

HONORING BERT DODDS

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Bert Dodds for his service to the United States Navy and to his country.

A Hospital Corpsman, Dodds was a medical professional attached to the 1st Platoon, 2nd Combined Action Group, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, 1st Marine Division in Vietnam from November 1967 through November 1968. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Dodds provided medical expertise to Vietnamese orphans and various local villages. On November 4, 1967, while on patrol with his detachment, a booby trap exploded on a nearby rice paddy dike and injured Dodds' leg and head.

In spite of his injuries, Dodds continued to treat the Marines in his detachment until a medical evacuation was arranged. Dodds' heroism earned him, among other awards, a Purple Heart, a Navy Commendation, a Meritorious Unit Citation, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

Dodds' drive for selfless service continued beyond his tenure in the Navy. After his homecoming, Dodds lectured at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia and served as a medical corpsman during a massive peace march in Washington, DC, in which hundreds of thousands of demonstrators converged on the Capitol to protest the Vietnam War.

Today, Dodds' heart for his community is reflected by his volunteerism. He visited local grade schools on Veterans Day to teach the children about proper flag etiquette. In conjunction with the Marine Corps League, he has visited numerous veterans in a VA hospital and local nursing homes.

He is an active member of the Marine Corps League Morgan County Detachment #1367 and was elected Commandant in April 2015. Earlier this year, Dodds organized a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima at the American Legion in Martinsville.

It is a privilege to award Bert Dodds with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 655, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGE  
COLAPIETRO**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marge Colapietro for eight years of dedicated service on the Millbrae City Council, including a term as Vice Mayor in 2011 and as Mayor in 2012. Marge's commitment to her community is unparalleled. She has logged precisely 24,274 hours of public service since she was elected to the council in 2007. This is the kind of precision and accountability that characterizes Marge's way of approaching problem solving in service to her constituents. I am proud to call her a colleague and dear friend.

During her tenure on the city council, Marge has always sought the greatest good for Millbrae's residents and businesses. She worked hard to protect safety services, helped attract businesses to the city, used prudent spending practices to control the budget during very difficult fiscal times in our nation's history, and she has always been attentive to her constituents both young and old. My staff reports that she regularly sought assistance for her constituents with federal issues, and always wanted to be kept up-to-date on whether or not a problem was resolved. Marge Colapietro's public service has been marked by thorough analysis of opportunities facing the City of Millbrae, constant interactions with an ever-changing city population, and a staunch belief that local decision making about land use and public services is a key tool in maintaining Millbrae's outstanding quality of life.

With a 37-year career in global transportation services, Marge brought invaluable experience and expertise to the table. Millbrae, in addition to being a tree-lined community of families and multiple generations, is a transportation hub resting adjacent to San Francisco International Airport. Due to its strategic location, Millbrae has wonderful prospects in its future. To bolster these prospects while preserving Millbrae's small-town character, Marge served on a long list of committees, including the Cultural Arts Committee, the Downtown Process Committee, Millbrae Community Television, the Senior Advisory Committee, the Tourism Committee, and the Youth Advisory Committee. She also played an essential role in ballot measures to save Millbrae's fire services.

Marge is passionate about bolstering the middle class and working families of her community, as well as housing and emergency preparedness. This passion is reflected in her multiple assignments through the city council. Regionally Marge represented Millbrae on the Airport Community Roundtable, the Airport Land Use Committee, C/CAG's Board of Directors, the League of California Cities Public Safety Advisory Committee, the San Mateo Council of Cities, the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, and the San Mateo County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Policy Advisory Committee.

From this long, yet incomplete, list you can see how she arrived at more than 24,000 hours of service. Marge is the ultimate volun-

teer on behalf of Millbrae's best interests. She made time for the American Cancer Society, the Special Olympics, the Lions Club, Rotary, the Millbrae library, the historical society, and Millbrae's outstanding schools. In 2001 Marge was honored as Millbrae Woman of the Year. In 2004, she received the California's Park and Recreation Society District IV Volunteer Award. In 2009, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from President Obama. RSVP, a senior volunteer organization, honored her with another Lifetime Achievement award for volunteering 4,000 hours in less than three years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the most dedicated and hands-on public servants our region will ever see. As a Councilmember and Mayor, Marge Colapietro's fingerprints are all over Millbrae and will be there for generations to come. If her colleagues and future members of the council learn even half of the lessons of stewardship that Marge has taught by example throughout these years, these council members will earn PhD's in public service. Marge Colapietro, the committed, energetic and completely thorough professor of stewardship is retiring from her post to become an emeritus professor of public life. We wish her all the best in her many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST AVENUE  
COLLECTIVE**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sarah Reed and Sandra Geronimo on the opening of their new business 1st Avenue Collective in Winterset, Iowa.

Sarah and Sandra recently moved to Madison County and fell in love with Winterset and the old county jail building that is now home to their new business. They describe 1st Avenue Collective as an artisan collective and hope to promote arts and creativity in central Iowa.

1st Avenue Collective is home to artwork from nine local artists and 10 artists from the surrounding area. Each piece of artwork is handmade and ranges from pottery and jewelry to wood works and candles. The welcoming atmosphere and culture of Winterset is what drew Sarah and Sandra to this rural Iowa town.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sarah and Sandra for the service they provide to the community of Winterset and their willingness to open a small business. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for the opening of their new business and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING EIGHTH DISTRICT  
PUBLIC SERVANT**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant

from the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois who is turning 50 years old this week.

