

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER MOTE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Christopher "Chris" Mote of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Corporal Mote honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Gulf War.

Since his childhood, Corporal Mote knew he wanted to serve in our Armed Forces, as his family had done before him. His passion for military history and love of country led him to join the Marine Corps. Corporal Mote served as a Radar Operator on the USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10) amphibious assault ship. He served in both Okinawa, Japan, and Kuwait during the Gulf War. In February 1991, while sailing through an Iraqi minefield in the Persian Gulf, *Tripoli* was severely damaged by a naval mine. Fortunately, no one was killed in this incident. *Tripoli* went on to successfully conduct combat operations in the region and deploy Marines to help stop Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. For his distinguished service, Corporal Mote was awarded the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon.

After his time in the Marine Corps, Corporal Mote made it his mission to make a meaningful impact on our community. During Memorial Day, he regularly leads his family in planting flags at the gravesites of soldiers who perished in prior conflicts. Furthermore, Corporal Mote helps fundraise for Carry the Load, a veterans' charity that raises awareness of veteran issues and uplifts servicemembers, veterans, and first responders. For the past five years, he has also flown an American flag over the Highway 66 bridge connecting Rockwall and Rowlett to recognize those who served. Every morning, Corporal Mote checks the flag to ensure that it is proudly flying high. I commend his efforts to ensure that the sacrifices of our veterans will never be forgotten.

I am honored to represent Corporal Mote in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING MS. SHARON HODGE

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary advocate for our Nation's veterans and congratulate her on her retirement.

For 28 years, Sharon Hodge has left an indelible mark on the landscape of veterans' ad-

vocacy through her work with Vietnam Veterans of America.

As Deputy Director for Policy and Government Affairs, Sharon's expertise has guided critical legislative and regulatory strategies at the national level. Her counsel to myself and my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been invaluable, shaping policies that touched the lives of countless veterans.

Through her tireless efforts, she established a robust online advocacy network, enlisting over 2000 legislative coordinators and spearheaded numerous grassroots campaigns. Sharon's work facilitating this activism was instrumental in the enactment of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act, the Toxic Exposure Research Act, and the PACT Act.

Beyond her role at VVA, Sharon served as Commissioner for the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs, where her work led to the establishment of a crucial VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

Sharon Hodge's accolades are numerous, each one a testament to her compassion and tireless advocacy. From the VVA Commendation Medal to the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Brain Trust Award, her contributions have been recognized at the highest levels.

I thank Sharon for her decades of dedicated service to Vietnam Veterans of America and to our Nation. May her legacy inspire us all to champion the causes that matter most, to stand by our veterans, and to leave no one behind.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. LINDA K. MITROVICH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Linda K. Mitrovich. A critical member of the environmental community, Mrs. Mitrovich leaves behind an indelible legacy of service and dedication to environmental conservation, both within her community and around the world.

For over 30 years, Mrs. Mitrovich fought to protect our environment and ensure our beautiful natural landscapes are preserved for future generations. For 25 years, she served as President and Co-Founder of Solution Strategies, a firm that helps public- and private-sector clients create solutions and resolve conflicts for businesses, governments, communities, and the environment. Through her leadership in Solution Strategies, Mrs. Mitrovich was renowned for her unique ability to unite stakeholders with conflicting interests to achieve a common goal. Her unparalleled skills in policy negotiation, strategy development, and coalition building allowed her to accomplish critical milestones for the environmental community.

In 2013, Mrs. Mitrovich co-founded Preservation Ranch, LLC, an organization focused on supporting and furthering the goals of conservation programs that support local economies. Preservation Ranch later established a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, forming a groundbreaking pilot project that unites private and public lands under a conservation management program to directly benefit local communities.

In addition to Mrs. Mitrovich's work in the private sector, she was instrumental in the environmental regulation space at both the state and federal levels. Her experience in the environmental regulatory arena included work with some of our country's most essential environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

While exhibiting critical leadership in the environmental field, Mrs. Mitrovich also played a pivotal role in her local community. She served as City Councilwoman and Deputy Mayor of Poway, California, and served on numerous governmental boards and committees overseeing water in San Diego County and the state of California. She was also a Trustee of Whittier College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts, and her service to her community was recognized by the California State Government when she was honored as Woman of the Year by the State Senate and State Assembly.

