

After joining the United States Army in February of 1943, Major Civitella was quickly selected to serve the Office of Strategic Services. He and his group members were then inserted into Northern Africa to support the Allied invasion of France. After capturing nearly 4,000 enemies in France, Major Civitella's team was deployed to Italy and participated in 21 air operations as "Bundle Kickers," dropping leaflets over civilian populations. By 1945, the Army deployed Major Civitella to the Swiss Alps, and tasked him with reporting German activity, in an effort to capture Benito Mussolini.

In 1946, Major Civitella was discharged from the Army, but quickly reenlisted as a Counter-intelligence non-commissioned officer in 1947. By 1952, the Army recruited then 2nd Lieutenant Caesar Civitella into the newly-created Special Forces division. There, he pioneered the creation of training aids, doctrine, and lesson plans for the United States Army Psychological Warfare Center, and was one of the original instructors of air operations and guerrilla warfare. After assignments with both the 77th Special Forces Group and the 10th Special Forces Group, Major Civitella returned to the Special Warfare Center and was assigned to work in the Combat Development Office. Beginning in 1961, Major Civitella served three tours in Vietnam, working on enhanced insertion and extraction systems like Scuba, Halo, and the Fulton "Skyhook."

A day after retiring from the Army on August 31, 1964, Major Civitella joined the ranks of the Central Intelligence Agency. He worked there until August 31, 1983, fulfilling the roles of Senior Province Officer in Vietnam, Plan's Branch liaison to the Pentagon, and the Inter-agency Representative to the United States Readiness Command. In addition, Major Civitella coordinated intelligence, training, and interagency operations for the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force at MacDill Airforce Base in Tampa.

Because of his service and expertise in unconventional warfare, Major Civitella received numerous accolades throughout his life including the United States Bronze Star Medal, the Intelligence Medal of Merit, the Bull Simmons Award for a lifetime of Special Operations Forces Achievements, and the prestigious French Legion of Honor, the highest decoration offered by the French government, and an award typically reserved for French nationals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me once again in commemorating Major Caesar Civitella's life; thanking him for his many contributions to the Armed Forces and intelligence community. He leaves behind a bold legacy of true and selfless patriotism that helped make our country a beacon of light in a dangerous world.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI MARINE FIRST LIEUTENANT (1ST LT.) WILLIAM JAMES DONNELLY, IV

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Marine First Lieutenant (1st Lt.) William James Donnelly, IV who gave his life while in service

to our nation on November 25, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom. 1st Lt. Donnelly was killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. This was 1st Lt. Donnelly's first combat deployment. 1st Lt. Donnelly was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

According to the Associated Press, 1st Lt. Donnelly, of Picayune, Mississippi, always wanted to join the U.S. Marine Corps. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in June 2003 and served as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle (SSV) crewmember in the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Gulfport, Mississippi. He transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Midshipman to attend the officer training program at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, New York where he served as a Midshipman Regimental Commander. 1st Lt. Donnelly was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the United States Marine Corps after graduating in June 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering. After TBS, he was designated an infantry officer in October 2009 and served as a rifle platoon commander assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Kilo Company, 2nd Platoon, Camp Pendleton, California. 1st Lt. Donnelly married his wife, Linsey, on September 11, 2010. He deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan 15 days later.

1st Lt. Donnelly's family learned of his death on Thanksgiving Day 2010. Melissa Donnelly-Weed, 1st Lt. Donnelly's sister, posted on her Facebook page that day. "Always be thankful for family," Melissa said. "I will always be thankful and grateful I had a wonderful brother. He gave his life today for his country doing what he loved—being a Marine. I will miss him forever. I love you, Will!" William J. Donnelly, III, 1st Lt. Donnelly's father, said his son would not have any regrets even though the loss is extremely hard to bear. "Will was doing what he loved to do and what he always wanted to do," Mr. Donnelly said. "I am sure if we could talk to him now, he would say he had no regrets."

In a release issued by Camp Pendleton, officials said that they had lost a member of their own family. "The Marines and sailors of the 1st Marine Division mourn the loss of 1st Lt. Donnelly," the release read. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family."

After learning of 1st Lt. Donnelly's death, Picayune Mayor Ed Pinero said it is always hard to lose a hero and on behalf of the city, they extended their heartfelt condolences to the family. "1st Lt. Donnelly's sacrifice and that of all the men and women who fall in combat protecting our country's freedom should never be forgotten," Mayor Pinero said. Additionally, Mayor Pinero announced that 1st Lt. Donnelly's name would be inscribed on a monument in front of the old city hall in Picayune to ensure the town's war heroes are never forgotten.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 14 at the United States Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland. Internment was held at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Friends of 1st Lt. Donnelly held a memorial service in Picayune at the same hour of the service at Arlington.

1st Lt. Donnelly is survived by his parents, William Donnelly, III and Vicki Donnelly; his

two sisters, Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Melissa Donnelly-Weed and Rebecca Donnelly; his wife, Linsey Becker-Donnelly; and his nephew Christian Weed.

