

Mr. Speaker, as Colonel Tom Tickner moves on to a new assignment, he leaves behind a legacy of professionalism and friendship. I want to extend my thanks for his service and wish him and his family continued success in his future endeavors.

JROTC TEAMS OF MARINER,  
RIVERDALE, AND GULF COAST

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the JROTC teams of Mariner, Riverdale, and Gulf Coast high schools. These teams recently competed in the National All-Services JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl Competition in Washington D.C. and all three placed in the top fifteen of 64 teams.

For over a century the JROTC program has instilled in students the value of teamwork, citizenship, and public service. This competition tests students in both academics and leadership. To get to the national competition, the three schools competed against a combined 2,600 teams.

It is humbling to see the young men and women of Collier and Lee Counties excel and show their knowledge and passion for civil service. I look forward to seeing what these young scholars will accomplish for our community and our country in the years to come.

FRANK PIPER

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of the late Walter Frank Piper, United States Army Private First Class, of Williamstown in New Jersey's First Congressional District.

Walter Piper, born April 6, 1930, was a proud resident of Williamstown and son of the late Charles and Alice Piper. Walter Piper graduated Glassboro High School in 1949.

Walter Piper enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950, a year after graduating high school. He was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. PFC Piper was taken prisoner of war during the Korean Conflict on February 13, 1951. PFC Piper died June 18, 1951 while being held prisoner of war.

PFC Piper's unidentified remains were recovered in 1990, returned to Hawaii on June 24, 1991, and positively identified April 18, 2017.

Walter Piper's name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. Private First Class Piper has been posthumously awarded the following: Purple Heart with Oak Leaf cluster, Prisoner of War Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

On June 17, 2017, PFC Walter Piper will return home to Williamstown for the first time in 67 years, where he will finally be laid to rest with the full military honors he rightly deserves, at Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, PFC Walter Frank Piper is by all accounts an American hero who selflessly served his country and gave his life for his country. His service, sacrifice, and legacy must never be forgotten. I ask you to join me in honoring the memory of this great American and patriot.

KATE'S LAW

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on June 29th I voted in favor of H.R. 3004, Kate's Law, which increases penalties for deported criminals that return to the United States.

The bill is named after Kate Steinle, who was killed in San Francisco by a Mexican national who had seven felony convictions on his record and had been deported five times and had once again returned to the United States.

I have always argued that we need comprehensive immigration reform to fix our broken immigration system. In 2013, I cosponsored the House Democratic comprehensive immigration reform bill, H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. This bill included similar provisions to Kate's Law and had broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

Opponents of the bill argue that the bill does not make exceptions for asylum seekers or victims of human trafficking. That is why I voted in favor of a Motion to Recommit H.R. 3004 offered by Representative ZOE LOFGREN which would safeguard vulnerable victims of human trafficking that voluntarily present themselves at a port of entry. Unfortunately, it failed on a 193 to 232 vote.

I have always maintained that undocumented immigrants who commit a crime in the U.S. should be deported. While this bill is not perfect, Kate's Law ensures that dangerous criminals are prosecuted accordingly. I am committed to regaining control of our country's borders and have fought to restrict individuals who would do our citizens harm—both through terrorist attacks, drug smuggling, and other illicit activity—from entering the United States.

H.R. 3004 is not a perfect bill. It now heads to the Senate, where I hope it will be improved to include exceptions for victims of trafficking and those seeking asylum, similar to the comprehensive bill in 2013, and sent back to the House for further debate.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST GEORGIA'S SERVICE ACADEMY AP-  
POINTEES

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in recognition of

northeast Georgia's 11 service academy appointees. These outstanding men and women are pursuing the honorable path of military service. At the U.S. service academies, these students will further their education and develop the skills needed to serve our country.

Those who are willing to lay their lives on the line do not make this decision impulsively. Instead, they make a conscious choice to put country before self, a choice that tests their strength and builds their commitment to service.

At a recent reception honoring these young leaders, I told them, "Don't look back. The challenges that lie ahead should not deter you from doing what you have set out to do.

"The challenges that you face will never outweigh the pride that you have in our country and the love that you have for your friends and neighbors."

I thank these men and women for their willingness to serve, and I will keep them in my prayers as they enter a new season at the United States military academies.

HONORING MR. KEN CROWLEY

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Crowley for his dedication to our community and service to those in need in Connecticut. In our state, Ken is well known both for his leadership in business and for his willingness to step up to help others.

Ken is a native of Waterbury, Connecticut, and learned the value of hard work at a young age after working on a local farm. He fell in love with driving and working with cars, and Ken eventually began working as a salesman in a dealership. Later, he rose up to run his own dealership. Now, Ken is one of Connecticut's largest and most successful auto dealers, with 13 franchises employing hundreds of people. In addition, Ken has shown great commitment to the environment. He participated in the CT Green Bank Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program to outfit multiple car dealerships with clean energy improvements.

What's more, Ken has used his success and leveraged his business's influence to address important community needs in Connecticut. He worked with former Governor Jody Rell in 2002 to provide for military families during the holidays. Later, in 2008, Crowley Auto Group partnered with the Army Reserve's Employer Partnership Initiative to help veterans transition to the civilian workforce. Ken was also instrumental in the planning of Bristol Technical Education Center and donates vehicles to the school's auto-shop program. Two decades ago, Ken started the Crowley Automotive Golf Tournament to help raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and has raised over \$1 million over 20 years. In fact, Ford Motor Company recently honored Ken for his community spirit, one of only six dealers worldwide to receive this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Crowley has been a business and community leader in Connecticut, and his work to support veterans and those in

need has made our community stronger and more caring. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

EDWARD FORTE

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Honorable Edward Forte, former Mayor of the Borough of Haddon Heights, Camden County, in New Jersey's First Congressional District, on the occasion of his retirement as supervisor from Public Service Enterprise Group (PSE&G).

