

Mr. Speaker, in the last 5 years I have served in this House, I have had over 3,200 cases completed and closed for veterans in my district.

As a former community banker, when I look at those cases and I listen to these stories, this too often is a challenge for our veterans. It is a crazy challenge. Mr. Speaker, that withholding a payment can have severe consequences for our brave veterans who are out there just doing their job, through no fault of their own and through a computer mess up or an IT problem, our veterans receive an overpayment and then suddenly get a letter a few weeks later saying, "Oh, hey, we made a mistake. You owe us \$5,000 back."

Well, the normal American, Mr. Speaker, doesn't have that kind of financial planning expertise, and relies on the quality of our VA services to not make mistakes like that.

So, it is a pleasure to work with Mr. KIM on this measure to try to improve that situation and answer the IG's own report at the VA that this is a serious problem affecting over 1.5 million veterans.

This bill tries to tackle this issue by improving Veterans Administration IT systems, which are often the cause of this challenge, and offers veterans that unknowingly are forced to go without their earned benefits for extended periods of time some recourse on being a victim of an overpayment and have their credit impaired.

I am proud to represent veterans from Camp Robinson and Little Rock Air Force Base in our central Arkansas area. I am proud to work on something that rectifies a common problem across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New Jersey for his work and for the leadership of the committee for bringing this bill to the House floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes. On Roll Call No. 610 on the passage of H.R. 4162, the "GI Planning Bill Act of 2019," had I been present, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call No. 611 on the passage of H.R. 3224, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans," had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

RECOGNIZING McMILLAN ELEMENTARY AS AN AWARDEE OF THE NATIONAL BLUE-RIBBON

HON. BEN MCADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, parents, teachers and students in the Murray City School District are celebrating the 2019 National Blue-Ribbon Schools award to McMillan

Elementary School. This award brings public attention to the best schools in America. Fittingly, it was the brainchild of a former Utah Commissioner of Higher Education—Terrel H. Bell—who served as Education Secretary under President Ronald Reagan. Dr. Bell believed that through the real action of teaching and learning, families and educators could work together to articulate a vision of excellence. He believed that by holding everyone to high standards, local schools could become the best at preparing their students for academic success.

The 498 students of McMillan Elementary, their teachers, Principal Joy Sanford, and parents, have risen to the challenge. The school is named for a family who formerly owned the property around the school. It is the only school in the Murray School District to be named after a local family. Education is vitally important to this community. Home to the Murray District Gifted and Talented Program, McMillan Elementary held its first Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Night, featuring local business professionals who spoke about rewarding careers in those fields.

Public schools nominated for the National Blue-Ribbon Schools award must be top-performers in the state on English and math assessments and must meet their state's performance targets such as attendance and graduation rates for all student groups. The National Blue-Ribbon School award acknowledges and validates the hard work of students, educators, families and communities. McMillan Elementary now serves as a model of effective school practices. Others will look to them for how to achieve academic success. Dr. Bell would be very proud. Principal Sanford should be very proud. Everyone associated with education in Utah salutes McMillan Elementary School's success and congratulates them on receiving this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MADILL FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Madill of Great Falls, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Dr. Madill served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2013 as a member of the medical corps attaining the rank of Major. He is a veteran of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade for Operation Enduring Freedom where he earned the Air Medal with Valor Device, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

While serving in Afghanistan during the Battle of Want, Dr. Madill extracted the wounded Staff Sergeant General Ryan Pitts on July 13, 2008. Staff Sergeant General Pitts was later the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions. Dr. Madill was a guest of the President of the United States at the Medal of Honor ceremony.

Since returning to Montana, Dr. Madill works as an emergency physician in Great Falls

where he's delivered care to thousands of Montanans. He continues to create special bonds with his patients both veteran and non-veteran where he receives numerous thank you cards for his care and compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Justin Madill for his dedication and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act, which would authorize the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia commemorating the efforts of the 18 million American women who kept the home front running during World War II. Women are dramatically underrepresented in our memorials.

A 17-year-old constituent, Raya Kenney, the founder of the non-profit Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation, came up with the idea to honor the women on the home front who supported the World War II effort. Raya wondered why the women on the home front, whose efforts were so instrumental in maintaining the stability of the country during World War II, have not received much recognition for their contributions, compared to the men who fought bravely in World War II. This bill would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish the memorial to honor these women. The memorial is designed to be interactive and to educate visitors on the important roles women played during World War II.

Between 1940 and 1945, the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 one in four married women worked outside of the home. The work done by women on the home front opened doors for women in the workplace generally and had a profound effect on the job market going forward. As a result of their efforts, women on the home front redefined many occupations that were previously considered "men's work."

Just as women were working on the home front, many played critical roles in support of the war effort. More than 10,000 women served behind the scenes of World War II as codebreakers. Due to the classified nature of their work, they did not receive recognition for their tireless efforts until recently. Women were also trained to fly military aircraft so male pilots could leave for combat duty overseas. More than 1,100 female civilian volunteers flew nearly every type of military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. WASP flew planes from factories to bases, transported cargo and participated in simulation strafing and target missions. These women were not given full military status until 1977, and it was not until 2010 that they were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Women have largely been ignored in the memorials on federal land in the nation's capital, even though they played a key role in