

On his 75th mission, a SAM (surface-to-air) missile hit his A-7 Corsair II aircraft. He was shot down over Haiphong. He was forced to eject from the aircraft, suffering several broken bones. After being ejected, he deployed his parachute, which quickly became impaled by bullets from enemy fire. Seconds after he hit the ground, he found himself surrounded by the enemy. It was then, when a villager, about 10 feet away, began running at full speed with a knife in his hand towards Lt. Penn, in an attempt to kill him. Although Lt. Penn tried to dodge the attack, the villager cut the side of his neck open. A North Vietnamese Army soldier subdued the farmer and took Lt. Penn captive, using Penn's own bootlaces to restrain his hands behind his back before taking him to the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

He was a prisoner of war (POW) at the brutal Hanoi Hilton for eight months. He lived in a 9x4 concrete cell. His meals consisted mostly of bread and water. The solitary lightbulb above him stayed on 24 hours a day. Twice he was given rice, which had roaches in it. In the beginning, the captives would pick the roaches out of their food, but after starving for so long, they eventually ate everything they were given.

After spending eight months in captivity, the war was over. He returned home on March 29, 1973, as part of the last group that was brought back during "Operation Homecoming". 591 American POWs returned home during the operation. This was a direct result of an agreed ceasefire following the Paris Peace Accord, ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war. For Lt. Penn, it wasn't easy returning home. His son was six months old when he left, and was 1.5 years old when he returned. He didn't know who he was. It didn't take him long, thankfully. As he was getting to know his son, he was trying to acclimate to normal life. For the first three months he couldn't sleep. Since he, like many other POW's, slept on the floor in his concrete cell, it was some time before he was comfortable in his own bed.

Lt. Michael Gene Penn honorably served the United States Navy for 11 years. Nine years on active duty and two in the Navy Reserves. Lt. Penn's military service was remarkable. When he came into my office, I presented him replacement medals for:

1. The Distinguished Flying Cross (the second highest award next to the Congressional Medal of Honor) for his extraordinary achievement while participating in a heavy combat aerial flight in Southeast Asia,

2. The Bronze Star with a combat V (for valor) for his heroic achievements and meritorious service in a combat zone,

3. Two Purple Hearts for having been injured twice while serving our nation,

4. The Air Medal, for an act of heroism and meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight,

5. The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star and combat V (valor) for his sustained acts of heroism and meritorious service,

6. The Combat Action Ribbon for his active participation in ground and surface combat,

7. A Presidential Unit Citation for Gallantry, Determination, and Esprit de corps in accomplishing a mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions,

8. The Prisoner of War Medal for his honorable service in the Armed Forces while being

held against his will during the Vietnam war for eight months,

9. The National Defense Service Medal for his military service during periods of national emergency or a period designated by the Secretary of Defense,

10. The Vietnam Service Medal for his service in the geographical theatre area of Vietnam from July 4, 1965 through March 28, 1973,

11. An Honorable Discharge Button for his impeccable and admirable service in the United States Navy.

Lt. Penn resigned his commission from the Navy in 1978 and went to work for a commercial airline to fly 737s out of Houston, Texas. He quickly became the chief pilot, supervising over 700 other pilots. Today, he continues to serve the veteran community as a PTSD mentor and as a civilian inspirational speaker. He travels the world and tells his story of endurance and survival. His patriotic legacy of military service and giving back is one of the best examples of a remarkable generation in American history. Lt. Penn is a unique warrior that never renounced duty, honor or country. He was unbreakable. I asked him how he felt about his service, and he said, "It was an honor to serve under difficult circumstances. I'm glad to be back in one piece." Always a humble man, he said to remember that, "It's never a bad day as long as you have a door knob on your side of the door".

