

their 150th Anniversary. This milestone is a great testament to the commitment this parish has shown to the Lord, their parishioners, and the entire community.

CELEBRATING THE 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marion Military Institute on 176 years of service to our nation's Armed Forces. Located in the heart of Alabama's Black Belt, and only thirty minutes from my hometown of Selma, MMI is a pillar of the 7th Congressional District. Since its founding, MMI has achieved a national reputation for preparing young men and women for successful civilian and military careers.

Marion Military Institute is one of only four military junior colleges in the United States, and is the nation's oldest military junior college, tracing its origin back to 1842 with the founding of Howard College in Marion, Alabama. MMI is also one of the first schools to establish a Student Government Association and a student honor system. Former President Howard Taft was the president of the board of trustees, and former president Woodrow Wilson was the keynote speaker of the convocation at MMI chapel in 1905. Marion Military Institute continued as a private high school and junior college until 2006, when the Alabama State Legislature incorporated the military institution into the Alabama Community College System.

I was reminded of Marion Military Institute's legacy when I recently addressed the impressive Corps of 446 cadets. As our country's oldest military junior college, MMI has produced over 210 Generals and Admirals for our Armed Forces. I am also proud to say that there are 348 men and women MMI graduates in all five Service Academies.

College students across the nation attend MMI to establish a strong foundation for their careers and to take advantage of its leadership development opportunities. Marion Military Institute teaches students to never give up, to push forward, and to excel in all of life's pursuits.

In the student body, about 40 percent of the cadets will pursue a civilian career and are enrolled in the Leadership Education Program. Others are working toward receiving an appointment to one of the five U.S. Service Academies. Unique to the four military junior colleges is the Early Commissioning Program, which provides an opportunity for qualified students to earn a commission as a Second Lieutenant after receiving their associate's degree to serve in either the National Guard or the U.S. Army Reserve. Students also can enter the U.S. Marine Corps Program that allows students to work and train with a Selection Officer. Lastly, students can enter the Air Force ROTC, a program that is designed to give men and women the opportunity to become Air Force officers while completing their degrees.

This summer, I was also pleased to have a wonderful Marion Military Institute graduate

named Jordan Ceasar intern in my Washington, D.C. office. Jordan learned about a new side of public service as he assisted constituents, studied the legislative process, and learned how to advocate for policy reforms.

Marion Military Institute has a strong history of developing our country's future leaders for military, government, and community service, and I am thrilled to celebrate their 176th Anniversary. With college enrollment averaging an all-time high, I am sure Marion Military Institute will continue to be a pillar of the Black Belt and produce America's leaders for another 176 years.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR ERIC B. HILL

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Command Sergeant Major Eric B. Hill on his retirement from a career of honorable service in the United States Army.

In 1983, Command Sergeant Major Hill enlisted in the Army and was initially assigned to the 388th Chemical Company. As he continued his service, Command Sergeant Major Hill excelled in a multitude of duty assignments and was repeatedly promoted as a non-commissioned officer. From his days as a young Sergeant serving in the 388th Chemical Company to the highest rank of Command Sergeant Major in the 419th Movement Control Battalion, he has exemplified the true meaning of leadership and commitment. Command Sergeant Major Hill honorably served our nation through several combat deployments including Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2008 and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2010 to 2011.

Throughout his duty assignments, Command Sergeant Major Hill was highly decorated in recognition of his exceptional service. He is a recipient of several service awards including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Action Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

I would like to acknowledge Command Sergeant Major Hill for his 31 years of service and sacrifice to our country. I am grateful for his dedication, bravery, and selfless service. It is an honor to recognize servicemen like Eric Hill and I thank him for his sacrifice for our country.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE AND JERRY
TOWNSEND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Anne and Jerry Townsend of Mount Ayr on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to

grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JONI
MCGEE'S 15 YEARS OF SERVICE
WITH THE PECOS COUNTY VSO

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude to Ms. Joni McGee upon her retirement from 15 years of service with the Pecos County Veterans Service Office. Her commitment to the Pecos County community has and will continue to have an impact on all those she has worked with.

I am proud to serve alongside hardworking men and women like Ms. McGee in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. Her time as a County Veteran Service Officer has undoubtedly had a tremendous impact on the wellbeing of veterans in our community. I wish her all the best in the many years to come.

PROTECT HEALTH CARE ACCESS
FOR ALL

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring awareness to the Republicans' effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and weaken protections provided by Medicaid and Medicare. Republicans began their sabotage of the ACA when many of their Governors, including Alabama's Governor, refused to expand Medicaid. In these states, the full benefits of the law haven't been realized. Working families have been left behind, rural hospitals have closed, and premiums have risen.

Make no mistake, these governors created an environment in which Republican politicians could campaign on the failures of the ACA, all while taking NO credit for the failures they created. The millions of working Americans who fall in the Medicaid gap and live in non-expansion states have been overlooked! This body needs to be laser focused on improving the marketplace for the working Americans who have fallen victim to the lack of Medicaid expansion.

Last year, I sat down with my hairdresser in Birmingham, and she immediately told me about how she had lost her health coverage. She didn't know why, but as she explained her situation, I quickly realized that she had fallen into our state's Medicaid gap.

A few years before in 2014, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, she received Cost Sharing Reductions to afford commercial health insurance for the first time at an affordable rate.