

As District Attorney, Jim served as a respected leader of the Schoharie community, and I thank him for his commitment to the State of New York. I wish him, his wife Rhonda, and their two children, James and Anne, every happiness as they embark on this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN U.S. NAVY ENGINEMAN PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS (PO1) VINCENT E. PARKER, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen U.S. Navy Engineman Petty Officer First Class (PO1) Vincent E. Parker, Sr. who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 18, 2001, during Operation Enduring Freedom. PO1 Parker drowned aboard *Samra*, an Iraqi freighter, which capsized in the Persian Gulf. Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) Benjamin Johnson also died. PO1 Parker was part of a security team from the USS *Peterson* (DD969). He was based at Norfolk Naval Station, Virginia.

United States Representative Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Jr. submitted details of PO1 Parker's service into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Thursday, December 13, 2001. PO1 Parker, a native of Preston, Mississippi, joined the U.S. Navy in 1982 after graduating from Nanah Waiya High School in Louisville, Mississippi. In the document, Rep. Pickering described PO1 Parker as a devout member of the Assembly of God Church in Columbus, Mississippi, and he grew up in a loving, well-respected family with five siblings. PO1 Parker's mission on the day he died was to enforce the United Nations sanctions imposed upon Iraq following the Gulf War. He boarded *Samra*, a ship believed to be smuggling oil for Saddam Hussein. Rep. Pickering commended PO1 Parker for his lifelong devotion as a son, husband, brother, father, and citizen. Rep. Pickering also said that while serving on board the USS *Peterson*, PO1 Parker was known not only for his naval leadership, but also for the example he set as a citizen and a man of God.

Stephanie Parker Ybarra, PO1 Parker's niece from Columbus, Mississippi, paid tribute to her uncle in a post on a memorial website. "Uncle Butch, you were loved by the whole family," Stephanie wrote. "You were one of our family's role models. All the nieces and nephews adored you. I can't tell you how much you are missed, but I can tell you I am extremely proud to have been your niece. Your ultimate sacrifice is only a small reflection of the type of person you were. I can't wait to one day see you and grandpa again and recap on all the stories you have missed. I love you and miss you!" Another niece of PO1 Parker, Jessica Owen of Amory, posted a tribute on the same memorial website. "I am so proud of you," Jessica wrote. "You are the bravest man I have ever known, and your courage has reflected upon your family. We are better people because we have loved, and have been loved by you. The sacrifice you made for the family and country you loved will

never be forgotten. I carry your memory in my heart every day. Like Steph, I look forward to the day when I can talk to you again and to the day when we can look back at all you have missed and smile together."

PO1 Parker is survived by his wife, Charlotte Parker; their two children, Vincent Parker and Rachel Parker; his sister Ruth Marie Parker; and his four brothers, Glenn Parker, Andy Parker, Steven Parker, and John Parker.

PO1 Parker proudly served in the U.S. Navy for 19 years. His commitment to protect America will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF UPLAND, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Upland, Indiana. Upland has played an integral role in the industrial and educational development of Indiana and Hoosiers from every part of the state are thankful for the contributions of the men and women of Upland.

The town of Upland is celebrating 150 years, but the history of Upland dates back further. Settlers came to the area in 1828, clearing the land and trapping wild game for food and furs. In 1867, settler Jacob Bugher gave a right of way to the Central Railroad of Indiana in exchange for a promise that all passenger rail would stop in the soon-to-be-formed town. Central Railroad of Indiana agreed, the railroad was built, and Upland was officially incorporated.

In the years since it gained its name as the highest point on the Central Railroad of Indiana rail line, Upland has developed into a lively and thriving community, serving as a home for generations to families, businesses, professionals, churches, schools, and other organizations.

In 1887, the town saw a great influx in business due to the discovery of natural gas. Just a few years later, in 1893, Taylor University moved to Upland. The University was founded on the belief that education should be available to women as well as men, and Taylor University is now regularly ranked in the top three colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report. The arrival of Taylor University gave students across the country the opportunity to receive a first-class liberal arts education in a special town.

In recent years there has been an influx of business developments in Upland, which has been great for the economic growth of the town. The town of Upland has a unique balance between established favorites like Ivanhoe's Drive-In, a drive-in restaurant established in 1965 famous for its ice cream and burgers, and attracting new businesses, like coffee shops and clothing stores.

Upland, Indiana exemplifies the best of small-town America. The citizens have a clear passion and love for their town, but are also quick to welcome visitors from around the world. I am proud to represent such an amazing town, one with a history of growth and success as well as the promise of a pros-

perous future. Please join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary of the incorporation of the great town of Upland, Indiana.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN STRICKLER FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin Strickler from Belgrade for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Strickler joined the United States Marine Corps in 1983 and served until 1986 when he was honorably discharged as a corporal. Those closest to Mr. Strickler describe him as "always a Marine," professional in action, appearance, and bearing.

Mr. Strickler's service extends beyond his military career. He is involved with several veteran, civic, and youth organizations. He is the Commander of the local Honor Guard and a member of the Gallatin Valley Memorial Day Parade Committee, where he instituted a program to honor Gold Star family members in the annual parade.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Kevin Strickler for his dedication and service.

TRIBUTE TO SABARISH MOGALLAPALLI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sabarish Mogallapalli. Sabarish and his fellow teammates created the winning app, City Recycle Day, as part of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Their team is combined of students who attend Waukee High School and PrairieView Middle School in Waukee, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress from their home district. The team's app is entitled "City Recycle Day". It is designed to alert members of a community as to the date of their next trash/recycle pickup day. It also alerts users of special pickups and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sabarish and his teammates for creating the winning app, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sabarish and his teammates on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.