Mrs. Mitrovich's enduring spirit will live on in her family and the legacy of her work to preserve our environment. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Mitrovich's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of California's 8th Congressional District, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR PETTY OFFICER JOHN OESTE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class John Oeste of Prosper, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His selfless service in the United States Navy is a remarkable testament of his desire to protect the country he loves.

PO3 Oeste hails from a military household and heeded the call to defend his nation after being inspired by multiple generations of service. His family served in the First World War, Second World War, and the Korean War. As such, he understood that the many freedoms we enjoy today come through sacrifices of the highest order. During his time in the Navy, PO3 Oeste served as a Master Helmsman and Flight Deck Landing Signalman on the USS *Fife*, a *Spruance*-class destroyer.

From sailing the Latin American seas to patrolling the dangerous Persian Gulf during the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Iran-Iraq War, PO3 Oeste helped assert the strength and dominance of the United States around the world. Moreover, he helped provide extensive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the people of Agalega Island, which suffered immensely during the 1983–84 cyclone season in the Indian Ocean. After his Naval service, PO3 Oeste completed his college education and met his wife, Patricia. Together, they raised two very successful children.

In his free time, PO3 Oeste teaches in his local church's pre-school classes during Sunday services. He and Patricia also help fundraise for underprivileged families and victims of domestic violence. These efforts will help to ensure that those facing difficult circumstances will not be overlooked. As a veteran, PO3 Oeste proudly goes the extra mile to show his appreciation for those who served. One of his longtime personal projects is to conduct research and present awards, medals, and pictures of fallen veterans to their family members. His ultimate goal is to share the untold story of these veterans to ensure that they will never be forgotten.

I am honored to represent PO3 Oeste in Texas' 4th Congressional District. I am privileged to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING DR. W.N. REED'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF NEW MOUNT MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to congratulate Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his fifty years of service and dedication to his congregation and to the community of Gary, Reverend Reed will be honored at a Pastoral Anniversary Celebration that will take place at New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Reverend Reed grew up in Brownsville, Tennessee, where he attended Carver High School. He went on to graduate from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, and served in the United States Army before accepting the call to the ministry. Reverend Reed was ordained in 1963 at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Brownsville. While in Tennessee, he served as Pastor of Saint John Baptist Church in Dancyville, as well as Macedonia Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Brownsville. In 1973, Reverend Reed became Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. Throughout his fifty years of leadership, the church has become a beacon of light and hope for the community of Gary and beyond. In 1998, the church added an administrative/education wing and a fellowship hall. Reverend Reed and the parishioners are proud of the church's thriving and active Sunday school programs, numerous ministries, and growing congregation.

During his tenure, Reverend Reed has given of his time and efforts to various organi-

zations and endeavors including the Baptist Ministers Conference of Gary and Vicinity, Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Convention of Indiana, New Era District Association, One Church One School Initiative, and the NAACP, to name a few. For his unwavering devotion to providing spiritual guidance and support to so many in need, Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed is worthy of the highest praise.

Reverend Reed's remarkable commitment to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his admiration for his amazing family. He and his wonderful wife, Rosetta, have raised two beloved sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. For his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others, he is truly an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ELLSWORTH "TONY" WILLIAMS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize veteran and hero, Major Tony Williams, who today will be inducted into the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame. Tony's exemplary service has made an unmistakable impact in the lives of countless Florida veterans.

Ellsworth 'Tony' Williams was born in Fort Hood, Texas as a dependent of a career Vietnam Army combat veteran before making the decision to join the U.S. Army himself, serving 24 years on active duty, eight as an enlisted soldier and sixteen as a commissioned officer.

Tony's service in the U.S. Army was marked by distinction. He was awarded a Bronze Star and three Meritorious Service Medals for his actions in Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Perhaps most remarkable, Mr. Speaker, is the care Tony displays to his community and fellow vets. After retiring in 2007, he returned to school to pursue graduate training in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Troy University.

After receiving his counseling degree, Tony made it his mission to help veterans struggling with their mental health, becoming a leading voice for veteran suicide prevention in his community. Tony established his nonprofit, Veterans Counseling Veterans, Inc., to provide counseling and emotional support to active duty, National Guardsmen, reservists, veterans and their families. Veterans Counseling Veterans also provides professional and career development support for those seeking a career in behavioral health.

Tony received several mental health counseling awards to include a 2014 National Award for Social Service from the American Mental Health Counseling Association. He sits on the Hillsborough Veterans Council, Florida Mental Health Counselor Association's Military Interest Committee, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's Regional Veterans Advisory Council and is the American Legion Post 5 Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee Chair.

