what happened. Bill noticed that his crew member Sgt. Louis Vasquez, the aircraft's radioman, was wounded and immobile. With complete disregard for his own life, Bill attended to Vasquez, removing his helmet and flak suit and securing his parachute before finally pushing him out of the camera hatch. Finally, Bill, who was also severely wounded, secured his out parachute and exited the aircraft.

Bill's story does not end there. After touching down, he was discovered by Italian resistance fighters who gave him medical care and transferred him to a monastery, where he posed as a wounded French civilian and remained silent to avoid being discovered by the Germans. But after ten days, Bill was identified as an American and taken away by German forces. He spent the next 15 months in various POW camps in different countries. Throughout his imprisonment, he was starved, his life was threatened, and received no medical attention for his wounds. He was marched from camp to camp, and faced numerous near-death experiences. Finally, in April 1945, Bill and his fellow prisoners in Bavaria were liberated by the Thirteenth Armored Division, led by a name familiar to all Americans: General George Patton.

Amazingly, Bill continued his career in the military after returning home to America. He remained in the Air Force and married his wife, Alice, in 1947 while attending Officer Candidate School. In 1949, he was discharged from the service after six years with the Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force. He returned to Racine, Wisconsin, where he and Alice raised their daughter, Pamela, and Bill worked in the private sector for 36 years until his retirement in 1986. In 2002, I had the privilege of presenting Bill with the Distinguished Flying Cross, America's oldest military aviation award. In addition to this and many other honors, Bill was also a recipient of a POW medal and the Purple Heart.

Bill was a true American patriot. I am submitting this statement for the record to honor his incredible life and help ensure that his story is remembered for years to come. His legacy sets a standard of what it truly means to serve. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Alice, his daughter Pamela, and his son-in-law Michael. He will be greatly missed by his friends, his family, the state of Wisconsin, and the United States of America.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support of the bipartisan H.R. 203, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. The bill will reiterate our commitment towards our courageous veterans who have fought to defend this country. Statistics of the Department of Veteran Affairs say an average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day, meaning that this tragic news occurs every 65 minutes. The cases account for 20 percent of suicides in the U.S. These brave men and women suffer with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and other types of mental injuries. Mental illness can also lead to other issues, including homelessness and substance abuse. The issue is of national importance, and more needs to be done. Their well-being deserves our highest priority and we have to ensure that their illness is adequately addressed. With this legislation, Congress can prevent further tragedies and ensure our veterans have the mental health services they deserve.

HONORING REV. JOHN WOOD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, Rev. John Wood was honored for his 25 years as Pastor of the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church in Knoxville.

Almost everyone who has heard John Wood speak believes he is one of the greatest preachers this Nation has ever produced.

He is not loud or flashy or flamboyant, but he preaches the Gospel in a sincere, intelligent, humble way that relates well to all types of people.

I think he is one of the most brilliant men I have ever known, and I have felt that way since I first met him in one of his early days in Knoxville.

Under his leadership, Cedar Springs has become one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the Nation. His sermons are both enjoyable and thought-provoking, and, most importantly, Biblically-based.

He somehow has the ability to teach the Bible in a way that is helpful to Biblical scholars as well as to beginning Christians. He preaches in a kind, down-to-earth manner that gives his listeners the feeling he is preaching to himself as well as to everyone who is listening.

John has been a true friend and an inspiration to me and my family. He has been with us through good times and bad, and I am very fortunate to have known him and have him as a part of my life for these last 25 years.

Much more important than the help he has been to me, however, is the fact that he has touched thousands of lives in a good and positive way.

He has brought the Christian message to churches and meetings through the U.S. and to many countries around the world.

I want to congratulate John Wood on his 25 years at Cedar Springs and encourage all my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to listen to one of his sermons on the internet or hopefully someday in person.

I would also like to call attention to the article that appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel on January 13, 2013, entitled "Pastor John Wood: Best leaders are servants."

PASTOR JOHN WOOD: BEST LEADERS ARE SERVANTS

(By Josh Flory)

Legendary University of Tennessee football coach Robert Neyland was famous for his seven maxims of winning football. In that spirit, the News Sentinel offers a series that highlights maxims for the 21st century—not about football, but about effective leadership.

