

HONORING THE COASTAL BEND
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Coastal Bend Council of Governments for their 50th anniversary. The group exists to serve 11 counties and 32 cities in South Texas with a host of services, including water quality management and waste management, and coordinates region-wide projects for its member towns and cities.

In an age of too much government, it is great to recognize such a creative and efficient collaboration between local governments and private entities. This terrific volunteer association not only serves, but protects the people of South Texas with 9–1–1 emergency services, criminal justice services, and Homeland Security programs.

For 50 years, the Coastal Bend Council of Governments has provided the Coastal Bend region with cost-efficient services through its unique partnership of the public and private sector. I honor their collaborative service to the South Texas community.

HONORING ARROWHEAD UNITED
WAY

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Arrowhead United Way as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. Arrowhead United Way was founded on April 17, 1891 in San Bernardino, California. Today it serves communities throughout California's 31st Congressional District, helping thousands of families access health, education and financial resources in the areas of our region most in need.

Arrowhead United Way's ability to partner with schools, government agencies, local businesses, faith leaders and other groups allows residents throughout the Inland Empire region to access critical everyday services. Arrowhead United Way's advocacy in our communities has advanced the common good and made the Inland Empire a better place to live.

I congratulate Arrowhead United Way on its 125th anniversary and commend the staff, both past and present, who have made and will continue to make a profound difference in the lives of so many families throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF
CAPTAIN KEITH "JUDGE" HOSKINS,
COMMANDING OFFICER OF
NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Keith "Judge" Hoskins,

Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy. For more than 27 years, Captain Hoskins has served our Nation with honor and distinction as a combat pilot during Operations Decisive Edge, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, as a member of the Navy's elite flight demonstration squadron the Blue Angels, as an action officer and executive officer in various high-level functions, as third battalion officer at the United States Naval Academy, and most recently as Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola.

A native of Parkville, Missouri, Judge was born into a military family, learning the importance of selfless service at a young age from his father, who served in the United States Army. After graduating with a degree in electrical engineering technology from Missouri Western State University, Judge completed Aviation Officer Candidate School in September 1989, and in February 1992, he was designated a Naval Aviator. Early in his career, Judge participated in vital national security missions, when, as a member of the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86, he completed a deployment onboard the USS *America*, flying combat missions in support of Operations Decisive Edge and Southern Watch.

Like millions of Americans across the country, Judge was inspired as a child by the Blue Angels, but unlike most of us, he didn't just dream about becoming a Blue Angel—he actually did it. After returning stateside and serving a year as an instructor pilot for the "Gladiators" of VFA-106, Judge joined one of the Navy's most visible squadrons—the Blue Angels. During his three seasons as member of the Blues, Judge served as the narrator, opposing solo, and lead solo pilot, and, in addition, he also served as the Blue Angels' operations officer in his final season.

Upon his return to the fleet, Judge was assigned to the "Fist of the Fleet," serving as the operations and maintenance officer of VFA-25. Like so many of our Nation's brave Naval Aviators, the place where Judge truly shined was on the battlefield, and during his time at the "Fist of the Fleet," Judge flew combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. Through these combat missions and deployments, Judge demonstrated time and again the type of brave and selfless service that exemplifies our Nation's servicemembers.

Throughout his career, Judge has also shown tremendous leadership outside the cockpit, helping fight the Global War on Terror in multiple capacities. During a tour at U.S. STRATCOM, Judge served as an action officer and executive officer in the Plans and Policy Directorate, where he wrote, assessed, and disseminated policy at the highest level as STRATCOM was in the midst of restructuring to fight the Global War on Terror. Judge's excellence and leadership at STRATCOM were recognized by his selection as the aide de camp to the STRATCOM Commander.

After his time at STRATCOM, Judge once again returned to combat posture, leading a command tour with "The Valions" of VFA-15, as they served a combat deployment onboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following the completion of his command tour, Judge helped to mold the next generation of Naval Officers, serving as the third battalion officer at

the United States Naval Academy, and as the national director of the NROTC program at the Naval Service Training Command.

In 2013, Judge was named the 56th Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola. As the Cradle of Naval Aviation, Pensacola and the entire Northwest Florida community are immensely proud of our area's tradition of military service and support for those who wear the uniform. NAS Pensacola is also the proud home of the Blue Angels, and Judge became the first former Blue Angel to command NAS Pensacola.

During his long and distinguished career, Judge has logged more than 3,400 flight hours, 570 arrested landings, and he has been awarded numerous decorations including: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Air Medal (three awards with combat "V"), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards with combat "V"), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), and many unit commendations and awards.

Captain Keith "Judge" Hoskins embodies the selfless commitment to service, sacrifice, and exceptional skill of our Nation's servicemembers. Throughout his career, he has contributed greatly to keeping our Nation safe and protecting the freedom and liberty of all Americans, and he has also inspired countless others to pursue a career of service through his leadership and example.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Florida's First Congressional District, my wife Vicki and I thank Judge for his service and leadership, we congratulate him on his retirement, and we wish him all the best for continued success in his post-Naval endeavors. Bravo Zulu.

