

Fleet Marine Force Combat Officer, and many more titles, it is safe to say, LCDR McNew is an expert in Naval combat operations, quite possibly all over the world.

It is no surprise that McNew advanced ranks from E-1 to E-8 to O-4 between 1989 and 2015. He took part in 27 Operations, including Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina, Desert Fox, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm, Operations Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, as well as the Piracy Patrols in Somalia, among many others.

His exemplary leadership, throughout the nearly 30 years of Naval service, has contributed greatly to the security of the United States, and our global community, as well as his fellow military brothers and sisters. It is an honor to recognize Lieutenant Commander Jerry McNew upon the occasion of his U.S. Navy retirement.

HONORING MICHAEL CIAFARDONI
OF THE 803RD TANK DESTROYER
BATTALION

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great man from California's first district, Michael Ciafardoni, Sr., who died at the age of 94. Born in Nepezzano, Italy, Michael immigrated to America in 1939 and was soon called upon just a few years later to serve his new country in the Second World War.

Although he was not yet a United States citizen, he fulfilled his civic duty nonetheless and served in the U.S. Army in WWII as a member of the 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Recon Company, as a heavy machine gunner. He was the last surviving member of his company. Along the way, Michael experienced all that the European Theatre had to offer. He earned five bronze battle stars for fighting in some of the most consequential battles of the war, including the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

Despite this impressive record, Michael insisted his proudest wartime experience was not any of those major engagements, but rather, the liberation of a small town in Czechoslovakia near the end of the war. Jewish prisoners were being held in the town of Volary, where they awaited transfer to a Nazi concentration camp. Fortunately, Michael and his company got there first—and they liberated them. To the people of Volary, these men were heroes.

When the 803rd was leaving town a few days later, they were ambushed by German soldiers. Private Charles Havlat, riding in the tank directly in front of Michael, was caught in the crossfire. The Germans unconditionally surrendered merely hours later. Charles was the last soldier killed in Europe. To this day, the town holds an annual celebration to pay tribute to the American soldiers who risked their lives to free them, and to Charles Havlat, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I'm told that Michael's one wish was to be honored for his wartime service in Europe. That is a wish that I could not be happier to fulfill right here on the House floor in the United States Capitol. Amazingly, Michael was

a war hero for a country that he wasn't even yet a citizen of. Thankfully, that didn't last long. In October of 1946, he earned U.S. citizenship for his exemplary service to his new country—his new home.

In 1960, he and his wife Micki moved to Southern California, before relocating to North San Juan in 1983 to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Like any true American, Michael was immensely proud to be here and ready to fight for his country without hesitation. Many people today could learn a lot from a guy like Michael. Before he died, he asked to see his Certificate of Naturalization, which brought a proud smile to his face.

The simple fact is, Michael was as American as any among us, and all who knew him were better off for it. He truly lived a life worth living and he made his family and his country proud. May he rest in peace. God Bless.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TYSONS CORNER CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Tysons Corner Center and to celebrate the opening of a new art exhibit which will showcase the journey this location has experienced over the last half-century. Truly, no area in the 11th Congressional District or in the Commonwealth of Virginia has had a more transformative impact on the regional or statewide economy than Tysons.

In the 1950's, Tysons Corner consisted of a single intersection and was surrounded by a few small stores and a fruit stand operated by William Tyson, for whom the area is named. It was a rural area; in fact, Fairfax County was considered the dairy capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia. However, this bucolic life was soon to be transformed when in 1962, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the construction of a new shopping center originally called Tysons Corner Shopping Center. At the time of its opening, Tysons Corner Center was the largest enclosed mall in the world, and to this day, remains the largest shopping mall in Virginia and in the Baltimore-Washington area. Today, Tysons Corner Center is one of the 10 largest malls in the United States and consists of more than 2.1 million square feet, 16 movie screens, and more than 300 retail stores, eateries, and restaurants. Even the most optimistic among us could not have foreseen what that decision would bring to Tysons, to Fairfax County and to Northern Virginia as a whole. It was the beginning of Tysons' transformation into the thriving urban center that it is today. Tysons has grown to become the economic engine of Fairfax County and by extension, of the entire state.

This transformation continues through to today and will continue for decades into the future. Following the success of Tysons Corner Center, the area surrounding the mall began attracting large businesses and employers. Sadly, the infrastructure and overall planning to manage this unprecedented growth lagged far behind. In 2011, there were

105,000 jobs in Tysons, but only 17,000 residents.

Recognizing the tremendous growth that was underway and the challenges it created, I convened a task force as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to develop a plan to harness that transformative energy and direct it towards the creation of a new, transit-oriented development and thriving urban community. The Comprehensive Plan that we developed calls for 200,000 jobs and 100,000 permanent residents and a key element of this plan was the creation of the Silver Line, which would finally deliver a permanent rail link between our area's major international airport and downtown Washington, D.C. Phase 1 of this project was completed in 2014 and the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new Metro station for Tysons Corner Center.

Another focus of the Tysons plan, in addition to encouraging transit-oriented development, was a renewed focus on public art in this urban space. I am therefore very pleased that Tysons Corner Center has elected to install an art exhibit featuring local artists to celebrate this golden anniversary. The work begun by Tysons Corner Center fifty years ago continues to this day and I trust that this location will remain a fixture of Fairfax County and of Northern Virginia for another half-century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in once again congratulating Tysons Corner Center on its 50th anniversary and in extending my thanks to those visionaries, developers, planners, and their partners in the public and private sectors who have worked so diligently to make the success of the last fifty years possible. I also wish to thank the Macerich Corporation and the Lerner Group, who have been steadfast and invaluable partners throughout the development process. I thank them for their immense contributions to our community and wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ACI
SOLUTIONS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commendation of ACI Solutions on their recognition as a 2018 Top 100 Minority Business Enterprise by the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council. ACI Solutions is a managed IT services provider and network security firm with a US headquarters based in Arlington, Virginia.

The Top 100 MBE awards recognize the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs in the Capital Region that energize the region's economy through innovation and commitment. I am pleased to congratulate ACI Solutions CEO Nasra Abdi and her team on their receipt of this award and applaud them in their efforts as leaders in cyber security services, business IT support, managed services and unified communications.

This award demonstrates ACI Solutions' dedication to excellence in IT services, and also recognizes the efforts of the ACI team in pursuing the American dream. They have worked hard, overcome obstacles and stand