

HONORING LEROY KELLER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leroy Keller of Scarborough, Maine, who is celebrating his 50th consecutive year as a volunteer with the American Legion, Department of Maine Dirigo Boys State Program.

Leroy has been an integral part of the Maine American Legion Boys State Program for the last half century. Boys State programs currently operate in 48 States around the country, and serve over 19,000 high school students ever year. Enrolled students are given the opportunity to learn about the operation of State and local governments by running a model state. Boys State helps instill a sense of civic engagement in our youth, while also providing them with an experience that is both fun and educational. The Department of Maine Dirigo Boys State was founded in 1947, and through the hard work of people like Leroy, the program has made a significant impact in the lives of thousands of Maine high school students.

Few people can claim to embody the spirit of community engagement as completely as Mr. Keller. Leroy retired from a distinguished career as an educator in the Mount View and Deer-Isle Stonington School districts. He has also refereed and coached youth sports for 40 years in the Eastern Maine Conference.

After five decades, Leroy's commitment to Maine's youth through the Boys State Program is second only to his 51-year marriage to his wife Mary. He has been the senior counselor coordinator for most of his 50 years at the organization, overseeing countless volunteers and students, including myself. I am humbled to be one of the many lives touched by Leroy's warmth and dedication.

On June 16, Dirigo Boys State will be honoring Leroy for his service at Thomas College in Waterville, ME. I can think of no one else more deserving of this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Keller on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he does on behalf of Maine's youth.

WEST VIRGINIA ALWAYS FREE
HONOR FLIGHT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of distinguished West Virginia Veterans—the State's first Honor Flight—who came to Washington today to visit war memorials and our Nation's Capitol. It was my privilege to meet with them so that I could personally thank them for their outstanding service. I am humbled and honored at any opportunity to meet such remarkable American patriots and to pay tribute to those who have done so much for us.

I welcomed them to their Nation's Capitol, and I do mean their Capitol, because without them and their service to our Nation, this old capitol just might not be here.

On this day they will visit the World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans memorials. I asked them while they are at the Korean War Memorial, to read the words chiseled in the granite wall there, "Freedom is not free." Truer words were never uttered.

And, for their service, we, as a Nation, can never repay them, but I have to say, we darn well better never quit trying to honor them in our thoughts and prayers and deeds.

The Honor Flight is a measure of what the service of Veterans has meant to those who freely contribute to keep these missions of lasting memories for you going. We salute all those who contribute and help organize them.

And it's up to those of us in the public sector to stand firm in our Nation's commitment to Veterans' long term health care and other benefits.

From towns born of mining, to our state born of war, to a nation under God, each of West Virginia's Veterans symbolizes the depth of human giving and the height of divine compassion. One word best describes what our Veterans did: sacrifice.

What they, and those who served with them, sacrificed is reflected in the white and black granite of our war memorials. They serve as timeless reminders to all who pass their way that we must always remember and honor those who stood in harm's way so that freedom's light could continue to shine.

Every time a Veteran steps foot on the grounds of one of the war memorials, they honor all who did not live to see it. And their visit adds a living testament to the memorial's significance, when each returns home and tells family and friends about the experience.

These West Virginia Veterans defended our Nation under the banner of red, white and blue; and on behalf of a grateful Nation, I presented each of them our country's colors, Old Glory, to take home with them.

I am so proud of all Veterans and will continue to fight and to work with my colleagues in the House to address their needs. As a Nation, we have a duty and responsibility to support and acknowledge the great sacrifice that our veterans so willingly made for all of us.

So much of the Nation's greatness rests on the shoulders of these protectors of America—like the members of West Virginia Honor Flight—whose commitment and duty to God, country, and family keeps strong the foundation of our republic.

May God always bless our Nation with men and women such as these:

Andrew Semonco—Age 88—WW II Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Harold Lee Dobbins, Sr.—Age 85—WW II Vet.—Beckley, W. Va.; Robert Arthur Day—Age 85—WW II Vet.—Beaver, W. Va.; Frank Martin Johnston—Age 90—WW II Vet.—Bluefield, Va.; Howard B. Candler—Age 86—WW II Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Joseph Laenen—Age 84—WW II Vet.—Montcalm, W. Va.; Cecil Pennington—Age 83—WW II Vet.—Princeton, W. Va.; Buford S. Helmandollar—Age 86—WW II Vet.—Princeton, W. Va.; William D. Foley—Age 87—WW II Vet.—Crab Orchard, W. Va.; Ralph L. Kiblinger—Age 82—WW II Vet.—Beaver, W. Va.

