

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KENNETH WARREN LEE WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Kenneth Warren Lee, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His hard work and dedication epitomize the best of East Texas values.

Kenneth Lee enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 when only eighteen years old. His 6 years of honorable active duty set the stage for a lifetime of service. Ken completed Instructors Orientation School, Military Police School, and a Criminal Investigation course—and was deployed to Viet Nam. He was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (2 Stars), Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/device), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Ken left the Corps as a Staff Sergeant in 1969. He married Judy, the love of his life, and they began building the life they still share. Using his military training and experience, Ken immediately went to work for the Dallas Police Department. In 1975 he transitioned to the DEA, retiring in 1999. His “retirement” was short lived: Ken served with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Security Threat Groups from 1999 to 2005, where he conceived the Gang Renouncement and Disassociation program still utilized today.

Ken is a lifetime member and leader of the VFW and active in the American Legion. He is Board President of the H.E.A.R.T.S. (Helping Every American Remember Through Serving) Veterans Museum of Texas in Huntsville. Working with other volunteers, Ken helped the museum grow from its infancy to its current permanent home—and has done it all—from setting up displays to giving tours and cleaning up at the end of a long day. After hosting the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, and with personal inspiration and leadership, Ken led fundraising to build an 80 percent scale version of the Wall, in permanent tribute to our Texas Vietnam veteran heroes. Ken also leads H.E.A.R.T.S. outreach, assisting veterans with transportation, coordinating medical appointments, home modifications, groceries, and everything in between.

He has served as President of the Texas Narcotics Officer Association. Ken and Judy both assist with Vacation Bible School, and Ken serves on the church security team. This tireless couple often supports many other community organizations and clubs.

I proudly commend Kenneth Warren Lee of Huntsville to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his enduring service to the Corps and community with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the title of a Gold Star Family is an honor that no family wants. You see, Mr. Speaker, this title is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty, and it honors the service member's ultimate sacrifice while acknowledging their family's loss, grief, and continued healing.

Today, I rise to salute the 14 Gold Star Families that were honored in Jacksonville, Florida on Sunday, August 24, 2023.

The phrase “Gold Star Family,” dates back to World War I, when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The star's color would be changed to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war.

Today, and every day, we hold dear those who have answered the dreaded knock at the door, accepted Old Glory folded with crisp edges, and tearfully spoken their final farewell. Members of a Gold Star Family bear the absence of their fallen hero proudly. They deserve our respect and support for their determination to preserve the memories of those brave American warriors who sacrificed their lives in service to this great Nation.

Gold Star Families find the courage and conviction to press on, transforming their heartbreak into hope, service, and outreach to veteran groups and other military families coping with the same unimaginable loss. It is their ability to endure, overcome, and in turn enrich the lives of others that exemplifies the true American Spirit.

When service members serve, they don't do it alone. Their spouses, children, parents, siblings, and loved ones are a vital part of our country's military community and history.

On this solemn day, we recognize and honor the Gold Star Families of heroes who never made it back home.

We will remember them when we say our prayers, support them in our deeds, and today, we join them in honoring their hero's ultimate sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING BILL AND WENDY WUSTENBERG AND WIND-SWEPT HILL FARM & STUDIO

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill and Wendy Wustenberg and Windswept Hill Farm & Studio as the 2023 Dakota County, Minnesota Family Farm of the Year.

Bill and Wendy Wustenberg spent the last 33 years restoring 12 acres of fallow pastures into a productive place to raise kids, invest in sustainable living, and grow Bill's medical device consulting business, Mycroft Medical, LLC. A key partnership with Northfield Wi-Fi solved rural internet access problems and allowed the business to stay home-based and expand internationally with flexibility for family and community involvement.

Their farm is designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and just ended a Minnesota Department of Agriculture Sustainable Ag Demonstration Farm grant. They are home to a flock of Leicester Longwool Sheep, produce USDA-processed chicken and lamb, have a hydroponic GroShed to produce vegetables, herbs, and microgreens year-round, and produce solar energy under a co-generation contract with Dakota Electric.

It is truly an honor to represent the Wustenberg family and I'm thankful for their advocacy for conservation and sustainable agriculture.

