

isolation have found solidarity and restoration through the program.

For over three years, Guitars For Heroes has mentored veterans into becoming fine musicians. I am pleased to announce that they will be performing at the Annual Veterans Fair on November 7, 2015, in Grapevine, Texas. This annual event, made possible by the tireless work of dedicated personnel, helps introduce veterans to important benefits, programs, and services. It will be a privilege to have Guitars For Heroes perform in front of the hundreds of attending veterans.

As a special acknowledgment, I am pleased to recognize each member of Guitars For Heroes performing at the fair. These honorable veterans are Mike Andersen, James Benson, Steve Brenner, James Bullard, Rondal Burns, Keith Burrowes, Marco Garcia, Dujuan Jackson, Brian Michel, Frank Precure, Juan Reyes, Alfred Schram, Roy Vaughn, Glen Wilson, and Bill Yohn.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the success of Guitars For Heroes, and I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing this special program.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 29, 2015 AS
DIRECT SELLING DAY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize today, October 29, 2015, as Direct Selling Day.

For years, the direct selling industry has made a significant impact on both families and the economy in Texas and across the nation.

Today, more than 18 million Americans, hailing from every state, Congressional district and community in the United States, are involved in direct selling.

For many individuals, direct selling is one of the most flexible businesses there is, and in today's busy world having an opportunity to work at one's own pace and earn additional income is beneficial and convenient when individuals are trying to balance work with family and other priorities.

Out of the more than 18 million Americans involved in direct selling, more than two million reside in Texas. Many of the residents I represent in Dallas and Fort Worth chose direct selling to provide economic security for their families.

Their efforts contribute more than \$34 million to the U.S. economy, helping individuals build their businesses while supporting their local and national economies.

As the economy continues to change and place more emphasis on flexibility, the direct selling industry will continue to grow and prosper.

It is clear that the direct selling companies across Texas and around the country are committed to helping the next generation of American entrepreneurs. Since its founding in September 2015, the Direct Sellers Caucus has worked to build greater awareness of direct selling and discuss policy issues relevant to the industry, ensuring that these companies can continue to make an impact on the lives of those involved.

In honor of the Direct Sellers Association's day on the Hill and the impact the industry has

on both local communities and the nation as a whole, this statement will be submitted.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
MAJOR ALAN M. GIBSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Sergeant Major Alan M. Gibson, the Division G3 Sergeant Major for the 4th Infantry and Fort Carson, Colorado, who will be retiring from the United States Army after 32 years of distinguished service to the United States of America. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Friday, October 30, 2015 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Sergeant Major Alan Gibson is originally from Columbus, Georgia and graduated from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation/Kinesiology in 1982. He is currently working on a Master's degree from Central Michigan University. SGM Gibson joined the United States Army in October 1983 and completed basic training at Fort McClelland, Alabama and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. In his first assignment, he served as an Infantryman in the Berlin Brigade from March 1984 to October 1985.

After departing Berlin, Germany, SGM Gibson attended Airborne School and the Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) prior to being assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Fort Benning while he served as a Rifleman, Team Leader, and Squad Leader from October 1985 to April 1989. In fact, he would return to Fort Benning several times throughout his career. He also served in numerous leadership and staff positions at Fort Myer, Virginia; Yongsan, Korea; Fort Monroe, Virginia; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was the Sergeant Major for the Center for Army Leadership for the Combined Arms Center (CAC).

SGM Gibson served four combat tours, including Operation Just Cause in Panama; Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 in Iraq; Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF 13-14) in Afghanistan; and he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait.

SGM Gibson is a highly decorated non-commissioned Army officer. His numerous awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with V devices, Bronze Star w/ 1OLC, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award), Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star, Pathfinder Badge, Aviation Crewmember Badge, Canadian Parachutist Badge, German Schutzenschnur Badge (Silver), and the coveted Ranger Tab, among many others. SGM Gibson also was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice (Infantry), and Order of The Combat Spurs (Cavalry).

On a personal note, I am proud to call SGM Alan Gibson my friend. I have witnessed firsthand his compassionate leadership and his enduring dedication to our great nation. Throughout his distinguished career, SGM Gibson has consistently exhibited the Seven Core Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect,

Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

SGM Gibson has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Cheryl, and their three daughters, Asia Rochelle, Alana Shantelle and Ariel Danae.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in extending our sincerest gratitude and best wishes to Sergeant Major Alan Gibson and his family, on the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of 32 years in the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE HENDRICKS
FAMILY AS THE 2015 SANTA
ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OUT-
STANDING FARM FAMILY OF
THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Hendricks Family from Jay, Florida, for being selected as the 2015 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

A fourth generation farmer, Rick Hendricks was only six years old when he first began to work on the farm alongside his father, B.D. By the age of 12, he had graduated to using a selective tractor, and as a teenager, he worked on the farm after school and athletic practices before going off to college at Livingston University. Rick played football at Livingston before his love of the farm brought him home.

During Rick's farming career, several changes have taken place in the agricultural industry, and he has witnessed and experienced the new picker/balers, as well as changes in cotton and peanut production equipment from two-row to six-row. Over the years, the Hendricks' family farm has grown and incorporated new technology, and today, in addition to his own farming operation, Rick manages Hendricks and Son Farms, Inc. and B.D. Hendricks Farm, which in total covers 2,250 acres and includes 200 brood cows and row crops of cotton, peanuts, and hay.

To Rick, his wife Nina of 27 years, and their children, Brandt, Rush, and Tessa, farming is an investment in their future. It is Rick's hope, that the value of hard work instilled in him by his parents, will also create the strong foundation for future success for his children. It is also truly a family affair, and today the Hendricks family farm is also operated by Rick's sister, Vicki; nephews, Tanner and Todd; as well as full time employee, Dylan Barnes.

In addition to the hours spent on the farm, Rick has served as a member and advisor of many organizations including terms as President of the Board for Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau and the Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida and our Nation share a proud agricultural tradition built by the hard work of farmers and their families. The Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of Rick and his family's tireless work and dedication. On behalf of the United States Congress,