Major Tony Williams says it's in his bones to help veterans and their families, and he believes his latest recognition from the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame is simply another 'assignment from God,' calling him to continue his good work.

I commend Major Williams for his sacrifices both in the U.S. Army and in his tireless efforts to help fellow Florida veterans. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR MAJOR JOHN MCDERMOTT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major John McDermott of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Major McDermott honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Cold War and the Global War on Terrorism.

Major McDermott was born in a military household, and his family's history of service dates back to the First World War. From a young age, he had a strong passion for aviation and military history. In 1986, Major McDermott enlisted in the Marine Corps and commissioned as an officer four years later. He served as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer and Plane Captain of an F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft. Major McDermott was responsible for flight safety protocols, aircraft readiness, and maintenance of numerous other aircraft such as the Harrier jump jet and KC-130 Hercules. His duties not only took him around the continental U.S., but also to Australia, Japan, and South Korea. During the Cold War, relations with the Soviet Union were highly contentious. Skilled officers like Major McDermott were tasked with supplying Hornets so they may patrol the skies over the Sea of Japan to counter Soviet and North Korean aggression in the region. For his service, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal among many others.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps in 2009, Major McDermott continued to make an impact on the community by working with the Civil Air Patrol. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the CW02 Randolph Marine Corps League Detachment, whose members volunteer in community service programs throughout Rockwall County. Major McDermott's lifelong knowledge of aerospace and defense issues has allowed him to continue his career with L3Harris in Greenville, Texas. Even in civilian service, he is steadfast in his commitment to safeguard our Nation. Major McDermott is married to his wife Karen, and they have three sons, two of whom are current cadets at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

I am honored to represent Major McDermott in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, each November, Americans commemorate Diabetes Awareness Month. This distinction comes after hundreds of medical advancements, thousands of tears, and millions of lives lost. Diabetes spares no one in its mission to disrupt lives. It feeds off our children as Type 1 diabetes and preys on adults and seniors as Type 2 diabetes, leaving one in ten Americans to contend with this condition.

Black Americans are 60 percent more likely to suffer this illness and its devastating complications, including heart, kidney, liver, eye, and neurological diseases. Healthcare accessibility, genetics, and food insecurity are strong determinants of health outcomes, and diabetes is no different. A community unable to access healthy food or preventative health care is severely disadvantaged.

All Americans with diabetes know the financial strain this disease brings. One dollar out of every \$4 in US healthcare costs goes towards diabetes care, leaving the average American with diabetes incurring \$12,022 in annual medical expenditures. Thankfully, Congressional Democrats recognize this crisis and passed the Inflation Reduction Act last year. The IRA took unprecedented steps to lower prescription drug costs and capped insulin prices at \$35 for seniors on Medicare. Now, millions of Americans can rest easy knowing they have reliable access to their lifesaving medication.

We all live within one degree of separation from this illness. My grandmother had it, a member of my staff has it, and this year 38,000 Missourians will receive a diabetes diagnosis. While Diabetes Awareness Month educates millions across the globe, we must take further action and cure this disease. I'm proud of the work President Biden and House Democrats continue taking to bring this reality closer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote on November 13, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643 and NAY on Roll Call No. 645.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT JAMES LARAMORE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant James "Jim" Laramore of

Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Laramore served in the United States Army Security Agency (ASA), in which he diligently worked day and night to defend our Nation.

Ever since he was a young man, Sergeant Laramore had a desire to serve his country and contribute to a greater cause. In 1966, he was one of two candidates in a large group that qualified for the ASA. It was up to individuals like Sergeant Laramore to secure intelligence and help our military agencies maintain an informational advantage over the Soviet Union. During that time, ASA personnel operated under strict, covert circumstances, and I am sure that Sergeant Laramore's contributions have made a real impact on our country.

Following his time in the Army, Sergeant Laramore returned home and served as a detective in several police departments. The investigative skills that he refined while serving abroad allowed him to work his way up the ladder until he was appointed Chief of Police for the Pampa Police Department in 1989. Afterwards, he became a criminal investigator for the Texas Railroad Commission and Parker Police Department, where he continues to serve today. When he can, Sergeant Laramore takes the opportunity to mentor junior officers and share a wealth of knowledge.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Laramore in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

IN MEMORY OF JUDY TAYLOR

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special woman, Judy Taylor, of Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Taylor passed away on October 12, 2023.