1st Lt. Donnelly was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

1st Lt. Donnelly's service and sacrifice to defend America will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL RITTER FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Ritter from Bozeman for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Ritter served for over 20 years as a United States Marine, performing as a Chief Warrant Officer during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

Mr. Ritter continued his service to his community as a leader in the Marine Corps League in the Gallatin Valley. He is also a 1st Trustee for American Legion Post 14 and volunteers as a member of the Honor Guard for veteran services. He is active in assisting Montana Gold Star families and helps ensure a Marine presence in the Veterans Day activities of local schools.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Daniel Ritter for his dedication and service.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, established by the World Health Organization in 1988, December 1st is universally known as World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

All governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals are given the opportunity to display their commitment to fight this deadly disease.

It has been more than 30 years since the first AIDS case was reported in the United States.

It does not seem like it was too long ago, but HIV/AIDS had affected many around the world before the disease even made its way to America's shores.

Since then, countless researchers, healthcare providers, politicians, and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate its presence in all corners of the world.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer a mysterious and mischaracterized entity, it is the most relentless and indiscriminate killer of our time.

And though a diagnosis is no longer the sealing of an immediate fate, it is the beginning of an indefinite battle for life, adequate health care, and for social belonging.

With an estimated 38.6 million people worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2005, and more than 25 million people having died of AIDS since 1981, December 1st is a date which serves to remind everyone that action makes a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Let there be no mistake, we are here to acknowledge that AIDS is a deadly enemy against which we must join all our forces to fight and eliminate.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate.

With an estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 HIV-positive individuals living in the U.S., and approximately 56,000 new infections occurring every year, the U.S., like other nations around the world is deeply affected by HIV/AIDS.

The detrimental effects of HIV/AIDS have also hit home. More than 65,000 people in Texas are living with HIV.

Thirty-six percent more Texans are living with HIV today than just seven years ago. In 2010, studies showed that 1 in every 3 diagnosed persons in Texas were not getting proper medical treatment.

We must make certain that every affected individual receives efficient medical treatment that will afford them long life.

Not only is the state of Texas suffering from HIV and AIDS, but my district, the 18th Congressional District of Texas, has seen an increasing number of people living with the disease.

In 2010, there were over 22,000 reported persons living with HIV (non-AIDS) in the greater Houston area, and more than 9,000 reported persons living with AIDS.

This problem continues to escalate as there have been 1,700 new infections each year among individuals in Harris County, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities.

We must continue to fight a tough fight to reverse all of these costly and tragic trends.

I will continue to sponsor and co-sponsor legislation that addresses the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The fight is not over.

We must continue to stand strong in our struggle to conquer some old and new challenges that we as Americans and members of the global community encounter.

Today, Friday, December 1st is World AIDS Day.

And, we will focus on HIV/AIDS, prevention and awareness, and continue to fight for life.

Together, we will help all of our friends, relatives, and children live healthy and full lives.

HONORING BISHOP S.F. MAKALANI-MAHEE (1972–2017)

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor the life of Bishop S.F. Makalani-MaHee, a minister and transgender activist from Oakland Park, Florida, who was the youngest pastor ever commissioned by the Unity Fellowship Church.

S.F. was born on July 5, 1972 to Barbara MaHee and the late Adisa Makalani. The family's Sundays were spent in church, where S.F. enjoyed serenading the congregation with gospel renditions of "Jesus Can Work It Out."

S.F. found his love of Broadway at the Julia Richman High School in New York, where producer Cheryl Weisenfeld cast him in a production of Grease.

After moving to Atlanta with family, S.F. began teaching theater courses, as well as lecturing for Georgia State University, Soapstone Center for the Performing Arts, and Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. He also founded the Heart Theater, a youth theater troupe, where he wrote and directed Journeys, an educational play focused on HIV/AIDS.

Bishop S.F. Makalani-MaHee came to South Florida in 1997 where he found his community, his congregation and his purpose. S.F. began working at the PRIDE Center in Wilton Manors, as well as many other non-profits. He founded Black Gay Pride South Florida and co-founded BLACKOUT, South Florida's first African-American LGBTQ Film Festival. S.F. was the first transgender person to be appointed to the Broward County Human Rights Board. He was also an active member of the Dolphin Democrats, the longest continually-operating LGBTQ advocacy group in the South.

Bishop S.F. Makalani-MaHee spent his life loving others unconditionally. Before his untimely passing, S.F. served as the Coordinator of the Transgender Program at the Broward County Department of Health, where he advocated for fellow members of South Florida's transgender community. S.F. passed away on November 20, 2017, this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance. He is survived by his mother Barbara; his siblings Darcy, Jeffrey, Justin, and Marsha; and several nephews. He is also survived by a community of friends across South Florida, Atlanta, and New York who he considered his family.