Victor T. Birchfield—Age 89—WW II Vet.—Lester, W. Va.—joined Army in 1940's in Hotchkiss, W. Va.—Sgt., served in the European Theater in combat units, infantryman; Bruce Blewins—Age 86—WW II Vet.—Princeton, W. Va.; Eugene Lusk—Age 87—WW II Vet.—Herndon, W. Va.; Leonard (Whitey) Beckett—Age 87—WW II Vet.—Princeton, W. Va.; James A. Harvey—Age 78—Korean War

Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Franklin Sargent—Age 77—Korean War Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Conrad (Connie) Jenkins—Age 79—Korean War Vet.—Lashmeet, W. Va.; Joel W. Birchfield—Age 64—Vietnam Vet.—Lester, W. Va.; Raymond A. Desplaines—Age 60—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Alphonso Hancock—Age 74—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.

Ivan R. Freeland—Age 64—Vietnam Vet.—Fairmont, W. Va.; David A. Simmons—Age 62—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Randall R. Lawhorn—Age 62—Vietnam Vet.; Robert B. Ashby—Age 73—Vietnam Vet.—Princeton, W. Va.; Johnnie Williams—Age 66—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Justin S. Bays—Age 65—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; James L. Scott—Age 70—Vietnam Vet.—Rock, W. Va.; Donald F. Sternoff, Jr.—Vietnam Vet.—Bluefield, W. Va.; Ernest R. Rose—Vietnam Vet.—Age 63—Raysal, W. Va.; Jackie L. Etter—Vietnam Vet.—Age 75—Bluefield, W. Va.

Richard N. Wirt—Vietnam Vet.—Age 74—Princeton, W. Va.; Gary S. Bowling—Vietnam Vet.—Age 63—Bluefield, W. Va.; Richard Sturgell—Vietnam Vet.—Age 63—Thorpe, W. Va.; Stephen O. Beckett—Vietnam Vet.—Age 59—Hiwassee, Va.; Laura King and Marie Blackwell—Bluefield, W. Va. representing their father and husband, David Blackwell, Vietnam Veteran who passed away 4 months ago; Dreama Denver—Princeton, W. Va.—President, The Denver Foundation, V-Pres. Always Free H. F. representing her deceased father Korean War Vet., Glen E. Peery; Charles Thomas Richardson—Princeton, W. Va.—President, Always Free Honor Flight representing his deceased father WW II Vet., Clifford Richardson; Pamela Coulbourne—Princeton, W. Va.—Exec. Assistant, The Denver Foundation, Coord. Always Free H.F. representing her deceased father WW II Vet.—Francis L. Fluharty; Steve Coleman—Bluefield, W. Va.—Official Photographer, The Denver Foundation & Always Free H. F. representing his deceased father WW II Vet., James M. Coleman; Burk Allen Adkins—Washington, D.C.—Board Member of Always Free H.F., Public Relations for The Denver Foundation, representing his deceased father WW II/Korea Vet., Stanley Adkins.

IN HONOR OF ST. MARTIN OF
TOURS SCHOOL**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Martin of Tours School, a distinguished primary Catholic school located in Maple Heights, Ohio that is closing after 49 years of serving the community.

St. Martin of Tours was founded in 1963 under the leadership of Pastor John J. Gerrity. The school originally had just three grades. One grade was added each year until each grade, from kindergarten through eighth, was represented. The first principal was Sister Mary Electa Coleman, a member of the Humility of Mary Sisters.

Students at St. Martin of Tours participate in many activities that are educationally, spiritually, and socially enriching. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders maintain pen-pal relationships with residents of a local senior care facility. The Liturgy Team collaborates with the West Side Catholic Center. Twice a month students in grades 4–8 travel to the Center to volunteer their service. Since 1989, students have participated in the DARE program, a program that