Judy Taylor was born in Louisville, Kentucky and grew up in New Mexico. She began a lobbying career in 1976 as a volunteer for the Kentucky Association of Older Persons. She also worked as a substitute teacher. As her career grew, she became Kentucky's first female contract lobbyist. She blazed a trail for other women in her profession and mentored many young women as well as men over the years. Judy was quite well known and well respected in Frankfort. The renown for Judy was so great that her Celebration of Life services were held in the House Chambers of the Kentucky Capitol.

Judy served as the Director of Government Affairs for Keeneland for over 30 years. She represented Keeneland and the equine industry, one of Kentucky's signature industries, quite well in Frankfort. She was well-loved by everyone at Keeneland, and she was known to many as simply "Judy from Keeneland". Judy had a great respect for law enforcement and served for many years as a board member for the Kentucky State Police Foundation. An excellent baker, she baked and shared thousands of cookies with those she encountered.

Judy Taylor was highly respected throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She was

a spirited woman of faith, kindness, and generosity. She enriched the lives of many Kentuckians, and she will be greatly missed. I am honored to call her my friend and to lift up her memory before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII VETERAN CHARLES "CHUCK" SHUMATE

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Charles Shumate who celebrated his 100th birthday this past weekend on November 11th and commend his outstanding service to our community and country. Mr. Shumate achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant during his time in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 and is also a very proud father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Charles enjoyed a long and illustrious career, working numerous jobs across the country. After his time in the Army, he spent time in the Air Force Reserves during which he also began working as a heavy equipment driver in Ohio and then as a factory worker. Charles later worked in data processing where he worked for both the government and in the private sector which took him to Sacramento County, where he eventually retired in 1982. He has resided there ever since.

Charles' life of service and dedication is commendable and worthy of recognition. I want to extend both my gratitude and my best wishes to Mr. Shumate for his lifelong commitment to our communities and our country. His commitment to the safety and betterment of our nation is remarkable. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Mr. Shumate for his outstanding work and wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT JAMES CLINE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant James "Jim" Cline of Plano, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Cline honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

At the onset of the Korean War, Sergeant Cline joined the Marines and was tasked with construction projects and refueling aircraft at Marine Corps Base Quantico. When he was assigned to Japan, he served as a truck driver and a rifle coach to ensure that Marines under his command were proficient in marksmanship. Eventually, Sergeant Cline was deployed to South Korea and specialized in Motor Transport. Here, he oversaw the maintenance and operation of military vehicles to ensure they were combat-ready at all times. For his service, Sergeant Cline was bestowed the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

When he returned to civilian life, Sergeant Cline experienced difficulties due to hearing loss from his time in the service. Nevertheless, he overcame these hardships using a good sense of humor and positivity, and he later raised a marvelous family with four children. Sergeant Cline worked in various labor and sales jobs before starting a business installing material handling equipment in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He is also a member of the Korean War Veterans Association and enjoys interacting with fellow veterans. I am proud of the work that Sergeant Cline has accomplished, and I commend him for his perseverance and humble dedication to defending our great Nation.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Cline in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEVE
RODVOLD

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Steven J. Rodvold, a lover of family, community, and photography, who passed away on October 27, 2023.

Steve was born on June 14, 1953, in Crosby, North Dakota. He spent his childhood in Fortuna and Crosby, during which he met lifelong friends, including his wife, Jeanine.

Steve valued education: after high school, he attended the North Dakota State College of Science, earned his journeyman's license, and completed a B.A. in Business Administration-Management from Minot State University, graduating summa cum laude.

In all aspects of his life, Steve was a people person. He found his career in human resources and generously gave his time as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, a Boy Scout cub den leader, and a volunteer at the Great Plain Food Bank, among other community organizations.

Steve loved his family dearly. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jeanine, their sons Zach (Emily) and Alex (Sara), and their grandchildren, as well as siblings, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Zach carried on Steve's legacy of giving back, serving as my District Chief of Staff for four years.

Steve's love of his family was apparent in his actions, as well as his words: on his LinkedIn profile, he proudly designated for himself the job title of "Grandpa" for the years following his retirement. As part of this important position, Steve declared himself to be an expert at "relaxing, reading, walking/hiking, biking, kayaking, putzing around the garage, traveling, watching movies, and whatever the hell else I feel like doing."