RECOGNIZING JASON L. BRADFORD WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present Jason L. Bradford of Nacogdoches, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to this Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

Jason enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1994 and was assigned to the Fourth Marine Division in Galveston, Texas. In 1996 Jason graduated from Sam Houston State University and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Reserve Officer. In December 1996, he accepted a regular commission into the USMC as an Active Duty Officer. When honorably discharged in 2004, Jason held the rank of Captain and served as a Light Armored Officer. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, the Rifle Expert Badge, the Pistol Sharpshooter Badge, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Letter of Appreciation (2), Meritorious Mast, and Recruiter Ribbon.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Jason became the owner of Nacogdoches Sheet Metal, Plumbing, and A/C, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He recruited and trained former U.S. service members who are now part of a cohesive, dedicated company team meeting the plumbing, air conditioning, and sheet metal needs in the Deep East Texas area.

Jason is a “True Patriot”—having honorably served his country in uniform, he now tirelessly supports his community. He is a lifetime member of the USMC League and has been

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

a member of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club for the past 15 years. During the winter storm of 2021, Jason assisted the Veterans County Service officer of Nacogdoches in helping disabled veterans who had been without water and electricity for several days. Most recently, Jason established the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the families of veterans and first responders of Nacogdoches County, who have been killed or injured in the line of duty, by providing direct financial assistance with funds for school, training, or other unmet needs.

A dedicated husband and father of 2, Jason has been a sponsor and coach in the Nacogdoches Boys Youth Baseball Association for the past 6 years.

It is my honor to award Jason L. Bradford of Nacogdoches, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WICHITA
STATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR
MELVIN KAHN

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wichita State Emeritus Professor Melvin Kahn, who sadly passed away this month at the age of 92.

For over 5 decades, Professor Kahn served as one of Wichita State's most highly acclaimed political science professors. Along with authoring 2 books on complex case studies in political science, Professor Kahn received many accolades and honors throughout his academic career. He received the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, the WSU Mortar Board Teaching Recognition Award in 2012, the WSU Academy of Excellence Teaching Award in 2007, Carnegie Foundation Kansas Professor of the Year in 1989, and the Regents' Award for Excellence in Teaching, WSU, in 1982. Further, Professor Kahn and his wife Joan also founded the Joan & Melvin Kahn Native American Indian Scholarship, which is given to a Native American student who exhibits a successful high school performance, college potential, leadership qualities, and financial need.

Beyond the awards and recognition he received, Professor Kahn's legacy is also the hundreds of students he inspired to pursue careers in public service. Through the Robert J. Dole Internship Program, Professor Kahn assisted students in finding meaningful internships and enhancing their education by serving their community at the federal, state, and local levels. I am proud to have had the privilege of employing several of these bright young Kansans in my office.

Professor Kahn firmly believed that, in the words of Aristotle, "the mind is a fire to be lit and not a vessel to be filled," and the true measure of a teacher is challenging students' minds and encouraging them to go out and see the world on their own. He will be missed by all who knew him, and his memory will go on in those he inspired.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "COACH"
DOUGLAS WILLIAM SHANKS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Douglas William Shanks. "Coach" Shanks passed away on September 4, 2023. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Doug was born in Soso, Mississippi, to Fred and Frances Shanks of Taylorsville. He grew up in Gulfport and Jackson, graduating from Provine High School. He attended Mississippi State University and later graduated from Liberty University.

Beginning in his twenties, Doug was involved in politics in Jackson, becoming the first Republican Commissioner for the city of Jackson in 1973. He was instrumental in the rise of the Mississippi Republican Party in the 1970s and helped to lead Republican causes throughout Jackson.

As City Commissioner he oversaw the fire department, police department, and sanitation. Doug also was an important figure for the continuation of racial reconciliation in Jackson and across Mississippi through his work as Commissioner by bringing on many African Americans to work in different City departments.