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey took a lot from Texans. It destroyed many of our businesses, some of our historic landmarks, and thousands of homes; and with it, it took many Texans' valuable and sentimental belongings. It has been an honor to meet Lt. Penn and a pleasure to replace the medals that recognize his commendable military service and personal accomplishments. Lt. Penn is of the rare breed, the remarkable breed of an American Patriot.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO HALL DAILY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hall Daily, who will soon retire from his position as Director of Government Relations at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

After completing his communications degree at Stanford University, Mr. Daily worked as a tennis teacher for nearly a decade before venturing into journalism. His 15 year career was ultimately successful, and he worked for established news organizations such as the San Jose Mercury News, The Associated Press and eventually the Pasadena Star-News, where he led a newsroom of more than 50 people.

Hall joined Caltech in 1987 as the Assistant Director of Public Relations. Shortly afterwards, he led an extensive, large-scale effort to win approval from the City of Pasadena for Caltech's 30-year campus development plan, which allowed the institute to grow and meet the needs of both Caltech and the greater Pasadena community. Also during his initial public relations role, Mr. Daily co-created the

CASE gold-medal winning radio program, "Caltech Edition of Airtalk" on the local radio station KPCC, in which Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Caltech scientists discussed research, forthcoming publications and current events.

Mr. Daily later became the Director of Government Relations at Caltech, where he has been indispensable in establishing, sustaining and managing strong relations with local, state and federal governments, higher education associations, community groups, Caltech's neighbors and the general public. He has represented Caltech on numerous organizations, including the California Council of Science and Technology, the AAU Council of Federal Relations and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, where he has served as its Executive Committee Treasurer for the past 25 years. In addition, Hall has served on the boards of many local non-profit organizations, including Day One Pasadena, Leadership Pasadena, Pasadena Police Activities League, el Centro de Acción Social and the LA Cleantech Incubator. He is a co-founder of the working groups: Emergency Coordinators Roundtable, Pasadena: City of Learning and the Pasadena Water & Power large customers group, and also serves on Caltech's Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Institute and Alumni Relations Committee and the JPL Committee. In 2002, for his dedicated efforts in promoting the interests of Caltech as a global standard of academic merit by strengthening communication and goodwill between Caltech, its students and its alumni, Hall received the Honorary Member of the Caltech Alumni Association Award.

It has been my pleasure to work with Hall on numerous projects over the years, such as the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System, a discovery for the ages by scientists working at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), and expanding our knowledge and exploration of space.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Hall Daily for three decades of extraordinary service to Caltech and the greater Pasadena community, which has helped advance scientific research for the betterment of our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA PIPER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda Piper of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on her recent retirement as the System Analyst for the City of Council Bluffs. Linda was hired as a switchboard operator by the City of Council Bluffs on September 15, 1970, and retired after exactly 47 years of service on September 15, 2017.

Linda has held several positions during her career with the City. She worked in the City Treasurer's office, serving as a data processing technician and data processing coordinator as the computer technology evolved at City Hall. When the city created an IT Department, Linda was promoted to Systems Analyst, the position she held at retirement. Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh said, "Linda has been a great employee and a great individual. She will be missed by everyone in City Hall."

Mr. Speaker, Linda has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this outstanding accomplishment, and in wishing her nothing but the best in her retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT KAMELA
PATTON

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Collier County Superintendent Kamela Patton for being awarded the "2017 Superintendent of the Year" by the Consortium of Florida Education Foundation.

Throughout her seven-year tenure, Patton's Administration has hosted numerous financial aid nights to assist students and families navigate the complex student financial aid process. Beyond her dedication to provide career based support for students, Superintendent Patton demonstrated strong leadership during Hurricane Irma, which directly affected Collier County. The school district opened 28 schools to serve as shelters for thousands of people who were impacted by Hurricane Irma.

I applaud Superintendent Patton for her dedication to educate our youth. We are proud of her achievements as she is the first superintendent from Southwest Florida to be honored with the award, in its 11th year of launch. I thank her for her commitment to our community and her years of service.

TRIBUTE TO RENEÉ D. MARTINEZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reneé D. Martinez, who is retiring as President of Los Angeles Community College.