On one Sunday every month, the Business section will highlight an East Tennessean from spheres including athletics, the arts, religion or the public sector, speaking about their "leadership maxims" for the 21st century.

John Wood, senior pastor, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church: "The best leaders are those who help people accomplish good things, not by ruling over them, but by serving alongside them."

Q: Tell me about your philosophy of leadership as a pastor and a minister.

A: I think "leader"—just at its rawest, most basic definition—a leader is someone who gets other people to follow them and to get something done.

But a good leader is someone who encourages and motivates people to get something good or something necessary done. A great leader, the best leaders, are those who accomplish that—who encourage, who motivate, who really get people excited about being a part of something that they're doing—not by ruling but rather, as Jesus said, by serving.

It's servant leadership. And it's not just Jesus' word, it's really the whole picture of leadership, positive picture of leadership in the Bible. And (it) often contrasts between the very good leaders and very bad leaders, those who ruled and those who served. . . .

To me, the ultimate example of servant leadership, integrity in the Bible is John 13, where just the night before he was crucified, Jesus, having loved his disciples, loved them to the end and took off his robes, put a towel around his waist and did the one thing that no Jewish family could force another Jew who served them to do, and that was wash feet. . . .

And so Jesus lays aside His robes, puts a towel around His waist and crawls from one set of dirty feet to the next, washes feet, and then when He resumes his place He says: "Do you understand what I've told you? You call me Lord and master, I am. I'm your master, I'm your teacher. And if I, your master and teacher, have washed your feet, how much more ought you?" This is servant leadership. This is what it looks like."

Q: You mentioned the service aspect of leadership. At the same time . . . you mentioned this issue of mastery and being a master. In some sense your role involves challenging and confronting people at certain times, I would imagine. How do you balance those competing demands of confronting at times but also serving and being humble?

A: When Jack Kennedy was inaugurated as president, he asked Robert Frost to write a poem and read a poem for him, which Frost agreed to do. When Frost's friends heard that he had agreed to participate in Jack Kennedy's inauguration, they said how could you do this, you've always hated liberals?

And he said, Kennedy's no liberal. And they said, what do you mean, what's your definition of a liberal? And he said, a liberal is a man who cannot even pick his own side in an argument.

Now I always tell our people, Christ was never, in calling us to be humble, telling us that we can't have principled views—hopefully biblically formed and shaped—for which we are willing to stand and passionately take a position and debate it, but debate it charitably without demonizing people who hold a different view.

Being a leader means that you're going to have to go to people, often if you see them working what you think is outside of their own gifting, and say: "Look, you know, you have so many really wonderful gifts, and I want to help you use those gifts. We need for you to be using your gifts. We've got you in the wrong place. This is our fault. We asked you to do something that is outside of your gifting.

Or it's something that you clearly have no interest in. I think you could do it, but you've got no interest. Now let's help you get in a place where you can really be fulfilled and be, in our context, serving Christ and serving others by using your gifts. And let's deploy you rightly. . . . '' But also as a pastor, and a pastor who believes that the Bible is God's word written, there's often the responsibility of confronting—hopefully gently, lovingly but firmly—someone who's simply wanting to go along and be part of the family of Christ and yet wanting to live way outside clear teaching of God's word. And that doesn't mean on secondary and tertiary issues, but on things where the Bible is clear, where Christians have always everywhere believed these things.

You have to be able to go in love and say: ''Look, I love you too much to watch you on a destructive course. And this isn't an option for you. How can I help you get out of this thing? And I'm willing to walk with you or we'll find somebody who will walk with you.''

And again, I think too often as pastors we want so much for everybody to like us and for the numbers to keep increasing and for the money to keep coming in, and so we don't want to say the hard things. We say hard things that we know everybody agrees with. . . . We preach to the choir and they (say) ''Oh yeah, go get 'em.'' And I don't want to preach to the people that are out there; I want to preach to the people that are here by preaching first to my own heart, confronting my own idols, my own demons, my own brokenness.''

WE MUST FIGHT THE PRESIDENT'S UNILATERAL AMNESTY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, we must fight to defund and reverse the president's unilateral amnesty.

Last summer, our nation experienced the consequences of the president's refusal to enforce the law. His unilateral actions enticed tens of thousands to unlawfully enter the country. According to the statistics, a vast majority of them remain in the U.S. today.

