

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON AND THE SOUTHERN FRANCE CAMPAIGN—THE SECOND D-DAY IN FRANCE AND THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon and the Southern France Campaign—the Second D-Day in France and the Liberation of Southern France.

Operation Dragoon began on 15 August 1944 and the subsequent Southern France Campaign lasted until 14 September 1944. The 7th US Army under Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, commanded the VIth US Corps under Major General Lucian K. Truscott, II, comprised of three of the Army's most combat-experienced divisions—the 3rd Infantry Division commanded by Major General John Wilson “Iron Mike” O'Daniel, the 36th Infantry Division commanded by Major General John E. Dahlquist, and the 45th Infantry Division commanded by Major General William W. Eagles, and Corps troops; the 1st Airborne Task Force commanded by Brigadier General Robert T. Frederick, the Canadian-American 1st Special Service Force commanded by Colonel Edwin A. Walker; and French Army B, later to be renamed the 1st French Army, commanded by General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) teams were inserted in the months to link up with French Forces of the Interior (FFI, or the Resistance) prior to prepare for the invasion. The landing forces were ably supported by the Mediterranean Allied Air Force under Lieutenant General Ira C. Eaker and the Western Naval Task Force under Vice Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, conducted the second largest amphibious landing in Europe on 15 August 1944.

The primary objective of Operation Dragoon was to threaten the southern flank of Nazi forces fighting in northern France. Further objectives were the seizing of the ports of Toulon and Marseille to provide critical logistical support for Allied forces fighting in the whole of France, the introduction of French forces into France, and the stationing of Allied Air Forces in Southern France to better support combat operations.

Allied military personnel from France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, Greece, and Poland participated in Operation Dragoon and provided critical air and naval support to open the second front in Southern France. 885 ships and landing craft, carrying nearly 1,375 smaller landing craft, with their crews, carried 151,000 troops; 21,400 trucks, tanks, tank destroyers, prime-movers, bulldozers, tractors and other vehicles to the beaches. Included were 40,850 French per-

sonnel and 2,610 vehicles of the 1st French Army. 444 aircraft sorties and 408 glider sorties delivered 6,488 paratroopers, 2,611 glider troops, 213 pieces of artillery, and 221 vehicles to the target area.

The 1st Airborne Task Force successfully landed near LeMay, La Motte, and Les Arcs causing serious disarray in German command channels which prevented a rapid coordinated response to the main force landings. Draguignan fell on 16 August. The 1st Special Service Force and cleared the offshore islands of Port Cros and Levant to secure the southern flank of the assault. Landing on the morning of 15 August all units successfully overwhelmed German defense and expanded the beachhead. The 3rd Infantry Division cleared the St Tropez Peninsula, liberating the villages of St Tropez and Cogolin after landing at Ramatuelle, La Croix-Valmer, and Cavalaire-sur-Mer. The 45th Infantry Division liberated Ste Maxime and the 36th Infantry Division liberated St Raphael. Fighting through the Maures and Esterel massifs all units reached the Blue Line, the point where the beachhead could no longer be threatened by enemy counterattack. On 17 August the Truscott's VIth Corps launched its aggressive pursuit of German forces and through the speed of its advance prevented the establishment of defensive positions east of the Rhone River valley. The Corps' Task Force Butler, following the historic Route Napoleon through the Maritime Alps, the 36th Infantry Division, and 45th Infantry Division rapidly moved north in an effort to flank and trap the German 19th Army withdrawing up the Rhone Valley with the 45th Infantry Division liberating Barjols and clearing the Valensole Plateau, TF Butler and the 36th Infantry Division liberating Sisteron, Gap, and Grenoble. The 3rd Infantry Division, attacked west along the Argens Valley along the Route National 7, guarding the northern flank of French forces reducing Toulon and Marseille and blocking a possible German counterattack, in the process liberating Le Luc (in cooperation with the 45th Infantry Division and French Armored Command Sudre)—a vital road junction on National 7, Brignoles, and numerous communities along the approach to Aix-en-Provence including Vauvenargues and Saint-Marc-Jaumegarde abutting Mont St. Victoire. While Task Force Butler, then the 36th Infantry Division with attached units from the 45th Infantry Division, fought in the Montélimar Battle Square north of the city of Montélimar from 21 to 29 August, the 3rd Infantry Division continued to press against 19th Army rearguard forces, liberating numerous communities including Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Lancon Provence, Salon-de-Provence, Orange, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Bollene, St-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, Valreas, Pierrelatte, La Garde Adhemar and culminated at the important city of Montélimar on 28 August. French Army B liberated Toulon and Marseille on 28 August, taking 1,825 casualties but taking 11,000 Nazi prisoners.

On 29 August the 3rd Infantry Division established contact with the 36th Infantry Divi-

sion near the villages of Sauzet and La Laupie northeast of the city. The 1st Airborne Task Force and 1st Special Service Force continued to guard the 7th Army's right flank from any German attack from Italy and reduced German forces in the Maritime Alps along the Italian Border—liberating the French Riviera cities of Cannes, Nice and Grasse.

The 19th Army continued its withdrawal towards Lyon, seeking to establish a coherent defensive line to oppose 7th Army's rapid advance, which drove first towards Lyon and then shifted its axis to Dijon. The 7th Army liberated Lyon on 3 September and continued to press northeast to reach the Belfort Gap, the traditional approach to the Rhine River Valley. The 3rd Infantry Division liberated Besançon on 7 September after a tough 3-day fight. The speed of the 7th Army advance prevented the 19th Army's anchoring its defense on Dijon, it therefore withdrew towards the base of the Vosges Mountains. Approaching the Vosges, the VIth Corps' three divisions faced stiffening German resistance. The 3rd Infantry Division liberated Vesoul on 12 September and by 14 September the Corps' three divisions were positioned near the towns of Fougerolles, Luxeuil, Lure, and Villersexel. French forces made contact with elements of the 3rd Army near Dijon on 11 September. With this juncture of 3rd and 7th Army forces the Southern France Campaign came to an end. The 6th Army Group was activated on 15 September and transferred from the Mediterranean Theater to GEN Eisenhower's European Theater of Operations. French forces under 7th Army control were re-designated the 1st French Army and became a separate command under 6th Army Group control.