Shanks was also instrumental in bringing the Mets to Jackson and helped to establish Smith-Wills Stadium. Even greater than Doug's love of politics was his love and passion for baseball. Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame baseball coach Hill Denson said of Shanks, "Doug loved baseball and he lived it. Mississippi baseball is a whole lot better because of Doug Shanks." Doug coached baseball at every level, coaching high school, Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and American Legion ball. As the head coach of Hartfield Academy, Doug won 3 MAIS baseball championships. Doug was also the first white head baseball coach in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Doug coached Mississippi Valley State University for 15 years and won 5 SWAC championships.

Doug will be missed by his family, friends and players whose lives he touched during his time with us. The state of Mississippi and the lives of many athletes, family members, and loved ones whom Doug impacted are forever changed. I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of Doug Shanks. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Doug Shanks' tremendous contributions to his community, state, and Nation.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT MARK ANTHONY LEE,
USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee, of Pflugerville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is

a privilege to salute an exemplary soldier and citizen.

Born at Harlingen Air Force Base, Texas, retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Lee literally grew up in the Air Force. Enlisting in 1979, nineteen-year-old Mark Lee began his own journey, serving in multiple roles and special assignments in Electronic Security Command, including Air Force Cryptologic Support Center, Space Systems, U2 Black Cat Reconnaissance, Space Shuttle, Minuteman missile, and other electronic warfare programs. His numerous awards included NCO of the Year. Transferred to 36th Fighter Air Base, Germany, as Wing Materials Management Officer, supporting four squadrons of F-15 Eagle Fighter Aircraft and 10,000 base personnel, Mark led all Europe with aircraft highest mission readiness, and was selected to represent USAF Europe in developing and implementing new Air Force Supply Management directives and training.

Transferred to Lackland Air Force Base as Materials Management Officer, Mark's expertise saved millions of dollars and thousands of labor hours. His final transfer was to Randolph Air Force Base as Chief, Regional Aircraft Logistics, functionally managing over thirteen Logistics Groups, and coordinating with Engine Repair facilities to ensure requisition, repair, and delivery to production—resulting in 100 percent mission readiness. Mark deployed with Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, and Northern Watch. He earned the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal-3, Air Force Commendation Medal-4, Air Force Achievement Medal, Armed Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal-2, and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Retiring in 1998, Mark is a mainstay of community support—especially for young people and those in need. He helped local FFA students with funding, transportation, and animal maintenance. For eight years he has worked establishing a meals account for children at a local elementary school. Mark regularly collects and distributes food to low-income families and organizes annual Food Pantry drives. Mark raises and donates funds for children with cancer and people in need and helps maintain the local cemetery. Recognized by the Pflugerville Police Department for Outstanding Service to the Community, he is the 2nd Vice Commander of Kerlin-Lyerly American Legion Post 154, and a recipient of its Certification of Appreciation (2016-2022) and 2023 Legionnaire of the Year.

I am honored to award retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING CONSERVATION
BEYOND BORDERS

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Conservation Beyond Borders and support their mission to combat illegal poaching. Their work helps to also combat other illicit activities including the trafficking of humans, arms, and narcotics across the globe.

I am proud that this important organization is led by an outstanding Minnesotan, Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink. I'm especially grateful for

the approach Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Benjamin-Fink take to incorporate rural communities that live alongside wildlife into their work.

I commend Conservation Beyond Borders for their tireless work and advocacy to ensure wildlife across the world have the opportunity to flourish. I look forward to continuing to work with Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink.

RECOGNIZING AGEISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, October 7th, as Ageism Awareness Day. Ageism Awareness Day provides us all with an opportunity to recognize the existence and impact of ageism in our country.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which medicine and technology can allow individuals to live long and full lives. As society begins to grow older, however, too many individuals experience ageism, or stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination based on age.

Ageism is the most widespread and socially accepted form of prejudice. It can be found throughout society, from our workplaces to our health systems to stereotypes broadcast in the media. Not only is ageism harmful in and of itself, but it also exacerbates many of the other "isms", including racism, sexism, and ableism, which compound and worsen mental and physical health outcomes for affected individuals.

