

Finally, I would like to thank the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes for their friendship and wish them a much deserved congratulations. Their tireless efforts and perseverance over the last six years has been critical to getting this legislation across the finish line. It's an honor to represent both in Congress and I am proud to play a small part in your continued efforts to restore your historic lands.

STAY OUT OF MOSUL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, haven't we learned anything?

In 1899, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called *The White Man's Burden*, urging America to bring "civilization" to the Philippines. The results were 250,000 deaths, war crimes, and denial of Philippine independence for half a century.

Haven't we learned anything?

U.S. forces occupied Iraq for nine years, until the Iraqis insisted that we leave. The results were more than 600,000 deaths, a cost of \$4 trillion (8 percent of our national net worth), and a Sunni vacuum that the Islamic State terror group has filled.

Haven't we learned anything?

I've been to every country in the world recognized by the United Nations. There are a few universals. Everywhere, people want to fall in love; they love children and pets; they're acquisitive. And everywhere, people don't want to see foreigners with guns. They'd prefer a local dictatorship to a foreign military occupation. So please don't tell me that sending U.S. troops back to Iraq would be "for their own good."

Some argue that we must send U.S. troops to Mosul for our sake, regardless of what the Iraqis want or need. That's called "colonialism." It pits us against one of the great narratives of our times, world decolonization. It invites the hatred not only of more than 1 billion Muslims but the entire world. They will see us not as liberators but as the enemy.

It is a bizarre misconception to think that sending U.S. troops 8,000 miles from home somehow makes us safer. It doesn't. And it is a great disservice to our troops to fight in a place where they don't understand the language, the religion or the customs.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I asked 10 nearby Sunni Muslim countries whether they would send ground forces to fight ISIL. Four said yes. Then I asked Secretary of State John Kerry whether he had asked the same question. He said "no."

If Iraq actually is a thing, then it should be capable of defending itself. If it can't or won't, then fighters who look and sound like locals should do the job.

It isn't the white man's burden. It never was.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 TOWN OF
HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal of Valor.

This year, Special Police Officer Mark Butler of the Town of Herndon Police Department is being honored with the Silver Medal of Valor for his exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include his name.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING CONSTANCE BLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constance Bland, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Constance G. Bland, Ph.D. was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in the spring of 2014. As VPAA, she is responsible for leadership, educational policy, academic programs, budgeting and resource allocation; supervision of staff development programs, federal grant program administration; monitoring of personnel actions and transactions, and participation in academic personnel policy development and negotiation. She is also responsible for relationships with the wider educational and occupational community, particularly the public schools, as well as additional responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Before becoming VPAA, Dr. Bland was Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences. She developed computer science educational curriculum related to database management systems, software engineering and introduction to computer science. In an effort to impact

retention of computer science majors, she was involved in a project to determine the impact of introducing the concepts of object oriented programming for first year computer science students using a visual animation tool known as Alice.

Dr. Bland also acquired significant external funding for the department from sources including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Eisenhower (state of Mississippi), SUN Microsystems and mini-grants from Jackson State University. Her last external funds secured for the department included an S-STEM scholarship grant and an HBCU-UP implementation grant. A major focus of the scholarship grants secured by Dr. Bland involved initiatives to increase the number of computer science and mathematics majors at MVSU. Funds secured were used to institute tutorial services, provide student development activities and support debt reduction through scholarships to decrease external employment of students seeking degrees. The goal of the latest HBCU-UP grant is to encourage STEM graduates to pursue graduate education.

Dr. Bland has devoted 23 years of service to MVSU, and has demonstrated her passion and commitment to the University, faculty, staff and students. Her involvement has been extensive, yet she finds time and energy to serve, work and lead, shouldering countless burdens with good humor and grace. She is a tower of strength and a strong force for progressive efficient public service. She always shows patience and tolerance, qualities of an experienced and committed leader. Dr. Bland is a visionary leader who inspires staff, students and the community. She is responsible for developing MVSU's first Women in Science and Technology Conference (WIST) designed to encourage young girls in grades 7th through 12th to consider majoring in STEM disciplines. The conference will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Spring 2016 and can boast of numerous female students who have gone on to become practicing women in science and technology.

Dr. Bland holds an Associate's degree in Mathematics from Coahoma Junior College, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, Bachelor of Science in computer science, Master of Science degree in computer science and a Doctoral degree in computer engineering from the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constance Bland, an Educator, a leader and Public Servant for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
KEVIN WAGNER

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Kevin Wagner for his service to his country and community. 1LT Wagner completed two tours in Iraq, each marked with heroism, tragedy, and compassion. During his second tour, as the winter season settled into Mosul, rain fell with little

relief which caused his unit to suffer from painful trench foot. In response, 1LT Wagner withdrew the maximum amount from his pay, and anonymously purchased the entire stock of clean, dry, socks from the camp's supply store. He then placed pairs on each soldier's bed. His actions only came to light among his soldiers ten years later at a reunion. His service earned him the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Ter-

rorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Upon his return home, 1LT Wagner channeled his leadership skills to better his community. He volunteers to help lead Vacation Bible School at his church, and serves as a mentor to at-risk children. 1LT Wagner and another veteran began a veteran's support group, "Home After the War", that aims to help returning veterans talk through trauma

they experienced in combat. After a tornado struck Henryville, Indiana, a friend called on Wagner to help her husband who was suffering from violent flashbacks triggered by the destruction in the town. 1LT Wagner talked with him, helped him clean his home, and encouraged him as he reconstructed his life. 1LT Wagner's compassion and sense of duty is apparent in his record both on the battlefield and at home.