Under the aggressive leadership of LTG Patch, MG Truscott, and General Delattre de Tassigny US and Allied forces of the 6th Army Group and its supporting air and naval support severely damaged the German 19th Army and during the 30 day Southern France Campaign moved over 400 miles from the landing beaches in Provence to link up with General Eisenhower's forces fighting their way from Nonnandy on 11 September 1944. Over 2/3 of France were liberated in the space of one month. French Forces of the Interior (the Resistance) contributed tremendously to Dragoon's success providing critical intelligence in the preparation for the landings and with countless small unit actions which harassed Nazi forces throughout the campaign. In the 30-day campaign to liberate Southern France the US forces suffered 4,500 battle casualties and 5,300 non-battle casualties. Nazi forces are assessed as having 7,000 killed in action; 21,000 wounded in action; and 131,250 prisoners of war.

Medals of Honor were awarded to the following 3rd Infantry Division soldiers during the Southern France Campaign: SSG James P. Connor, 15 August in Cavalaire-sur-Mer; SSG Stanley Bender, 17 August in La Londe les Maures; T/5 Robert D. Maxwell 7 September in Besançon; 2LT Raymond Zussman on 12 September in Noroy le Bourg; and 1LT John

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

J. Tominac on 12 September in Vesoul. Among the Distinguished Service Cross recipients was a young SSG in the 15th Infantry Regiment, Audie Murphy, whose action came near Ramatuelle on 15 August and who would go on to become the most-decorated soldier and best-known soldier of WWII. Other Medal of Honor recipients were 2LT Stephen R. Gregg from the 36th Infantry Division on 27 August near Montélimar and 2LT Almond E. Fisher of the 45th Infantry Division on 12–13 September near Grammont.

Unit awards included Presidential Unit Citations to the following 3rd Infantry Division units: 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment for its performance in Montélimar on 27 August embroidered Montélimar and the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment for Besançon 6–7 September embroidered Besançon; and to the 36th Infantry Division the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry 15–16 August embroidered Southern France and the 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment 26–29 August for fighting embroidered Montélimar; and Cannon Company, 442nd Infantry Regiment for the full campaign embroidered Southern France.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in congratulating and thanking the surviving veterans of Operation Dragoon and the Southern France Campaign on the occasion of the upcoming 75th anniversary of this highly successful operation which liberated Southern France and played a critical role in the Allied victory in Europe in WWII.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALPHAPOINTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kansas City's Alphapointe for their 108 years of service to the blind and visually impaired community. For the last century, Alphapointe has worked to empower those without sight to live independent and fulfilling lives. The organization stands out as our country's third largest single employer of individuals experiencing vision loss, providing meaningful jobs to over four-hundred people across their nine locations.

Alphapointe traces its roots to Labor Day of 1911, when thirty advocates for the blind gathered in Kansas City's Budd Park to "promote the social intercourse and general welfare of those without sight," leading to the establishment of the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City. Present at this gathering were Eugene E. Condon and his sister, Catherine Hale. Determined to overcome his own vision loss, Condon had enrolled at the Nebraska Institute for the Blind in 1900, a residential school that taught blind individuals the skills needed to lead independent lives. Inspired by the transformative impact that the institution had on her brother, Hale set out to prove that people without sight were fully capable of supporting themselves when presented with opportunity.

Indeed, it was this campaign that led Hale to accompany her brother to the rally in Budd Park, and when she helped the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City incorporate as the Kansas City Association for the Blind in

1916, Hale did so to create an organization centered around the concept of helping the blind help themselves. Now at the helm of what would later be renamed Alphapointe, Hale immediately took action to address the rampant unemployment and lack of opportunity available for those throughout the city experiencing vision loss. At the time, a mere sixteen industrial programs existed in the United States that trained and employed blind individuals, but Hale knew that those without sight need not rely only on charity. Hale's brother, for example, went on to attend the Palmer School of Chiropractic while Alphapointe's Vice President, Hayes Brooks, was the first blind student to graduate from the Kansas City School of Law.

Taking inspiration from these two trailblazers, Hale opened a workshop in 1918 where eight blind workers assembled brooms, mats, and cane chairs. Attached to the brooms were labels that proudly asserted "The Blind Man's Broom is the Best Broom," and the project that began in Hale's own living room soon began to turn a profit. Notably, this venture established Alphapointe's reputation not only as an employer of the blind, but as a manufacturer of high-quality products, thereby marking the beginning of a long tradition in the organization's history. A year later, following the conclusion of the First World War, young men from across the country who had lost their vision on battlefields overseas headed to Kansas City in search of jobs and the opportunity to lead dignified lives.

In addition to confronting the widespread unemployment that plagued the blind community, Hale was also determined to address the housing problems that blind individuals faced. In the early 1900s, life was quite dangerous for people without sight, and blind individuals were all too often institutionalized simply because they had nowhere else to live. In response to this somber reality, Alphapointe opened the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women in 1917, a place of refuge where women who lost their vision were able to peacefully spend the twilight of their lives. A far cry from the facilities that less fortunate blind senior citizens were forced into, the Hale Home was known for its warm atmosphere in which the forty residents cared for themselves, maintained their favorite hobbies, socialized amongst each other, and organized holiday fundraisers. In operation until the late 1980s, the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women symbolized Alphapointe's commitment to serving senior citizens experiencing vision loss.

