

If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines."

From one Marine to another, happy birthday and Semper Fi.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HOWARD COBLE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it was a little less than a year ago that a number of us gathered on the House floor to bid farewell to our colleague, Howard Coble, as he retired from 3 decades of service to the people of North Carolina.

The series of heartfelt tributes that day, from Members on both sides of the aisle, were a striking reflection of the respect and admiration that so many of us felt for Howard. And he returned that affection. He always made the extra effort to get to know those with whom he worked, regardless of their stature or their party affiliation.

Howard was also an effective legislator, a tireless advocate for the Sixth District. He took on complicated and difficult issues in his leadership roles on the Judiciary and Transportation Committees.

I was fortunate to partner with him on a number of bipartisan initiatives, from textile research, to disaster relief, to funding for his beloved Coast Guard.

In an era where our politics are too often fractious and divisive, Howard's camaraderie, good humor, and generosity of spirit reflected the best of what this institution can be.

Lisa and I are saddened by his passing. We join his many friends and former colleagues in extending condolences to his family and expressing gratitude for his life.

VETERANS HEALTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Veterans Health and Accountability Act. Yesterday's Veterans Affairs Committee hearing showed why this bill is so critical.

An investigation revealed that Veterans Affairs administrators likely gamed the system to enrich themselves at taxpayer expense, creating high-paying vacancies at desirable locations, where they would have less responsibility.

At the hearing, they pled the Fifth to avoid the truth, and they remain on the job. Meanwhile, Granite State vets are waiting for care.

My Veterans Health and Accountability Act strengthens the Veterans Choice program, allowing veterans to

seek private care due to inadequate VA facilities. My home State of New Hampshire does not even have a full-service VA.

The act also protects whistleblowers who expose negligence and mismanagement. If it were not because of these individuals, we may never have discovered secret waiting lists where thousands of vets probably died waiting for care.

The bill I introduced clarifies hiring and firing rules, so bad actors who abuse their positions can be exited promptly.

We must enforce and expand VA reforms to ensure our military vets receive the care we promised them. We must restore Americans' trust in government.

DISAPPROVAL OF THE RADEWAGEN AMENDMENT TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my disapproval to the Radewagen amendment to the surface transportation bill, which was ultimately defeated last night, 113-310.

This amendment would have required the Secretary to change the allocation program funds made available to the territories. This amendment would have potentially harmed my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam, by possibly taking already minimal funds away from these two territories.

The funding provided in the transportation bill is yet another example of this Congress' inability to address the real needs of the U.S. territories, whose economies have not recovered and require additional support.

And, while I certainly recognize and empathize with the frustrations of some of my colleagues from the territories, it is the limited funding within this bill which has created an environment where we are literally fighting over scraps.

The proposed funding in the bill barely provides any increase of the historically low allocation for the territorial highway program.

I would like to thank both the chair and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. DEFAZIO, for not supporting the amendment and for recognizing that this is not an amendment that enjoyed the full support of all the four smaller territories.

I would also like to thank the dean, Congresswoman BORDALLO, of the territory of Guam, for her efforts and engagement on this very important issue.

I look forward to working with Transportation and Infrastructure leadership and staff and my fellow Delegates from the insular areas and working together on resolving our problems.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DANIEL STANDAGE

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, next week we celebrate Veterans Day, a time to honor the men and women who served our country in the military.

Today, I want to recognize a stand-out veteran from my district, Daniel Standage.

Daniel served 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, until a neurological condition he suffered from eventually rendered him completely blind. He received a 100 percent service-connected disability, but that hasn't held him back.

Daniel completed a blind rehabilitation program at the Southern Arizona VA. He enrolled at the University of Arizona and was instrumental in establishing its student veterans center, a place that offers assistance to transitioning student veterans. The center now is a national model for Student Veterans of America.

Today, Daniel is a staunch advocate for veterans across the country. He credits his education as being the most important factor in helping him overcome his disability, and he now helps countless other veterans earn their degrees.

In advance of Veterans Day, I thank all the men and women like Daniel who serve and served our Nation and continue to make a difference today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEPHEN TALLEY

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and great legacy of San Jacinto Valley's artist, Stephen Talley, known as Steve, who passed away last week after his battle with cancer at the age of 62.

Steve was 11 years old when he began his career, creating and selling his artwork. That passion is what led him to pursue and share his artistic vision with the community and the world.

For more than 30 years, Steve taught art at San Jacinto High School, touching the life of every student who sat in his class. He was known internationally for his work, winning more than 100 awards in numerous competitions, many of them in first place.

He never let his success get in the way of his commitment to his students and, as a result, he has inspired a new generation of artists to never give up on their dreams.

Steve was a mentor, a teacher, a friend, and, above all, he was a great man. His memory will never be forgotten.

As we mourn the passing of Stephen Talley and celebrate his life, my