I am proud to represent Southern Nevada, a place that has long been a welcoming home to nearly 375,000 seniors. They enrich our community tremendously, and their value should not be diminished by undue prejudice and discrimination. Organizations such as Nevada Senior Services provide essential services to individuals across Southern Nevada as they age and ensure that aging is not viewed with fear or hostility. Nevada Senior Services not only operates the Adult Day Care Centers of Las Vegas and Henderson, but also Caregiver Support Programs, Respite and Personal Care, RAMP Home Modifications, Hospital 2 Home Assistance, and the Care Partner Institute.

I applaud and support the goals and ideals of Ageism Awareness Day which sheds light on the plight of many individuals and brings the Nation together to promote acceptance and appreciation of the gifts of aging persons. I thank all the family members, professionals, and volunteers who assist aging individuals every day and help fight the stigma of ageism.

RECOGNIZING SOCS (SEAL), DAVID A. KNESEK, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired SOCS (SEAL) David A.

Knesek, USN, of Cameron, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Born in Texas, retired SEAL Senior Chief Knesek wanted only to serve his country as the "best of the best." Enlisting in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program, David earned a Criminal Justice degree from Blinn College in 1994. Passing SEAL boot camp later that year, he graduated in August 1995 from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training at Coronado, CA with Class 200, one of only 8 of 140 candidates not failing a training segment. Assigned to SEAL Team Eight, David earned his trident and deployed to the Mediterranean in 1996, attached to the USS *Austin*. He remained at SEAL Team Eight for five years, deploying as an Ordnance Department Head to Germany in the NATO Bosnian Campaign, and with a 2000 STRIKE platoon to the Persian Gulf attached to the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

His eight SEAL deployments included instructor, protection, defense, and combat assault missions. With SEAL Team Two, he deployed twice to Baghdad, Iraq and twice to Ramadi, Iraq (including integrating 63 special operations personnel into a combat team completing 54 combat operations). In 2010 he took an instructor billet with Naval Special Warfare Group 2—but following 9/11, was asked to volunteer to take his SEAL Team Two Golf platoon to Afghanistan as Leading Chief Petty Officer. David remained with SEAL Team Two until retiring in 2014. His military honors include: 2 Bronze Star Medals with Valor, a Bronze Star Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Services Commendation Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal.

In 2015 David joined FTW Ranch in Barksdale, Texas, a preeminent marksman-ship school training U.S. military and law enforcement groups, and hunters. A lead instructor, David uses his training to develop tactical skills in law enforcement personnel, and better and safer hunters. He has served as a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach. He shares personal safety and situational awareness knowledge with his local volunteer fire department and other organizations. David spends many hours sharing outdoors and hunting knowledge with young people and making Veterans Day presentations in local schools.

It is my honor to award retired SEAL Senior Chief David A. Knesek, "the best of the best," with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS' LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, many people are familiar with the passage of scripture found in First Corinthians Chapter 13, verse 4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." However, fewer may remember verse 5 which states that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." When the apostle Paul was inspired to write these words

so many years ago, I believe he had persevering and loving couples like Cleovis and Arwilda Whiteside in mind. Since 2019, the Whitesides have been recognized as Arkansas' "Longest Married Couple." This Sunday, September 24, 2023, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, they are being recognized for their 84th year of marriage.

On what I am sure was a hot and humid Monday, July 24, 1939, 17-year-old Cleovis and 13-year-old Arwilda made a lifetime commitment to God and each other that has endured the test of time. The next year, Mrs. Whiteside delivered the first of their 12 children. In an interview last year, Mr. Whiteside, who was 100 at the time, stated, "We've been together all this long time and I still love my wife. She still loves me, and we still get along just as good." Mrs. Whiteside added, "I ran to him since I was nine years old and I've run first to God, then him ever since." We find within these 2 statements the foundation of a strong, Christ-centered marriage that inspires me and countless people, in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, and the entire state of Arkansas.

At the end of the 13th chapter of Corinthians, Paul tells us that when all is complete, 3 things remain: "faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." I offer my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Cleovis and Mrs. Arwilda Whiteside on their 84 years of marriage. I thank them for exemplifying the greatest gift of persevering love.

HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the Women Inspiring Women Leaders chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network, empower one another, and focus on growing Virginia's economy.

Entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of the American spirit. That's why I am proud to join them and their sister chapters in celebrating American Business Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their commitment to service, innovation, and empowering women in the business community. It is an honor to celebrate American Business Women's Day alongside them.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN M. BROOKS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Ellen M. Brooks of Crockett, Texas,

with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her service to this nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

Ellen enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1994. Recognizing her innate leadership capabilities, the Air Force sent her to officer training after only two and a half years as an enlisted Airman. During the five years she served as a commissioned officer, Ellen rose to the rank of Captain. Before leaving the U.S. Air Force in 1998, she served as Commander of a communications unit in Alaska. During her active service she was recognized with the Air Force Commendation Medal w/1 device, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/1 device, and the National Defense Service Medal, together with a Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, and Air Force Training Ribbon w/1 device.

Ellen has given much to her community. In 2007 she joined the Crockett Noon Lions Club and was instrumental in forming the Leo Club where she served as Sponsor. She established a new Evening Lions Club and served as its first President. She has spent countless hours investing in the lives of the members and youth, teaching leadership, character, and kindness. She is a member of First United Methodist Church. Whether working to keep her community clean or distributing food to the needy, Ellen can always be counted on. In 2020, the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Ellen's service to the community with its highest honor, Citizen of the Year.

Her leadership will have a long-lasting effect on young people for years to come—and it is my honor to award Ellen M. Brooks of Crockett, Texas, a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2023

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Entrepreneurship Act of 2023, which would extend eligibility for the Small Business Administration's microloan program to the Marianas. My bill ensures that small businesses in our islands are treated equitably and have access to the same assistance available in other parts of our Nation.

The opportunity for people to find and grow small businesses is the pathway to achieving the American dream. The SBA's microloan program was created to help everyday Americans do just that—with loans of up to \$50,000, small business owners can jumpstart their dreams by investing the micro loan towards inventory, supplies, machinery, equipment, and more. And when our small businesses thrive, we all stand to benefit. According to a 2019 report from the SBA, small businesses create two-thirds of net new jobs and drive U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

Yet this opportunity is not available to all Americans. My home, the Marianas, is the only jurisdiction in the Nation that is ineligible for the microloan program.

My bill ends this inequity and provides a path to entrepreneurship for all small business owners, no matter where they choose to live in the U.S.

I thank my colleague, Ms. RADEWAGEN, who joined me in introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

HONORING PRESIDENT DEVON ADES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Devon Ades for her leadership as President of the California Trucking Association and thank her for more than 30 years of dedication to California's trucking industry.

President Ades was first introduced to the trucking industry as a child by her father, Denny Wyatt, who served as the President of the California Trucking Association (CTA) in 2010. It was during her upbringing in the industry that President Ades realized her passion for trucking and the skill, hard work, and dedication required to succeed in the industry. President Ades began her career, much like her father's, at Apex Logistics, LLC, before moving to Inland Kenworth, a truck dealership where she spent time working in the company's sales, finance, and insurance departments. In 2005, she returned to Apex Logistics, where her knowledge of the industry and skillful abilities led her to become the company's Vice President in 2022.

As Vice President, Devon has consistently demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing the industry. This past year, CTA's Board of Directors selected Devon to be the association's newest president. In this role, Devon oversees a vital component of California's economy and our nation's supply chain. Truckers transport highly demanded goods from ports and suppliers to our store shelves and homes. In the United States, truck drivers move about 71 percent of the economy's products throughout the country. As president, she continually displays incredible leadership in the California motor carrier industry and advocates at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure sound transportation policy for her membership.

As the 68th president of the CTA, she is only the third woman to hold the position. In her over 3 decades of involvement in the industry, President Ades has seen enormous progress in her industry. As she leads the organization, I know she will continue to grow CTA's membership and successfully guide CTA's "transition to the future."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking President Devon Ades for her commitment to the California Trucking Association. Her tireless service will have a lasting impact on the Central Valley and the Nation for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JERRY LEE LORTON, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jerry Lee Lorton, of Cameron, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Central Texas values.

Jerry Lorton entered active duty at Atlanta, Georgia in May of 1977—a young 20-year-old about to embark on a distinguished Army career that would span the next two decades of his life.