Moreover, Alphapointe and their workers have repeatedly answered our nation's call during times of international conflict. In fact, Alphapointe's factory has supplied the United States military in every war since World War I. During the Second World War, for example, Alphapointe was churning out an impressive 4,480 feet of tent rope every day, a feat which earned the organization the prestigious Army-Navy Production Award for Excellence in War Production. Notably, Alphapointe was one of only three factories with a blind workforce to receive this honor. Later, as the United States entered the Cold War, Alphapointe began manufacturing sanitation kits for bomb shelters, and in 2012, the organization created a new Tactical Mechanical Tourniquet that will soon be included in the first aid kits worn by our men and women serving our country overseas. Additionally, Alphapointe now operates

base supply stores on Little Rock Air Force Base and at Fort Leonard Wood, and the partnership between Alphapointe and America's military bears testament to the profound value of blind workers and the quality of the products they can produce.

Today, Alphapointe offers a wide range of services and opportunities to the blind and visually impaired community of the Greater Kansas City area. Since its creation in 1952, the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired has served thousands of blind youth. Through the center, children learn life skills needed to overcome the obstacles that come with vision loss, including how to socialize with sighted children and navigate unfamiliar locations. Furthermore, the Student Transitional Employment Program has worked to address the high unemployment rate that continues to hinder the blind community. Additionally, Alphapointe's College Preparatory Program has ensured that many blind students were able to successfully adapt to their college campuses.

Alphapointe's services, however, extend far beyond one's college years. At Alphapointe's Center for Blindness and Low Vision, a one-of-a-kind facility in the state of Missouri, the organization offers Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services that address the challenges faced by blind individuals throughout daily life. Reflecting the Hale Home's mission to keep elderly blind individuals within their own homes, the Senior Adult Services offered at Alphapointe ensure that blind seniors can live comfortably and independently for as long as possible.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the work that Alphapointe has done for the blind and visually impaired community since 1911. For over a century, Alphapointe has offered hope to individuals who often felt hopeless, and their services have brought great meaning, fulfillment, and dignity to the lives of countless people facing vision loss. Let us recognize this occasion by rejecting any prejudices towards visually impaired Americans which may still linger within our country and by reflecting on the inherent value of all people in the same spirit as founder Catherine Hale.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 25, 2019, I missed roll call vote 510.

Had I been present for roll call 510, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 693, the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2019, I would have voted "Yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF DIXON'S FAMOUS CHILI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dixon's Famous Chili

and their one hundredth year serving the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Since their opening, Dixon's has served as a beloved pillar of the Kansas City and Independence communities, and it brings me pride to have such an institution serving the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

As one of the oldest family owned businesses in the city, Dixon's Famous Chili originally began as a street vendor in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Due to the success of the street cart, the Dixon family opened their first parlor at 15th and Olive in 1919. In the early days, the founder, Vergne Dixon, used his entrepreneurial power to provide jobs for the community. He hired only men who were down on their luck to work at his parlor, giving many a much-needed opportunity to better themselves and support their families. Dixon aspired to give back to his city and embodied a spirit of public service that should inspire us all.

In the 1940s, Dixon's Chili Parlor acquired a new and special meaning for the community as it became a frequent stop for President Harry Truman and became what he called one of his favorite restaurants in America. President Truman said he loved to eat there as the food reminded him of the days when he had been serving in World War I. When President Truman visited Dixon's for his favorite dish of chili on tamales, usually accompanied by several Secret Service Agents, the notoriety of the event landed Dixon's Chili Parlor in LIFE magazine. Thus, Dixon's came to be known as Dixon's Famous Chili.

Dixon's Famous Chili continues today, as the legacy has been kept alive by Vergne Dixon's nephew Leonard Totta, his daughter Terri Totta Smith, and will continue with his grandson Stephan Steffes. As the restaurant's business expanded, it grew to house numerous locations across the Kansas City metro area and beyond. However, the main restaurant in Independence, which President Truman frequented, remains a cherished landmark in the area. Long time guests share stories of gravitating back to Dixon's for a warm, familial atmosphere. Today, visitors to Missouri are drawn to the authentic ambience at Dixon's, as well as the special "Kansas City style chili" served the same way it was one hundred years ago, as a distinct way to experience our local history.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring this legacy as Vergne Dixon's family celebrates one hundred years of remarkable and noteworthy service in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I welcome my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulations and recognition of such an inspiration. Together, we look to better serve those around us in the same spirit as Mr. Dixon originally did and in the same way his family continues to serve us today.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RO-
LAND HAYES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, in advance of Purple Heart Day 2019, we

are taking the time to honor those who have earned the Purple Heart for sacrifices in service to this Country. Today, we recognize Roland Hayes, who received not one or two, but three Purple Hearts while serving in the Vietnam War.

As a young man, Roland Hayes admired the work of the military. He first learned about radio waves as a student at Lackawanna High School and was fascinated by the idea of war-time communication. He was also inspired by the bravery and skill of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, a specialized infantry division trained in air assault operations and the first troops that dropped into action during World War Two's Invasion of Normandy. In 1966, Hayes, just 18 years old, answered the internal tug to serve, voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division known as the "Screaming Eagles." The 101st Airborne Division fought in 45 different operations over almost 7 years and was the last Army division to leave Vietnam. During this time, the 101st made the important transition from utilizing planes and parachutes to landing helicopters.

Hayes quickly experienced the same risky operations that inspired his military career, plunging him and his unit into the depths of enemy territory. He was consistently part of the first landing unit, an incredibly dangerous position reserved for a group of highly-skilled soldiers. These men constantly faced the possibility of death or injury given the uncertain nature of their job. His division was the Army's most highly decorated airborne unit and Captain Paul Bucha from his battalion was awarded with the prestigious Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War.

Hayes' tour in Vietnam had an action-packed start. He arrived right before the Tet Offensive, a major attack by the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong on five cities in South Vietnam. The coordinated attack took place at the end of January, 1968 during the Tet, a Vietnamese New Year celebration that was traditionally a time of decreased fighting. The Offensive was a huge surprise to the U.S. military and South Vietnamese troops. During the Viet Cong attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the 101st Airborne made up the assault force of paratroopers that landed on the roof of the embassy and successfully removed the Viet Cong from the premises. While this battle was a technical victory for the United States, the Viet Cong succeeded in inflicting psychological damage on the American people and military alike. The public had believed that the Vietnam War would be an easy victory, but the attack on the embassy foreshadowed a military endeavor that was longer and more complicated than anyone could have predicted.

