

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
SENATOR HARRIS WOFFORD

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Senator Harris Wofford, a giant in our Nation's history and a dear friend.

For decades, at every single inflection point in our Nation's march towards equality, Senator Wofford stood proudly and strongly on the side of justice and decency. But he wasn't one who could be confined only to our shores. Before, during, and after his time in the United States Senate, Harris sought out injustice around the world and asked how he could help.

Not only is he an inspiration to any aspiring public servant, he has been a close friend to generations of my own family. To his husband, Mr. Charlton, his children, Susanne, Daniel, and David, and all of the members of his family and friends who loved him so dearly, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and that Harris' memory and our Nation will never forget.

REMEMBERING TOMMY RUKAVINA

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a dear friend, Tommy Rukavina, who passed away after his battle with cancer. Tommy's life ended the way he lived, with a fight. He wouldn't have had it any other way.

It is hard not to think of Tommy when I travel northern Minnesota and see all the great communities that rely on the mining industry and when I am with the amazing men and women who sustain Minnesota's Iron Range today. These are the people Tommy cared about. These are the people he represented and the people he helped.

Tommy Rukavina was outspoken. He never shied away from a fight, and yet, win or lose, he preserved civil discourse in every interaction. After difficult battles, you would still want to hang out with Tommy.

The Croatian Sensation, as I once called him, was passionate about life. He was passionate about people, and he was passionate about the causes he believed in and fought for every day. I have no doubt that he has a special place in Heaven, and I know Heaven will never be the same now that he is there.

Our State has suffered a great loss. Tommy will be deeply missed.

Our condolences to his family and loved ones, and a special thanks to all of you for sharing Tommy Rukavina with the rest of us.

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ELIMINATE SHUTDOWN TACTIC
FOREVER

(Mr. PHILLIPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you as a Member of the most diverse freshman class in our Nation's history, sent to Washington to inspire collaboration and rebuild the American people's faith in their elected leaders. But much of our tenure in Congress has been spent under a shutdown, proving the American people were right to demand change.

This dynamic must stop. To that end, Representatives HOULAHAN, SLOTKIN, ALLRED, and I rallied an energetic group of 22 freshman Members, nearly one-third of the entire class, behind the Shutdown to End All Shutdowns Act, known as the SEAS Act.

As we near agreement and the fear and immediacy of a shutdown fades, I will not forget the conversations I had with Federal employees, parents, and business owners in my district—the real human stories of the shutdown.

It would be irresponsible and unforgivable for us to betray them once again. They are not political pawns, and many provide the very safety and security we cherish in this country. That is why I stand here to urge the passing of the SEAS Act, to eliminate this destructive tactic from the negotiation toolbox forever.

RECOGNIZING CHAYNE DESSASO

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country—these three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. These words were Douglas MacArthur's in a speech to West Point's Corps of Cadets in 1962.

Memorizing it will be one of the many challenges faced by a young man from my district, Chayne Dessaso of Leavenworth, Kansas. You see, Chayne has recently been appointed to be a cadet of the United States Military Academy at West Point, my alma mater.

West Point will teach Chayne rifle marksmanship, military tactics, math, chemistry, a foreign language, boxing, engineering, swimming, gymnastics, orienteering, history, poetry, first aid, and philosophy. He will also learn about camaraderie, sacrifice, leadership, and the human spirit. And the world will be a better place for it.

Well done, Chayne. Welcome to The Long Gray Line.

USS "MICHAEL MONSOOR"

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero whose motto should inspire us all: You Never Quit.

Michael Monsoor wrote those words with a permanent marker inside the hat he wore during his BUDS training in Coronado. The lettering has faded but, displayed throughout the newly commissioned USS *Michael Monsoor*, the hat and its message will continue to inspire sailors for years to come.

In 2001, Michael enlisted in the Navy and set out to become a Navy SEAL. An injury derailed his first attempt, but Michael never quit. He returned, completed basic SEAL training, and was assigned to SEAL Team Three.

While deployed in Iraq, Michael ran forward, not away, from incoming gunfire to protect his teammates; and, when the time came, Michael threw himself upon an enemy grenade to save his team because Michael never quit.

For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor. His legacy perseveres in the proud vessel stationed in San Diego.

Fair winds and following seas to the sailors who will call the USS *Michael Monsoor* their home, and may we all never quit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
MARTIN

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the age of 93, on February 5, America lost another hero from our Greatest Generation. I rise today to honor the life of Robert Martin of Spring Hill, Arkansas, for his heroic actions in World War II and his life of service.

Mr. Martin enrolled in the Army on June 6, 1944, a day we know as D-day. We think of it as the beginning of the end of the war; although, it was just the beginning of his service. But he had a lot of service to give.

During his time overseas in the war, he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Mr. Martin fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was wounded in December of 1944 and January and February of 1945, and spent several months in the hospital recovering from serious injuries.

Upon his return to the U.S., he was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, and several others.

Mr. Martin was a proud resident of Arkansas and became known as the community historian to everyone who lived in Spring Hill, sharing his stories with anyone who would listen.

Mr. Martin was a true American hero. He spent his life serving his fellow man, and, for this, we remember his legacy.

It is with great pride that I honor Mr. Robert Martin.