

was remembered by Staff Sergeant (SSG) Sylvester Watkins on a memorial website. "I served with him in the TOC and he was always smiling and always spoke," SSG Watkins said. "When I heard of his passing, I was home on mid-tour leave from Iraq. I felt bad because it wasn't me. That kind of trait found in Heidelberg is so hard to find, it must remain on earth. However, I realize his body planted in the ground is merely a seed which, after the winter, will blossom and show its wonderful colors. We will then know he is again among us. We love you, brother."

Phyllis Heidelberg, PFC Heidelberg's aunt, told the Associated Press that her nephew was a good man. "He was a wonderful young man, sweet and mild mannered," Ms. Heidelberg said. "He was slow to speak, loved to go to church, and always had a big smile." Jerry Jones, one of PFC Heidelberg's childhood friends, said of his determined work ethic. "He told me that he was trying to make something of himself," Mr. Jones said. "He was trying to make it for his family and his baby."

Prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army, PFC Heidelberg was a student in the auto mechanic program at the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center in Batesville. To this day, a plaque commemorating PFC Heidelberg's service is on display at the facility. Earlene Brewer, a career and technical training instructor, recently said PFC Heidelberg was a standout student. "He was a good soul," Mrs. Brewer said. "He was very friendly. His parents raised him right."

PFC Heidelberg is survived by his father, Grady Jones; his mother, Deborah Heidelberg; and his daughter, Stacie.

PFC Heidelberg's service and sacrifice to protect America will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE DODGE FAMILY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year the Riverdale Neighborhood House is celebrating its 145th Anniversary, and to mark the occasion they are honoring the family that started it all for them, the Dodges, at their annual anniversary gala.

Few names are as synonymous with RNH and the Northwest Bronx as the Dodges. Their roots in the community run deep, starting in 1872 when Grace Hoadley Dodge founded the Riverdale Neighborhood House. Grace, at the age of 16, created a small library in one of the greenhouses on her family's property in Riverdale. The library became a hub for the workers in Riverdale and grew from there. In 1884, Grace helped Riverdale Neighborhood House acquire its own building, which provided community based services for the workers of Riverdale.

In 1917, Grace's brother, Cleveland Hoadley Dodge, established the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation. At the time, the Dodge family was profiting greatly off their copper mining business due to the Great War. Dodge was determined, as he wrote to his Presbyterian pastor, that "I will not burn my pockets by keeping a cent of the money coming to me from war profits." He set up the Foundation with the very general proviso that its income should be used "for the betterment of mankind." Ever

since its establishment, grants have been made by the Foundation to charitable and cultural institutions in New York City. In many cases, members of the family had helped to found them and subsequent generations have continued to support them.

The combined good works of RNH and the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation are too many to list. Through the years, many members of the Dodge family have shared their wealth, wisdom and support to the programs and services at RNH: Grace Parish Dodge, (Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge) contributed to the Bayard Dodge Pool project in 1945; Mrs. Pauline M. Dodge, (Mrs. Cleveland E. Dodge) served on the RNH Board for many years, and Grace's grand nephew and grand nieces, Alfred H. Howell, Elizabeth Dodge R. Haxall, and Ruth Rea Howell, also served RNH during their lifetimes.

The commitment the Dodge family has shown to RNH and our neighborhood is inspiring. They have done a wealth of good for my constituents and I want to thank them as they receive this great honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 623, 624, and 625 on Monday, November 13, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call vote 624, and "Nay" on roll call votes 623 and 625.

COLORADO NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM AWARDEES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Connect Charter School in Pueblo, Colorado, which was recently named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

With this award, the Connect School has been recognized as one of the nation's highest performing educational institutions. Members of the Pueblo community know that this honor is well deserved. The dedication shown by the teachers, administrators, and school staff is extraordinary, and I know they have a profound impact on the lives of each student who attends Connect School.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are among the nation's highest performing educational institutions, as measured by state assessments, nationally normed test scores, and graduation rates. Now in its 35th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 8,500 public and private elementary, middle and high schools. The Connect School should be proud of its inclusion in the 2017 award group, and I join the Pueblo community and entire state in offering my enthusiastic congratulations.

HONORING JAMES HENRY FORD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life of James Henry Ford of Martinsville, Virginia. Jim passed away on October 28, 2017. He was a fine man who always had the interests of his community at heart.

Jim grew up in Martinsville and made his career practicing law there for 58 years after he studied at Roanoke College and the University of Virginia Law School. As an active member of the Martinsville and Virginia State Bar, he served two terms on the Virginia State Bar Council. I came to know Jim when we served together on the Blue Ridge Boy Scout Council, which covers 21 counties and nine cities in Virginia, in the 1980s and 90s. I greatly respected his contributions as well as his commitment; whenever the council met, he would drive over an hour from Martinsville to Roanoke. This level of dedication was typical of Jim, who found every venue he could to serve the community around him. Along with the Boy Scout Council, he served as president of the Martinsville Jaycees, the YMCA, and the Kiwanis. He helped found and later led the Piedmont Arts Association. As a lifetime member of Martinsville's First Presbyterian Church, he served variously as Deacon, Elder, and Clerk of Session. For many years he served as Chairman of the Martinsville Planning Commission and as Secretary of the United Fund of Martinsville and Henry County. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Patrick Henry Scholarship Fund.

Jim garnered honors for his work with these organizations, including the Scout's Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a volunteer can receive at the council level, and the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award. His service was a gift to the people of Martinsville and its surrounding communities. Our society counts on people like Jim, the men and women who dedicate their time, their resources, and their passion to the places they call home. They do so not in search of monetary gain or the acquisition of power, but out of a sense of duty to their community and joy in improving the lives of their fellow citizens.

Jim is survived by his wife Sandra, his daughter Margaret, his son Martin, and his grandchildren Wesley, Sandra, Jimmy, and Charlotte. My thoughts are with them in this difficult time. The Martinsville/Henry County area is diminished by his passing, as we all are.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS YEMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned about U.S. involvement in Yemen. The