

sum of funds," said Ron Spoor, chief operations officer for Habitat Pinellas. "In fact, when calculating the monetary value of Dan's in-kind donation, Dan is the largest individual donor in the affiliate's history. Through his donation of time and resources to Habitat, Dan has enabled the affiliate to increase its production and serve many additional families."

The Clive Rainey Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to volunteers for significant accomplishments that have advanced the mission of Habitat for Humanity. The award honors Habitat for Humanity's first volunteer, Clive Rainey, who made an exceptional and sustained commitment to advancing Habitat for Humanity's mission through generously sharing his time and talents.

TAASA: TRUE HEROES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award as part of the Department of Justice's National Crime Victims' Service Awards.

Since its founding in 1982, TAASA's work has changed the lives of sexual assault survivors in Texas and throughout our great country.

TAASA serves as a powerful voice for the Texas sexual assault movement.

Their work in prevention, training, and advocacy is unparalleled.

TAASA has successfully advocated for legislation to protect and serve victims of sexual assault on the federal and state level.

Like true Texans, they fight hard and do not back down when they know something is right.

Most recently, TAASA played a critical role in the passage of the bipartisan SAFER Act, which I introduced to help reduce the rape kit backlog, bring justice to victims of sexual assault and put perpetrators behind bars where they belong.

As co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, it is reassuring that there is such an effective group advocating on behalf of victims. And, of course I'm proud that they're from the great State of Texas.

I congratulate TAASA on their award and commend their important work.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CPL. THOMAS PARKER OF RONAN

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, Military Appreciation Day is an important reminder for all Americans of the importance of thanking and honoring the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces.

I want to especially recognize Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas Parker of Ronan, Montana.

Lance Cpl. Parker served in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, and on December 11, 2010 he lost both of his legs and much of his left hand from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

After months of surgeries and rehabilitation, Lance Cpl. Parker returned home to Montana, and I'm proud to have him joining us for Military Appreciation Day in Helena. His strength, perseverance, and selfless service has made Montana proud and is worthy of our deepest appreciation.

I'm proud to honor Montana's veterans and service members on Military Appreciation Day, but may we always remember to thank these selfless Americans each and every day for their service to our country and the sacrifices they have made to protect our nation's security and our freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARA CAZARES

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sara Cazares, who passed away last week.

Sara was born and raised in Stockton, attending Franklin High School, and later earning a degree in social anthropology from Harvard before coming back to the San Joaquin Valley she loved, to raise her family.

For Sara, the American Dream was something we should all aspire to: you go to school to live a better life and you take responsibility in your community. Her actions spoke to this commitment and to her character.

Sara had a long history of community involvement, working with the local hospitals, actively participating in the democratic process, mentoring children in the Franklin IB program, which aims to encourage students to become active and cross-cultural in this inter-related world, and other efforts. Most recently, she served as a Board Member of the Stockton Unified School District, influencing the lives of children. She took great pride and joy in giving back, ensuring that our children received a quality education.

Sara was the epitome of how each of us can make a meaningful impact on those around us and that we can accomplish anything when the community works together. Her dedication, enthusiasm, spirit, and commitment to others is inspiring.

It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Sara Cazares and in sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

DEDICATING THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL OF AVON, INDIANA, AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VALIANT SERVICE OF OUR VETERANS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 4, 2013, the Parks Foundation of the

town of Avon, Indiana, will dedicate the Avon World War II Memorial Park in honor of our valiant World War II veterans. The park includes a sculpture in the likeness of one of Avon's remaining World War II veterans, Brigadier General Clyde C. "Chet" Wright, who exemplifies the sacrificial service of our veterans.

Brigadier General Wright was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. He graduated in 1938 from Ben Davis High School in Marion County, and two years later enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard. By December 1943, Chet Wright was deployed to New Guinea, staging there in preparation for some of the hardest fought battles in the South Pacific theater, Leyte and Luzon. After the war, Chet Wright returned to the states and to active duty with the Indiana Army National Guard. He served in several leadership positions, and was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General, Army, for the State of Indiana in March 1973.

In Avon today, all citizens enjoy the manifold blessings of liberty secured by veterans like Brigadier General Wright. Entrepreneurship is alive and well. Our growing economy includes world class transportation and logistics-based businesses. We are blessed with good schools, good government, and natural and abundant resources, including rich farmland which plays a pivotal role in feeding our nation and world.

It is my sincere hope that this memorial will properly honor the bravery and sacrificial service of our World War II veterans. May it serve as a daily reminder to all who pass it of the sacrifice that was required to secure this experiment in freedom known throughout the world as America, the land of liberty. May it fortify the resolve of this current generation to be vigilant in our sacred duty to preserve and protect it at all costs. May God bless our World War II veterans, may God bless Avon, Indiana, for its efforts to honor these heroes, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF GERARD BELCHER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mr. Gerard Belcher, who was born in Pike County, Kentucky into a family of eight children. Mr. Belcher's story is an all-American story—the story of the American Dream.

His father was a coal miner and his mother was a homemaker. As a young man, Mr. Belcher spent hours in the backwoods and mountains of eastern Kentucky hunting, trapping, and exploring caves. These hours spent in the woods would later provide critical skills for his experience in the jungles of Vietnam.

Mr. Belcher volunteered to serve our country in the Army. He trained as a paratrooper and became an expert with the rifle, pistol, Bowie knife, and hand to hand combat. He was selected first in his class at the Army Leadership School in Fort Polk, Louisiana where he also volunteered for combat in Vietnam.

In August 1968, he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division and was soon selected to join