Steve liked to see the good in the world, especially the beauty around him. He supported and was involved in local arts institutions. As a photographer, he captured natural beauty, from sunsets over the Badlands to the changing of the seasons. As with his other pursuits, Steve did not keep his passion to himself, actively participating in the Fargo Moorhead Camera Club.

Steve lived a fulfilled life, and the lessons of it—to give something to community, take pleasure in loved ones, and remain in awe of the beauty in the people and places around us—will certainly continue to serve as a model for those whose lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing and live on through all who knew and loved him.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE GOLDMAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laurie Goldman, who passed away on September 11 of this year.

Laurie's dedication to the City of Los Angeles was formed at an early age as she came to appreciate its many landmark institutions. She watched the Beatles perform at the Hollywood Bowl, enjoyed ice cream at CC Brown's, and, at the tender age of six months, dined at Musso & Frank.

As a young girl, Laurie explored the City of Los Angeles; she absorbed its secrets, learned its rhythms, and took it upon herself to make it better. For more than four decades, Laurie volunteered her time and considerable energy to improve the lives of those in her community. She founded her first nonprofit, Youth for Cystic Fibrosis, while a student at Fairfax High School. Her commitment to helping those on the margins led to the creation of multiple nonprofit organizations over her lifetime.

Laurie's success in organizing her community around a common cause, in achieving consensus, and raising money, led to leadership roles in several of the City's most distinguished organizations. In addition to founding her own company, Go!, she served on the Board of Directors of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council, the Hollywood Chamber Community Foundation, and the Hollywood Arts Council. Ms. Goldman's long list of achievements include serving on the 1984 Olympics Governmental Relations Committee, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Getty House Foundation. In 2016, she was elected President of the Hollywood Media Business Improvement District where she was instrumental in furthering its mission of public safety and economic growth.

Her devotion to Hollywood's rich history fostered an appreciation for what is possible in the world. Laurie was an effective advocate, a tireless activist, and a much-revered urban visionary. It is, perhaps, in this last role that she will be best remembered. As President of Friends of the Hollywood Central Park, Laurie was committed to building a sustainable, green space on top of the congested 101 freeway. Completion of this ambitious project promises to deliver a more equitable future for stakeholders in community and commerce.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathy to Laurie's family, friends, and colleagues. We owe Laurie a debt of gratitude for her decades of contributions to the Los Angeles community. I ask all Members to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Laurie L. Goldman.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT GEORGE WOOD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant George Wood of Blossom, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Wood honorably served in the United States Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the Cold War.

Sergeant Wood heeded the call to defend his nation and joined the Army in 1973 shortly after the all-volunteer force military recruitment model was announced. At first, he trained as a loader on the M60A1 main battle tank, but quickly grew passionate about operating air defense systems. Eventually, Sergeant Wood was sent to West Germany in 1974 to provide a watchful eye over the skies of the East German border in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union. His efforts upheld democratic values and freedom in Western nations and safeguarded our NATO allies against Soviet aggression.

After his discharge from the Army in 1977, Sergeant Wood worked as a welder's apprentice at the Lone Star Steel Company and as a Maintenance Planner at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Since 2012, he has served as the Chairman of the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial Museum board. Under his leadership, the Museum raised over a million dollars to build a beautiful memorial to commemorate local veterans for their service. Sergeant Wood also serves as the President and a firefighter for the East Post Oak Volunteer Fire Department and the President of the Lamar Electric Cooperative. He is a life member of the Blackhorse Association, a nonprofit that unites servicemembers and veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. In this role, he helps fundraise to provide scholarships for children of Blackhorse Troopers who were killed or wounded in defense of our nation. Sergeant Wood is a devoted man of faith, and he regularly attends the Novice Baptist Church in Paris.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Wood in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE DAVID SCHEFFLER

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and admiration to celebrate David Scheffler, a member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2023. This distinct honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to his community in the years following his military service.

David's journey of public service began in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era. Afterwards, he returned home to Lancaster and

embarked on a career in finance. He passed the CPA examination and eventually retired as a highly respected partner at Plante Moran, a national certified public accounting and business advisory firm.

David has long been a pillar of his community. He has served as the Mayor of Lancaster since 2017, a position he continues to hold with honor. His dedication has extended to various state and local boards and committees, including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Destination Downtown Lancaster, the Ohio Mayor's Alliance, the Mid-Ohio Planning Commission, the Ohio Small Business Council, and the Fairfield County Airport Authority.