Retired Sergeant Lorton's Army career would take him on 5 overseas tours, including to the Persian Gulf War and 2 tours in Korea. His dedication was rewarded many times. Recognized for expert marksmanship with rifle, pistol, and grenade, he earned an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Master Aircraft Crewman Badge, and an Air Assault Badge.

Since retiring in 1997, Jerry Lorton has been a dedicated servant leader in his community. For more than a quarter century he has helped protect his neighbors and community as a volunteer firefighter with the Cameron Volunteer Fire Department. He serves as a Deacon in his faith community, Cameron's Grace Church, where he continues to protect his neighbors as one of a four-person church security team. He works as a school bus driver for the Cameron Independent School District. A patriot and a leader, he currently serves as the Commander of Cameron's VFW Post 2010, having long been the kind of member that, in the words of the Texas District 28 Commander, "exemplifies everything the VFW wants in its leaders."

I proudly commend Sergeant First Class Jerry Lee Lorton, USA, (Ret.) to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Army and Texas by awarding him a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK PITLIANGAS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Colonel Mark Pitliangas of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Lieutenant Colonel Pitliangas recently transitioned from his assignment as a Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs for United

States Transportation Command to fly the KC-46 Pegasus at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey as Chief of Safety, 305th Air Mobility Wing.

Lt Col Pitliangas is the first member of his family to serve in our U.S. Air Force. Mark attended the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2008 before attending pilot training. From there, he went on to fly the mighty C-130 Hercules, otherwise known as the "Four Fans of Freedom" and honorably served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat pilot over 3 deployments. Lt Col Pitliangas has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of units, highlighted by serving as the Director of Operations for the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron in Kuwait. During that time, he enabled 29,000 airlift and air refueling missions directly supporting Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL flown from our busiest airfield in United States Central Command.

In the winter of 2020, Mark was selected to serve as Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs under the United States Transportation Command. As the primary liaison between Members of Congress, congressional staff, committees, and USTRANSCOM, he provided valuable insight and understanding of transportation policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been a tremendous benefit to our Congressional offices. His dogged determination and exceptional coordination enabled the USTRANSCOM Commander to accomplish over 40 office calls with Members and Staff in preparation for her annual posture testimony.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Lieutenant Colonel Pitliangas during his time representing the United States Transportation Command on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Mark, his wife, Eleni, and their children, Stephanos, George, and Nicholas. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our United States Air Force. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

Aim High . . . Fly, Fight, and Win.

HONORING BICOL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to each and every member of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville on this momentous occasion of their 40th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, unity, and tireless dedication of the association in fostering camaraderie and enriching the cultural fabric of our community.

Founded 4 decades ago, the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville has demonstrated an exemplary devotion to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Bicol region.

Their collective efforts in organizing cultural festivals, educational workshops, and chari-

table endeavors have left an indelible mark on the Jacksonville community. The cultural exchange and mutual understanding facilitated by their association have created bridges of friendship and cooperation that transcend borders and enrich the lives of all who call this great city home.

As a representative of Florida's 4th Congressional District, I am inspired by the dedication and passion exhibited by the members of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville. Their tireless work in preserving their heritage while actively contributing to the progress and prosperity of our community serves as a shining example for us all.

I encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating 40 years of invaluable contributions of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville to the cultural tapestry of our city.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LEE CREWS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Brian Lee Crews of Lufkin, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to his Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

A Lufkin native, Brian enlisted in the Marine Corps delayed entry program in 1980 when only a high school junior, drilling monthly with a Marine Reserve Unit in Shreveport, Louisiana throughout his last two years in high school. In 1981, Brian reported for "boot camp" at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California; he then underwent infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. He served as a First Platoon Radio Operator, then transferred to Marine Reserve Unit Fox Company, 2D Battalion, 23D Marine Regiment, Salt Lake City, Utah as the Commanding Officers Radio Operator. Transferred to the 4th Tank TOW Co., LT 4th MARDIV in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Brian served as a squad leader, section leader, and TOW Trainer. While in the TOW Unit, he was chosen to lead the detail charged with performing funerals/honors for Marines killed in the Beirut barracks bombing. Brian served with the Toys for Tots campaign at all duty stations. He attained the rank of Sergeant, receiving his honorable discharge in 1991. He earned the Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, Rifle Expert (3), and Pistol Expert (3).

