

I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to the Nobles family and the entire Irwin County community. May you find strength and comfort in remembering the joy Buddy brought to the lives of everyone who knew him.

SGT. PHOEBE R. ORTIZ WINS 2019  
USO MARINE OF THE YEAR

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 3, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2019 United Service Organization Marine of the Year, Sergeant Phoebe Ortiz.

Sergeant Ortiz was recognized as the United Service Organization Marine of the Year in December 2019. She joined the Marine Corps in September 2015. In 2016, she completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In October 2018, Sergeant Ortiz was one of the first female graduates of the elite Marine Corps Mountain Leaders Course, this course takes place at the Mountain Warfare Training Center within the 8th district. The completion of the course qualified her as an instructor for future participants within the program. She regularly organizes events for the single Marines of her command and volunteers in many community outreach initiatives.

Sergeant Ortiz conducts herself in a manner that reflects the exemplary work of our service members. She is not only an outstanding Marine, but a leader within her community and among her peers. I thank Sergeant Ortiz for her service, dedication, work ethic, professionalism and commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all Americans. Semper Fi.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN  
WILLIAM SPRAGUE

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 3, 2020*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Captain William Sprague, Fire Captain of the Eastham Fire Department.

Captain Sprague began his career with the Eastham Fire Department in September of 1979 as a call firefighter. In a few short years, he would be appointed an EMT and later a full-time firefighter. Always putting the needs of the community before his own, Captain Sprague played an incredibly crucial role in keeping the citizens of Eastham safe during Hurricane Bob in 1991.

He received his degree in fire science in 1997, and by 2001, after spending 20 years with the department, he was officially promoted to Fire Captain.

Continuing to put his expertise to practice, Captain Sprague joined the Barnstable County

Technical Rescue Team in 2004, where he joined regional partners to ensure the larger community was prepared during emergencies.

Captain Sprague brought considerable positive change and advanced the importance of teamwork both within his department and throughout Cape Cod.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain William Sprague and his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.

HONORING SHERIFF THOMAS  
(TOM) ALLMAN

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 3, 2020*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON to recognize Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman on the occasion of his retirement from a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. Thirty-four years of Sheriff Allman's career were spent with Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, where he provided the County with steadfast and effective leadership through major disasters and emergencies, while simultaneously working tirelessly to make Mendocino County a leader in mental health reform.

Born in Sylva, North Carolina, Sheriff Allman grew up between Northern California and North Carolina. After graduating from high school in 1979, he pursued a career in firefighting with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in San Bernardino County. He returned to Northern California and attended California State University, Chico and the Fire Academy at Butte College. He soon transitioned into a law enforcement career with the Fairfield Police Department in 1982, and joined the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department three years later in 1985.

After his promotion to Lieutenant in 1988, Sheriff Allman made the difficult decision to temporarily volunteer with the United States Department of State as a civilian peacekeeper following the Kosovo War. He served for 12 months as a police presence in 1999, an experience which he has credited with influencing much of his later career, and which began a long history of volunteerism that continued throughout his professional life. He volunteered to support law enforcement efforts following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and traveled with his local Rotary Club to Southern India in the wake of the 2004 tsunami to build an orphanage.

Sheriff Allman was first elected to the office of Mendocino County Sheriff in 2006, and he served continuously until his retirement in December 2019. Sheriff Allman's 13 years of service in that role have provided continuity and stability for the County through major disasters including the catastrophic wildfires in 2017 and 2018 as well as numerous other challenges faced by the County of Mendocino. He has been a tireless advocate for making broad structural improvements to mental

health resources, while prioritizing the difficult work of investigating serious crimes.

Sheriff Allman's legacy and achievements will continue to be felt in Mendocino County through numerous anti-recidivism programs he spearheaded at the County Jail, including a baking program, resume writing course, and a robust General Education Diploma (GED) program. One of his most significant achievements was the passage of a funding measure for the Mental Health Treatment Act, which has raised roughly \$10 million to date. Sheriff Allman will continue to serve on the Measure B Committee as the Sheriff's Designee.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Tom Allman has shown throughout his long and distinguished career his dedication to public service and the people of Mendocino County. He has drawn from his personal and professional experiences to apply empathy and problem solving for the betterment of the many individuals and groups he has served over the course of his professional and volunteer life. His commitment to the issues that matter most to his community, and his ability to deliver results, are testaments to his skill and his dedication to law enforcement and public service. I hope you will join us and the community, his family, and many friends in celebrating Sheriff Allman's many accomplishments and in wishing him success and good fortune in his future endeavors.

CLARIFICATION OF CO-  
SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 550

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 3, 2020*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, on January 30, 2020, the House voted on H.R. 550, the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2019. This bill originally provided for a Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the U.S. Merchant Mariners of World War II in recognition of their service. When this bill was drafted, I was an Original Cosponsor, and proudly supported its passage in the House. Regrettably, I was forced to vote against the bill when it returned to the House. Upon its return, the bill was amended to include language I do not support that would repeal the 2002 congressional authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) in Iraq and a prohibition against the use of military force against Iran.

I am, however, proud to have cosponsored and voted for H.R. 5671, which contained the original language for the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 3, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote January 30 due to National Guard obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 33, and "NAY" on Roll Call No. 34.