

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF
SOUTHERN OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 26 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Southern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Lloyd A. Gathright, Army; Ralph K. Lanning, Army; Charles E. Leierer, Army; William S. McMorrine, Army; Edward C. Phillips, Army; Michael Roebuck, Army; Eugene A. Schmick, Army; Clifford W. Scovell, Army; Duane J. Smolik, Army; Vernon Staley, Army; James A. Holland, Army Air Force; Frederic W. Kuhlmann, Army Air Force; Donald D. Williford, Army Air Force; Joe L. Winter, Army Air Force; Charles F. Paul, Marine Corps; Edward C. Glen, Navy; Gerald G. Holland, Navy; Herbert A. Johnson, Navy; Melvin A. Jones, Navy; Robert E. Murray, Navy; Dale B. Palmer, Navy; John K. Penniman, Navy; Walter W. Schafer, Navy; John Wallenburg, Navy; Kenneth A. Wisdom, Navy; Michael D. Zagya, Navy.

These 26 heroes join more than 81,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize Honor Flight of Oregon President, Gail Yakopatz. Her tireless work will result in over 350 World War II veterans from Honor Flight of Oregon and Southern Oregon Honor Flight visiting the memorials and U.S. Capitol.

COMMENDING THE NEW RISING
STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. for establishing the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund that strives to not only assist young students in their pursuit of higher education but to embody the generous and selfless spirit of Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer.

Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer was born in Houston, Texas on September 21, 1964, as the youngest child to Manfred and Helen

Spencer. After attending public schools in Houston, he went on to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma Christian College in 1989. He then completed the Master of Divinity Program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, which I am proud to represent in Congress. Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer continued in his education at Southwestern and obtained his doctoral degree in Theology in 2001. As a further distinction and honor, he served as the first full time African American pastor at Southwestern where he taught preaching in the School of Theology while also serving as adjunct professor of the Old and New Testament at Dallas Baptist University. Finally, his service to faith included Superintendent of Church School and Assistant to Pastor Isadore Davis, Jr. at The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Spencer was an exceptional student, respected seeker of knowledge, and follower in the path of God, but he was also a caring professor, a trusted friend, gifted vocalist, and a generous advocate of academic excellence for students and young people. He pursued all of these passions in life, faith, and academics with such staunch persistence and zeal until he was laid to rest on January 10, 2013. I can think of no better way to honor his lifelong devotion to improving the lives of those around him than continuing his advocacy for higher education with the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund and I congratulate The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church on their tenth anniversary of this wonderful endeavor.

I am so proud to represent The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church and many members of their congregation who devote their lives to improving the lives of their young students and opening up opportunities for them to preserve Dr. Spencer's legacy of excellence. Let their efforts serve as a testament to the lives of others for what can be achieved through dedication and devotion to the greater good of humanity.

In honor of The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. and the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

CONGRATULATING 2015 INDUCTEES
INTO THE IOWA VOLUNTEER
HALL OF FAME

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, Governor Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds inducted three individuals and one organization into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame on April 14th, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2015 inductees include H.D. "Ike" Leighty from Waterloo and the Sisters of Mercy from Cedar Rapids. Both reside in my district and I rise today to honor their hard work and acknowledge their accomplishments.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty co-founded Engineered Products Company in Waterloo, Iowa in 1977. After selling the business, he established The Leighty Foundation and the Mother Moon

Service Scholarship program. Every year, this program awards a college scholarship to one Black Hawk county high school junior who completes over 100 hours of community service. To date, 179 Iowans have received assistance towards a college education from the Mother Moon Service Scholarship.

In 1989, the Sisters of Mercy founded the Catherine McAuley Center to develop long term solutions to poverty in the Cedar Rapids area. Guided by the five core values of empowerment, learning, mercy, community, and commitment, the Sisters provide one-on-one tutoring for adults, as well as transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, and those who suffer from mental illness and substance abuse.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy are model citizens and assets to their communities. I encourage all Iowans to visit the State of Iowa Historical Museum in Des Moines and view the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame plaques where their names now join 155 other inductees. On behalf of the people of Iowa's first district, I commend Mr. Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy for their selflessness and sacrifice in service to our communities. I congratulate them on their 2015 induction into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. NELSON IN
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John P. Nelson for his many years of service and dedication to the Iowa West Foundation. He is an Iowa native and I'm proud to recognize him today for his great achievement.

Mr. Nelson is Chairman of the Board for the Silverstone Group. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa and attended Carleton College in Minnesota and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Mr. Nelson then joined the United States Navy and served his country for three years. After leaving the Navy, Mr. Nelson returned to Iowa and joined his family's insurance agency, now the Silverstone Group.

Because of his active service participation throughout the area in business and his community, Mr. Nelson has earned several prestigious awards for his service. He continues to serve on many area boards and commissions. Mr. Nelson's endless dedication, commitment, generosity and leadership to the Iowa West Foundation and the Council Bluffs community has enhanced and improved the quality of life for our community and citizens. Mr. Nelson's devotion to Iowa has helped create a place where it is great to raise a family, work and live.

Mr. Nelson is an Iowan who has made a difference and made our state proud. He has dedicated his life to helping and serving others and it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA PATTON
IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pamela Patton, an entrepreneurial restaurant owner in Des Moines, Iowa. Ms. Patton received the 2015 Faces of Diversity American Dream Award.

