

and daughters. Some did not return from the theater of conflict, giving their lives for our country and our liberty.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them and to their families. We owe them a debt we can never fully repay, as much as we try.

As we mark Memorial Day, we pray for the families of the veterans whose sacrifices have secured our freedoms, and we give thanks for the blessings of life and liberty, peace and prosperity that their service has secured for all of us.

AMENDMENTS INCLUDED IN THE NDAA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we come upon this weekend, I want to certainly offer my respect for the men and women in the United States military and those who have fallen in battle.

In this last authorization bill for the defense, I want to emphasize important amendments that I had approved dealing with active shooter, dealing with the violence against our children and having that explained or researched; and, as well, the maternal mortality rate will be included, along with 10 other of my amendments.

At the same time, I wish to speak about something that saddens me on the breach of the rule of law and the breach of the Constitution that our President is engaged in: the maligning of the special counsel and, of course, the attempt to expose a confidential source.

So let me hold up this picture of Rudy Giuliani who, in 1998, said in another investigation of a President: "He's got to do it. He's got to do it."

So I would offer to say that the President of the United States needs to sit down with the special counsel and tell the truth. That is what our men and women fight for overseas and around the world: democracy and the rule of law. That is what the President should do.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION'S NATIONAL POPPY DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend our Nation marks one of the most solemn occasions, Memorial Day. It is a time when we honor the sacrifices made by our fallen military members.

Tomorrow marks the American Legion National Poppy Day. Each year members of the American Legion distribute poppy flowers with the request that those receiving a flower making a donation to support our veterans, active servicemembers, and military families.

At the end of the First World War, the poppy flourished throughout Europe because of the lime in the rubble left over from the war. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice that has been worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I will proudly wear a poppy tomorrow to honor our fallen servicemembers, and it is my hope that all Americans will do the same.

HONORING CLIFFORD JOHNSON, SR.

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Clifford Johnson, Sr., who will be 100 years old on June 7.

Mr. Johnson, a Cherokee Indian Freedman, was born in Lenapah, Oklahoma, on June 7, 1918. He fought bravely during World War II, serving as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army. He began a lifelong career with the United States Postal Service in 1946.

Mr. Johnson is a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Mr. JOHNSON is a patron of Macedonia Baptist Church in Watts, California, and attributes his longevity to being close to God and treating other people the way he would want to be treated.

I want to wish Mr. Clifford Johnson, Sr., a very happy birthday and thank him for his service to our country.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL "MICK" DEHART

(Mr. DAVIDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Michael "Mick" DeHart for the selfless actions and bravery he showed on April 10, 1969, during the Vietnam war.

While conducting a routine reconnaissance operation, Staff Sergeant DeHart and his platoon were ambushed by a numerically superior force. Throughout the firefight, Staff Sergeant DeHart moved through the enemy fire to provide cover for injured soldiers, distribute supplies, and coordinate a counterattack.

As dusk approached, Sergeant DeHart, at significant personal risk, moved to an exposed position, fired on machine-gun positions and approaching enemy soldiers, halting their advance. He also aided in the successful exfiltration of his unit.

For his heroism in combat, Staff Sergeant DeHart recently had one of his two Silver Stars upgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross.

Thank you, Sergeant DeHart, for your heroism, courage, and service to our great country.

HONORING ROCIO GUILLEN ROCHA

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Rocio Guillen Rocha. Rocio attended the Route 91 festival on October 1 in Las Vegas.

Rocio would say that her greatest accomplishment was being a mom to her four kids—Marcus, Christopher, Sofia, and Austin—and being engaged to her fiancé, Chris Jaksha.

Rocio had lived through many major life events. She had given birth to her youngest child, Austin, just 6 weeks prior to her death, and she was paralyzed after giving birth to her second child, Christopher.

Rocio was a fighter who worked hard to walk again after being paralyzed. After a lot of work and training, she eventually was able to walk again.

Rocio was known as being a supermom who loved supporting her kids while they played baseball. She was an amazing mom who worked long hours as an assistant manager at California Pizza Kitchen so she could take care of her kids.

Rocio had a great sense of humor, and she was always laughing, even through the tough times. She is remembered for being patient and loving by all those who knew her.

I would like to extend my condolences to Rocio Guillen Rocha's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

RECOGNIZING GORDON "BATMAN" VARNEDOE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gordon "Batman" Varnedoe's 80th birthday, which he celebrated on May 19. Mr. Varnedoe is a staple of Savannah, who lives to put a smile on everyone's face and is never afraid to try something new.

Known to locals as Batman, he is often seen in parades wearing his cape and mask, but he earned the nickname in high school for his passionate belief in truth, justice, and an American moment.

Mr. Varnedoe breaks out of his cape and into 18th century English attire as General James Oglethorpe, Savannah's founder, to welcome visitors to this historic city. His latest projects include substitute teaching at various schools and officiating weddings in his General Oglethorpe persona.

He sets records in international weightlifting competitions at 73 years old. He is likely the oldest rugby player in Georgia, and he has founded numerous organizations to help sports thrive.