

Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

MAJ Fester, a native of Westerville, Ohio, attended Ohio State University. He enlisted in the Army in 1984, where he served as an administrative specialist in the Ohio National Guard. MAJ Fester received his Army ROTC commission in 1987, when he graduated from Ohio State University. As a second lieutenant, MAJ Fester served on active duty with the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. He was promoted to first lieutenant in May 1989, while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. In 1990, MAJ Fester served with the Battery Charlie, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) in Wertheim, Germany. His unit deployed to parts of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq during the initial ground phase of Operation Desert Storm. MAJ Fester's service during Operation Desert Storm earned him a number of awards including the Bronze Star medal.

In August 1991, he attended the Officer Advanced Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was promoted to captain. MAJ Fester's next assignment was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he took command of the Battery Charlie, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery. After MAJ Fester completed his service at Fort Bragg, he was assigned to New Cumberland Army Depot outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1996, MAJ Fester departed active duty and became a sales representative for Pfizer Inc. He was reclassified as a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). At the time, MAJ Fester served as a tactical intelligence officer in the New York Air National Guard's Engineer Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division. In December 1999, MAJ Fester joined the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), where he was assigned to the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, New York. He completed the Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course in 2001, and was promoted to major. In April 2002, a presidential executive order called MAJ Fester and other reservists back to service for a tour that was scheduled to last until 2006.

After MAJ Fester's death, his duties in Iraq were described in an online post at arlingtoncemetery.net. It was MAJ Fester's job to talk with mayors of Iraqi communities and Islamic clerics in the dangerous Sunni Triangle. MAJ Fester secured contractors to rebuild high schools and elementary schools. His wife, Julie, was proud of her husband's devotion to every project. "He believed in what he was doing," Mrs. Fester said. "The schools over there were rubble. He felt they were making a difference."

When MAJ Fester's body was returned to the United States for burial, more than 650 people came to the memorial service. It was held at the Ada Bible Church in Ada, Michigan. On the day of the service, flags throughout Michigan were lowered to half staff. Reverend Bob King, Ada Bible Church pastor, said MAJ Fester wanted to serve America. "He was very concerned about his family," Rev. King said. "But as a soldier, he was ready to step up and do his duty. He truly had the desire to make the world a better place."

MAJ Fester was transported to the Arlington National Cemetery where the Army Horseman of the Caisson Platoon carried him to his final resting place. His coffin was draped with an

American flag. At the end of the service, a military band played "America the Beautiful" as flags were presented to his family.

MAJ Fester's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star medals, the Purple Heart medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation medals, the Army Achievement medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal with three bronze service stars, the Iraq Campaign medal, Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwaiti Liberation medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge and a Valorous Unit Award.

MAJ Fester is survived by his wife, Julie, his two daughters, Jenni and Megan; his son, Peyton; and his parents, William Fester and Virginia Piccoro.

MAJ Fester will always be remembered for his courage and bravery. He sacrificed his life to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY MESHEL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Harry Meshel who died on September 4, 2017. Mr. Meshel was a native of Youngstown, Ohio and "known for his remarkable civic, cultural, and educational contributions to the community."

Well-known for his colorful stories, sharp wit, and keen memory, Meshel had a successful political career in the Ohio Democratic Party. Throughout his career, he had the opportunity to meet iconic political leaders, including President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Meshel's break came in late 1963 when Youngstown Mayor-elect Anthony B. Flak selected him to be his administrative assistant. Meshel served in that capacity for more than five years. When a seat in the Ohio Senate opened, Meshel won a seven-person Democratic primary in 1970 and then the general election. He spent more than 22 years in the Ohio Senate, and the majority of that time was spent in leadership positions, including president for two years. After resigning from the Senate in 1993, Meshel served as state Democratic party chairman. He later went on to serve a nine-year term as a trustee on the board of Youngstown State University."

Harry was one of the original sponsors of legislation to establish the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) in Rootstown. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Wright State University School of Professional Psychology. He was a relentless advocate of Youngstown State University as a student, a legislator, and as a Trustee. In addition to all the achievements of this able leader, I remember Harry as a Greek American who valiantly fought our nation's battle at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. He was a dedicated supporter of our veterans and a frequent participant at many veterans' events.

Harry was a respected and beloved member of the community who influenced countless

lives. He was a dear friend and mentor to me when I was just starting out my career in public service. His legacy is represented all over the Mahoning Valley and Youngstown State University. He will be deeply missed by our community and by all of those fortunate enough to know him. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, New York.

Since its establishment in November of 1892, the Crandall Public Library has remained true to its mission of serving and educating our community. Acting as the central library for the Southern Adirondack Library System, the Crandall library holds an extensive and diverse collection of books and materials. The library's historical collections preserve the rich history of the region, while its Folklife Center Program showcases the cultural traditions of the upper Hudson Valley and southern Adirondacks. By offering thoughtful and engaging opportunities for people of all ages, the Library has provided our community with an excellent place to come together and learn.

In New York's 21st District, we are grateful for the Crandall Public Library's work on preserving our history, educating our people, and bringing our community together. I would like to thank the library's employees for their dedicated service, and congratulate them as they celebrate this historic occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER CAPTAIN (CPT) LOWELL T. MILLER, II

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Michigan Army National Guard soldier Captain (CPT) Lowell T. Miller, II who died while defending our great nation on August 31, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. CPT Miller and his military training team came under attack by enemy forces using small arms fire in Iskandariyah, Iraq. They were conducting military operations with the Iraqi Army. CPT Miller was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, CPT Miller was a member of Calvary Christian Church in Flint, Michigan. He accepted Jesus Christ as his savior and was baptized at the age of eight. He was active in his church's youth group, youth choir, and the Bible Quiz Bowl. CPT Miller attended Carman-Ainsworth High School where he lettered in track. He also