

After serving his country in the Navy, he began his IAM career as a member of Local 776A in Fort Worth, TX after being hired as an Aircraft Assembler at Lockheed Martin.

At the IAM, Mr. Martinez has actively recruited and made a point to reach new generations of workers while protecting its nearly 600,000 active and retired members. Throughout his career, Bob has held positions at the local level and worked his way up to become the General Vice President of the office of Southern Territory, where he oversaw training and education for 14 southern states.

He also served as General Vice President of IAM Headquarters where he was responsible for the William H. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, and IAM's Government Employees and Aerospace sectors.

Bob has been a vocal activist for labor rights in the Latino community.

He recently received the Cesar Chavez Award for his distinguished work on behalf of Latino working women and men. He currently serves as the Vice President on the Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

I honor Robert Martinez for his 36 years of service to union workers.

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL "GIB"
SWAN OF GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gabriel "Gib" Swan who, for over a decade, knits winter hats and donates them to cancer patients, children, the less fortunate, and many others.

A Montana native and a graduate of St. Mary's High in Great Falls, Gib started knitting hats as a hobby more than 12 years ago when his wife, Roberta, gave him a kit and taught him.

Now 85, Gib has produced more than 1,000 hand-knitted hats that have been donated to homeless shelters, non-profit assistance providers, cancer centers, and local schools.

Gib, known throughout the community as the "Mad Hatter," knits hats of all sizes and colors and never accepts payment for his work. Nearly everyone at his senior living community has one of Gib's hand-knitted stocking caps.

Mr. Speaker, for his kindness and steadfast generosity in giving of his time and talents to provide comfort to others, I recognize Gib Swan for his spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 FAIRFAX
COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DE-
PARTMENT FIREFIGHTERS OF
THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize those members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who are being honored for their tremendous dedication to

public safety. Every year, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department selects an officer, a firefighter and a civilian from their ranks who have gone above and beyond the call in the performance of their duties. In Fairfax County, our first responders are among the best in the country. Our Urban Search and Rescue Team is deployed constantly across the country and the world when disaster strikes, most recently to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico in support of relief efforts after Hurricanes Harvey and Maria.

To be selected to receive special recognition, these individuals truly represent the best of the best in their respective divisions. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the recipients of the 2018 Firefighter of the Year Awards:

CAREER OFFICER OF THE YEAR: DEPUTY CHIEF JASON R. JENKINS

Jason R. Jenkins holds the rank of Deputy Fire Chief with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division. Jenkins has 25 years of paid and volunteer experience in Fire and EMS and served as the Executive Officer to the Fire Chief from 2011 through 2016. He also served in a variety of state, local and regional capacities, including plans manager for USA-1/VATF-1 Urban Search and Rescue Team, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and Federal Emergency Management Agency; appointee to Governor Ralph Northam's EMS Advisory Board; and past chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Fire Chief's EMS subcommittee.

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: MASTER TECHNICIAN JOEL J. KOBERSTEEN

Joel Kobersteen has served as Fill the Boot Campaign coordinator since 2003, a role that I have been proud to collaborate with him on every year. The Fill the Boot Campaign is a partnership between the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Greater Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association. Due in no small part to Joel's leadership, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has held the distinction of being the number one organization in the United States and Canada for funds raised for the last three years, including the campaign just completed over Labor Day weekend 2018, where an incredible \$603,676.05 was collected for research towards a cure for muscular dystrophy.

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR: MS. REENA M. THOMSON, FINANCIAL SPECIALIST IV

Ms. Thomson has been assigned to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Urban Search and Rescue Team since 2011. In her role she not only manages the program office, but also manages the program's budget as well. Ms. Thomson played a critical role in the planning and execution of multiple taskings of the Urban Search and Rescue Team including: Annual Team Full Scale Exercise, Los Angeles (2017), Hurricane Harvey Texas Deployment (2017), Hurricane Irma Florida Deployment (2017), Hurricane Irma Puerto Rico Deployment (2017) and Annual Full-Scale Exercise, Fairfax (2018). The team also conducted an Administrative Review Evaluation in 2017 which resulted in VA-TF I receiving numerous Best Practices recognitions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's awardees and in thanking them for their continued service to our community. Their dedication to the safety

and wellbeing of others is truly worthy of our highest praise. I wish them and all the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department great success in all their future endeavors. Stay safe.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF JIM
KAELIN'S SERVICE TO THE NA-
TION AND HIS COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of a truly extraordinary individual that ensured the safety of his community through years of dedication to the people: Sheriff Jim Kaelin.

Sheriff Kaelin, of Corpus Christi Texas, has dedicated his life law enforcement, and has served his Nation and community for more than 50 years. Sheriff Kaelin is a Vietnam combat veteran who served with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta in 1968. He was elected Sheriff of Nueces County in 2006, 2008, 2012, and again in 2016. Sheriff Kaelin holds a Master Peace Officer license and is a Certified Law Enforcement Instructor and a Certified Firearms Instructor. Sheriff Kaelin holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Police Science from Del Mar College in addition to having graduated from Northwestern University's prestigious School of Police Staff and Command. Before his election as Sheriff, he served with the Texas Department of Public Safety for 29 years, retiring in 2001. He also served as a deputy sheriff for two years, then a deputy constable. At his retirement from the DPS, he was the Region 3 Safety Education Service Commander and holds the rank of Eagle Scout.

His community involvement includes Past Potentate Al Amin Shriners, former Board Member for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Emeritus Board Member Goodwill Industries, Past President of Southside Rotary Club, Past President Coastal Bend Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, former Board Member American Diabetes Association, and a member of the CC Mustangs. In 2010, Sheriff Kaelin was honored as one of Del Mar College's 75 Distinguished Graduates in recognition of the College's 75th anniversary.

Sheriff Kaelin has been married to his "partner in crime," the former Sharon Bryzelak, for 42 years, and together they have five children, nine grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Currently, their two sons serve in law enforcement. Jerry, a retired DPS officer, is now a Detective Investigator with the Crockett County Sheriffs Office, and Jim Jr., a retired Texas Ranger, is now serving as the Director of Public Safety with the Lavaca Navidad River Authority.

It is an honor to recognize such a remarkable individual. I urge my fellow members of Congress to applaud Sheriff Kaelin for his dedication to serving our communities and enforcing the law.