

HONORING T.C. FREEMAN

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to someone who has a long and distinguished record of service to our country and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This lady has spent a majority of her life connected to United States Army. At 80 years young, she currently serves as a civilian aide for the United States Army in Kentucky. Of course, I am referring to Mrs. T.C. Freeman who recently celebrated her 80th Birthday on March 10th.

T.C. Freeman's life has revolved around our Army since 1941 when Killeen, Texas was designated the home of Camp Hood. She met and married her husband, Colonel Bob Freeman (Ret) when he was assigned to the 3d Artillery, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood. She and Bob have three children, a daughter Gil, and two sons William and Robert.

For her efforts on behalf of Soldiers during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, T.C. Freeman was awarded Association of the United States Army's Citation for Exceptional Service. In 2002, she received their Anthony Drexel Biddle Medal, which is their second-highest award. She served as Tennessee/Kentucky Chapter President of the Association of the United States Army for two years, and as the Kentucky State President for two years. She also served four years as the 2nd Region President and now once again serves as a Kentucky State President.

T.C. Freeman is a life member of the Association of the United States Army. She is an honorary member of the 502nd, the 187th Infantry, the 327th and 506th Infantry Regiments. She is also an honorary member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and of the 5th Special Forces Group. She holds the Anne Morrow Lindberg Award and the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loretta for her support of Army Aviation and the Aviation Community. She is a Life Member of Army Aviation Association of America.

Mrs. Freeman is also the recipient of Artillery's Molly Pitcher Award and Department of the Army Awards for Public Service and the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. In 2010, she received the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

T.C. began the "Welcome Home Flights" after Desert Shield/Desert Storm and she has attended almost every flight following—from Kosovo and from other 101st Deployments, to include the recent Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home on August 16, 2009.

Presently, she is welcoming home Division Units from Afghanistan and attends National Guard farewells and welcome homes. She is a supporter of Fisher House and the Wounded Warrior Programs. T.C. Freeman has visited our Warrior Heroes at both Walter Reed and Brooke in San Antonio.

Since May 2005, T.C. has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Kentucky Military Affairs Commission. The Commission keeps the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky advised of conditions and needs of the installation. She was pleased to be involved last December in the event that named Governor Steve Beshear

as an Honorary Screaming Eagle. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation, the Hopkinsville-Christian County Military Affairs Committee, The Christian County School Superintendents Advisory and the Military Affairs Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and she is a member of the Citizens for Fort Campbell and an Eagle Ambassador.

T.C. Freeman is a regular attendee of area Veteran's organizations, VFW, DAV and the American Legion.

Since being named a Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocate, her efforts are not limited to Fort Campbell. She now actively supports activities of the Units at Fort Knox to include United States Army Recruiting Command and the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division.

Mrs. Freeman has also been faithful in her support of the National Guard, the Army Reserve, University and Junior ROTC Units.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of this House T.C. Freeman's remarkable life of faithful service to our Nation's heroes. She is a personal friend, but more importantly a friend to every man and woman who wears our Nation's uniform. It is my honor to recognize her before this House and to wish her a very Happy 80th Birthday.

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IN RECOGNITION OF NAM VETS  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nam Vets Association upon its thirtieth anniversary.

Nam Vets has been providing vital assistance to veterans since the association was founded in 1983. Originally serving veterans of the Vietnam War exclusively, Nam Vets has since expanded and now serves veterans from all eras. Over the years, it has become known as a local gateway to veterans' services for Cape Cod and the Islands, assisting veterans with important tasks such as finding employment and housing, receiving medical care, and obtaining employment.

Coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of Nam Vets is the opening of its new Veterans' Outreach Grace Center (VOCG) in New Seabury. The VOVG will be a general wellness center through which veterans will receive a variety of services. Such support will include physical, psychological, educational, financial, or vocational assistance aimed at helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life. This Center will play a vital role on Cape Cod once it opens its doors to our local veterans, and I commend Nam Vets for working to achieve this important goal. I am certain that the organization's next thirty years will be bright.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize Nam Vets upon its thirtieth anniversary. The many years of service that the organization has provided have been invaluable to the veterans and families that have been affected by its work. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Nam Vets for all that the association has given to its community.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE  
POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE  
MEDAL OF HONOR TO SERGEANT  
RAFAEL PERALTA

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution recommending the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to one of America's bravest soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, Sergeant Rafael Peralta.

Sgt. Peralta's story is the epitome of what makes America great generation after generation. After immigrating as a teenager with his family from Mexico to San Diego, Sgt. Peralta joined the Marines the first chance he was able to—the morning he received his green card. According to his mother, Rosa Peralta, Sgt. Peralta "really loved this country" and loved being a Marine. In fact, he passed along his love for the Marines to his brother, Ricardo, who kept a promise he made at his brother's funeral by enlisting in the Marines Corps in 2010.

In 2004, Sgt. Peralta was killed during a house-clearing mission in Fallujah, Iraq. According to news reports, during a firefight with insurgents, a fragment from a friendly-fire bullet ricocheted and struck Sgt. Peralta in the back of his head. According to eyewitness accounts from fellow Marines who were at the scene, Sgt. Peralta, despite his mortal wound, pulled an enemy grenade under his body and absorbed the ensuing blast. By doing so, he saved the lives of an estimated six of his fellow Marines.

