As I have said many times before, those who wear the badge—the shield over their heart—represent the best of our communities.

Our gratitude goes to Trooper Ponder for his selfless service both to our country and our community.

We continue to pray for police. They are the silent safe guardians who protect our cities, neighborhoods and schools. They are the men and women of the thin blue line between the law and the lawless.

And that's just the way it is.

BUILDING A BIGGER FORT BEND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryko Development for being recognized as Developer of the Year by the Texas Association of Builders.

Ryko Development earned this prestigious award because of its outstanding work establishing the Lakes of Bella Terra community. This community brings new families and businesses to Fort Bend County every day. Through Lakes of Bella Terra, Ryko Development created an ideal living environment for families and has earned a reputation as a premier developer in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ryko Development for being named Developer of the Year. Thanks for bringing Lakes of Bella Terra to Fort Bend.

WELCOME, KATHERINE LEE WILSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my daughter-in-law and son, Joy and Julian Wilson of Lexington, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby girl. Katherine Lee Wilson who was born at 8:09 a.m., on Monday, September 14, 2015, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20 and 5 inches long at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina. Katherine joins an older brother, Jack Wilson, and older sister, Sally Wilson. She has been born into a loving home where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Sally's grandparents Gary Strickland and Sherry Strickland of Nichols, South Carolina, and my wife, Roxanne Wilson of Springdale, South Carolina. Additionally, are proud great-grandmothers, Martha Dusenbury, Lilly Strickland, and Sally Willoughby. I am so grateful for this new addition to the Wilson family.

CELEBRATING THE NINETIETH BIRTHDAY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED OAKLAND ARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to wish a very happy birthday to Northwest Florida's beloved Oakland Ard on the occasion of his 90th birthday and to congratulate him on his many achievements and recognize his service to Northwest Florida and our great Nation.

Born and raised in Geneva County, Alabama, Oakland answered the call of duty, while in high school, joining the United States Army in December 1943. After completing basic training, Oakland deployed to Europe, where he joined his brother as a member of the 2nd Armored Infantry Division, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, seeing combat in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. While engaged in battle with German forces, Oakland's company came under heavy mortar fire, and his brother, Dalton, was tragically killed in action. Despite this devastating loss, however, Oakland continued to serve with honor and distinction until injuries sustained from severe frostbite forced him to be called back to the United States. After recovering from his injuries, Oakland continued to serve our Nation as a heavy machine gunner instructor at Fort Knox until his discharge on May 10, 1946.

Oakland's military career proved to be a harbinger of many more years of selfless service to the Lord, his family, friends, community, and Nation. Following his discharge, he returned home and started working as a farmer to help put two of his siblings through school, and when his brother, Herman, was called to active duty to serve in Korea, Oakland moved to Port St. Joe, Florida, to fill his brother's position at the St. Joe Paper Company. In Port St. Joe, Oakland met his first wife, Marian and remained in the area until his brother returned from his military duties.

In 1957, Oakland gained employment at the Container Corporation of America and settled in Jay, Florida. The Ards quickly planted strong roots in the Jay community, where they raised their two sons, Freddy and Ronnie. Oakland would remain at the Container Corporation for nearly four decades, until his retirement in 1996. While working, Oakland helped establish and lead several organizations including the Eastpoint Employees Federal Credit Union, where he served as both President and Vice President, and the Brewton CCA Federal Credit Union, where he served a term as president and many decades as a board member and treasurer.

Outside of his working life, Oakland was also a leader in his church and civic communities. As a longtime member of Jay First Baptist Church, he served in countless positions, including Sunday School Director, Training Union Director, Brotherhood Director, and Church Treasurer, among many others.

Oakland also contributed to the Northwest Florida community in myriad other ways. He was appointed by the Florida Legislature to the Board of Directors of Jay Hospital, served nearly two decades as a board member of the State Housing Initiative Program, and was a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the people of Jay also elected him to the Jay City Council, where he served for four years.

Still, all of these impressive accomplishments are only a small reflection on Oakland's selfless character and dedication to family, faith, and community. A dedicated family man, for more than 50 years, Oakland was a loving husband to Marian, until her passing from cancer. Today, Oakland enjoys spending time with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and his wife, Jackie, and he has always been around to lend a hand to his neighbors in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Oakland Ard on his 90th birthday. My wife Vicki and I wish him and the entire Ard family all the best.

FORT BEND CARES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fort Bend Cares for its dedication to improving the lives of the children in Fort Bend County.

Since the beginning, Fort Bend Cares has worked to improve the lives of our local children. Their latest project is a new playground located in Community Park in Rosenberg. Fort Bend Cares, with assistance from other local businesses, will work with a local playground manufacturer to ensure that the children of the community have a safe and fun place to relax and play. We are all looking forward to the playground's completion.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you to Fort Bend Cares for leaving such a positive impact on the lives of so many children here in Fort Bend County.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF CAPTAIN MATTHEW D. ROLAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On August 27, 2015, Captain Matthew D. Roland, who was assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically succumbed to wounds received during an attack the day prior while conducting operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel near Camp Antonik, Afghanistan. Captain Roland was 27 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.