

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