A Lufkin ISD "Teacher of the Year," Brian has taught Graphic Design/Printing Technologies at Lufkin High School for more than 30 years. The founding member of the Lufkin Detachment of the Marine Corps League, chartered in 2010, he was instrumental in starting the local Toys for Tots campaign in 2011 and serves as the Campaign Coordinator. He founded the Military Association Resources Disaster Emergency Team in 2017 during Hurricane Harvey, using surplus military vehicles and equipment to provide search, rescue, and recovery during national disasters. Brian founded and produced the Angelina County AirFest, a local aviation event with proceeds benefitting the local Toys for Tots. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club, and a LOVE INC. Volunteer of the Year recipient.

It is my honor to award Brian L. Crews with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FINDLAY CAMPUS

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Owens Community College's Findlay Campus in Findlay, Ohio. Throughout the years, Owens has been a comprehensive community college providing educational opportunities and training to the residents of our communities. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of students and faculty have made Owens an outstanding educational institution.

Originally, Owens Community College was founded in 1965 in Wood County. The college was named after Michael J. Owens, a Toledo-based inventor of automated glass bottle-making technology. In 1983 Owens opened their Findlay Campus which occupies more than 60 acres. With their new campus, Owens was able to expand its coverage and continue to provide education to students from all walks of life. Currently, Owens's service district includes Lucas, Wood, Hancock, and parts of Ottawa counties.

Owens Community College offers more than 160 programs and certificates to its students who are preparing for a career, retraining for a new career, seeking professional development, or obtaining credits to transfer to a 4-year college or university. Their dedicated faculty members bring industry knowledge, information, and ideas into the classroom to provide students with a better understanding, how studies will translate into careers. Outside the classroom, students can experience an enriching campus life through student activities, clubs and organizations, athletics, and volunteer activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Owens Community College and its students, faculty, and administration on this remarkable occasion. By celebrating the 40th anniversary, community members and Ohio residents recognize Owens's contribution to its students and the surrounding communities. Congratulations to Owens Community College on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING DORSEY O'NEAL WALKER, ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING SURVIVORS OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorsey O'Neal Walker, a Texan who valiantly served our Nation during some of the darkest hours of WWII.

Dorsey grew up in Ora, a small Angelina County community, graduating in 1942 from Huntington High School. Drafted during WWII,

he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944. Assigned to the Fourth Marine Division in Maui, Hawaii, as Company Clerk because he could type, Dorsey would soon deploy with the Fourth Marines in 3 major Pacific war battles: Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. When returned to Maui from Saipan for replacements, he was 1 of only 12 among 200 in his company not killed or wounded. Then Corporal Walker's first Reserve separation from the Corps occurred in December 1945; his final Reserve separation occurred in 1948. Dorsey and his wife Habie have been married for 77 years.

Commendation Citations received from his Commanding General illuminate Dorsey's valor:

"For excellent performance of duties in connection with operations against the enemy on Saipan and Tinian, Marianas Islands from 15 June to 1 August 1944. Private First Class Walker diligently performed every assigned duty. His willingness to give battle, and his indifference to the hardships which he encountered throughout operation, evoked the admiration of his officers and the men serving with him. His unselfish devotion to the task at hand was a material contribution to the early and complete victory over the enemy. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

"For excellent service in the line of duties as a Radio Operator with a rifle company in combat with the enemy on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 February to 16 March

1945. Corporal Walker skillfully carried out his assigned duties under the most hazardous combat conditions. Frequently, on reconnaissances with his company commander or at a forward observation post, he unhesitatingly exposed himself to enemy mortar and small arms fire to carry out his duties successfully, and by his extraordinary resourcefulness and efficiency, he rendered invaluable aid to his company. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

It is my distinct honor to recognize Dorsey O'Neal Walker, a Texan, an American, and a "True Patriot," as one of the oldest living survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima.