

In 2013 alone, more than 26,000 individuals volunteered directly through Volunteer Fairfax; an additional 2,700 employees from 12 corporations supported 29 local agencies. More than 1,000 non-profit and charitable organizations were served by Volunteer Fairfax, and the value of volunteer services provided exceeded \$1.3 million.

Each year from this group of extraordinary "Doers Who Do," Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to be honored. It is my great pleasure to submit the following names of the 2015 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

- Community Champions:
- Braddock District: Joanne Elder
- Dranesville District: Steven Bloom
- Hunter Mill District: Sahana Arkalgud
- Lee District: Dixie Wright
- Mason District: Winnie Lebo
- Mount Vernon District: Shirley Short
- Providence District: Ken Quincy
- Springfield District: Stephen Beck
- Sully District: Reverend Doctor Eugene Johnson
- At-Large: Philip Church
- Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Michelle Bond
- Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Mike Harrison
- Adult Volunteer Group: Library Friends
- Groups of Fairfax County Public Library
- Corporate Volunteer Program: CACI Cares
- Fairfax County Volunteer: David Kline
- Fairfax County Volunteer Program: Fairfax County Animal Shelter
- Family Volunteer: Colonel Edward and Mrs. Kimberly Bellem
- Lifetime Achievement: Peggy Ferguson
- Rising Star: Roberta Bucher
- Senior Volunteer: Lawrence Kelly
- Volunteer Program: Marketplace Volunteer Program
- Youth Volunteer: Carolina Sosa
- Youth Volunteer Group: Boy Scouts of America Troop 55
- Integrate Individual: Pedro Velasco de Paz
- RSVP Northern Virginia: Elizabeth Pokorny

In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service, as well as in congratulating the 2015 Service Award honorees and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one reason that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING THE MARINE RAIDERS OF MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand and recognize the Marine Raiders of Marine

Special Operations Team (MSOT) 8231, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Command who lost their lives during a training exercise on March 10, 2015. These young men represent the finest our nation has to offer, and we are forever indebted to them for their service.

On the morning of March 10, an Army National Guard-operated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter embarked on a training exercise off the coast of the Florida Panhandle carrying seven members of MSOT 8231 and four members of the Louisiana National Guard, who were operating the helicopter. As part of a rigorous pre-deployment exercise, the Raiders were practicing special operations insertion techniques with two UH-60 aircraft. Sadly, it was on their training mission that the Marines and Guardsmen in one helicopter lost their lives.

As a unit with great distinction throughout the War in Afghanistan, MSOT 8231 first deployed in 2010 under Special Operations Task Force-West, operating from the City of Herat. While in Herat, MSOT 8231 primarily conducted Counter-Insurgency (COIN), Foreign Internal Defense (FID) and Direct Action (DA) activities within the Murghab District of the Badghis Province. After redeployment and reconstitution, MSOT 8231 deployed again in 2012 to Bala Murghab, in the Murghab District, where it built upon tactical and operational gains it and other MSOT's achieved on previous rotations.

MSOT 8231 continued building their Afghan partner's capacity, promoting good governance, and countering the insurgent initiatives in this highly remote and austere geographic slice of Afghanistan. During the 2012 deployment, MSOT 8231 was tasked with permanently closing their base and retrograding years' worth of hardware for consolidation at a larger base hundreds of miles south in Herat. Without a single paved road in the entire Badghis Province, this proved a difficult task. Nevertheless, MSOT 8231 completed the job and left Bala Murghab in the hands of the Afghan National Army, Police, and government.

After returning home, rebuilding and adding new personnel to MSOT 8231, the team again deployed in 2013 to western Afghanistan. Their most recent return to Afghanistan saw a change in tasks from previous deployments as they partnered with the highly regarded Afghan Commandos to conduct offensive activities against the Taliban. While the mission changed, their resolve did not, as consistent enemy combat persisted until the very end of their deployment. Even still, MSOT 8231 continued efforts to enhance their partners' capacity to operate effectively on their own. MSOT 8231 departed Afghanistan in June 2014; however, their focus never left the region.

Prior to any deployment, teams work together to hone and develop their skills, and when combat operations commence, the months of training leading up to deployment are finally put to test. For MSOT 8231, this meant building on the strong relationship established during previous deployments with the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion, based in Hammond, Louisiana. On March 10, two Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks participated in a routine training mission; however, the mission turned out to be anything but routine, as only one Black Hawk returned.

On that day, our nation lost seven Marine Raiders. Not only did they accept the challenge of becoming the best that the Marine

Corps has to offer, these Marine Raiders did so during a time of war. Along the way, the Marine Raiders of MSOT 8231 received such awards as the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry and Bronze Star Medals for valor, and all had Valor awards from their time fighting on combat deployments.

To the families, friends, and loved ones of Captain Stanford Shaw III, Master Sergeant Thomas Saunders, Staff Sergeant Marcus Bawol, Staff Sergeant Trevor Blaylock, Staff Sergeant Liam Flynn, Staff Sergeant Kerry Kemp, Staff Sergeant Andrew Seif, Chief Warrant Officer George Wayne Griffin, Chief Warrant Officer George David Strother, Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron, and Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich, please know that we are a grateful nation. On countless training exercises, your brave warriors risked their lives to ensure the tip of the spear always remained sharp and ready for battle. And while the Marine Raider community lost these warriors, their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Never above you, never below you, always beside you. Semper Fi.

HONORING THE YAZOO FAIR & CIVIC LEAGUE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of innovators who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the Yazoo Fair & Civic League. The Yazoo Fair & Civic League has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo Fair & Civic League's history date back to 1932; when R.J. Pierce and T.J. Huddleston decided to establish a county fair for black residents to enjoy. D.W. Lindsey assisted in sponsoring the first fair in October 1932. Three years later, Gov. Martin Conner signed the charter for the Yazoo Negro Fair Association. The group purchased land on Calhoun Avenue where an exhibit building was constructed.

During the early 60s, H.A. Scott was elected president, and H.C. Fouché was chosen as vice president. As president Scott faced several challenges. The biggest challenge was finances. The association was \$67,500 in debt. In order to resolve the debt the property facing Calhoun Avenue and a plot west of Lamar Avenue was sold along with the exhibit building.

After these challenges were met the association had the vision for a community center. Also during this time the Yazoo Negro Fair Association became the Yazoo Fair and Civic League. Federal funding was used to construct the L.T. Miller Community Center which was completed in 1971. The large tract of unused space around the center was used to construct 48 apartments for elderly and disabled residents with a grant for over \$1.5 million from HUD. The Lintonia Apartments opened in May of 1986. During the 1990s the association built H.A. Scott Apartments with about 80 units creating a very healthy tax base to the Yazoo area. Currently, the association has a 60 unit apartment complex in