

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MICHAEL PATTERSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Patterson, whose role as scheduler for events in the district is only a small part his full value to constituents of the 10th District of Ohio, and to the workings of my Congressional office.

Michael held several other jobs, including his own personal favorite, Tax Services Clerk for the Los Angeles County Tax Collector. During the time that I have had the pleasure to work with him, he has been meticulous, painstakingly thorough, and earnest. In 2009, he joined my Congressional staff as a case worker.

In January, 2010 Michael put his flexibility and versatility on display by becoming the Cleveland scheduler. He enjoyed researching the newspapers for local events and arranging for congressional records and certificates of special congressional recognition to be written/prepared and presented to people being honored by community groups and organizations. He also attended many of these community events himself and represented our office.

Special mention should also go to Michael's son Brendan Patterson who resides in Long Beach, California and will probably choose social work as a career. If Brendan hadn't have been such a trustworthy and responsible young man, his dad wouldn't have been able to move from California to Cleveland and do the good work for us that he did. Finally, Michael Patterson is one of a kind, for his dedication, his diligence, his tireless advocacy and his love of country.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
KARL INGEMAN AND STAFF SER-
GEANT JEFFERY SALAZAR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Karl Ingeman and Staff Sergeant Jeffery Salazar, who have distinguished themselves in their service to our country and who have been honored along with 18 other airmen in the 2012 volume of Portraits in Courage. These two Airmen, natives of Modesto, California, are exemplars of the courage, daring and professionalism of an Air Force that has been at war for over a decade.

Colonel Karl Ingeman was selected to be included in the volume after his heroic action

over Libya during Operation Odyssey Dawn on the night of March 21, 2011. At this time Colonel Ingeman was leading a two-ship formation of F-16's on a mission to protect the civilian population of Benghazi from the depredations of Kaddafi's forces. The mission rapidly changed however when Colonel Ingeman heard the mayday call of an F-15E pilot and his weapons systems officer who had been forced to eject when their plane suffered a malfunction.

Colonel Ingeman swiftly flew across hostile territory to the site of the crash where he coordinated the retrieval of the downed pilots. As enemy forces raced to capture the downed airmen, Colonel Ingeman twice flew low into the range of Kaddafi's surface-to-air missiles, this show of force caused the enemy to retreat and allowed Colonel Ingeman to identify the location of the crash site for the rescue team.

Also honored in the same volume was Staff Sergeant Jeffery Salazar, a joint terminal attack controller who had the critical and dangerous job of coordinating close air support for an Army Special Forces team in the Konar Province of Afghanistan from January to July 2011.

On one particular operation Sergeant Salazar's team was split into two elements to conduct a patrol. The patrol was quickly engaged by Taliban fighters who attacked the element which had split from Sergeant Salazar. When Sergeant Salazar and his element moved to support their comrades they in turn began to receive small arms fire from four Taliban fighters. Sergeant Salazar swiftly eliminated two of the Taliban fighters and engaged a third who managed to injure Sergeant Salazar with a hand grenade before he was killed.

Despite the fragmentation wounds he sustained to his knees, Sergeant Salazar continued to coordinate air support from two F-16's and advance towards the other element which had been hit by an IED during the course of the four-hour engagement in order to provide medical support.

In this operation and in the many others Sergeant Salazar proved his valor and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder as an American or an Air Force veteran to honor Colonel Ingeman and Sergeant Salazar in particular and all our servicemen and women who defend this country every day.

KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pierre Claeysens, a Belgian immigrant who was

rescued by U.S. forces from German occupation in WWII said, "To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst that can happen . . . to be forgotten is the worst." Since 2009, the Kingwood High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) has worked to ensure that Mr. Claeysens sentiments never become reality. The High school continues to participate in a community project, which helps to remember and show respect for those who have died defending our freedom.

The program is called Wreaths Across America. The Houston branch, places wreaths on soldier's graves every year at Christmas time at the Houston National Cemetery. More than 26,000 wreaths were placed on graves last year at the Houston National Cemetery. This year, KHS NJROTC will present the Colors at this year's Wreath Across America Ceremony.

I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps of Kingwood High School. I want to thank them for their service to second district of Texas. I congratulate them on their many accomplishments that have led to them being chosen to present Colors at this year's Wreaths Across America Ceremony. I am proud that a well-qualified group of cadets from Kingwood will be representing the state of Texas.

The KHS NJROTC has a history of success since its beginnings four years ago. Under the direction of Lieutenant Commander Gregory Boucher and Master Chief Damond Banks, the cadets do much more than competitions and parades. They are involved in serving their school and community, through many different service projects and duties performed throughout the year. The cadets volunteer its services for numerous color guard events, Veterans Day events, parades and Toys for Tots. The Wreaths Across America project is one of their main events. The cadets have raised over \$70,000 over the past four years for WAA. There are countless other local service projects this group participates in throughout the community, all of which testify to the quality of students at Kingwood High School.

The cadet's service and patriotism to our nation sets them apart as role models to other students. I know that the residents of Kingwood are proud of their many accomplishments. I applaud them for their tremendous achievement and wish them the best of luck in the future.

And that's just the way it is.