

During World War II, the 123rd Observation Squadron patrolled the skies of the Pacific Northwest protecting our nation.

Several years later Oregon Air National Guard pilots continued to serve our nation by flying over one thousand combat missions during the Korean War.

As the Cold War took shape, the Citizen Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard stood up to protect the Pacific Northwest. Since 1958, they have been on air defense alert twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week patrolling the skies from northern California to the Canadian border.

On September 11, 2001, the citizen-airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard were among the first in the air. After ensuring the security of our homeland they again went overseas to provide vital support to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Seventy-five years after their founding the Oregon Air National Guard continues to protect the skies of the Pacific Northwest, support our Nation's mission abroad, and stand ready to provide disaster relief for the great state Oregon and our Nation.

Today the Oregon Air National Guard is made up of 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, and the Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Oregon.

Oregonians are proud of the hallowed legacy of our citizen airmen and airwomen. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard and honoring those who have and continue to serve their country and the great state of Oregon.

HONORING DAMIAN MURRIEL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Damian Murriel.

It sounds strange, but owning and operating a funeral home has been a childhood dream for Mr. Damian Murriel—at least it has been ever since he started working in the business.

Damian Murriel began his first job in a funeral home at the age of 16. Then a sophomore in high school, Damian Murriel performed various custodial services at Cook's Funeral Home. When he graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1994 he left for Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science. Two years later after he completed his schooling and became a licensed funeral director and embalmer, he began traveling, doing internships and apprenticeships in other states, including brief stints in Illinois and Indiana. In 2000 he left for a job as funeral director of Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home in Atlanta, Georgia, where the wake for TLC's Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes was held.

On April 17, 2003 Damian Murriel's life-long dream to own and operate a funeral home became a reality. "I never lost sight of what I was pursuing." Damian Murriel said. "I want to clean up the area and enhance the community with the funeral home." Murriel said. Murriel's motto is: "Serving Families in Their Time of Need." He is a member of the Mississippi Funeral Directors and Morticians Association.

RETIREMENT OF WALTER G.
WARGACKI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Walter G. Wargacki—the great Mayor of Wallington, NJ—who celebrated his retirement on April 1, 2016.

Walter Gerald Wargacki, Jr. was born on April 26, 1938, to Walter John Wargacki and Mary Dancsisin Wargacki. His service to the public began as early as 1965 when he joined the Wallington Fire Department, Park Roe Hose Company #3. He eventually was promoted to the rank of Fire Chief in 1986 for his outstanding service in the line of duty.

Yet, his service to the public was not limited to emergency services. In the same year he joined the Wallington Fire Department, he was also elected to the Wallington Board of Education where he eventually served as Board President for three terms. During his tenure, he led the way in evaluating accreditation for the Township's high school system. Furthermore, he planned the renovation and replacement of the century-old Lincoln School. Mr. Wargacki's dedication to this task was no less exemplary than his outstanding service as a fire fighter.

Upon completion of his tenure as Fire Chief and as a member of the Board of Education, Mr. Wargacki served proudly as the Mayor of Wallington for over 24 years. Through his hard work and dedication, he improved the Township of Wallington both aesthetically and communally. For instance, he oversaw the construction of new parks and recreation areas such as Liberty Crossing Park and Centennial Field. Undoubtedly, these and other initiatives helped create the welcoming environment for families that Wallington is known for today.

Furthermore, he designated a newly constructed facility for the Wallington Emergency Squad—a testament to his years of service and dedication to emergency services. Indeed, under his leadership, the Township of Wallington has been in extraordinarily capable hands, and his leave from office will not go unnoticed amongst members of the community.

I have the great honor of representing the residents of Wallington in Congress and it gives me great pride to recognize one of their native sons who has spent his life serving the public. I can say with personal knowledge that Walt is not only a good leader, but also a good friend—the kind who can be counted on both in good times and in bad times.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of public servants such as Mayor Walter G. Wargacki of Wallington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, denizens of Wallington, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mayor Walter G. Wargacki.

CONGRATULATING RONALD AND
BARBARA MCCALL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ronald and Barbara McCall of Mountain Grove, Missouri on receiving this year's Century Farm Award. Receiving this honor is no easy task, and the McCalls have exemplified hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the community throughout their lives. The McCall family originally purchased the farm 101 years ago on February 11, 1915.

Qualifying to be a Century Farm is a great feat. The farm must be in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and the original tract of land has to be more than 40 acres. These farms represent an important part of American heritage, feeding generations upon generations and greatly improving the quality of life of Missourians. Their integrity and determination serve as a prime example for farmers across the nation.

I applaud the hard work and achievements of the McCalls and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future. It is my pleasure to recognize the McCalls before the House of Representatives.

HONORING FRANCIS HARTY

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Francis Harty for his positive contributions to our community.

Francis was born and raised in Westerleigh, Staten Island. He graduated from Port Richmond High School and went on to work at Procter and Gamble Co. Francis has been married to his high school sweetheart, Betty, for almost sixty-one years, and they have three children together.

When Francis' son wanted to join the Cub Scouts, he also joined the Boy Scouts at the Messiah Lutheran Church. He served twenty-seven years as Scoutmaster and had one hundred Eagle Scouts in Group Eight. Francis retired as Scoutmaster in 2000, but continued to work on all District events, as well as the Council Dinner and the Fall Outing. Francis held several positions on the District Committee and the Staten Island Council. He has had an extensive influence on the programs by being heavily involved in various training programs that lay the foundations for the Boy Scouts organization's programs.