The president is now going around the legislative process again to grant amnesty to millions more. He wants hard-working American taxpayers to fund this disastrous plan. My constituents will not stand for it.

The president's unilateral amnesty must be completely defunded. Americans' tax dollars should be used to secure the border and keep this nation safe—not to reward those who have broken the law.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 33, the ''Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act,'' which clarifies that volunteer firefighters and first responders are not to be counted towards an employer's calculation of its full-time employees for the purposes of determining if the employer falls under the ACA's employer responsibility requirement.

I support this bill because it protects fire departments from being required to pay for the insurance of their volunteers.

If they were required to pay, it is likely that many fire companies would be forced out of business.

This bill is identical to H.R. 3979, reported in the 113th Congress by the Ways and Means Committee by a 37–0 vote, and passed on the House floor by a bipartisan 410–0 vote.

The only reason this bill was never delivered to the President's desk was that the Senate ran out of time in their effort to pass the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, preventing the Federal government from shutting down.

Within the state of Texas, nearly 85% of fire departments are operated entirely on a volunteer or mostly basis.

Failure to pass this bill would mean dire consequences for the future of these volunteer fire departments.

As this bill was passed unanimously in the previous House, I see no reason why it should not do the same in this one.

I ask that my colleagues to join me in protecting our nation's fire departments by voting for the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICES FOR CHILDREN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Voices for Children for their outstanding commitment and dedication to foster youth in San Diego.

This year, Voices for Children will celebrate its 35th year of operation since its founding in San Diego County. There are 5,100 children and youth living in the San Diego County foster care system. Voices for Children is fighting to ensure those children are placed in a safe and permanent home. Voices for Children recruits, trains, and supervises 1,400 Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers (CASAs) each year. CASAs are exemplary role models and volunteer mentors for the abused, neglected, and abandoned children and youth in San Diego's foster care system. These volunteers advocate for the best interests of foster children, provide vital information to judges in Juvenile Court and speak up for San Diego's foster youth in courts, schools, and the community.

I commend Voices for Children for their contributions and ongoing dedication to providing safe and permanent homes for every child in foster care, as well as, their commitment to changing the lives of thousands of abused, neglected, or abandoned children in foster care.

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH BAALI OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I say good-bye to a distinguished member of the Washington diplomatic corps—His Excellency Abdallah Baali of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. During his six years in Washington, Ambassador Baali has made a tremendous effort to engage with Congress and strengthen the U.S.-Algeria bilateral relationship. A man of calm demeanor and wise insights, the ambassador not only represented his government with honor and great ability, he worked hard to educate and inform Congress about Algeria's important role in the Maghreb-Sahel region, as well as the economic, human rights, and democratic progress being made by his country.

During the 113th Congress it was my honor to serve as the Democratic co-chair of the Congressional Algeria Caucus, along with my Wisconsin colleague Representative SEAN DUFFY. The work of Ambassador Baali and his staff was critical to re-establishing the caucus and I am deeply grateful for all of his efforts.

During his visits to my office I listened to Ambassador Baali's words closely as we discussed the relationship between our two nations and the need for a partnership in the Maghreb-Sahel region to combat extremism, promote security, and guarantee self-determination and freedom for the people of the Western Sahara. Algeria's role in regional security is critical and I greatly appreciated Ambassador Baali's wise counsel and valuable insights.

I wish to thank President Bouteflika and the people of Algeria for sending my nation such a capable, professional, and trusted diplomat. Ambassador Baali shall always be welcome in my office and I wish him much success and happiness as he returns home to Algeria.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LEE ROY ''TEX'' KEITH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Mr. Lee Roy ''Tex'' Keith, who passed away December 23, 2014 at the age of 96, leaving behind a proud legacy.

In 2010, it was my privilege to present the 26th District of Texas Congressional Veteran Commendation to Lee Roy Keith. He honorably served our nation as a Marine aviator in World War II and the Korean War. Keith began pilot training in January 1943 and was commissioned as a captain serving at El Toro, CA where he flew military combat supplies to the Pacific. His Okinawan deployment involved evacuation of casualties from Japanese beaches and reconnaissance missions following the two atomic bombings. After assignment in Hawaii, he returned stateside and was released from active duty on October 30, 1946.