COMMEMORATING THE INDUCTING
OF CAPT. JOHN EDGAR TIPTON
INTO THE ROTC HALL OF FAME

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inducting of Capt. John Edgar Tipton into the ROTC Hall of Fame. John grew up in Granite City, Illinois and graduated from Granite City High School in 1989. After graduation he enlisted in the military to serve in Operation Desert Storm. John then went to SIUE and graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Army ROTC Program in 1995. He had earned many commendations including: a Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Valorous Unit Award. And so it is most certainly fitting that such a heroic and distinguished man should be enshrined here on this historic day, the 100th anniversary of the ROTC.

On May 2, 2004 Capt. Tipton was killed when a piece of shrapnel from an explosion came through the window of his office and struck him. We will forever be indebted to him and to his family for their sacrifice. It is important, however, that we, in remembering his courageous service as a soldier, do not forget his service as a wonderful son, a devoted husband, a loving father, and a beloved friend.

I have had the privilege of knowing both his wife Susie and his in-laws for some time now.

In times like these I am reminded of the comforting words of John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'"

HONORING SHELLEY MARTIN FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE
OF CALIFORNIA'S 36TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to congratulate and recognize Ms. Shelley Martin: a generous and selfless individual who worked as an integral part of my team for over three years.

Shelley is a long time resident of my congressional district. She grew up in the Hemet Valley and graduated from Hemet High School. She then attended The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles, and later returned back to her hometown to serve her community.

For over three years, Shelley was the gold standard for constituent services in my office. She dedicated many hours and energy to constituents, finding solutions in the most difficult cases involving social Security, Medicare, and Veterans.

While working for the People of California's 36th Congressional District, Shelley paid special care and attention to veterans in our communities. Shelley spent countless hours advocating on behalf of veterans who served our country honorably. She treated each constituent who sought help from my office with the patience, care, and respect due to them. Shelley's selfless dedication to serving those in need in my congressional district is commendable and a model for public service.

Shelley remains passionate about serving the community she calls home. In her time with my office, Shelley successfully managed all community engagement in the communities of San Jacinto and Hemet. She is diligent and thorough, and goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve our communities, working hard to ensure that my constituents have the resources that they need.

Her selfless dedication and hard work will be greatly missed. However, her love of public service will not be forgotten. Shelley has transformed the lives of countless individuals and families in my district, and for that I am truly grateful.

I thank Shelly for her dedication and service to the constituents of the 36th district. I wish her well in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-
NOLOGISTS—TEJES SRIVASTAVA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tejes Srivastava from Sugar

Land, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Tejes attends William B. Travis High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Tejes was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Tejes and all of his hard work, and know he will make Sugar Land proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Tejes for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING YOLANDA JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yolanda Jones, who is a director, counselor and educator.

Yolanda Jones grew up in Greenwood, Mississippi, and after graduating from Greenwood High School she enrolled in Grambling State University.

Although she recalls her time at Grambling fondly, it was her first experience living away from home and she oscillated between being focused on schoolwork and being distracted by the more social aspects of college life. Eventually, she left Grambling before finishing her degree, working a number of odd jobs, both in Greenwood and Jackson, before deciding to re-enroll in JSU in 1999 under a program called Academic Second Chance, which is a program that allowed students, who failed to return and complete their bachelor's degree, to be under a strict retention plan.

The next year Jones, who is fluent in sign language, received her B.A. degree in Disabilities Studies and Hearing-Impaired Education graduating summa cum laude. She also earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Jackson State University in 2002. She began her career as a counselor in 2002 at MVSU and currently serves as the Director of the Comprehensive Counseling Center, a position she's held since 2007. Jones also has received a master's degree in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University.

Additionally, Dr. Jones has also been afforded the opportunity to study abroad. In the summer of 2012, she studied in Beijing, China, at the University of Trinidad and the University of West Indies.

Dr. Jones also served as: co-chair of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee, for students that are not meeting satisfactory academic progress; chair of the MVSU Behavioral Intervention Team; Advisory Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club, Inc. (MVSU Unit); and also a statutory member of the Mississippi Blues Commission, where she was appointed in 2013.

Dr. Jones has presented at several state and national conferences, which included: the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) 2010 in Miami, Florida; the White House Initiative Policy Planning meeting in 2010, where she was selected to serve as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities' representative; and most recently, at the 2015 National Association of Student Affairs Professionals conference (NASAP) in Huntsville, Alabama.

In Dr. Jones' dissertation, "An Examination of Academic Variables that Explain Persistence to Graduation for Students who take Remedial Courses in Higher Education", she examined academic variables between two groups of students (students that were required to take remedial courses and students that were not required to take any remedial courses) at public four year institutions to determine if there was a significant difference in their persistence to graduation. Utilizing a quantitative design, she examined the success of the students taking remedial courses as measured by graduation and the number of years it took them to meet their graduation requirements.

She is a scholar/practitioner who continues her research in this area as well as in the areas of retention, student persistence and student success among college students in hope of providing practical application that will assist in increasing the gap in college attendance and graduation rates of all students that enroll in institutions of higher learning. Jones hopes to use her doctorate in order to expand her influence in higher education administration, developing strategies that increase student retention and promote student success.

"Strategic planning is crucial!" she emphasized. There has always been a plethora of issues in higher education; however, it is pivotal that higher education institutions began making extraordinary efforts to meet students where they are, with special emphasis on the "under-prepared" students, in which schools are admitting in alarming numbers every year."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Yolanda Jones, a Director, Counselor and Educator, for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO COLLIN R. BARNES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Collin R. Barnes for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the