

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in rising in recognition of the honor bestowed upon these brave officers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT J.
BEALL

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dr. Robert J. Beall for his service to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the indelible mark he has made in the CF community and in the world of health and medicine over the past several decades.

Dr. Beall announced on October 1, 2015 that he is stepping down as Chief Executive Officer of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a role he has held for more than 20 years. Under Dr. Beall's leadership, the CF Foundation has become known for its pioneering and successful approach to supporting biomedical research and developing lifesaving treatments for those with cystic fibrosis.

When Dr. Beall joined the Foundation in 1980, the median predicted age of survival for a person with the disease was 18 years of age—today it is more than 40 years. For the first time in history, over half of the people living with CF are above 18 years of age, and therefore cystic fibrosis is no longer a pediatric disease.

As a proud parent of a wonderful adult daughter with cystic fibrosis, I am personally thankful for Dr. Beall's leadership in this community. His tireless efforts have led this Foundation and the cystic fibrosis research community to remarkable successes in the development of innovative new therapies and dramatic improvement in the quality of life for those with CF.

Through his innovation and leadership, Dr. Beall put the cystic fibrosis community on the road to success, and I have no doubt that his dedication over the past two decades has drastically accelerated our search for a life altering cure for CF patients.

I am honored to serve as Co-Chair of the Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus alongside Congressman JIM MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, and I look forward to continuing the legacy of Dr. Beall through our work the CF community as well as fellow leaders in Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 627 I was not able to vote due to a medical procedure.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING MICHAEL MCKINNON ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Michael McKinnon, the current Deputy to the Garrison Commander at Fort Drum, New York.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael McKinnon has spent his life dedicated to serving and protecting our national security and freedoms, with a combined 37 years of public service. Lt. Col. McKinnon served his nation honorably and with distinction for 23 years of active duty service. After retirement from the U.S. Army, Lt. Col. McKinnon has continued to serve our nation as a civil servant for over 14 years.

Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon's first introduction to Fort Drum was with the 2nd Brigade as the Logistics Officer. Lt. Col. McKinnon was then assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry as the Battalion Executive Officer and served with them in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. In 1995, after a stint in Kansas, Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon returned to the 10th Mountain Division where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy G-3 and Director of Logistics.

As an army officer, Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon received the Legion of Merit, six Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, as well as the Expert Infantry, Ranger Tab and Parachutist and Air Assault badges.

Following Lieutenant Colonel Mike McKinnon's retirement from the active army, he returned to the North Country and to Fort Drum where he has served our community proudly as the Deputy to the Garrison Commander. As a civil servant, Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon received the Superior Civilian Service Award and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

It is apparent Mike has led the efforts for our servicemembers within the North Country and over the years has played an instrumental role in supporting soldiers, civilians, families, Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division. The recipient of multiple awards and decorations, Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon embodies all the qualities of a selfless hero, who has answered the call to serve.

Lieutenant Colonel McKinnon, congratulations on your years of service to our great nation and your retirement. Your guidance and expertise will truly be missed at Fort Drum and by our North Country community.

IN HONOR OF KRUSHI PATEL AND
HER WINNING SUBMISSION TO
THE 2015 VETERANS DAY ESSAY
CONTEST FROM NEW YORK'S
14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of the 2015 Veterans

Day essay contest from New York's 14th Congressional District. Krushi Patel, a student from I.S. 61 in Corona, Queens submitted the winning essay on the topic, "What Veterans Day Means To Me." Krushi's essay reads as follows:

Veterans, whether they are in the army, navy, or marines, put their lives at stake for the safety and security of others. These people spend day and night away from those they love, just so that we can be close to those we love. They are on the border and in battle so that we can live a life with peace and freedom. They do so much for us, that it would be impossible to pay them back. That is why we should honor all veterans for their heroism and determination on Veterans Day. We should tell them that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they took to keep us and our country safe; that they will always have a special place in our hearts. It's not easy to be away from your family, for months and years at a time. The thought of it brings tears in our eyes. However, for the security and honor of our nation, they put their families one step behind. These people do what may seem unimaginable for most people. These people volunteer themselves for the nation they were born in. That is why we salute them.

Last year, on December, 15, 2014, my class went to a Veterans' Organization. We met various former soldiers from wars like World War II and the Vietnamese War. These people were so inspiring. They told stories. These people were a primary source of these historic wars. We got to learn from people who had been eyewitnesses. They became idols to me. They had fought for our country with persistence and bravery. However, they didn't ask for anything in return. They had no stove or TV. These people were so delighted to see us. We sang Christmas carols. We didn't really want to leave. We were years apart in age, but that didn't get in the way of us having a good time.

Veterans Day is a time to thank all former and current veterans, a time to thank them for fighting for our freedom and peace. It's a day when I spend some of my time to respect and look up to those who put themselves in danger for the benefit of strangers. That is why we tell them that they are true heroes. Veterans fought for peace and freedom in this world. We must thank and salute these people. Veterans Day is a time to be proud of being an American.

Veterans Day is about the love and devotion you have for the country that you are willing to cut your life short for it. The respect veterans have for our country and its people is why they are willing to leave their family behind for service. The love that burns inside of them for this nation is so great. "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem."—Ronald Reagan

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately on November 16, 2015, I missed roll call vote no. 626. Had I been present, I would have

voted “nay” on final passage of Keep the Promise Act of 2015, H.R. 308.