On March 14th, 1968, Sgt. Hayes was injured in action for the first time. While working as an assistant machine gunner, a bullet ricocheted off the barrel of a machine gun and went completely through his right leg. During his hospital stay after the injury, he insisted on receiving various combat reports from his unit to stay up-to-date on the progress of the war. He recalls feeling an incredible guilt for being away from his unit when they needed him most. Hayes told the doctor that if he did not clear him to return to combat, he would go AWOL in order to go back to his men. After just four weeks of recovery, he returned to the rough terrain of the Vietnamese jungle with a partially healed leg, ready to continue fighting.

In August of the same year, Sergeant First Class Hayes was shot a second time, now in his left leg. His battalion had landed directly in an enemy-controlled territory. Hayes 'pulled point,' or stood at the front of the formation, despite his high rank and the dangerous nature of the position, because he was well-versed in recognizing traps and other signs of enemy presence. It was then that a bullet from an enemy machine gun hit him, slicing away a large piece of his left leg. Even with his own injury, Hayes helped to save another wounded soldier before returning to combat the same day.

One month later, though his platoon believed that they had successfully taken over a key North Vietnamese Army position, enemy troops unexpectedly returned. Hayes stood up to fire when a grenade landed directly next to him. He recalls experiencing this moment in slow motion: the grenade sluggishly rolling down a slope away from him before it mercilessly imploded. A piece of it hit him in the face, knocking him over. Fueled by pain and rage, Hayes continued to fight only minutes after his injury. The scar remains a visible reminder of that moment.

Like other African American veterans who served, Sergeant First Class Hayes courageously fought two battles: the war overseas and the fight at home for equal rights. Hayes comes from a long line of military trailblazers. His father, aunt, and uncle all served during WWII, defending our democracy while facing unequal treatment both in segregated military units and at home. Their participation in the military during World War II helped plant the seeds for the American Civil Rights Movement. Another uncle, Sergeant Donald Rolls, lost his life in the Korean War. Through the Korean War, segregated African-American units served in every war waged by the United States, performing in both combat and support capacities. The Vietnam War, which took place at the height of the domestic Civil Rights Movement, marked the first integrated U.S. military. However, SFC Hayes was not free from racial discrimination during his military career. It was the first time that soldiers of all races had worked together so closely, and he recalls the rough integration process of his battalion as well as the blatant discrimination he experienced when he left his southern training base. In 1967, he was deployed to work as a cook on the military base in Vietnam. But his stint as a cook only lasted three short weeks. After a racially-charged argument with a highly-ranked officer, Hayes was ordered to the front line of combat. He believes that he was given this difficult and dangerous assignment as a punishment for perceived insubordination. Notwithstanding the unforeseen change in assignment, Hayes entered his company in Vietnam as a cook and left as a Sergeant. Despite early racial tensions, animosity quickly drifted away as battles with the enemy brought the men together. Hayes' unit soon realized that, with death and defeat on the line, color and race meant nothing. Most importantly, in order to leave together, the men needed to fight together. In Hayes' words, "the battlefield knows no colors." This mentality created a brotherly bond amongst Vietnam War soldiers which had yet to be seen in the U.S. The men's selfless service and sacrifice allowed them to abandon the social norms of the time and to recognize one another as individuals.

Following his honorable discharge in 1968, Sergeant First Class Hayes worked as a citizen soldier in the Reserve and National Guard branches of the Army. He served as a Human Relations Instructor in the Air Force Reserves from 1975 to 1977 and as a drill instructor in the United States Army from 1988 to 1998. After his long tenure of service to our country, Hayes earned his GED and a Bachelor of Science degree from Medaille College. He worked as an aircraft mechanic and as a correctional officer at the Erie County Detention Center. He now resides in Cheektowaga with his wife of 25 years and has nine children and fourteen grandchildren, some of whom have continued his family's legacy of military service. Sergeant Hayes remains active in local and national veteran communities, including designing an original military jewelry line, serving as a greeter at a veteran clinic in Batavia, and working as a docent right here at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. We recently met Roland at a Buffalo Naval Park event and were inspired by his service and story.

Many Vietnam Veterans returned home with little fanfare, including Roland Hayes, who has never received the recognition fitting of a soldier who served so valiantly and sacrificed so much. It has been our honor to share his story and pay tribute to his service, on behalf of a grateful nation. His story is one of resilience, breaking barriers, and beating the odds.

I ask all members to join me in remembering all the great sacrifices made by those who serve.

IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE CRAWFORD PATH

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of the Crawford Path, the oldest continuously maintained hiking trail in the United States. For two centuries, the Crawford Path has opened New Hampshire's White Mountains to adventure-seekers and nature lovers of all backgrounds and abilities.

Originally built in 1819 by Ethan Allen Crawford and his father, Abel, the Crawford Path is one of America's most popular recreational trails. Following a mountainous ridgeline across miles of open alpine environment, the trail affords impressive views of the peaks and valleys of the White Mountains. The trail's convergence with the famed Appalachian Trail and its conclusion at the summit of Mt. Washington, the tallest peak in the Northeastern U.S., make it an attraction for experienced and recreational hikers alike. While the trail's popularity affords many visitors the chance to enjoy the natural beauty of the Granite State, its frequent use has unfortunately caused significant degradation of the beloved trail. Maintaining such a well-trodden path over such a long time is no small task. I am proud of the White Mountain Region's local legacy of over 100 years of active trail maintenance, with critical leadership from stakeholders such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to

commemorate the Crawford Path's bicentennial and thank all those who have maintained it for their service to our community. I thank them for all that they do to make the Granite State such a wonderful place, to work, live, and play. Let us celebrate this exciting anniversary by committing ourselves to ensuring that Crawford Path remains a jewel of the White Mountains for another 200 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CARL EUGENE PORTER, SR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Carl Eugene Porter, Sr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. An Army veteran and hall of fame athletic coach, he passed away on the evening of Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at the age of 88. He was well known to many as "Coach Porter".