As Mayor, David has steered Lancaster through challenging times, including economic uncertainty arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. His decisive leadership was instrumental as he navigated his city through financial crises and fostered economic development.

At the age of 75, David Scheffler's continued dedication and contributions to his community inspire us all. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to David Scheffler as one of the newest members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and I thank him for his service to this country.

HONORING YUBA WATER AGENCY
UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE
HALLWOOD SIDE CHANNEL AND
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION
PROJECT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Yuba Water Agency upon its completion of the Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project. This outstanding achievement will safeguard local habitats and provide critical support to Yuba County's infrastructure.

Due to decades of hydraulic gold mining, the Yuba River has faced ecological challenges that harm native fish species, including the chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The innovative Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration project will restore fish habitats and reduce flood risk, reversing some of the most severe ecological challenges in the region.

This project has successfully enhanced and restored 157 acres of floodplain habitat, including 1.7 miles of new side channels and more than 6 miles of seasonally inundated side channels, alcoves, and swales. These investments in the Yuba River will benefit its wildlife species, preserving this local habitat for future generations and taking a critical step towards protecting our community's environment and natural resources.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Yuba Water Agency upon the completion of this essential project which will benefit Yuba River wildlife, the surrounding habitat, and the local community.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR PETTY OFFI-
CER DOUGLAS COMPTON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Douglas Compton of Royse City, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PO3 Compton honorably served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

When the United States conducted a draft, PO3 Compton was not one of those selected. However, he chose to serve his country and joined the Navy. PO3 Compton served on the USS *Chase County* (LST-491) tank landing ship as an engineman. His responsibilities included maintaining the ship's engine room and repairing broken parts to ensure that it is ready to go on combat missions at a moment's notice. For his service and contributions to the war effort, PO3 Compton was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and several other awards.

After his military service, PO3 Compton worked for Texas Instruments as a numerical control machinist. In this role, he helped produce critical parts for the American defense industry, including components for night vision devices, missiles, and cameras. His important work at Texas Instruments helped the United States maintain a competitive advantage in advanced weaponry and technology. Later, PO3 Compton worked with Halliburton as a machinist and manufacturing production planner. He retired after 41 years with Halliburton, and now focuses on spending time with his children and grandchildren.

PO3 Compton is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and helps raise awareness for veterans' issues. When called upon, he plays taps during memorial services for veterans at the Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall. He also plays in community bands around North Texas. I commend PO3 Compton for his continued efforts to ensure that the sacrifices of our Nation's veterans will be remembered for generations to come.

I am honored to represent PO3 Compton in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 13, 2023, I missed the votes due to a flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 643, YEA on roll call No. 644, and YEA on roll call No. 645.

HONORING MARJORIE MACRIS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marjorie Macris who passed away at the age of 88 on October 16, 2023. Ms. Macris was a beloved community leader in Marin County.

Born in Chicago and raised in the Midwest, Ms. Macris attended the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1956, where she received a degree in journalism and graduated co-salutatorian. The following year, she completed her master's degree in journalism and urban planning as one of only a few women in her class. After school, Ms. Macris worked for Chicago's planning department until 1969 when she moved to Marin County with her family.

Joining Marin County's planning department, she became the primary author of the county-wide plan adopted in 1973. This plan significantly impacted the landscape of the county, restricting urban development to the Highway 101 corridor and maintaining Marin's central and western areas for smaller communities, agriculture, and recreation. From 1978 to 1984, Ms. Macris oversaw the execution of this plan as the county planning director, encouraging new collaboration among cities, towns and unincorporated communities.

Beyond emphasizing inter-jurisdictional planning, Ms. Macris advocated for and prioritized environmental conservation. Many Marin leaders credit her with protecting the environment during a critical period of growth. And as one of the few women employed in urban planning at the time, she became a role model and mentor for other women.

Ms. Macris's commitment to conservation extended throughout her adult life and well beyond her employment with the County. She was a valued contributor to the Marin Conservation League, Sierra Club Marin Group, Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative, and Marin Baylands Advocates.

Ms. Macris was known by her colleagues for her wit and innovative thinking, and to her family and friends as a great adventurer. She traveled from Algeria to Pakistan and Patagonia, traversing desert and trekking through mountains. Ms. Macris also took up running and completed the Boston Marathon three times. She is survived by her brothers Roger Wiegand and David Wiegand; her daughter Natalie Macris; her granddaughter Charlotte Keilman-Macris; and her former husband Dean Macris.