Twenty-five years ago, Steve Tufenkjian graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy and has served the people of Illinois in several different ways ever since. In that time, he has served as everything from a K9 officer to a member of the Special Enforcement Team and from Sergeant to his current role where he oversees a team of Troopers as Platoon Commander.

In each of his roles, Mr. Tufenkjian has been recognized by the Illinois State Police for his great work. He has received several awards for his dedication and, as a member of the Special Enforcement Team, he made more than 1,000 reckless driving arrests.

Our state and our nation need more dedicated public servants like Steve Tufenkjian. I wish him and his family—his two sons Zachary and Jacob as well as his wife of 17 years Michelle, who is also a State Police officer—a happy 50th birthday and thank them for their continued public service and efforts to keep our community safe.

TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF CONCORD CITY COUNCILMAN DAVID W. PHILLIPS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David W. Phillips of Concord, North Carolina, for his more than twenty years of service to our community on the Concord City Council.

Dave was first elected to the Concord City Council in 1995 and has served on the Council five consecutive terms. During this time, he served two terms as Mayor Pro-Term. Born and raised in Concord, Dave has a history of service to our community, starting at an early age with his leadership in Boy Scouts. He graduated from Concord High School and continued on to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After graduating, Dave worked for a short time back in Concord at Cannon Mills before starting a long and successful career at Duke Energy.

Over the years, Dave has served his community in many different capacities. He is a member and former President of the Concord Rotary Club, a member of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association, and serves on the Boards of Directors for Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. and Cabarrus County Community Foundation. Additionally, he formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce.

Dave's steady leadership has seen Concord maintain a low tax rate while its population has more than doubled from the 42,000 people who lived in the city when he was first elected in 1995. During a time that saw our area lose thousands of textile and manufacturing jobs while still increasing in population, Dave and the rest of the City Council were instrumental in continuing infrastructure develop-

ment, growing city schools and recruiting new industry to Concord. Because of his hard work and dedication, Concord's future looks brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking David W. Phillips for his esteemed service on the Concord City Council and wishing him well as he opens the next chapter in his storied life.

HONORING KIRK GREGG

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my Congressional district is the home of Corning Incorporated, an American company that has risen over its 164-year history to become one of the most innovative manufacturers in the world.

Today, I rise to take a moment to honor Kirk Gregg, Corning's Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, who is retiring from the company after 22 years of executive leadership. Over his tenure, Kirk has made an enormous contribution to the company's success and to the community's development. I am most grateful to Kirk for his unparalleled commitment to the community. He has had an enormously positive impact on my constituents and my extended family that live in the district.

Kirk joined Corning in 1993 and was named Chief Administrative Officer in 2002. The same year, he was appointed to serve on Corning's Management Committee, a small, very senior group of executives who lead the company. Over the last decade, Kirk has risen up the corporate ladder to become the third highest ranking executive in the company.

As Chief Administrative Officer, Kirk has built the core infrastructure that makes Corning efficient and effective. He has had global responsibility for the corporate staff, including human resources, information technology, supply management, transportation, business services, community relations, government affairs, and aviation. In total, he has managed over \$1B annually in corporate infrastructure, making Corning's staff one of the top performers among its peers in the country's corporate community.

It has been Kirk's work for the community that distinguishes him among corporate leaders and for which I am most grateful. He has played a huge role in meeting the needs of New York's "Southern Tier."

For 17 years, he chaired the Three Rivers Development, attracting tens of millions of dollars of investment to diversify the local community and create jobs. For 15 years, he led the Corning Classic LPGA Tournaments, raising millions of dollars for area hospitals. And statewide, he served for a decade on the Board of Directors for the Business Council of New York State, two years as the Board's chairman. Last, but not least, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of local charities, cultural institutions, and human service organizations.

Every Member of Congress seeks the perspective of people with broad insight into and

who contribute generously to the communities we represent. For me, Kirk is one of those rare people. He understands the people, the community, and the responsibility that corporate leaders have to support their local institutions.

At the same time, he is modest and self-effacing. Kirk is one of those people who works quietly and effectively to make our communities better.

I am very happy to call Kirk Gregg my friend. I know that I speak for the entire Corning, New York community when I thank him for his citizenship and service. We wish him and his wife Penny the very best in a well-deserved retirement. May they enjoy many more happy days entering this new chapter in their lives.

HONORING MAGNUS JOHNSON

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Magnus Johnson for his service to his country and community.

Johnson is a veteran of the United States Army and a former Green Beret, completing consecutive tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson's record of service included work with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDS) and Unexploded Ordnances which garnered him a Bronze Star; moreover, Johnson's service overseas earned him a Combat Medal.

Following Johnson's final tour, he was struck with grief when a close friend and fellow service member committed suicide in 2013. Johnson's personal experience with suicide led him to create "Elder Heart," an organization dedicated to healing. His organization strives to repair the divide between veteran and civilian by encouraging both to engage in projects that enhance the community. Elder Heart's approach led to the creation of public art; a sculpture built by veterans and civilians in Nashville, Indiana which highlights Elder Heart's hands-on approach to a veteran's healing process.

Moreover, Johnson aims to raise awareness of veterans who commit suicide—twenty-two every day—through social media, magazine and newspaper advertisements, and other forms of media. Coined "Mission 22," Johnson hopes to educate the public about the plight of some of our service members. Elder Heart is currently planning to construct a national memorial to bring attention to suicide among America's veterans.

Johnson's work has not kept him from being a loyal husband and father. He hopes his 6-year-old daughter and newborn son will come to know the sacrifice of America's veterans.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Johnson on a number of occasions and can speak without hesitation to his ethical character and his dedication to his brothers-and-sisters in arms. It is a privilege to award him with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.