One of four children, Coach Porter was born on February 10, 1931 in Columbia, Missouri before moving to Baton Rouge to attend Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Physical Education. After graduating, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served four years. He married his college sweetheart, Ivory Hawkins, on December 30, 1954.

After his service in the Army, Coach Porter began a career in education. His career began at Scotlandville Junior High School, where he led the Athletic Department to many championships over a nineteen-year period. In 1976, Coach Porter transitioned to Southern University Laboratory School as the Athletic Director where the Fighting Kittens earned many State Championships during his twelve-year tenure. With a record of 129–25 under his watch, many of his players went on to have successful collegiate and professional sports careers. Coach Porter was also well known for placing an emphasis of academics for the athletes under his tutelage.

Coach Porter's thirty-one-year coaching career led him to be inducted in the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. He also remained an active community and civic leader through his contributions to the NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Kiwanis, the Fisherman's Club, and the Anna T. Jordan Recreation Center.

Coach Porter was widely known for his love of family, friends, church, music, and humanity, and many regarded him as a local icon. As a mentor, advocate, leader, and friend, Coach Porter left an indelible impact on all those whose lives he touched. His legacy of dedication and service to the Scotlandville community will be remembered now and many years to come. Coach Porter is survived by his wife, Ivory Hawkins Porter, his children, Carl, Jr., Tracy, Rudy, Rodney, and Lonzella, as well as his seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Carl Eugene Porter, Sr.

PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS IN CHINA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, twenty years ago, in July of 1999, it was widely reported that the Chinese government began the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Reports of the Chinese government's human rights abuses against this group have continued during the last two decades.

Human rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of religion, should be universal. Members of Congress must work to promote tolerance and basic human freedoms worldwide.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH ALEXANDER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize United States Marine Corps Private First Class (PFC) Joseph Alexander on the occasion of his receiving the Congressional Gold Medal issued to the Montford Point Marines. The approximately 20,000 Montford Point Marines were the first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps after an executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt in June 1941 took the first steps to end racial discrimination in employment with federal government agencies.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Joseph's personal service began when he was just 19 years old in June 1943. He went through boot camp at Montford Point, North Carolina, as the nearby Camp Lejeune was off-limits if you were not being escorted by a white Marine. When his training was complete, Joseph shipped out to fight in the Pacific theater where he participated in the effort to push Japanese forces out of the Marshall Islands.

Like many veterans, Joseph chose not to speak much about his experience during the war. He returned home, got married, raised five children, and settled in Hayward in 1972. Only recently, in an effort to get him connected with benefits through the Veterans Administration, did the family find documentation that connected Joseph to the Montford Point Marines.

Our community has rallied together to honor Joseph, who will be 95 years old in September. He recently received his own copy of the Congressional Gold Medal from the National Montford Point Marine Association at a ceremony hosted by American Legion Hayward Post 870 and American Veterans Post 911 at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Building.

Joseph, thank you for your service. Not only for your bravery in war, but also for your contribution to breaking down the barriers that prevented all people from fighting for our country and the freedom of its people.

HONORING DR. DANIEL P. KING

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Daniel P. King, an educator, innovator, and leader.

For the past 12 years, Dr. King served as superintendent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District (PSJA ISD), working tirelessly to ensure PSJA ISD provides its students with the resources necessary to succeed. He announced his plans to retire from his position this past fall, and I find it only fitting to take this time on the House floor to honor a man that has done so much for South Texas. Dr. King spent 42 years in public education, 20 of those years as superintendent at two school districts in the Rio Grande Valley.

During Dr. King's tenure, he introduced programs and procedures that have had lasting positive effects on the students and the PSJA community as a whole. He was one of the first to start an Early College High School Program in South Texas that provides thousands of students concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities, college and career connected pathways, and the opportunity to graduate with college credentials up to an associate's degree while still enrolled in high school.

Dr. King demonstrated his commitment to replacing outdated bilingual education models with dual language or dual immersion programs to equip students for a brighter future. His actions afforded students the opportunity to graduate from high school ready for higher education, putting PSJA on the course to become a national leader in producing college ready, academically bi-literate, high school graduates. Thanks to Dr. King, our students are more prepared and able to be successful and productive members of society.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Daniel P. King has worked diligently to give countless students the tools they need to succeed. He is a pillar of our community and an example to us all. It is an honor to represent a selfless and committed individuals like him. Dr. King has forever changed and strengthened the foundation of education in South Texas. I wish Daniel P. King and his family all the best in their future endeavors and thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING JACK BARRY,
BRADY STERGION, AND TOM
PLUNKETT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize three outstanding citizens from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout: Jack Barry, Brady Stergion, and Tom Plunkett.

These three emerging leaders are committed to service to our community. For their Eagle Scout projects, Jack beautified the Lower Makefield Veteran's Park, Brady built new shelving and stocked the pantry for the St. John the Evangelist Shared Meals Program, and Tom installed twenty flagpoles at Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I congratulate Jack, Brady, and Tom on their achievements.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE, ILLI-
NOIS ON THEIR 140TH ANNIVER-
SARY AS A VILLAGE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of La Grange, Illinois as the village celebrates its 140th anniversary.

La Grange enjoys a long and vibrant history beginning in the early 19th century. The area, originally consisting of prairie land, was first settled as a result of land grants offered by President Martin Van Buren. One of the early residents was Franklin D. Cossitt. After leaving Tennessee, Mr. Cossitt moved to Chicago and started the largest wholesale grocery business in the area. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed Mr. Cossitt's business and drove people westward to the suburbs.