Each of the armed services has provisions for judging whether an individual is eligible for the Medal of Honor—which permit no margin of doubt or error. Historically, the individual's action must be supported by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses. In Sgt. Peralta's case, seven eyewitnesses confirmed that he smothered the grenade blast with his body. Even though a pathologist report questioned whether Sgt. Peralta could have deliberately brought the grenade to his body due to his wound, separate analyses by three neurologists opined otherwise. His Navy Cross citation, the second highest American military decoration that can be awarded to a Marine, says it all: "Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away.

Sgt. Peralta exemplified and lived the values Americans hold dear: honor, duty, and dedication to his country. In a letter written right before his death, Sgt. Peralta told his brother, "I'm proud to be a Marine, a U.S. Marine, and to defend and protect the freedom and Constitution of America. You should be proud of being an American citizen."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and recommend the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to a true American hero, Sgt. Rafael Peralta.

IN HONOR OF MARSHA B. JETTÉ

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks to Marsha Jetté of Norwich. For more than four decades she has assisted the farmers of Connecticut. This past January, Marsha retired after more than 41 years of working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Connecticut.

After graduating from Norwich Free Academy, Marsha attended Johnson and Wales Junior College in Providence, RI where she took courses in bookkeeping. Between 1969 and 1971 Marsha worked at various companies as a bookkeeper. In 1971, Marsha began her career at USDA with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), now the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a Program Assistant in the New London County office in Norwich. In 1973 Marsha was made Acting County Executive Director in her office which led her to enter the County Office Training program the following year in order to become a County Executive Director.

Marsha became County Executive Director of the New London County ASCS Office on May 11, 1975. During her tenure in the county office, Marsha also served on the 2007 National CED Classification Review Committee and served as the State Communications Coordinator. In her role as State Communications Coordinator, Marsha coordinated various events including a visit from the FSA Administrator and Washington, DC staff, as well as educational tours from the Connecticut State and County Committee members. Mrs. Jetté also compiled an education text for state and county committee members in order to provide them with a better understanding of FSA and its mission.

In August, 2009, Marsha Jetté was appointed as State Executive Director of FSA in Connecticut by President Barack Obama. In her capacity as Executive Director, Marsha worked tirelessly to promote agriculture in the state and support her staff in Connecticut. The final three and a half years of her tenure at USDA crowned an impressive career. My staff and I called on Marsha countless times—whether to assess damage after a hurricane hit the state or to determine the status of FSA payments, Marsha always had the answer. Mrs. Jetté's absence at the Farm Service Agency will be felt both within and outside the agency for some time to come. I thank her for her many years of service to the agricultural community, congratulate her on her retirement, and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL SILVERMAN

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Fire Chief Daniel R. Silverman on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Silverman dedicated his professional life to the Town of Wellfleet and its fire department. He will retire after thirty years and three months of honorable service, including nearly seven years as a full-time Fire Chief. Chief Silverman's outstanding achievements as a first responder are evident in his rise through the ranks. After beginning his career as a Call Firefighter and EMT, he was subsequently awarded the role of Call Lieutenant, Call Deputy Chief, and Fire Chief. Firefighters are a pillar of strength in our society, and they routinely risk their lives to protect our neighborhoods, safeguard our families, and provide urgent aid to those who need it most. Over the course of his impressive career, Chief Silverman has demonstrated an unwavering devotion to those ideals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Fire Chief Daniel R. Silverman for over three decades of distinguished public service. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring all that Chief Silverman has given to his community.

COMMENDING MR. DAVID PICKLER FOR HIS ELECTION TO PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to recognize Mr. David Pickler, who has recently been elected as President of the National School Boards Association for 2013–2014.

David has served on the Shelby County Board of Education since 1998 and has served as Chairman of the Board for 12 years. In 2008, David was elected to the National School Boards Association's Board of Directors and served as the Southern Region Representative. In 2009, David served as President of the Tennessee School Boards Association and has held several positions of leadership with it.

David is an excellent example of the spirit of volunteerism, which we Tennesseans hold close to our hearts. His community service and philanthropic endeavors are both numerous and extraordinary, casting a legacy of selflessness and determination to better education across Tennessee. Perhaps the highlight of this legacy is the creation of the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation, which has provided more than \$1 million in financial support for public education. David's awards and accolades at the local, state and national level are extensive and serve as a testament to the positive impact he has had on the children of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Pickler for his unwavering commitment to improving education for the students of Shelby County, Tennessee, and the United States of America.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,736,188,026,047.86. We've added \$6,109,310,977,134.78 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on March 18, 2013 due to a declared state of emergency in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes Nos. 76, 77, and 78.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OVERDRAFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Overdraft Protection Act of 2013.

With the rise of debit cards and the constant presence of swipe terminals to use those cards to pay for everything from dry cleaning to gas to candy bars, it's easier than ever for consumers to overdraw their checking accounts and incur overdraft fees.

That's how a cappuccino can become a \$35 cappuccino faster than you can say "overdrawn". Some institutions have responded to consumer outrage over these fees by implementing a policy of denying debit card transactions that would overdraw an account and I applaud them.

But too many financial institutions don't make consumers adequately aware of the perils of overdrafts, and others reorder the posting of transactions in a way that maximizes their fees.

Although the Federal Reserve issued a rule requiring institutions to obtain affirmative consent from consumers to opt into overdraft coverage two years ago, it is quite clear more needs to be done to help consumers avoid multiple overdrafts.

A survey released last year by Pew Charitable Trusts highlights the need for the bill I am introducing today.

More than one-third of those surveyed—people who had overdrawn their accounts in the past year—didn't know they had overdraft coverage until they incurred a penalty fee, and more than half of people did not believe they had opted in. The Pew study also found that most of the people who overdraft their accounts do so more than once.