on society.

In the last 24 years, the Chamber has raised over \$280,000 for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund, which has been distributed to over 300 students living in Sonoma County. These scholarships have helped many rising Latino students reach their goals by supporting their financial needs. Bilingual parent/student workshops were instituted in order to complement the scholarship program, and have since provided information on FAFSA, financial aid, and the college transition.

In order to get further involved in the community, the Sonoma County Chamber of Commerce established the Leadership Academy, modeled after the well-respected program developed by the Press Democrat, The Press Democrat Leadership Forum. The Leadership Academy was created with the objectives of encouraging a new generation of leaders in Sonoma County and facilitating an ongoing dialogue that helps members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce understand all the ways our hometowns are changing.

Members of the Sonoma County Hispanic Network have an opportunity to create a difference in the community. Through the membership their voices are heard in the political, social, economic, and educational arenas.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge The Sonoma County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for their extraordinary work.

RECOGNIZING MR. WADE NORWOOD OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, WINNER OF THE "ROCK IN THE POND" AWARD

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to recognize Mr. Wade Norwood of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) in Rochester, New York, who was today awarded the "Rock in the Pond" Unsung Heroes of Public Health Award by the Campaign for Public Health. I am immensely proud of Wade and the work that he and the FLHSA do for the citizens of Rochester.

Wade has dedicated his life to ensuring long-term community change for today's fami-

lies and future generations. When it comes to public health, he is a true "rock in the pond"—advocating for the betterment of our community, with a keen interest for the underserved and the most vulnerable. He gives a voice to those who do not have one, and advocates health care equity for all, whether in his role as Director of Community Engagement at the FLHSA, as Pastor of the Holy Jerusalem Spiritual Church in Rochester, NY, or as a member of the New York State Board of Regents.

At FLHSA, Wade plays a crucial role in convening programs that improve public health, such as the local Partnership for the Uninsured, the Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, the African-American Health Coalition and the Latino Health Coalition, and Healthi Kids, among others. He has been the face and voice of statewide health care improvement as he has led the FLHSA's effort to reduce health disparities, helping to shape the Agency's community engagement efforts and providing leadership to issues that have a tremendous impact on the health of the city of Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. He heads up a program called Healthi Kids, which advocates for policy changes that prevent childhood obesity, and which has resulted in returning recess into Rochester City School District (RCSD) elementary schools and working with the RCSD to provide healthier, more nutritional and culturally relevant meals during the school year and summer camps. As a result, approximately 30,000 children and youth receive healthier school meals daily.

Wade also convenes the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Rochester, an education and advocacy organization composed of nearly 100 individuals and community organizations dedicated to eliminating childhood lead poisoning in Monroe County. The program received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice Achievement Award for its leadership in community-based efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning. It has influenced major lead-related public policy changes, including a local lead ordinance requiring inspections for lead paint hazards.

Under Wade's leadership, the High Blood Pressure Collaborative aims to reduce the incidence of hypertension and its devastating effects (heart disease, kidney disease, and stroke) through a collaborative approach and community engagement. The program includes working with employers to establish worksite wellness initiatives, collaborating with faith and community based organizations in inner city neighborhoods where residents find barriers in accessing care, and working with health providers to improve their practices' control rate of high blood pressure. In 2012 alone, the Collaborative provided over 7,000 face-to-face blood pressure readings and consultations, and another 6,000 with kiosks strategically located in public facilities, such as libraries.

Wade has expanded the roles of the Health Disparities/African American and Latino Health Coalitions to ensure there is a community table that is truly representative, and that all voices are heard. Wade and the members of the coalitions address diseases of deep impact to minorities, which include metabolic syndrome and high blood pressure. This effort included engaging 19 churches—including his own—with a membership in excess of 5,000

minority congregants, to engage in screening and health literacy programs.

Wade also led the Partnership on the Uninsured in its evaluation of insurance coverage barriers, defining community-wide strategies to address these barriers, and implementing a strategic approach to diminishing the number of those without health insurance.

Whether it is through his extensive work with FLHSA, on volunteer boards, in his parish, or in the many civic roles he holds, Wade embodies the "Rock in the Pond" award he has received. He makes a difference in the health and well-being of all in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wade Norwood for his commitment, his selflessness, and his passion to improve the health and lives of all those around him.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INDUSTRY AND THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS NEW MUSEUM AT LAKE UNION PARK

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) in Seattle, and to salute the museum as it prepares for the Grand Opening of its new museum at Lake Union Park on December 29, 2012.

Since its founding in 1952, MOHAI has established itself as the preeminent history center in the Seattle region, engaging over 100,000 visitors and 17,000 students and their teachers each year in the exploration of the history, character and development of Seattle and the Central Puget Sound region.

Drawing on a collection of more than 4 million historic artifacts, archives, photographs and oral histories, MOHAI exhibits and programs bring visitors face-to-face with the challenges of the past so that they can make informed decisions for the future. Working with school districts from across the region, MOHAI programs foster the civic literacy which is so essential to a strong community, and the museum provides a full range of scholarship services so that all students have access to the power of history.

With the opening of its expansive new museum in the landmark Naval Reserve Armory at Lake Union Park, MOHAI is poised to launch a history museum distinguished by leading edge technology, research and educational programs, which will serve the Seattle area for the 21st Century.

In recognition of its excellence, MOHAI is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an official affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and was selected by Museum Magazine as one of the 60 international "museums that matter."

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Museum of History & Industry, I would like to convey my congratulations to MOHAI on the opening of its new museum and its expanding work to ensure that the lessons of history are shared with generations to come.