Mr. Cossitt's dream for constructing a community began when he bought and developed 600 acres of land that was later incorporated as the village of La Grange in 1879. In 1873, Mr. Cossitt quickly began laying out streets and building homes. By 1890, La Grange had already seen tremendous growth and now included twenty-eight retail businesses, a new high school, churches, a newspaper, paved roads, and a railroad station. The Village of La Grange quickly became known as the largest town between Chicago and Aurora.

The Village of La Grange has continued to develop and today is home to more than 130 businesses and 15,550 residents. Although La Grange has come a long way, it is still a safe and quiet place to live. The La Grange historic district is home to many of the original buildings built by Mr. Cossitt in the 1870's. Because of the quality of the architecture and the historic significance, the Village of La Grange historic district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

I am proud to represent the residents of La Grange and I will gather with them on the Village Hall lawn on August 8th to celebrate the village's anniversary. I ask you to join me in honoring the residents of La Grange, Illinois, on their 140th anniversary as a village. May they enjoy this celebration and may the Village continue to thrive as a close-knit community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK
CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to redesignate the National Park Service-owned Rock Creek Park, in the District of Columbia, as "Rock Creek National Park." Renaming this park will highlight its significance to the nation, including visitors to the nation's capital, and will help get much-needed funding for the park's inviting

trails, waterways and other unique features. No additional federal funds will be required.

Rock Creek Park is already a national park, established by Congress in 1890 "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States," and is the oldest urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible, for all American people, not just for D.C. residents.

Over time, several structures have been established or donated to further preserve Rock Creek Park. In 1892, for example, the federal government acquired Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park, one of the mills used by local farmers during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In 1950, the Old Stone House, located at 3051 M Street NW, with its great pre-Revolutionary War architecture, was acquired by the park. The building was restored, and programs explain the house's rich history from the colonial period to the present day. The Fort Circle Parks were also acquired to interpret and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, which created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War.

Today, Rock Creek Park offers residents of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia, as well as thousands of visitors, an escape from our increasingly urban environment. Residents and tourists alike enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and biking on the historical trails, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Our residents have expressed their appreciation by volunteering to clean up and maintain the trails and waterways.

Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help recognize the national status of the park and protect and revitalize this remarkable resource in our nation's capital.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Converse, Texas for their work in fostering better police and civilian relationships through the National Night Out program.

Currently celebrating its 36th Anniversary, the National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Founded in 1984, it has grown from a small idea to a national event celebrated by civilians and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. With over 38 million "neighbors" and 16 thousand communities participating, it provides a unique opportunity for civilians to learn more about the law enforcement in their community.

Throughout its history, it has worked to foster positive community relationships between civilians and law enforcement. It actively engages participants in fun, informational activities that heighten awareness of law enforcement efforts in crime and drug prevention,

while also increasing participation in community-based crime deterrent programs. It strengthens neighborhood spirit and encourages law enforcement and community partnerships, sending the message that neighborhoods are organized and ready to fight back against crime.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the City of Converse for their leadership in supporting the National Night Out program. I encourage all Converse residents to join forces with the thousands of other communities across the county in promoting cooperative crime prevention; your support is vital in the fight against crime.

HONORING JIM McCULLEY

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jim McCulley of the U.S. Air Force who passed away this spring. Lieutenant Colonel McCulley was a decorated fighter pilot who flew over 100 combat missions in the Korean Conflict and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, Jim returned home to Virginia where he continued his life of service to his country, this time working as an engineer supporting the Gemini and Apollo space programs.

In his tireless service to our nation Jim McCulley was, and is, an American hero. He has been a valuable member of our 5th District community and we miss him greatly. It is my hope that we here in this chamber remember his work, his legacy, and his service.

RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF THE REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN MEMORIAL IN MENOMINEE, MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor today to recognize the visit of the Remembering Our Fallen memorial in Menominee, Michigan.

First created in 2010, Remembering Our Fallen is a photographic war memorial honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation following the September 11th attacks. Unlike other brick and marble memorials, Remembering Our Fallen was designed to travel throughout the country and features military and personal photos of those who we have lost. Its efforts ensure that the men and women who have died in service will forever be remembered by Americans everywhere.

Efforts to host the Remembering Our Fallen memorial in Michigan's First District were spearheaded by the Menominee Disabled American Veterans chapter. The memorial will be set up at the Veterans Memorial Park in Menominee from August 23rd through the 26th.

We owe the men and women featured in the Remembering Our Fallen memorial a debt which can never be repaid. By coming together to honor those who stood up to defend and to serve, the people of Michigan's First District can ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom as the Upper Peninsula hosts the Remembering Our Fallen memorial.

COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GERRY RODEO

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the seventy-fifth annual Gerry Rodeo.

The village of Gerry in western New York is the proud home of the oldest consecutive rodeo east of the Mississippi. Each year approximately seven thousand fans, and two hundred and fifty cowboys and cowgirls travel to Gerry, NY to enjoy the competition. For four days the quiet village of Gerry becomes "The Rodeo Capital of the East".

The Gerry Rodeo began in 1945, when a former working cowboy named Jack Cox moved from the West to Gerry and suggested a rodeo as a way of fundraising for the newly formed fire department. In seventy days fire department members and volunteers transformed four acres of swampland into an arena and parking lot, borrowing bleachers from local schools and renting portable lights.

From the very beginning, the Gerry Fire Department wanted to ensure their rodeo was a top-notch competition and for that reason, they have always ensured their rodeo is sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association. Today, the competition consists of the same competitive events as the first Rodeo seventy-five years ago: bareback bronc riding, tie-down roping, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping, and cowgirls' barrel racing.

Seventy-five years of community tradition is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Gerry Rodeo on this impressive milestone and look forward to many more rodeos in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the seventy-fifth annual Gerry Rodeo.

RECOGNIZING THE 173RD QUARTERMASTER SERVICE COMPANY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of the 173rd Quartermaster Service Company of the United States Army.

