EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DELMAS L. TAYLOR, LIVINGSTON PARISH REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delmas L. Taylor, who has served as Registrar of Voters for Livingston Parish in my home state of Louisiana since October 1, 1997. Delmas is retiring today from a dedicated career of public service to his parish and to all of Louisiana.

In 1976, Delmas took his first job with the Livingston Parish government where he worked for more than 20 years before being elected Registrar of Voters. For 20 more years after that, he faithfully executed his duties as Registrar of Voters, ensuring that citizens across the parish could access the information necessary to participate in our great democratic process.

Today on behalf of Livingston Parish and the state of Louisiana, I express gratitude to Delmas for his years of service and for a job well done.

HONORING CAROL BAUER ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor a distinguished public servant, Carol Bauer, for 50 years of service to the Village of Lombard. Carol has dedicated her life to Lombard and her service is a truly impressive feat. She serves as a role model for us all and as proof that one dedicated person can change the lives of many.

In 1966, Carol started full time for the village of Lombard as a fire and police dispatcher. Since that time she has had the role of Executive Secretary and coordinator for the Lombard Blood Drive, and has been an asset to numerous presidents, managers, and board members, who have been a part of Lombard Village Hall.

While working full time for her community, Carol took over the Village's blood drive in 1993. At the time, the village hosted two blood drives per year and usually collected 25 to 30 pints of blood. Carol believed they could do better and wanted to save people's lives so she dedicated herself to the cause. Now the Village hosts five blood drives per year and collects approximately 200 pints per drive. In 2013, Carol was named the most dedicated blood coordinator in Illinois by Heartland Blood Centers.

Since her days as a dispatcher, Carol has never stopped working to improve her community and has no plans of stopping on account of her 50th anniversary. When asked if she was retiring, she said, "Oh, no. I am not. It's such a big part of my life. If I can make some little dent in the community, some little mark that something is better, then I want to continue doing that."

Through hard work and no small amount of perseverance, Carol Bauer has helped countless people and tremendously improved her community. Distinguished Members, please join me in congratulating Carol on 50 years of service and many more to come.

IN HONOR OF DWIGHT WITCHER

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of an Arkansas legend, Mr. Dwight Witcher.

Dwight has been named the 2016 Faulkner County Veteran of the Year.

Dwight was a marine in Vietnam and continued serving in the Mediterranean and out of Subic Bay in the Philippines.

Dwight's dedication to this country did not end after he left the military. He has been a strong and steady voice for veterans in Arkansas for decades.

He served two years as the Marine Corps League Department of Arkansas Commandant and serves as president of the Arkansas Veterans Coalition. He also currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Military Hall of Fame.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Dwight and his family for this very deserving award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY FOR VIETNAM VETERANS AT THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the veterans who served our country during the Vietnam War. On March 29, 2016, a Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will be held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery as part of a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to the men and women who defended freedom in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War was one of the longest conflicts American forces have known and one of the most deadly. Before the war ended in 1975, over 58,000 Americans would die and another 304,000 would be wounded. We do not have to relate those statistics to our Vietnam Veterans. They know them by heart.

It has been said that no event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now. History has told us that unlike in other wars, our troops were not driving across a country to hold land and capture territory. Many of the missions were designed to find and harass a jungle-hidden enemy, inflict casualties, and fall back to a well-protected base. Our troops fought in canopied jungles, rugged mountains, on rivers, and through swampy lowlands. Many spent days—weeks—in wet rice paddies far from any base.

They fought for the noble cause of protecting the ideals we cherish as Americans. During our Commemoration, we will gather to thank them for their sacrifices and for the incredible dangers and hardships they endured for our country and for the ideals of freedom. This ceremony is a small gesture of grateful appreciation for the service these veterans gave our country.

Each year I hold a ceremony to recognize veterans. I have been honored to learn the stories of more than 500 Vietnam Veterans over the years. In citations that accompanied the many medals they received, these veterans were commended as members of our Nation's and the free world's most versatile and potent striking forces. It was in Vietnam that helicopter-based, air-mobile operations first demonstrated their combat potential. Some were shot down; some wounded; and many served multiple tours. Collectively, veterans in my District received hundreds of medals including Bronze and Silver Stars and, of course, Purple Hearts. Several were POWs for long, agonizing years.

Their service included jumping from aircraft despite enemy sniper fire to go to the rescue of downed soldiers trapped in battle. They worked tirelessly to direct tactical air strikes and artillery fire so their comrades could be airlifted to safety. They flew over the Red River into North Vietnam, and patrolled the brown waters of the Mekong River. They drove trucks through hostile territory to supply fellow soldiers and marines and ferried the injured to safety. Nurses and doctors administered aid and pastors heard too many final words. They provided maintenance to keep planes ready. Some walked through jungles and rice paddies and claimed they were just grunts. But, for those in the field there was often no hot chow, no showers, and no clean socks. For them, the fight was often against the weather, the red ants, the scorpions, and the leeches. The nights were long and punctuated with the distinct sounds of AK rounds, grenades, and M–16s. They sought out and destroyed the enemy and defended key airfields and routes of communication while extending protection to millions of South Vietnamese. They did their duty and tried hard to leave no one behind.

The memory of lost comrades never subsides. Their names are beautifully remembered on The Wall in Washington, D.C. Each