

HONORING MALCOLM JAMES
"JIMMY" KEEP FOR HIS SERVICE
AND BRAVERY AS A MARINE
WITH THE FOURTH MARINE DIVI-
SION DURING THE PACIFIC CAM-
PAIGNS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Malcolm James "Jimmy" Keep, a life-long Memphian and a veteran of World War II who fought bravely against Japanese forces on Guam, Saipan and Iwo Jima. Keep, now 88 years of age and one of two surviving veterans in the Memphis area who fought on Iwo Jima, served with the Fourth Marine Division after joining the Marines in 1943 at just 17 years old. On March 17, Mr. Keep and his son, Mickey, will travel to Iwo Jima with the help of Memphis-based nonprofit organization Forever Young Senior Veterans to join 70 other Marine veterans for a 70th anniversary gathering.

Assigned to reconnaissance duty early in his career along with his partner from training, Charlie Ciulla of Massachusetts, Keep experienced the brutality of war that many people can only imagine through Hollywood films. Keep remembers fighting on Saipan as the bloodiest thing he had ever seen as Japanese soldiers employed Banzai charges, or human wave assaults, on Marines who were firing 50-caliber machine guns—essentially guaranteeing their own deaths. Even though Keep was trained in fighting and all too familiar with death, he took no satisfaction from the number of Japanese lives lost to his gun fire. On Iwo Jima, Keep and Ciulla found themselves exposed to enemy fire from all sides when their amphibious tank was disabled near Mount Suribachi, causing them to evacuate on foot. The two Marines then ran across the island without injury, earning them both the nickname "rain-walkers." It was believed that if they could survive that kind of heavy fire without being hit, then they could walk through rain without getting wet. Their mission was not in vain as they saw the American flag raised on Suribachi.

Also on Iwo Jima, the American Marines fell under fire from seemingly ghost bullets, which were claiming the lives of many. It was discovered that Japanese fighters were using huge tunnels from which they launch their attacks. As a recon man, Keep was responsible for clearing out the tunnel, and in doing so, he found himself fighting a squad of roughly 15. He performed this task every other day for two weeks. In addition to helping his fellow Marines depart the island safely; Keep was photographed helping a wounded Marine back to the beach. He recalled telling the Marine, "You're getting off this rock. I'll trade places with you." Jimmy Keep is a true hero.

After returning to Memphis, Tennessee, Jimmy became an electrician and started a family. Today, he still resides in Memphis and is an ardent fan of the Memphis Grizzlies. When Jimmy and his son travel to Iwo Jima, Jimmy will no doubt be filled with emotions as he is united with other Marines who also fought valiantly during World War II. While

there, Keep plans to visit Japanese Shinto shrines to ask Japanese gods for forgiveness for the lives that he took as a result of war. This show of sorrow and respect is to be commended. It is my hope, however, that he also remain mindful of the countless lives that were saved because of his selfless decision at such a young age to fight for his country against those forces that sought to do harm to America and the American way of life. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Malcolm James "Jimmy" Keep for his service and bravery as a Marine with the Fourth Marine Division during the Pacific campaigns of World War II.

HONORING MS. PAMELA PHILLIPS,
LAKE COUNTY WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Phillips as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Pamela as one of them.

Over her exemplary five decade career as a public servant, Ms. Phillips worked her way up from receptionist to Field Manager of the Lakeport Social Security Office. I've worked with Ms. Phillips for the past sixteen years and her work ethic and dedication to our mutual constituents was outstanding. She always did her utmost to alleviate the immediate personal need in every dire situation and to see that every question was answered and every beneficiary was well-served.

Employees such as Ms. Phillips are often underappreciated, overworked and their important work sometimes goes unrecognized, but she has always been patient, compassionate and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Phillips not only for her commitment to public service, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Phillips' unyielding dedication to every recipient of Social Security benefits in Lake County is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her a most enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER WATERBURY

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unveiling of the newly renovated Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury.

On March 19, 2015, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury opens its doors to our community, unveiling recently completed upgrades. I was proud to help secure the

\$750,000 in state bonding funds for improvements to enhance the overall structure and amenities of the facility.

For over 125 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury has shaped successful members by fostering leadership skills, developing educational enrichment programs, and designing activities focused on health and wellbeing. The club continues to demonstrate its commitment to our children through a variety of invaluable programming from promoting a healthy lifestyle to achieving academic success.

Thank you to the Boys & Girls Club for the countless hours you serve as youth advocates for children from all backgrounds. Your sense of purpose and passion creates an environment where boys and girls are welcomed for their diversity and encouraged to build strong character and responsible citizenship.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury transforms lives by expanding opportunities and empowering youth. I offer my congratulations and sincere thanks to the Boys and Girls Club for all of these contributions to our community. I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING MS. MAUREEN TOMS,
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maureen Toms as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Maureen as one of them.

Ms. Toms has been a strong supporter of the Special Olympics; as a parent of a child with Down Syndrome, she has been a tireless advocate for children with disabilities. She has also donated hundreds of hours as a volunteer on numerous planning committees that have led to improving the quality of life for the families and residents in the City of Pinole and West Contra Costa County.

Ms. Toms grew up in a family that believed in serving their community, and that philosophy became a lifelong passion. From helping children with intellectual disabilities overcome barriers through sports and shatter stereotypes with the Special Olympics to helping beautify her local neighborhood by obtaining grants to plant trees in a local park, she has been a tireless advocate for the people and places that make our community special.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Toms not only for her commitment to improving the lives of children with disabilities, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Toms' unyielding dedication to the people that make our region unique is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.