On August 9, 2019, the 173rd Quartermaster Service Company is celebrating the

50th anniversary of their safe return from Vietnam in Greenwood, MS. These brave veterans arrived in Da Nang, Vietnam on September 30, 1968. The unit was headquartered both at the Gia Le Combat Base and the Phu Bai military complex. During their tour, the unit received campaign participation credits for Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase V; Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase VI; TET 69 Counteroffensive; and Vietnam Summer-Fall 69. On August 5, 1969, the 173rd Quartermaster Service Company returned home to the United States.

I thank these veterans for their service to our great nation and the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING MR. AND MRS. JOHN BRADY

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 52nd wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John Brady of Lake Geneva. John and Toni are visiting Washington, D.C. to celebrate this special occasion. John is a retired U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran.

Toni and John's life long commitment to each other is admirable. As John and Toni celebrate their 52nd anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger; as they continue to love and honor one another for years to come.

As John's love for his wife is evident, so is his love of country. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I thank John for his service to our country. John, Toni, and their family made many sacrifices for our freedoms. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their selflessness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating John and Toni on their anniversary and wish them nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF LONNIE NICHOLSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lonnie Nicholson on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Mr. Nicholson currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of EECU Credit Union, located in Fort Worth, Texas. He has 36 years of experience in the credit union industry, including serving as President and CEO of EECU since April of 2006. During his tenure as CEO, EECU has quadrupled in size while maintaining a strong financial position. Mr. Nicholson is a dedicated leader in the credit union community and has served in numerous volunteer positions. He also currently serves as Chairman of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Board.

Mr. Nicholson has a deep understanding of legislative and regulatory issues facing credit

unions across the county. His expertise and years of experience will benefit the NAFCU Board and local credit unions for years to come.

I congratulate Lonnie Nicholson on this achievement and wish him success in his new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors.

RECOGNIZING SMOKEY BEAR'S
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear. Through his dedication to responsible outdoor recreation, public safety, and environmental conservation, Smokey has become an indispensable part of our nation.

The state of Michigan is home to some of the most pristine forests in the country—attracting visitors from around the world and providing Michiganders with a quality of life that is second to none. However, something as simple as a cigarette butt or unattended campfire could spark a disastrous fire in the right conditions, making our precious lands susceptible to unimaginable damage. Since 1942, the U.S. Forest Service has used Smokey Bear, the beloved hat-clad grizzly, to educate Americans on the importance of responsible fire practices.

With our ongoing struggle against devastating wildfires, Smokey's mission is as important today as it has ever been. Between the Hiawatha, Ottawa, and Huron-Manistee National Forests, Michigan's First District is home to nearly three million acres of National Forests. We in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula understand the importance of safe and responsible outdoor recreation. Smokey Bear continues to play a critical role in our efforts to promote access to the outdoors while protecting the health and beauty of these natural treasures. I'm grateful for Smokey Bear's and the U.S. Forest Service's 75 years of advocacy and work to ensure future generations can enjoy the same natural beauty we so deeply treasure. Smokey's birthday will be celebrated on August 9th at Straits State Park in St. Ignace, overlooking the Straits of Mackinac and the Mighty Mac bridge.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to celebrate Smokey Bear's 75 years of education, public safety, and conservation. On behalf of my constituents, I wish him and the U.S. Forest Service all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING J.V. FLUEHR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize J.V. Fluehr, an outstanding citizen from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

J.V. is committed to service to our community. For his Eagle Scout project, Jack beau-

tified the property of the nonprofit organization Shamrock Reins. J.V. is dedicated to ensuring our veterans are properly honored upon their return home.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I congratulate J.V. on his achievement.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT E. COLTER
AND CATHERINE STROMDAHL
COLTER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert E. Colter and Catherine Stromdahl Colter of East Alton, Illinois for celebrating their 102nd and 100th birthdays, respectively. Robert, born on August 3, 1917 in Titusville, Pennsylvania and Catherine, born on July 27, 1919, were married in Catherine's hometown of Warren, Pennsylvania on March 21, 1942. This year, Robert and Catherine also celebrated their seventy-seventh wedding anniversary.

Robert and Catherine moved to East Alton, Illinois in 1962, where they continue to reside in the same home today. When they are not spending time with their children and many grandchildren, Robert and Catherine dedicate their time giving back to their community. As members of East Alton First United Methodist Church for over 50 years, the Colters have made a lasting impact on countless people. Their commitment to each other and the betterment of their community is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. Colter and Mrs. Catherine Stromdahl Colter for their many years together and their contributions to Southern Illinois.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS ELLIOTT J. ROBBINS

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Elliott J. Robbins died on June 30, 2019, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, while conducting operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. SFC Robbins was born in San Diego, California on August 18, 1987, and spent most of his life in North Ogden, Utah. He was 31 years of age.

SFC Robbins joined the Army in June 2006, and after years of training completed the Special Forces Qualification course in 2016 and was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado. SFC Robbins was part of a unique brand of our nation's elite warrior class called the Green Berets. The Green Beret motto is "De Oppresso Liber"—to free the oppressed. He was assigned as a Medical Sergeant with the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Robbins deployed three times in support of the United States: first to Iraq in 2007, then to Afghanistan in 2017 and again in January 2019. His third and last tour would have been over only three weeks after Robbins passed away.

SFC Robbins' decorations and awards are too numerous to list here, but include: the Army Commendation Medal with Combat Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, and the Parachutist Badge, to name a few.

SFC Robbins' service epitomized the best of the American soul: courageous and selfless. He was buried with full military honors on July 19, 2019. Our hearts go out to his family and friends, especially the bereaved wife and infant son of this great patriot.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WIELAND

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a fantastic member of the metro Atlanta community, Mr. John Wieland, who founded John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods in 1970. In his first year as a home builder, working out of his Volkswagen, he built 20 homes! Fast forward nearly 50 years and more than 30,000 satisfied homeowners later, he has established himself as one of the Southeast's leading builders of semi-custom homes.

