

Mr. Pounds was inducted into the Army Air Force on September 24, 1942 at the age of 22. A decorated World War II veteran, he served his country with the 34th Depot Repair Squadron where his talent as a sheet metal worker was used to repair bullet ridden planes.

The records reflect that Mr. Pounds fought alongside his Squadron in the Rome-Arno, Naples-Foggia, Po Valley and Southern France battles and campaigns. He also spent several months in North Africa fighting the German Afrika Korps commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. While serving in North Africa, Mr. Pounds suffered wounds from a German bomb that landed and exploded approximately twenty feet from him. Large pieces of hot flak imbedded into his back, and his hip was crushed resulting in a permanent limp. His family gave us these direct quotations—made by Mr. Pounds—and we have no reason to doubt the veracity of his description of his wounds, nor his reason for not obtaining medical information.

Following medical treatment by a British doctor, he served three additional years before being honorably discharged. Mr. Pounds was among the brave and compassionate soldiers who stormed the Nazi Concentration camps, rescuing and liberating their victims. In addition, he was also responsible for guarding German prisoners, and rounding up the German citizens surrounding those camps.

Upon time of discharge in October of 1945, I am told that when asked if he received any wounds, Mr. Pounds humbly declined to disclose his injuries. He considered his own wounds sustained at the beginning of his military service insubstantial in light of what he witnessed in war—comrades who lost their lives, and the atrocities he observed at the concentration camps. War decorations awarded to Mr. Pounds include the Good Conduct Metal and the EAMET Ribbon (“Europe-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign”). However, because Mr. Pounds did not complain about his war injuries, and no medical records from the British doctor who operated on his back exist, Mr. Pounds has yet to receive a much-deserved Purple Heart. My staff and I attempted to acquire first-hand accounts from fellow soldiers who could formally verify his wounds. We were unable to contact the veterans Mr. Pounds served with from Emory, or his comrades he fought alongside, due to the fact that they preceded him in death.

On March 16, 1973 Clifford O. Pounds married Evelyn Mayfield in Corpus Christi. A devoted husband and family man, he celebrated thirty-seven years of marriage with his wife, during which time they were blessed with six children.

Clifford Pounds was also known as a man of deep faith and quiet leadership. He was a member of the Church of Christ, taught bible study classes, and could be found daily reading his bible in his family’s dining room every morning. Staying “behind the scenes,” he preferred to quietly help those in need rather than seek out credit for his actions. If an elderly or disabled person needed home repairs, he would readily offer his services until the repair was complete. It was also not uncommon for him to answer a 1:00 or 2:00 phone call in the morning just to be a sympathetic ear for someone needing to talk.

Clifford O. Pounds is preceded in death by his sisters, Joy Sickles and Mary Jo Hart, and

his son, Russell Cole. He is survived by his wife Evelyn; their children Sheron McCain, Dell Pounds, Donna Draudt, Lisa Preuss, and Mike Pounds; as well as seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Pounds was such a kind and deserving man and veteran, that I was proud to search and search for the proof required, and am so disappointed that I am still working for his Purple Heart award.

Clifford Pounds was an American patriot and man of faith who lived with honor and integrity. He had a compassionate heart for those less fortunate, and gave generously of himself in all aspects of his life. It has pained me to know how entitled Mr. Pounds was to receive his Purple Heart, but I am proud to have gone the last mile trying to get the award to one so deserving. I am personally acquainted with the Pounds family, and we all know that although I was unable to get testimony for presentation for the Purple Heart, that on the 31st of July, 2010—the date of his death—we said goodbye to a great American, a great patriot, and a loving husband, father and grandparent to those who loved him. God, and those buddies he served with, know of his sacrifices. Though he will probably never receive a Purple Heart award, he proudly walks those streets paved with gold, and he will always be remembered as a fiercely loyal soldier, a true and loving family man, and a Red, White and Blue American that we will never forget. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues present today to join me in honoring this unusual American hero, Mr. Clifford O. Pounds.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAIT EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently we have seen many breakthroughs in cross-strait relations: direct, scheduled flights, direct shipping and postal services, a framework for financial cooperation and investment. On June 29, 2010 Taiwan and Mainland China signed the historic Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in Chongqing, China. At the moment, Taiwan’s Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Mainland’s Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) are discussing and exploring further measures to improve cross-strait relations.

It is apparent to the international community that the tone of Taiwan-mainland relations has improved significantly. With the conclusion of numerous cross-strait agreements, economic and cultural ties between Taiwan and mainland China can be expected to grow in the future. I am happy to see increased stability in the Taiwan Strait and upsurge in Taiwan-mainland economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

Mr. Speaker, these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of President Ma Ying-jeou and the leaders of Taiwan’s Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and the Straits Exchange Foundation. On the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Straits Exchange Foundation, I applaud the courage shown by President Ma in taking steps to improve cross-strait relations.

Again, on this anniversary, it is my belief that future stability in the strait will depend on open dialogue between Taiwan and Mainland China, free of force and intimidation and consistent with Taiwan’s flourishing democracy. In order for Taiwan to deal with Mainland China confidently, Taiwan needs to be confident in its role in the international community, its ability to defend itself and its place in the global economy.

The United States must continue to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations. We must help Taiwan feel that it has the physical capacity to resist intimidation by selling defense articles and services to Taiwan, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Lastly, we must explore new initiatives to expand our economic relationship with Taiwan.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF SPACE SHUTTLE “DISCOVERY”

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome home the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and its crew of six from the STS-133 mission. The Space Shuttle *Discovery* landed safely at Kennedy Space Center located in Florida’s 24th Congressional District this morning. The brave astronauts of *Discovery* spent 13 days in Space and delivered their payload to the International Space Station flawlessly.

This is the final flight of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and with its now 39th successful mission since 1984, including the delivery of the Hubble Space Telescope and the Ulysses robotic probe, we will bid farewell to the most traveled spacecraft in our fleet. *Discovery* has carried over 180 courageous astronauts to space including the first female shuttle commander and shuttle pilot in history and has been a symbol of space exploration and technological innovation for decades.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done to Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Eric Boe, and Mission Specialists Alvin Drew, Steve Bowen, Michael Barratt, and Nicole Stott. They are true American heroes and pioneers in the race for discovery and exploration. Welcome home team.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize the efforts of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), which is headquartered in my district in Westerville, Ohio. NGWA is sponsoring National Ground Water Awareness Week which began on March 6. Each year, this event puts the national spotlight on a critically important issue, the preservation and protection of groundwater for human and environmental purposes.

National Ground Water Awareness Week is the pinnacle of NGWA’s year-round effort to