Mr. Forte is a long-time constituent and resident of Haddon Heights, where he distinguished himself with a commitment to public service as a member of Borough Council, Borough Council President, Mayor, Director of Public Safety for the Borough, a member of the Borough's Zoning Board, and volunteer firefighter and assistant fire chief for the Borough's fire department.

In 1980, Mr. Forte joined PSE&G, where he would ascend through the ranks to become distribution supervisor at the utility company.

During his employment at PSE&G and his simultaneous tenure as Mayor of the Borough of Haddon Heights, Mr. Forte would work to achieve an important personal milestone, earning his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Thomas Edison State College. Mr. Forte's determination both inspired those across South Jersey, and provided him with the educational tools to serve him in the execution of his professional and public service duties.

During his tenure as Mayor of Haddon Heights, Mr. Forte launched wellness initiatives, including the "Walk! Heights" campaign, in which he walked through his Borough, engaging constituents and encouraged them to join him promoting healthy living and an active lifestyle. Mr. Forte's service also extended to the New Jersey Order Sons of Italy Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Forte is a model of community and public service, and an example for others who may wish to serve. I invite you to join me in thanking him for his many contributions to the community. And, I respectfully ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. Forte on the occasion of his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR  
JEFFERY A. SIERPIEN

**HON. DAVID A. TROTT**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to highlight the distinguished career of one of my constituents, United States Marine Corps Major Jeffery A. Sierpien.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1997, Major Sierpien has been deployed seven times throughout his career, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has been an unwavering defender of liberty, selflessly putting his life on the line time

and time again so that we may have the privilege to enjoy the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world.

Exemplifying the bravery and honor embodied by so many of our nation's servicemen and women, he has received numerous military decorations and awards, including two Iraq Campaign Medals and two Afghanistan Campaign Medals.

Now back in his home state of Michigan, retiring from a career that has moved him not only across the country, but around the globe, I thank him for his dedicated service and wish him the best of luck in everything he does next—from spending time with his beloved family, to teaching his children the art of hunting and fishing, to setting out on his next adventure.

COLONEL G. SCOTT TAYLOR RELINQUISHES COMMAND OF THE  
FORT IRWIN ARMY GARRISON

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of U.S. Army Colonel G. Scott Taylor, who will relinquish command of the Fort Irwin Garrison on July 12, 2017. Colonel Taylor is leaving for his next duty assignment as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3—Operations for the 8th Army in Camp Humphrey, South Korea.

I've had the pleasure of interacting with Colonel Taylor the past two years, during which time I saw the passion he possesses for his soldiers and his support for the vital training mission of Fort Irwin and the National Training Center. Colonel Taylor was a driving force behind efforts to improve combat readiness and the quality of life for soldiers under his command. His work culminated in \$6.4 million in improvements to barracks on the installation, and his leadership resulted in the repair of essential base infrastructure that was severely damaged by flooding.

In addition to thanking Colonel Taylor for his service at Fort Irwin, I would also like to recognize his outstanding military career. Colonel Taylor is a decorated combat veteran with over 25 years of service, which includes three combat deployments. I wish Colonel Taylor and his family the best of luck as they embark on a new chapter at Camp Humphrey, but they will be sorely missed back home in the California desert.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNUAL  
FULTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR  
AGING SENIOR PICNIC

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 30th Annual Fulton County Office for Aging Senior Picnic.

Since its inception in 1987, the Fulton County Office for Aging Senior Picnic has brought our community together to celebrate our senior citizens. The Senior Picnic features food

and entertainment for people of all ages, highlighting the Office's year-round work for Fulton County seniors. As with many of the Office's programs, the Senior Picnic depends on the dedication and tireless efforts of volunteers from our community.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Fulton County Office for Aging for its vital service to our seniors. The Office provides programs and information to help our seniors in key areas like healthcare, employment, and legal services. We are grateful to the Office for their continuing commitment to our elderly population, and wish them all the best on their 30th Annual Senior Picnic.

ED MCBRIDE

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Ed McBride, a United States Navy World War II veteran who proudly served our nation aboard the USS *Martin* and the USS *Athene*.

After his service to our country, Mr. McBride became a self-employed contractor for 45 years and worked at the former New York Shipyard in Camden, New Jersey and Sun Shipyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. McBride's commitment to our nation and community continued long after his active duty service in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. McBride was also a life member of the Berlin, New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of American Legion Post 311 in Atco, New Jersey.

Mr. McBride served his community for 22 years as a member of the Camden County Fire Police, was a life member of the Tansboro Fire Company, held the post of civil defense director for the Township of Winslow, and was past president and member of the Berlin, New Jersey Lions Club.

In addition to his volunteer endeavors, Ed McBride enjoyed a number of hobbies and activities including: cabinetry, camping, golfing and fishing.

Mr. Speaker, Ed McBride was an exemplary citizen with a devotion to public service, commitment, and hard work. I invite you to join me in honoring the memory of this great man.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL STEVEN J.  
OWENS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colonel Steven J. Owens on his retirement from the United States Army after 30 years of service to our country. An esteemed and respected member of the Army Medical Service Corps, Colonel Owens most recently served as the Deputy Director for Reserve Affairs at the Office of the Surgeon General. In this capacity, he was instrumental in driving policy to improve the capability of the Army to recruit and retain high quality providers to care for our Nations