Mr. Speaker, Marjorie Macris was a dedicated public servant and active community leader who left an enduring legacy in Marin County. I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Ms. Macris's family and friends and in expressing my appreciation for her decades of good work.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR PETTY OFFICER CHARLES RUSSO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer First Class Charles Russo of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PO1 Russo honorably served in the United States Navy during the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism.

PO1 Russo has always been drawn to a career in public service. He began his Navy career in 1990 onboard the USS *Wisconsin* battleship and the USS *Papago* ocean tug before advancing to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Here, PO1 Russo worked as an Intelligence Specialist and Special Security Officer with a focus in counterterrorism. Eventually, he was selected to serve as an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Officer. PO1 Russo's work helped to strengthen and expand our intelligence community's efforts to investigate terrorism. For his exceptional service, PO1 Russo was awarded multiple Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Service Medal with "M" device, and many others.

After his discharge in 2000, PO1 Russo was compelled to return to public service after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our Nation. As a Navy Reservist, he was mobilized to assist in constructing secure rooms capable of handling sensitive information. He also had the opportunity to brief the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters related to the Afghanistan War. For many years after being discharged, PO1 Russo has continued to serve our nation in various capacities. After some time in defense contracting, he became an FBI Intelligence Analyst. In this role, he investigates white-collar crime, researches terrorist explosive devices, and fills intelligence gaps where they are needed. I commend PO1 Russo's lifelong efforts to safeguard our national security and protect those who cannot defend themselves. His selfless service has been nothing short of outstanding.

I am honored to represent PO1 Russo in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING MICHAEL D. COLE
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE STATE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Cole upon his retirement from the United States Department of State after 22 years of service.

Mike embarked on his foreign service journey in 2001. Since then, his service has extended from Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. to U.S. Embassies and Consulates in Abuja, Bangkok, Budapest, Mumbai, San Salvador, and Vienna.

Mike assumed the role of Director of the Los Angeles Passport Agency in September 2020, facing head-on the arduous challenges and travel restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As international travel has resumed in the years since, Mike's leadership in Los Angeles was critical in the agency's return to pre-pandemic productivity, processing passports for nearly three-quarters of a million U.S. citizens during his time as Director. In this position, Mike was a reliable, affable, and professional partner to my District Office as caseworkers processed passport case-work brought to them by my constituents. Mike and his team provided prompt and satisfactory guidance in navigating these often tricky and changing requests.

Mike's dedication to public service is further exemplified by his service in the Consular Corps, where he has utilized his experience and expertise to mentor the next generation of Consular Officers. His work to assist U.S. citizens during crises, offer support in disaster relief, aid bereaved families, and protect vulnerable children stand as a testament to his commitment to the American people domestically and abroad.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mike for his service to our constituents of the 39th Congressional District and our country, and I wish him a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 599, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1607, I would have voted Yea. On Roll Call No. 600, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 359, I would have voted Yea. On November 9, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 641, agreeing to Tenney Amendment No. 100, I would have voted No. On Roll Call No. 642, agreeing to Tenney Amendment No. 101, I would have voted No.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT
BLAINE KLEIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Blaine Klein of Josephine, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Klein honorably served in the United States Army during the Iraq War.

At the age of 18, Sergeant Klein followed his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Army in defense of our nation. His duties took him across the continental U.S., and later to Iraq and Korea. In Iraq, Sergeant Klein served as a Human Intelligence Collector and managed teams of intelligence sources to strengthen the Army's informational capabilities throughout

the region. In one instance, he saved the lives of his teammates who were involved in a roll-over accident that put all of their lives at risk. Sergeant Klein prioritized others around him and helped bring them to safety at great personal risk. For his distinguished service, he was bestowed the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and many more awards.

After returning to civilian life, Sergeant Klein has continued to positively influence his community while overcoming his service-related disabilities. He is no stranger to helping others. On a number of occasions, Sergeant Klein has stopped to assist those involved in vehicle accidents or medical emergencies. I commend him for continuing to be an upstanding role model for his community and family.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Klein in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, 2023, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1105—Debbie Smith Act; H.R. 593—To rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic"; and the Motion to Refer the Resolution Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 643; YEA on Roll Call No. 644; and YEA on Roll Call No. 645.

