

relinquishing command of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas this morning. His previous assignments include the III Corps, G3 Chief of Training at Fort Hood, TX. He also served as the Deputy Brigade Commander, Executive Officer, and Fire Support Officer for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS as well as the Battalion S-3 for the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; LTC Errington was the Assistant Professor of Military Science at Saint John's University, College of Saint Benedict's, and Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota. He was the Battalion Fire Direction Officer, S1, and Charlie Battery Commander for 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. LTC Errington also served as a Task Force Fire Support Officer, Platoon Leader, and Company Fire Support Officer for 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery at Fort Riley, Kansas.

LTC Errington's decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He is married to the former Alison Adams of Hermantown, MN and they have three children—Brooke who is going to start college at Kansas State University in the fall, Billy, and Becky.

---

HONORING THE NORTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

---

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments for their milestone achievement of fifty years of service for the betterment of the local communities they serve.

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments, formerly called the Northwest Missouri Regional Planning Commission, is one of twenty regional planning commissions in Missouri, which grew out of the State and Regional Planning and Community Development Act of 1966, permitting the establishment of regional planning commissions to resolve common community problems on a regional basis. Since their founding in 1968, the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments has been assisting their member counties and cities with engineering studies, grant applications, and coordinating regional efforts to the benefit of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in celebrating these achievements and promoting the ongoing mission of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments.

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2018*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2372, the VA Mission Act. When our brave men and women take an oath to serve in the United States Armed Forces, we make them a solemn promise. Upon completion of their service, we assure them and their families of clearly defined benefits that are guaranteed. Legislation that impacts those benefits must be held to a critical and fundamental test. It must never jeopardize the future of those benefits that our men and women in uniform and their families sacrificed for. While S. 2372 has a number of outstanding provisions that I support, I am disappointed and troubled to say that it fails that fundamental test. The changes this legislation makes to the Veterans Choice Program jeopardizes the necessary future funding to support our veterans and guarantee their healthcare benefits. For that reason I cannot support S. 2372.

S. 2372 combines the VA community care programs by merging the current Veterans Choice Program with other VA community care initiatives. While this consolidation may make it easier for veterans to receive private sector care through the VA, S. 2372 creates a significant future funding problem for the Veterans Choice Program and the VA as we know it today. Currently, Veterans Choice is designated as mandatory spending-guaranteed. S. 2372 shifts funding for Veterans Choice to discretionary spending, meaning that spending on Veterans Choice will compete for funds directly within the VA against other programs for healthcare, benefits, homelessness, infrastructure, and electronic health record technology modernization. It also means that this funding will compete against spending in other appropriations bills including education, law enforcement, the environment, and infrastructure.

Additionally, the current budget caps do not support the level of VA spending that would be required to absorb Veterans Choice as a discretionary program. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that S. 2372 will cost the VA nearly \$47 billion over the next five years. This means that in the short-term, S. 2372 could subject the VA to automatic sequestration cuts that would jeopardize every VA program. This goes beyond simple bad budgeting. By failing to ensure future funding for veterans' benefits programs, S. 2372 fails to uphold that most solemn promise we make to our women and men in uniform when they serve this nation.

Mr. Speaker, passing this legislation and subjecting the VA and our veterans to the threat of future budget cuts is plain wrong. Ensuring the highest quality care for our veterans is the right thing to do and is not a partisan issue. In the coming weeks it is my hope that Democrats and Republicans will come together to ensure that this legislation is fixed and that the guaranteed benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs are robustly funded for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN P. GALLAGHER & PHYLLIS (SKOCIK) GALLAGHER, ALZHEIMER'S ADVOCATES

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Phyllis Gallagher and her late husband John Gallagher of Frackville, Pennsylvania who have served as courageous advocates for Alzheimer's patients and their families. John passed away on April 18, 2018 after a 6 year struggle with the disease.

John was a native of Ashland in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He was a career civil servant who worked as a clerk for the Bipartisan Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg. John was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's in 2012, leading to his retirement at the age of 49. John chose not to let his service to others end with his diagnosis. With the help of his wife Phyllis, John spent his time involved with the local Alzheimer's Association chapter. He took part in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and participated in several research projects at Johns Hopkins University. He also decided upon his death, his brain would be donated to research being conducted at the Boston University School of Medicine.

After John's condition deteriorated, Phyllis continued their work to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease research and the desperate need for support programs for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers. Her mission took her to Capitol Hill last year to testify before the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging and to participate in the Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum to speak on behalf of the 5.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease.

On the day she testified before the Senate, Phyllis observed: "this disease has ravaged our family, but that doesn't mean that we have to give up hope. Something positive has to come out of this."

It is an honor to recognize John and Phyllis Gallagher for the tireless work they have done to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease. I am grateful to John and Phyllis for contributing to the advancement of treatment and cure while facing their own tremendous struggle with the disease. It is my hope that Phyllis continues her work as an advocate for the individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's.

---

CONGRATULATING DIANA DIAZ TAPIA

**HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2018*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Diaz Tapia for graduating cum laude from Rutgers University Newark with a Bachelor of Arts in Public and Nonprofit Administration.

Diana, a resident of Franklin Township and a DREAMer, came to the United States in 2002 from Mexico. Throughout her academic career, Diana has worked hard to achieve her