Francis has been awarded many honors to recognize his services. He has received the Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, the Ten Mile River Award, The Good Scout Award, the Paul Intermediate School Service to Youth Award, and the Staten Island Museum Circle of Friends for Youth Volunteerism in 1994.

Outside of scouting, Francis was the Vice President for the Have a Heart Foundation for twenty-four years. He helps run the annual Golf Outing and the five kilometer race to raise funds for patients with therapy needs

and parents with large medical insurance bills for their children. Due to the foundation's affiliation with the Staten Island Children's Campaign, he also works on their events including Breakfast with Santa. Additionally, Francis managed and coached in the South Shore Little League and the Babe Ruth League.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Harty's dedication to providing a role model for youth and positively impacting his community is remarkable. I thank him for all of his hard work and I am proud to honor this great man who has been such a strong influence on the residents of Staten Island.

HONORING STEVE CASTRO

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robstown baseball coach Steve Castro, who passed away in October of last year.

Steve Castro was a pillar of the community who taught baseball to hundreds of kids from 1975 to 2010 at Robstown High School. Castro taught more than the game of baseball; he taught his team the meaning of hard work and the meaning of teamwork.

Under Castro's coaching, the Robstown baseball team drew crowds of more than 3,000 people. He brought families and friends together every time there was a game.

In 2014, Castro was entered into the Texas High School Baseball Association Hall of Fame, the fifth Hispanic coach to receive the honor.

This year's Cotton Picker Baseball season will be officially dedicated to the man who brought fans and players together for 35 years.

Steve Castro will be remembered as a legend by the students he taught and the families he brought together every night for a game.

HONORING SARAH HUSBY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Ms. Husby for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates like Ms. Husby. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists

for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Ms. Husby to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

HONORING MILTON GASTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable civil servant, Mr. Milton Gaston.

Born in Hollandale, Mississippi, Milton Gaston was nurtured and reared by his parents, the late James and Luella Gaston, in Glen Allen, Mississippi. He is the seventh born of eleven children to his parents. Gaston proudly admits that his parents reared them to be a close-knit family and his siblings and he remain so today.

Milton Gaston was educated in the Glen Allen Public Schools.

Understanding the meaning of family as so taught by his parents, Mr. Gaston met and married Ms. Alice Watts. To their union, six (6) children and ten (10) grandchildren are being shaped for this most extraordinary world.

To support his family, Mr. Gaston began work with the Washington County Sheriff's Department on January 20, 1986 under the leadership of the late Sheriff Harvey Tackett, Sr. In July of that same year, Milton Gaston, Sr., became the only civilian sent to the Jackson Police Academy in Jackson, Mississippi to be certified and deputized under Sheriff Tackett's administration. Because of his work ethics, Greenville Optimist Club named him as Deputy Sheriff of the year in 1989.

On November 3, 2003, Washington County elected Milton Gaston, Sr. as Sheriff of Washington County, Mississippi. At the age of 42, he was the first African American in this county to hold this distinguished position. County Court Chancellor Vernita King-Johnson swore him in on January 5, 2004 to uphold this position to serve and protect the citizens of Washington County, Mississippi. Currently, Sheriff Gaston is in his third term, serving more than twenty-nine (29) years in law enforcement with a plethora of training on the state and federal level. Additionally, he has initiated and over-

seen a Juvenile Justice Intervention/Prevention Program that was developed to rebuild at risk youth between the ages of 12–15. The program was called "Biggest S.U.C.C.E.S.S.," which is an acronym for Students Unanimously Conceiving Confidence & Excellence in Skills and Success. The program was grant funded for one year. Currently, under his leadership, the TRIAD of Washington County was established in 2012. This organization is comprised of senior citizens working with law enforcement to address their safety needs in the community. It is also state funded and has been approved for the current year's funding.

Sheriff Gaston's staff is comprised of approximately 120 people between Washington County Sheriff's Department and Washington County Regional Correctional Facility—all of whom he requires to help make Washington County, Mississippi a safe place for all of its citizens.

As if he is not constantly busy enough, Sheriff Gaston devotes his time and servitude as a member of New Hope First Baptist Church, Vice-President of the Usher Board, a member of the male choir, a member of the 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta, a member of the Lake Vista Masonic Lodge Number 46, a member of the Serene Lodge Number 567, a member of the NAACP, and a board member of the Boy's and Girl's Club.

Yet, after committing himself to all of this, his Lord, his family, his career, and his affiliations, he still manages to conceive other ingenious ideas to help citizens in our area. He is indeed, "The Peoples' Sheriff," and he considers it a pleasure to serve the citizens of Washington County, Mississippi by striving to make it a safer place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Milton Gaston for his dedication to serving others and giving back to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROOSTERTAIL AND MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF CREATING MEMORIES AND STORIES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tom and Diane Schoenith who today are observing fifty years of memories, entertainment and stories at their beloved Roostertail, a well-known institution in Southeast Michigan for gathering people of all walks of life for performances, concerts, celebrations, remembrances, rituals and traditions. Unique, colorful and with a special style carrying this couple through the decades, Tom and Diane have distinctive personas combined with big hearts and caring souls that have made them a memorable part of Detroit's and Michigan's history.

Since its opening in 1958, the Roostertail became a gathering place for people to celebrate important occasions; events of all kinds that created incredible memories as people gathered for concerts, boat races, premieres, charity events, nightclub evenings, weddings, anniversaries, galas, jubilees, birthdays, elections, solemn moments . . . special occasions of all kinds. People from the region and the