RECOGNIZING RON SAPP'S 24
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF FERNANDINA BEACH

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Ron Sapp for his decades of dedication and service to Fernandina Beach. Mayor Sapp's 24 years of civic service as Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioner spanned four decades and displayed an unwavering commitment to bettering our hometown of Fernandina Beach. I was proud to serve alongside him on the Commission, as did my father.

Fernandina is proud of Ron Sapp not only because of his dedication to his community, but also for his military service as an Air Force veteran. But no true biography of Ron would be complete without a chapter on Mr. Sapp—the teacher. Mr. Sapp didn't just teach students what to think, he taught them how to think, and that is something special. Generations of Pirates developed an interest in—and love for—public service—and for that inspiration, we are grateful.

Mayor Ron Sapp sought to preserve the spirit of Fernandina Beach as a small island town and is a better place because of his accomplishments. Ron, of course, has done all these things with his wife Kasey by his side, and with the support of his daughters Sherril and Lori, and the love of his grandchildren.

On November 14, one of Mayor Sapp's greatest achievements is being named after him: The Ron Sapp Egans Creek Greenway. Mayor Sapp's introduction of the Open Space Bond issue secured the funding for this greenway, which will leave this land untouched by development to be enjoyed by all.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mayor Ron Sapp for his significant role in shaping Fernandina Beach into the beautiful town it is today.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR LIEUTENANT AMY BURTON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Amy Burton of Paris, Texas, and award her a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Burton honorably served in the United States Navy during the Afghanistan War.

Lieutenant Burton heeded the call of duty to serve her nation after narrowly avoiding a terrorist attack in Spain that claimed the lives of several American servicemembers. Shortly after this tragedy, she enlisted in the Navy. From 1988 to 2012, Lieutenant Burton provided dental services and training to troops. Her duties took her around the world, including Sheppard Air Force Base, Camp Stone, Afghanistan, and Yokosuka, Japan. In 2007, Lieutenant Burton served onboard the USS *Bonhomme Richard* assault ship as the Medical Administration Officer. Her efforts helped ensure the troops under her supervision received adequate dental and medical care. For her outstanding service, Lieutenant Burton was bestowed several Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, multiple Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and many more awards.

Following her retirement in 2012, Lieutenant Burton has continued to make a tremendous

impact in her community in numerous ways. She worked with her local Department of Veteran Affairs to aid homeless veterans, assist in benefits claims, and provide important workforce training. Lieutenant Burton also volunteers with Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial to uplift and support those who made sacrifices in defense of our Nation.

Through her remarkable leadership and compassion for those in need, I am confident that Lieutenant Burton has improved the lives of many veterans. I commend her for going the extra mile so that our men and women in uniform will never be overlooked.

I am honored to represent Lieutenant Burton in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award her the Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, caused by a fall in front of the Capitol steps which required emergency medical care, I missed several votes on October 26, 2023. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 558; YEA on Roll Call No. 557; NAY on Roll Call No. 556; NAY on Roll Call No. 555; NAY on Roll Call No. 554; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 551; NAY on Roll Call No. 550; NAY on Roll Call No. 549; NAY on Roll Call No. 548; and NAY on Roll Call No. 547.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643; YEA on Roll Call No. 644; and NAY on Roll Call No. 645.

OPPOSING AMENDMENT 109 TO H.R. 5894

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to Amendment 109 which imposes a cap of 30 percent of the total grant on all facilities and administrative, or F&A, costs for research awards made by the National Institutes of Health.

F&A costs help keep the lights on at research facilities across the country. These costs are essential reimbursements for operational expenses incurred by universities and other research institutions for conducting research on behalf of the government. This amendment would greatly affect the ability of research institutions to operate cutting-edge laboratories and maintain utilities such as heating or hazardous waste disposal.

This amendment would reduce critical scientific research that directly contributes to our ability to save lives and reducing suffering for the communities we serve. Most medical breakthroughs were federally supported and took place at medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other research institutions across the country. Without the federal government's reimbursement of F&A costs, institutions would be forced to scale back research that may help develop the next vaccine or cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other health threats, or the next technological innovation that will create new businesses or medical devices.

As a result of these cuts, Americans will have to wait longer for cures and our country will cede scientific breakthroughs to foreign competitors such as China, which is heavily investing in this space. This would undermine our nation's economic competitiveness and erode the United States' longstanding commitment to medical research that has yielded countless benefits to society and our well-being.

In summary, cutting essential F&A costs for scientific research would result in slower scientific progress, longer waits for cures, fewer jobs, and a threat to our nation's economic competitiveness. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.