Mr. Wieland is a past president of both the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association and the Home Builders Association of Georgia, and he is a Senior Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders. In 1991, Mr. Wieland was awarded the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association's Lewis Cenko Award for lifetime achievement and is a member of the Home Builders Association of Georgia's Hall of Fame.

And the accolades don't stop there. Mr. Wieland has been named National Builder of the Year by Professional Builder Magazine, America's Best Builder in 2005 by Builder Magazine, and his company won J.D. Power and Associates award for Highest Ranked Quality Among New Home Builders in Atlanta for three years running.

In addition to his success in the home building industry, Mr. Wieland has proven time and again his success as a member of our community through his stewardship of others. He served as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and is a past Chair of the Advisory Council for Emory University's Center for Ethics. He also served as the Director of the High Museum of Art for three years beginning in 1998.

Mr. Wieland is a graduate of both Amherst College and the Harvard Business School, and he received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Amherst College. Additionally, he is an elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., where he ministers to our community every day.

On behalf of all those touched by John's dedication and service, I want to say thank you, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT ONTARIO EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter located in Oswego, New York. Fort Ontario holds historical significance as the only shelter for European Holocaust victims in the United States during World War II. At the time, the Fort was America's first exposure to the damaging extent of the Holocaust and today serves as an important reminder of our nation's responsibility to defend the freedoms and rights of all individuals.

On July 17, 1944, 982 European refugees from 18 different countries boarded the USNS *Henry Gibbons* in Naples, Italy to cross the Atlantic Ocean as they fled Nazi persecution. The refugees arrived at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter on August 5 following the 19-day journey, which marked the beginning of their ten month stay at the fort.

Fort Ontario, which was also known as Safe Haven, shielded the refugees from violent persecution and tyranny in Europe. The shelter was closed in June 1945 and many refugees became American citizens, while some returned to Europe. Although it was open for less than a year, the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter played a critical role in saving the lives of the 982 refugees who resided in the fort.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter's 75th anniversary. Since serving as a shelter for European refugees, Fort Ontario has been recognized as a significant site by the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Thousands of visitors travel to Fort Ontario each year, and they are reminded of the Holocaust victims who took refuge there and America's role in protecting these vulnerable individuals.

CONGRATULATING BERNARD J. STANAWAY, JR. FOR BEING NAMED 2019 U.P. VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for being named the 2019 U.P. Veteran of the Year. Through his dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to his community, Bernard has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The U.P. Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of

past commanders of various service organizations throughout the peninsula. It is given to recognize Yooper Veterans who go above and beyond in their service to their local communities and fellow Veterans. None are more deserving of this honor than Bernard. During his military career, Bernard served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, where he was decorated with the Korean Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, SCR Service Deployment Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His devotion to the people of his country and community has not wavered since he returned from military service.

It is impossible to fully list all the ways in which Bernard works to better the lives of U.P. Veterans. He is an active member and has served in a variety of leadership positions at the American Legion, AMVETS, DAV, VFW and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Additionally, Bernard serves Veterans as the Marquette County Trust Fund Agent, aids Veterans at the D.J. Jacobetti Home on outings at AMVET picnics, visits homebound Veterans, transports Veterans to appointments to Iron Mountain with DAV, attends Veteran funerals, plows snow for homebound Veterans, and helps Veterans in need with service claims and medical bills. Bernard has devoted decades to the people of Michigan, and his tireless efforts have directly improved the lives of thousands of U.P. Veterans.

Outside of his work with Veterans organizations, Bernard is active with the Boy Scouts of America, where he has served Troop 372 as the Charter Organization Representative, Assistant Scout Master, Den Leader, and Troop Committee member. He is also an active member of the NRA, Masons, Knights Templars, Project Evergreen, and No Barriers. As a servicemember, a Veteran, a volunteer, and a Yooper, Bernard consistently puts the needs of others before his own. He will be honored as the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year at a ceremony during the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba on August 15th.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for his decades of service to fellow Michigan Veterans, and for being named the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bernard all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGER MONTE MARTI FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CONSERVATION IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Ms. DeBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Monte Marti, the district manager at

the Snohomish Conservation District and valued member of our community, in honor of his retirement on August 9th, 2019. Mr. Marti has a long history of active participation in the betterment and support of Snohomish County in Washington state. Raised on a farm in the Columbia Basin in Eastern Washington, Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and our environment began early in his life. He pursued this path academically, achieving a Master's degree in Agriculture Economics with an emphasis on natural resources from Washington State University. That was certainly not the end of Mr. Marti's work in conservation. In 1983, Mr. Marti began volunteering at the Snohomish Conservation District, becoming a volunteer board member. Almost a decade later, he took on another volunteer position as secretary-treasurer for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. His illustrious career continued as he served on the WACD Plant Material Center Advisory Board, and finally as the district manager at Washington's own Snohomish Conservation District. I cannot fully express how much his dedication to our state and our community means to all who have the pleasure of meeting him.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Marti has never ceased his conservation efforts. As district manager he worked tirelessly to build strong relationships between with environmental groups and his reputation as a collaborator is well deserved. Thanks to Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and natural resources, he brought passion to his work that will not be forgotten, and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Marti, for your unwavering love of our state, our region, and the importance of conservation.

CELEBRATING JIM MONKEN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Jim Monken, a loving father, football coach, and mentor who helped young men in East St. Louis become champions on and off the gridiron.

Youth coaches serve not only to help players win games, but to teach them responsibility and accountability as they grow into men. Coach Monken will be remembered by those who played under him as a father figure who did everything in his power to ensure they succeeded in life. If you played for his team, you were a member of his family for life. In fact, before his recent passing, Coach Monken was visited by many of his former players, a testament to his life-long impact on those who played for him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Coach Jim Monken, one of the most successful youth football coaches in Illinois history and an even better human being.