

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

World War II. Millions of American women took jobs to support their families and the country at large during World War II, redefining what “women’s work” looks like. In light of these contributions, it is important that women who worked on the home front be properly recognized in the nation’s capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, during the 5th annual National Apprenticeship Week, I recognize the success of the Registered Apprenticeship system, which has been the model workforce development policy in the United States for over eight decades.

Over the next decade, 45 percent of all jobs will require more than a high school diploma, but won’t necessitate a bachelor’s degree. Registered Apprenticeship programs hold the key to preparing a new wave of working people for these jobs and ensuring all people have the adequate resources for economic stability. The Registered Apprenticeship program model has proven success in skilled trades and service industries for both workers and employers, with every dollar invested in a craft apprenticeship yielding up to \$3 in return for employers.

My state of Wisconsin has been a leader in Apprenticeship training since 1911, when we established the nation’s first apprenticeship law. That first year, Wisconsin had 625 apprentices, and its state law became a model for the National Apprenticeship Act in 1937—the first federal apprenticeship law. Building on a century of success, Wisconsin now has over 11,000 active apprentices and 2,500 employers in construction, industrial trades, utilities, healthcare, service trades, and IT.

Congress should continue to build on the Registered Apprenticeship system to extend workforce training opportunities to more workers—especially women, people of color, and those from disadvantaged communities. Congress should also seek to integrate apprenticeship readiness programs, secondary and post-secondary education systems, and support services to ensure that more workers and employers can participate successfully in Registered Apprenticeships. Most importantly, Congress must uphold the strong standards for Registered Apprenticeship so that apprentices have confidence that they will have their rights protected and receive transferable, nationally recognized credentials.

COMMEMORATING THE NAMING CEREMONY OF OCUSOFT’S BERNARD T. HALLORAN BUILDING

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate OCUSoft’s dedication of their new building in the name of their co-founder, Bernard T. Halloran.

Thirty years ago, Bernard, alongside Nat Adkins and Cynthia Barrett, helped form OCUSoft, a ground-breaking company in my district specializing in the research, development and supply of skin and eye care products. They are a pioneer in their field, innovating many new products including the first commercially available eyelid cleanser.

Mr. Halloran embodies everything that’s great about America—entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation. It’s inspiring to think about all the advances that will take place within the building bearing his name in the years to come.

I had the pleasure of speaking at the dedication ceremony, where I asked who was in favor of naming the new building after Bernard.

Needless to say, the “EYES” had it.

Congratulations to OCUSoft and Bernard T. Halloran on this tremendous achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DALE DANIELS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Daniels as she is honored by the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education (Chhange) at its 2019 Testimonial Dinner. Ms. Daniels’ exemplary leadership and contributions to Chhange are truly deserving of this body’s recognition.

Since 1979, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education has striven to educate the public, eradicate prejudice and serve as a resource to the community on Holocaust, genocide and other human rights issues. Its efforts to bring attention to human and civil rights violations and to honor the victims and survivors of genocide are truly commendable. Ms. Daniels’ nearly 25 years of service to Chhange are indicative of her dedication to the organization and its mission to create change.

Joining Chhange (then the Center for Holocaust Studies) as a volunteer in 1995 after hearing a Holocaust survivor’s story, Dale Daniels quickly found her passion. Soon after, she served as a member of the Board of Directors and an interviewer for the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation. In 2000, Ms. Daniels became the first Executive Director of the organization, and under her leadership, Chhange has grown immensely and expanded its programs and outreach.

With her direction, Chhange has produced exhibits, books, films and installations that educate and engage the public while paying tribute to the victims. It has also created and maintains the first and only Holocaust and genocide archives in New Jersey and offers training for law enforcement, clergy and juvenile hate crime offenders. Its work with schools, organizations and communities enable individuals to better understand historical and present-day atrocities and human rights abuses and foster a more tolerant and inclusive society. Ms. Daniels’ vision and connection to the issues she promotes have made Chhange an invaluable resource that has an extraordinary impact on the community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in recognition of Dale Daniels for her tireless dedication and advocacy.

RECOGNIZING ADELINE MITCHELL 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 Adeline Mitchell of Glasgow for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to her country and community.

Ms. Mitchell is a veteran of the United States Navy, serving in World War II. She has decades of service in the community, and has exemplified the term, “the greatest generation” with her patriotism.

Following her time in the Navy, Ms. Mitchell dedicated her time to supporting veterans through the VFW Auxiliary for 76 years and to the American Legion Auxiliary for 72 years. During her time, she volunteered in various veteran’s homes and Fort Harrison. Ms. Mitchell also volunteered at the local Ronald McDonald House and local group homes as well as with the Head Start program.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Adeline Mitchell for her service to her country and her community.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I’m pleased to recognize the fifth annual National Apprenticeship Week.

For over 80 years, the Registered Apprenticeship system has helped train the next generation of skilled workers. By combining paid on-the-job training with related classroom instruction, apprenticeships allow students to earn while they learn, preparing them for high-skill, high-paying jobs in in-demand industries.

This model has been particularly successful in the building trades, which have used registered apprenticeships to train their skilled workforce for decades. Moving forward, as we make investments to rebuild our nation’s infrastructure, it will be even more important to support registered apprenticeships in the building trades and other related industries.

I’m a proud cosponsor of Congressman POCAN’s legislation, the Leveraging Effective Apprenticeships to Rebuild National Skills Act, which would establish a national apprenticeship advisory council and support the development of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that lead to postsecondary degrees.

In my home state of Rhode Island, apprenticeships culminating in postsecondary degrees are very successful. At Quonset Point, Electric Boat operates an apprenticeship program in partnership with the Community College of Rhode Island. Electric Boat apprentices training in the maritime pipe and structural trades will finish the program with both a certificate and an Associate’s degree, ready for a high-paying career.