

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
WILLIAM D. BERNIER AND NINE
OTHER BRAVE AMERICANS

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th, 1944, as many as 60 B-24 Liberators from the Fifth Air Force attacked enemy anti-aircraft targets and airfields on the northern coast of New Guinea.

One of those heavy bombers, known as "Hot Garter," was hit by flak and went down with its crew of 12. On board was First Lieutenant William D. Bernier from Augusta, Montana.

The remains of nine of these brave Americans, including First Lieutenant Bernier were determined to be "unrecoverable" but due to technological advances, his remains were recently identified and will soon be at rest in Montana.

It is the solemn duty of our nation to not leave any behind who have made the ultimate sacrifice. On behalf of the state of Montana, thank you to those who worked diligently to bring William home.

COMMENDING PRIME MINISTER
NAJIB RAZAK OF MALAYSIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia for his leadership in negotiating the release of the remains of the victims killed in the downing of flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Prime Minister Najib held a series of secret talks with the separatists to broker an agreement for the return of the bodies and the promise of safe passage for recovery teams going to the crash site. He also secured the return of the black boxes of flight MH17 so that a full investigation may ensue.

Prime Minister Najib's personal involvement in the negotiations sets the standard for diplomacy around the world. I commend Prime Minister Najib for not leaving negotiations to aides.

Some matters in life are sacred, and I am pleased that Prime Minister Najib recognized this situation as such. I thank him for setting aside politics for a higher purpose—to return the bodies of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters to the families who lost and loved them. I praise him for doing what others would not or could not.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by this tragedy. After a full and fair investigation, I am hopeful that those responsible will be held accountable.

HONORING RICH SALVESTRIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich Salvestrin, the re-

ipient of the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2014 Agriculturist of the Year Award. Mr. Salvestrin has been, and continues to be, a tireless advocate and fierce supporter of agriculture in the Napa Valley. It is therefore appropriate that we recognize and thank Mr. Salvestrin today for his unwavering support and relentless efforts to preserve and promote agriculture in Napa County.

Mr. Salvestrin was born and grew up in St. Helena, California. His education in agriculture began at an early age. By the time he was ten, he was helping his father and grandfather prune vines on the family vineyard. Mr. Salvestrin went on to attend California State University, Fresno, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Viticulture. After completing his degree, Mr. Salvestrin returned to his family's vineyard, where he applied his education and experience to expand the family business from a grape growing operation to include winemaking.

Mr. Salvestrin has worked with the Napa County Farm Bureau for nearly three decades to advance agriculture in the Napa Valley. Soon after joining the Bureau in 1985, Rich joined the Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Program, where he completed the Ag Leadership program in the early 1990s. Rich began serving on the Napa County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors in 1994 and notably, he served as the president of the Napa County Farm Bureau from 1999–2001.

Rich has been a leader in protecting the Napa Valley's farmland and watersheds. He was a crucial supporter of the Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming Program. He also serves as a board member on the Napa County Winegrape Pest & Disease Control District. And as a member of the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Action Team, he helped to control an invasive species that threatened the region's livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Salvestrin's leadership in the wine industry and viticultural preservation is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him further success in an already distinguished career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 439–441, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 439, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 440, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 441, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY HAROLD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Shirley Harold for her hard

work and determination in the fight to keep young kids safe around water.

In March 2008, Ms. Harold experienced the pain no parent or grandparent should ever have to. Her 2-year-old grandson J'Mari drowned in a swimming pool.

Since then, her goal has been to educate her community on the importance of swimming lessons, CPR and layers of protection to prevent drowning.

In 2007, I ushered through Congress the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, the first federal pool and spa safety law on the books in our country.

This law has a specific focus on public swimming pools, which is a key component in the fight against accidental drowning.

But we all know that many of these tragedies are occurring in residential swimming pools as well, which VGB does not cover.

Despite our best efforts to find common sense solutions to these preventable tragedies, we are collectively frustrated and disappointed that we haven't been able to get a better handle on how to resolve what we believe is a preventable crisis.

We have already experienced 7 drowning deaths among children 0–4 years of age in Broward County this year. And that doesn't include the near-drowning victims.

It pains me to say that Florida is leading the nation in drownings under age 14, with 32 deaths between January and May occurring statewide. At this time last year there were 14 deaths.

Since J'Mari's death in 2008, Shirley has become a fierce advocate for pool safety. On Saturday, July 26, her foundation, J'Mari and Friends is holding a community forum. Parents and children will learn CPR and drowning prevention tips.

I commend Shirley's commitment in her dedication to teaching young children to swim.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEE
MILLER, SR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Lee Miller was born and raised in Tutwiler, Mississippi. He was educated in the Mississippi public school system during the 1930's and 1940's. He was baptized, attended the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and sung with the Delta Big Four Quartet.

In 1947, James married Ms. Essie Davis and they were blessed with four sons. He later united with Charlene Davies and to that union another four children were born. In the midst of his family life, James continued school, became a certified electrician and worked for local electric companies.

For over forty-five years James Miller, Sr. was a businessman and was well-known around Chicago. He was involved in the social entertainment business and that is where many people knew him.

His nightclub, The Texas Lady Lounge, was for many years one of the most popular spots in the community.

As a matter of fact for ten years I lived less than four blocks from the Texas Lady and it was not at all unusual for me and my friends