

apart from his peers. From his time as a helicopter repairman in an Aviation Battalion serving in peacetime and in combat, to his capstone assignment as the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Command Sergeant Major Yates was recognized with the same superlative by every Commander—the best maintenance Non-Commissioned Officer with whom they have ever served.

Command Sergeant Major Yates served our Nation for over 3 decades, at all levels of leadership which allowed him to capitalize on his talents and abilities to serve Soldiers, his unit, the Army and his country at every opportunity. He is truly a selfless servant, caring only about the welfare of others and never seeking accolades for himself. He demonstrated the capacity to be a transformative leader in an organization even when he was new to the unit and the mission. In the execution of his duties, he was recognized for his unequalled ability to diagnose maintenance problems and determine repair requirements.

Command Sergeant Major Yates first demonstrated his ability to lead an organization in combat while assigned as First Sergeant in Task Force 118, a ground-breaking special operations aviation unit, during Operation Prime Chance. Operation Prime Chance was a United States Special Operations Command operation intended to protect U.S. flagged oil tankers from Iranian attack during the Iran-Iraq War. This operation pioneered the first use of OH58D Helicopters in ship board based combat operations.

During his Divisional assignments, he was noted by all levels within his chain of command as the single best Aviation Maintenance NCO with whom they had ever worked and as the “epitome of commitment to maintenance excellence.” One outstanding feature of CSM Yates’ career is his constant service in the toughest units in the Army. During his career, CSM Yates served in the 1st Armored Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, and the 82d Airborne Division. He served for 21 total years at Fort Bragg, earning Jumpmaster Wings and the Combat Action Badge while deploying in support of Operations Prime Chance, Desert Shield & Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Because of his proven record in solving strategic level problems and his unparalleled expertise in Aviation Maintenance, Command Sergeant Major Yates was selected by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) to be the AMCOM Command Sergeant Major, the senior Aviation Maintenance NCO in the Army. He immediately became an invaluable member of the AMCOM team, and his leadership in Aviation Maintenance was crucial in the organization’s support to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operations over the Horizon (OTH).

During his tenure as AMCOM CSM, he personally worked multiple initiatives that proved crucial to supporting Warfighters. When AMCOM was tasked to assume the supply and maintenance management mission at Fort Rucker, CSM Yates assisted in identifying the necessary green suit structure needed to properly supervise the large force of contractor personnel. Stated simply, if any portion of AMCOM required senior leadership attention, CSM Yates provided it, and always provided

sound, timely, and well researched advice to the three Commanding Generals he served.

In support to the Global War on Terrorism, Command Sergeant Major Yates made multiple visits to the CENTCOM Area of Operations to assist the Combat Aviation Brigades and the Aviation Logistics hubs. He spent months in Iraq and Afghanistan, operating independently and by his own initiative to provide direct support from AMCOM to the Aviation Brigades. He was the eyes and ears of the commander to the field, gathering information on how best AMCOM could support units in the fight. Likewise, he was the voice of the Commanding General, ensuring standardization to maintenance and logistics practices across the Army, focused on the areas that most significantly affected the Aviation Soldier.

From the individual Soldier to the highest echelons of Army Aviation, Command Sergeant Major Ricky Yates demonstrated a technical prowess, unyielding devotion to the Army’s mission, transformational leadership, and unwavering support to the Soldier. He reached the pinnacle of his profession, and was truly the best Command Sergeant Major to have ever done his job.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Command Sergeant Major Ricky Yates’ exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his Nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MODESTO LIONS CLUB

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Modesto Lions Club on their 90th Anniversary. This dedicated service club should be commended for their leadership.

In the early 1920’s, there were few community service clubs; however, 43 prominent business owners in Modesto joined to establish the first Lions Club in Stanislaus County on March 29, 1922. This core of movers & shakers became the ‘Booster Club’ of their fair city, Modesto.

This hardy band supported the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and the YMCA in a way never before accomplished. The club’s membership dwindled during WWII, but the Modesto Lions Club maintained its stature and continued its good deeds for the community.

The economic growth of the post-war period allowed the Modesto Lions Club to grow and facilitate bigger projects, such as the Modesto High School Swimming Pool and the Mancini Bowl Band Shell.

In 1987, the Modesto Lions Club broke social barriers by welcoming female members, and a new era dawned as many ladies joined the ranks.

Recently, the Modesto Lions Club completed the Modesto Lions Junction Park along

the Virginia Trail providing shade for all who use the trail.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising and congratulating the Modesto Lions for 90 years of community service and success.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH ROBERTO
ON BEING NAMED THE U.S.
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION’S
JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED
SMALL BUSINESS OF
YEAR FOR 2012

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph Roberto for receiving the U.S. Small Business Administration’s 2012 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year award for Guam. Joe is a founder and manager of the family-owned East Island Tinting, and has many years of leadership in our island community.

In 1990, Joe and his brothers founded Island Tinting to provide the people of Guam with low-cost services for tinting vehicles as well as residential and commercial properties. This company served Guam for almost 20 years, and became the basis for the family’s new venture, East Island Tinting, which was established in 2008. Over the years, the company has increased their service to their customers by providing more staffing and a convenient location to serve them. East Island Tinting has expanded to two locations and its services have grown from one line of automotive tint film to an array of films that cater to a diverse customer base on Guam. The company also recently opened its newly renovated facility in East Agana, Guam, which includes custom detailing services. Further, in 2010, the company was recognized by the Guam Small Business Development Center for their continued success as a small business.

Joe is also an active member in our island’s community. He has served as a volunteer soccer coach for the Shipyard Wolverines soccer club, and has helped develop hundreds of players over the years. He also served as Chairman of the Small Business Committee in the Guam Contractors Association, and has volunteered in several parent-teacher organizations on Guam.

I commend Mr. Joseph Roberto for his efforts in growing and expanding his family’s business, and for receiving the SBA’s 2012 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year award. I join the people of Guam in thanking him for his many contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly unable to make votes on March 26, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall Vote Numbers 127, 128, 129.