

VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW C. WINKLEMAN OF HARRISBURG, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Matthew C. Winkleman of Harrisburg, Illinois for having been honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Winkleman received this prestigious award because of his long-standing dedication to providing outstanding primary care. Dr. Winkleman's focus on expanding access to health care to Southern Illinois over the past decades has ensured that quality care has always been available to those in need. Established by Dr. Winkleman, the Primary Care Group of Harrisburg, which has since evolved to become SIH Medical Primary Care Group Harrisburg, is among his many initiatives designed to ensure high-quality primary care. Especially important to this goal has been the successful recruitment of other dedicated physicians to the clinic.

Dr. Winkleman's focus on primary care has led him to host medical students from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine to expose them to the need and opportunity which family medicine offers. Several students have followed Dr. Winkleman's example and themselves gone into rural family medicine.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Dr. Winkleman for his leadership in health care in Southern Illinois. His dedication to this cause has benefited thousands, and I am pleased that he has been selected by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians to receive their 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN W. ODIERNO OF FARMINGDALE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist 4th Class John W. Odierno of Farmingdale, New York. Even at a young age, Specialist Odierno was compelled to defend others, protecting his family, friends and even his little brother in the school yard. However, when Specialist Odierno was drafted during the Vietnam War, his call to defend others transitioned from the schoolyard to the battlefield.

On March 21, 1967, while serving as squad leader during a search and destroy mission in the central highlands of Kon Tum Province, Specialist Odierno and his company were met with intense machine gun and rifle fire from an entrenched North Vietnamese battalion. Specialist Odierno and his company found themselves trapped and outnumbered.

Despite being wounded, Specialist Odierno defended his position for twenty minutes, al-

lowing his fellow soldiers to reload their weapons. While this action saved the lives of many soldiers, it cost Specialist Odierno his own.

At only twenty years old; Specialist Odierno made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his fellow soldiers and our great nation, but his spirit and grit did not fall on the battlefield that day. The men who witnessed his heroic actions continue to tell the story of selflessness and bravery, including Lieutenant Toby Alvaro, who believes Specialist Odierno should not only have received the Silver Star, but the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Specialist Odierno's service and sacrifice, ensuring that when a servicemember falls in defense of our great country, our entire nation stands in honor.

HONORING GARY BATTON, CHIEF OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, FOR RECEIVING THE GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD FROM HAPPY WORLD FOUNDATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Oklahoman and Native American, Gary Batton, for receiving the Global Citizen Award from the Happy World Foundation.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1989, he accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority. He then went on to serve his tribe as Executive Director of health and later appointed Assistant Chief in 2007. On April 28, 2014, Gary Batton became the 47th Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Through his career, Chief Batton has represented the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma through numerous national boards and committees. Currently, he serves on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Board, the State Chamber of Oklahoma Board, the Texoma Medical Center Board of Directors, among other roles.

As a proud Oklahoman and member of the Chickasaw Nation, I have always been passionate about advocating on behalf of Native Americans here in Washington, D.C. Therefore, I am very grateful that there are Oklahomans like Gary Batton who have committed themselves to promoting Native American heritage. He has rightfully earned recognition for his role as an ambassador for Native Americans, and I hope that he continues his great work in the years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Dennis Gary Batton and his lifelong work to promote and preserve Native American culture.

IN HONOR OF KAYLA MUELLER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Kayla Mueller, a courageous, selfless individual who died at the hands of

the ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Just recently, the United States government conducted a secret mission that led to the ISIS leader's demise. Fittingly, the mission was named after Kayla to let the world know, she did not die in vain.

Kayla was a brave missionary and activist hailing from my district, specifically Prescott, Arizona. She was dedicated to serving others through her humanitarian work, regardless of the danger. Her humanitarian work allowed her to provide medical assistance to individuals in Turkey which then led her to Aleppo, Syria. This is a region where most humanitarian workers would not go but Kayla was not like most people. En route to Aleppo, she was abducted, held captive, tortured, and eventually perished at the hands of al-Baghdadi. The mission that killed the ISIS leader was a historically destabilizing moment for ISIS. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died a coward while Kayla Mueller died because of her courage and dedication to others. No one will forget her selflessness and her desire to positively impact the lives of many.

I congratulate the special forces unit that took down the depraved Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. It is my hope that Kayla's family finds comfort and peace knowing that justice has been served and that Kayla's memory will live in the hearts of Americans for years to come. We cannot take back what happened to Kayla. We can only hope that this mission and its righteous results honor her life and memory.

RECOGNIZING WINTERSET MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Winterset Middle School in Winterset, Iowa for receiving a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

The National Blue Ribbon School Award recognizes outstanding schools based on their educational environment, academic success, and closure of achievement gaps between student populations. Only four Iowa schools were chosen this year. Winterset Middle School serves just over 400 students in 4th through 6th grades. Under Principle Wendy Sawyer, the school was nominated for and won the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program as an Exemplary High Performing School.

Winterset Middle School prides themselves on their caring and supportive culture focused on student growth and development. Nine years ago when they first opened, Winterset Middle School was a "School in Need of Assistance". Just shy of a decade later, they've shown what hard work and dedication can do by winning this award and making us proud. The faculty's dedication to their profession and students has made them the exemplary school they are today. I am proud to be able to represent these teachers, educators, administrators, parents, and students in Iowa's 3rd District. The school attributes this hard-won victory to their close-knit community, research-based teaching strategies, and treating every child as their own—and I couldn't agree more.