METHODIST SUGAR LAND MAKES THE GRADE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great hospital in my backyard, Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, for once again getting an “A” grade for patient safety in the most recent Hospital Safety Score ratings.

Twice a year, hospitals across the country are rated based on how well they protect patients while they’re under the hospital’s care. Houston Methodist Sugar Land was among less than one-third of hospitals to earn an “A” grade. This grade reflects their commitment to patients through continual staff training and updated best practices. Methodist Sugar Land provides its community with peace of mind should a medical emergency arise.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Houston Methodist Sugar Land. Thank you for putting patient safety above all else.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25th Anniversary of the SUNY Empire State College located at Fort Drum and the 30th Anniversary of the College’s participation in the SUNY North Country Consortium on October 21, 2015.

Since 1985, SUNY Empire State College has supported our nation’s servicemembers, military spouses, dependents and our brave veterans. Soon after the 10th Mountain Division was reactivated at Fort Drum, SUNY partnered with other statewide and community organizations in order to serve those who protect our national security. SUNY College provides our specific North Country student population with access and support to high-quality public education.

SUNY Empire State College accepts academic credit for military training recommended by the American Council on Education in order to help reduce costs and accelerate the amount of time it takes to complete a degree for these service members. According to Military Times magazine, SUNY Empire State College is listed among the “Best for Vets: Colleges” and “Best for Vets: Business Schools”.

Congratulations SUNY Empire State College on the 25th anniversary of your location at Fort Drum and for your 30 years of service to the veterans, soldiers, military spouses and dependents who serve and work in the North Country. I want to wish SUNY Empire State College continued success in educating this most deserving, nontraditional student population.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 16, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 626, the Keep the Promise Act.

I would have voted “yes” on Roll Call 627, the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015.

I would have voted “yes” on Roll Call 628, the Honor America’s Guard-Reserve Retirees Act.

ALBERT M. WOOLLEY

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Albert M. Woolley.

Staff Sergeant Albert M. Woolley was born on February 13, 1925, in Victoria, Texas. On November 17, 1942, at the age of 17, with his parent’s consent, and alongside his cousins and friends, he enlisted to serve in World War II.

After completing the training for his military occupation specialty, motor vehicle maintenance, Albert was assigned to the 9th Army Air Corps and sent to England. At the age of 19, Albert took part in the heroic Invasion of Normandy, partaking in the 2nd wave and landing on Utah Beach. Albert recalls almost drowning when having to stand on the back of the landing craft and jumping into the tremendous waves with 60 pounds of equipment on his back. Sinking instantly, he was grabbed by another soldier, fortunately very tall, who pulled him up to the surface. Together, they swam to the shore where they were soon separated, never to see each other again. Advancing up Normandy Beach, Albert and his fellow soldiers victoriously combated a barrage of German machine gun and sniper fire strafing the shoreline.

Following the infamous D-Day landing, Albert served in the French Campaign supporting Allied Forces until being honorably discharged on November 10, 1945. After five years on American soil, Albert was recalled in 1950 to active service, in support of the Korean Conflict, remaining overseas until the Armistice. After returning home, he continued his service and received orders to Westhampton, New York in 1964, only to soon again be in the Pacific. In 1967, Albert was given orders to Danang, Vietnam, fighting in and surviving the TET Offensive of 1968.

In October 1977, Staff Sergeant Albert M. Woolley retired after 30 years of service. During this time, he received amongst numerous other decorations; two Air Force Longevity Service Awards, four Good Conduct Medals, and the Vietnam Campaign, Vietnam Service and French Campaign ribbons.

Albert M. Woolley, who has been married to his wife Victoria for 68 years, is the proud father of five children. Their family has now grown to include 16 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Albert has served both his country and family well through his hard work and great sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent due to official business on Monday, November 16, 2015. On Roll Call Vote Number 626, on the bill H.R. 308, Keep the Promise, had I been present I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Vote Number 627, on H.R. 1338, the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans’ Act of 2015, I would have voted Yea.

On Roll Call Vote Number 628, on H.R. 1384, the Honor America’s Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, had I been present I would have voted Yea.

HONORING JAMES J. VENERUSO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in my district, James J. Veneruso, who has been actively involved in a wide array of professional and community organizations for many years.

A former Adjunct professor at Iona College and the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Mr. Veneruso served as the Editor of the Delaware Corporate Law Review and the Westchester County Law Journal, the President of the John Marshall Honor Society, and was on the founding Board of Editors of the Pace Law Review. He is admitted to practice law in New York and Florida, and is now the managing partner of the law firm of Veneruso, Curto, Schwartz & Curto, LLP located in Yonkers, New York.

In addition to his professional developments, Mr. Veneruso serves on the Board of Trustees of Saint Joseph’s Medical Center, as legal counsel and Board member of Habitat for Humanity of Westchester, and as a member of Yonkers Partners in Education, Inc., and the Italian American Forum. He currently serves on the Business Development Board of Sterling National bank, and actively served on the Board of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Veneruso lives in Yonkers with his wife, Lillian. They have three children and four grandchildren. The surrounding community has recognized and celebrated Mr. Veneruso’s contributions to the area with countless honors. He has been recognized as the Most Socially Conscious Attorney by the Westchester County Bar Association and the Westchester Business Journal, and has received the “American Dream Award” by the Habitat for Humanity of Westchester.

This year Saint Joseph’s Medical Center is honoring Mr. Veneruso with the 2015 Outstanding Service Award. I want to congratulate