

Declaration of Independence.  
Galatians 5:1.  
Gettysburg Address.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS MITCHELL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Mitchell, of Clive, Iowa and a member of Boy Scout Troop 182 for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to demonstrate how they live out the Scout Spirit in their life, to serve as a leader in their troop, earn a total of 21 merit badges, and, finally, to complete an Eagle Scout Project to benefit the community. For his project, Nicholas raised the necessary funds and materials needed to build a storage shed for the Waukee post of the VFW. The work ethic Cole has shown in his Eagle Scout Project and throughout his scouting career speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and bettering his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family and community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

2018 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize Black History Month and its 2018 theme, African Americans in Times of War. This year's theme reflects on the crucial role of African Americans in the military. Throughout our history, millions of African American men and women have bravely served our country, and their contributions to the betterment of our nation are to be revered. We applaud those who continue to work so diligently to improve and expand upon military opportunities for African American men and women, but we must always acknowledge that there is more progress to be made.

We take this time to honor and reflect on the struggles and triumphs of African American people throughout America's history. African Americans have played a major role in every war, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. However, for a large majority of those wars, these brave individuals failed to receive ample recognition for their achievements. Let us take the time this month to recount and praise the African American men and women who served our country during wartime, and to commend those who serve in the military today.

The First Congressional District of Indiana, which I proudly serve, has a rich history steeped in military service. The late Quentin Smith, of Gary, Indiana, serves as a perfect example of what this year's theme means to the community of Northwest Indiana and the entire country. Quentin Smith was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the renowned African American World War II air corps. This group escorted and protected bombers as they flew missions over Europe, and they seldom lost a plane. For his bravery, courage, and heroism, Quentin Smith, along with his fellow Airmen, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Following his military career, Mr. Smith continued to serve his community, especially the youth, through teaching and serving as the first principal of Gary West Side High School. A committed public servant, Mr. Smith was also involved in local government as a member of the Gary City Council, among many other exemplary accomplishments. Mr. Smith passed away in 2013 at the age of 94, but his legacy will live on for generations to come. For his truly honorable military career and his dedication to his community, Quentin Smith is held in our highest esteem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring the African American men and women who served in the past while commending those who serve today. We are forever indebted for their contributions to protecting our great nation, and we thank them for their perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle.

A THREAT TO LABOR UNIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for yielding and for anchoring this very important Special Order on the value of the labor unions, and the pending case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, Council 31, No. 16-1466, which is scheduled to be heard and decided by the Supreme Court this term.

Mr. Speaker, it is my strong hope and expectation that the Supreme Court will uphold the position advanced by Respondent AFSCME, Council 31.

All workers should chip in their fair share to cover the cost of representing them.

That is because unions work because all employees benefit from the terms and conditions of employment negotiated by unions.

Fair share fees provide public service workers with the power in numbers they need to negotiate better wages, benefits and protections that improve work conditions and set standards for everyone.

The corporate special interests supporting this attack on labor unions want to weaken the ability of unions to build strength in numbers.

That is why they want the Supreme Court to rule that workers can receive all the benefits of a union contract without contributing anything in return.

I know it is fashionable today to disparage, downplay, or minimize the importance of organized labor to our country.

That is easy to do but it would be wrong.

Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor—those who would

cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized—do a disservice to the cause of democracy.

Fifty years or so ago the American Labor Movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now.

From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions.

Their living standards are the highest in the world.

Their job rights are protected by collective bargaining agreements, and they enjoy benefits that were unheard of less than a generation ago.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups.

They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits.

Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.

But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders.

Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources, and for saving the family-sized farms.

They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

Unions are as important as they ever were—because corporations are just as dedicated to their bottom line, regardless of the consequences for workers.

Employers are trying to shed responsibilities—for providing health insurance, good pension coverage, reasonable work hours and job safety protections.

The simple truth is that no one is forced to join a union and no one is forced to pay any fees that go to politics or political candidates.

Rather, each public service worker chooses whether or not to join a union, but the union is still required by law to represent and negotiate on behalf of all public service workers—members and non-members alike.

All employees receive the wage increases, benefits and workplace rights negotiated through the union.

All workers should chip in their fair share to cover the cost of representing them.

When working people have the freedom and opportunity to speak up together through unions, we make progress together that benefits everyone.

Working people need a voice at work to keep employers from making our jobs look like they did 100 years ago, with sweatshop conditions, unlivable wages and 70-hour workweeks.

And lest we forget, it was the men and women of organized labor who rushed into the burning World Trade Center Towers when others were rushing out.

The men and women of organized labor put their lives on the line for their fellow Americans everyday.

They do not ask for much. All they ask is to be treated with respect and dignity.

They want what we all want: to do their jobs and to make a better life for their families.

The least we in the Congress can do is to go on record in support of our working men

and women in the vitally important transportation industries of our country.

We can and should affirm that none of the funds made available in this appropriations bill shall be used in a manner that undercuts the hard won rights of Americans workers that is reflected in the National Labor Relations Act and other important federal labor laws.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
MATTHEW EVANS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. James Matthew Evans, the late Landscape Architect of the United States Capitol.