A Los Angeles native, Ms. Martinez received her Associate of Arts degree from Mount Saint Mary's College and a bachelor's degree in child development from the California State University Los Angeles. Upon receiving her master's degree in child development from the University of San Francisco, she began her over forty-year career in education with the Los Angeles Unified School District, working as a teacher, consultant and director, while also teaching part-time at East Los Angeles College (ELAC). In 1975, she became a full-time faculty member of ELAC's Child Development Department, and later served as the Department Chair. Reneé went on to hold various other administrative and managerial positions at ELAC such as Vocational Dean, Evening Dean, and Director of Student Activities. In 2001, she assumed the role of Vice President of Workforce Education and Economic Development, where she fostered valuable connections with the business community for the purpose of assisting students in their employment and educational efforts.

In 2012, Ms. Martinez was appointed Interim President of Los Angeles City College (LACC). The following year, she became the college's 16th President and was recognized as the first Latina to be President in LACC's ninety-year history. During her successful tenure, she was responsible for managing all college departments, faculty and staff and overseeing student support services, student achievement and the college budget. Reneé ably upheld the goals and values set forth by the Los Angeles Community College District by fostering a creative and inclusive learning and working environment for all students, staff and faculty members, and emphasizing the importance of assisting students in need.

An exemplary leader, Reneé D. Martinez has been an invaluable asset in the field of education and has left a legacy that will be preserved and enjoyed by generations to come. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Reneé D. Martinez for over four decades of distinguished service to the academic community of the greater Los Angeles region.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL FISS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Michael Fiss, a longtime Syracuse radio host who recently retired after 40 years on the airwaves.

Mike Fiss, known by our community as "Big Mike," started his radio career in 1979 at a local Syracuse radio station, WSYR-FM. Since that time, he has had the number one-rated morning show on Y94FM for many years, and most recently hosted the morning show on Sunny 102 for the past 16 years.

Throughout his career, Fiss has been a supporter of local musicians and has worked to help the less fortunate in Central New York. Every November, Sunny 102 famously switches from its regular programming to all-Christmas music and "Big Mike's Christmastime in Syracuse" CDs have been sold locally to benefit charities in our area. Fiss' listeners have joyfully anticipated his annual live Christmas broadcast which highlights performances of our favorite holiday songs from local Syracuse artists.

For his tremendous efforts to make us laugh every morning, while continuously working to make our community a better place, I am proud to congratulate Michael Fiss on his illustrious career and much deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN R.
HOLT

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Dr. Stephen R. Holt for his service to the veterans of the Tenth District as director of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center for the past three years.

Since 2014, Dr. Holt has led the only Federal Health Care Center in the country, operating as an integrated medical facility for both the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, with the end goal of better serving our current and former service members.

Dr. Holt and the extraordinary team at the Lovell FHCC in North Chicago are responsible for the care of nearly 20,000 Veterans, 60,000 Active Duty and their dependents and 10,000 other Tricare beneficiaries within our communities. This includes overseeing the medical readiness of more than 40,000 naval recruits who pass through Naval Station Great Lakes annually.

Under his leadership, Lovell FHCC advanced from a three to a four-star rating by the Veterans Administration, and his integrity and dedication has fostered an enhanced atmosphere of caring and service between staff and patients.

Prior to his time at Lovell FHCC, Dr. Holt was responsible for oversight and delivery of quality medical care across 10 hospitals in the VA Southeast Network.

Dr. Holt is a Veteran of the Air Force, where he spent 21 years as a Medical Officer in field and central command locations, retiring at the rank of Colonel.

I thank Dr. Holt for his service to our nation and to the veterans and servicemembers in our community, and I offer him and his family best wishes for their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREENVILLE
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S
STATUS AS A 2017 BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greenville Junior-Senior High School in Greenville, Pennsylvania which was recently honored by the Department of Education as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. This award, given to only 342 schools in America this year, is based on a school's overall academic performance as well as its progress in closing achievement gaps among its students.

In her message of congratulations, Secretary DeVos commended the "visionaries, innovators and leaders" who are "preparing every child for a bright future." I am proud to join her in congratulating the teachers and administrators of Greenville, as well as the families of these students for the love and support they provide. Most of all, I congratulate the students themselves for a job well done. They are truly a credit to Pennsylvania's Third District, and to our country. It is an honor to represent them in the People's House.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would