This prestigious award, sponsored by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation in partnership with PepsiCo Foodservice, celebrates the importance of diversity and inclusion by recognizing three restaurateurs nationwide that excelled in promoting these goals for 2015. Ms. Patton worked hard and with determination in order to get the funding to pursue her dream. She made the decision to open her restaurant in a neighborhood of Des Moines where she could help elevate a diverse neighborhood, offering jobs to help support the surrounding community.

I applaud and congratulate Pamela for her award and for providing the Des Moines community with her support and service. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Pamela Patton and wishing her well and continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the recent birth of my twin daughters, I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of April 13, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 1259, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, which creates a process for areas to be considered rural to allow otherwise prohibited balloon payments in qualified mortgages. This bill aims to improve access to financing for borrowers in rural, underserved areas, which will help families nationwide achieve the dream of home ownership.

I would have voted for H.R. 1265, the Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act, which requires advisory committees established by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to adhere to federal ethics and conflict-of-interest laws. Government transparency is essential to holding administration officials accountable, and this bill will help ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau conducts their crucial work out in the open.

I would have voted for H.R. 1480, the SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act, which would provide confidentiality protections to financial services regulators when they access information in the national mortgage licensing and registry system. This bill will provide financial regulators the confidentiality protections they need to protect consumers and eliminate fraud in the mortgage industry.

I would have voted against H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing

Act, which reduces regulatory restrictions on high-cost mortgages in the manufactured housing industry to increase the maximum interest rates manufactured housing vendors can charge. This bill would hamstring Dodd-Frank regulations designed to protect consumers from predatory lending practices in the manufactured housing industry. The bill seeks to reduce the regulatory restrictions on high-cost mortgages in the manufactured housing industry by increasing the maximum interest rates manufactured housing vendors can charge.

I would have voted for H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015, which seeks to clarify conflicting definitions under current law concerning affiliated and unaffiliated title companies, and could help keep interest rates on mortgage loans affordable.

I would have voted for Rep. VAN HOLLEN's Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. Con. Res. 11, which would instruct conferees to recede to the Senate budget resolution accommodation for legislation to improve workplace benefits, including paid sick leave. The motion would also instruct budget conferees to reject the House-passed budget's provision to turn Medicare into a voucher program. Our seniors depend on Medicare, and I will reject any attempt to end the Medicare guarantee and increase out-of-pocket health costs for seniors.

I would have voted for H.R. 1562, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015, and H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015. H.R. 1562 would generally prohibit individuals and companies with seriously delinquent tax debts from receiving federal contracts and grants, and H.R. 1563 would make individuals with seriously delinquent tax debt ineligible for federal employment if they fail to accept a payment plan within nine months of enactment. Corporations and individuals with serious tax delinquencies should not receive taxpayer-subsidized benefits over those who fulfill their tax obligations.

I would have voted against H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act, which would permanently allow taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes, without offsetting the cost. This bill would increase the deficit by \$42 billion and encourages states to raise taxes, pressuring the federal government to increase taxes to account for the difference. California does not benefit from the state and local sales tax deduction, so this bill would push more of the nation's tax burden onto hardworking taxpayers in my district.

Finally, I would have voted against H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act. This bill repeals the federal estate tax, which currently affects only estates valued at \$5.4 million or above (\$10.8 million for couples). This bill would add \$269 billion to the federal deficit, and the entirety of those benefits would go to the wealthiest 0.2 percent of estates. The federal tax code should expand opportunity for everyone, rather than stacking the deck against middle-class families.

A TRIBUTE TO GALE AND MARY
MCKINNEY IN THE FIRST SES-
SION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gale and Mary McKinney on the very special occasion of their 75th wedding anniversary.

The McKinney's were married at the Little Brown Church in the Vale, in Nashua, Iowa, on April 21, 1940. This wonderful couple continues to be a visible and important part of their community and it is an honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

Gale and Mary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. I salute this devoted couple on their 75th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB
CORPS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this evening, hundreds of individuals from across the United States will be gathering at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Job Corps.

Originally created by President Lyndon B. Johnson to wage the War on Poverty, the Job Corps program is one of the nation's most successful anti-poverty programs today. Job Corps empowers its participants to become productive members of society by helping them reach their goals, achieve educational aspirations, and learn a trade.

I have seen first-hand the positive impact Job Corps has had on the graduates of Turner Job Corps in my hometown of Albany, Georgia.

There is Marc Scotton of Atlanta, Georgia, who arrived at Turner Job Corps Center not believing in himself and not focused on his schoolwork. After successfully completing the program, he will begin an internship at an Atlanta radio station and plans to study Mass Communications at college.

There is Anna Washington, who first heard of Turner Job Corps through her church. She chose to pursue a certification as a Medical Administrative Assistant. Staying focused, Anna completed her career pathway in six months. A year and a half ago, she became a certified Clinical Medical Administrative Assistant and attended advanced training at the Atlanta Job Corps.

These two stories are but a few of the successes of the Turner Job Corps Center and the Job Corps program in general. Their achievements also are the result of the outstanding staff at these Job Corps Centers.

The young men and women who successfully complete their training at Job Corps Centers across the country receive much more