Matthew was an essential fixture in Washington on Capitol Hill during his prestigious tenure from 1995 to 2011 as Landscape Architect for the United States Capitol Building and Grounds. He was well regarded by his colleagues, friends and many Members of Congress, alike, for both his friendly disposition and admirable work ethic. Matthew was dedicated to ensuring that the Capitol was well maintained, and made countless contributions to the aesthetics and design of its gardens and grounds. Prior to his work for the United States Capitol, Matthew honed his skills by working as a landscape designer in the private sector.

While serving as Landscape Architect of the Capitol, Matthew worked to maintain hundreds of trees, shrubs, and millions of plants and annuals, and preserved perennial plantings around the 290 acre Capitol Complex, and oversaw the dedication of commemorative trees for many notable figures. In addition, Matthew was directly responsible for the design and upkeep of Bartholdi Park, located between the Rayburn House Office Building and United States Botanic Garden. Matthew was also the author of a book titled *The Landscape Architecture of Washington D.C.*, a studied compilation of notable sites and places around the District of Columbia. He was a real student of history.

Matthew is remembered by his wife Ruth Ann, whom he was married to for over thirty four years, and by his two daughters Kathy and Heidi. All of us take this moment to recognize and appreciate those, like Matthew Evans, who worked behind the scenes to keep our nation's Capitol and grounds beautiful for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the life of James Matthew Evans, retired Landscape Architect of the Capitol.

HONORING ALBERT J. GOMEZ

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Albert J. Gomez on his outstanding career as he retires from serving as the West Point Field Force State Coordinator.

LTC Gomez, Al, has set a standard of excellence in Idaho, leaving a lasting, positive impression in the lives of many. For nearly 20 years he has been an invaluable asset to our offices. In 2000, the Idaho Congressional Delegation began to hold an annual Service Academy Day. Service Academy Day is an opportunity to provide information to Idaho's best and brightest young men and women who are interested in attending our nation's service academies. Al has been instrumental in setting up Service Academy Day from the beginning while juggling deployment and other commitments. He has assisted numerous Idaho students with obtaining an exceptional educational and service opportunities available at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He is responsible for incorporating the principle method into the delegation's nomination process, which has made a significant difference in the number of Idaho appointees to West Point. In fact, he is considered the "secret weapon" in our delegation responsible for the high success rate of Idaho students receiving appointments to West Point. For LTC Gomez, his remarkable work has always been about his love for West Point and our country. He is known for his extraordinary mentorship of youth, and candidates are frequently told to listen to Al if they want to be successful.

As a West Point alumni, Al has clear insight into what it takes to succeed at a service academy and what it means to serve our nation. He earned his Regular Army commission in 1979, and started his career in 1980 as a Lance Missile Platoon Leader serving in Germany. His assignments took him and his family to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Neckarsulm, Germany, which included command of a Pershing II missile nuclear capable firing battery. He served in deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was selected to represent the U.S. Army and provide testimony to the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces in November 1992. Al continued his military education with a 1994 graduation from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served as a State Inspector General for both the Idaho and Guam National Guard for nearly a decade before his retirement from the U.S. Army in 2006. As a civilian, he worked for the Idaho National Guard as a special security officer for the Supervisor Human Resource Office before his current position, as the State Equal Employment Manager.

His strong work ethic and dedication have not only given him a reputation among the delegation of being a go-to-guy when something needs to be done right and quickly, but have also contributed to him being recognized with many honors for his service to our country. These include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal, 4th Award; Army Commendation Medal, 3rd Award, Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal, 2nd Award; and many other recognitions.

A TRIBUTE TO KOLBY  
SHACKELFORD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kolby Shackelford. Kolby was named the Iowa PGA Junior Tour Player of the Year in the 14–15 year old age group. He is the son of Kurt and Gayle Shackelford of Panorama, Iowa.

As a freshman, Kolby placed 13th in the state of Iowa in the Class 2A state golf tournament. He was also a member of the 3rd place Panorama golf team. It was through his hours of practice and commitment to his craft that Kolby was able to achieve such an outstanding recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Kolby for receiving this outstanding award and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kolby and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
NICK L. SALAZAR

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Nick L. Salazar who is retiring at the end of the 2018 legislative session after 46 years of outstanding and selfless service to New Mexico.

Representative Salazar was born on April 18, 1924 in Chamita, New Mexico. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he attained the rank of sergeant. Representative Salazar attended the University of New Mexico and the University of California-Santa Barbara. He and his wife, Mari Ana Abeyta, have three wonderful children, Yvonne, Earl, and Gregory, as well as three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Representative Salazar started his long and storied political career as a commissioner for Rio Arriba County. In June 1967 while commissioner, he was held hostage by Reies Lopez Tijerina in the infamous courthouse raid in Tierra Amarilla. Representative Salazar also worked at Los Alamos national laboratory as a fusion and thermonuclear researcher where he continues to serve as a member of the lab's board.

In 1972, Representative Salazar was first elected to New Mexico House of Representatives for District 40 where he has served diligently and with distinction ever since. Throughout his career, Representative Salazar has proven a staunch advocate for Native American issues and constantly traveled throughout the State to visit tribal communities. Additionally, Representative Salazar championed senior issues throughout his career. For years, he has set aside funds in the annual budget to increase support services for New Mexican seniors. Representative Salazar