

# MEDIC RESCUE'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

## HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, on September 12th, I will have the honor of paying tribute to some of my district's most vital heroes in a ceremony commemorating Medic Rescue's 25 years of service. The professionals of Medic Rescue, based in Bridgewater, PA provided life-sustaining medical services and emergency transport to more than 40,000 citizens in my district last year.

In addition to commending their commitment to service, the staff of Medic Rescue should also be praised for their efforts, through various community service programs, to reach out to children, seniors, and the disabled.

The times we live in pose never-before-conceived-of threats to our citizens. It is reassuring to know that my constituents can benefit from this enduring team of first-responders who have a commitment to their patients and their community.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking these brave men and women for their professionalism, their ability to work under pressure, and their effectiveness in carrying out their critical mission.

# A TRIBUTE TO GARY CARTER: A NATIONAL BASEBALL GREAT

## HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Gary Carter on his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. On Sunday, July 27, 2003 Gary became the 14th catcher to be enshrined into the 256-member club.

Mr. Speaker, Gary brings with his induction a phenomenal record of talent and service.

After being selected in the third round of the 1972 free agent draft by the Montreal Expos, Gary made the Major League Baseball (MLB) club in 1974. A year later, he was selected as an All-Star and named the Sporting News National League Rookie of the Year. From there, "The Kid"—the nickname he acquired because of his ever-present smile and youthful passion for the game—led the Expos to their first, and so far only, playoff appearance in 1981.

In 1985, he was traded to the New York Mets. That year, he proved a steady hand in leading a young Mets team to a second-place finish. However, it was the following year—1986—that proved to be the crowning achievement in Gary Carter's illustrious career. That was the year the Mets rocketed to the top of the National League East, capturing the division title and eventually the World Series Championship over the Boston Red Sox.

Gary remained the Mets' catcher through 1989. After single-seasons with the San Francisco Giants and then the Los Angeles Dodgers, he returned in 1992 to the team that gave him his first shot in the majors—the Expos—

where he finished his star-studded, 19-year career.

After retirement, Gary continued to work in the game as a broadcaster for the Florida Marlins and the Montreal Expos. In 2002, he was named a minor league catching instructor for the New York Mets.

What has always impressed me the most about Gary is not only his on-field accomplishments, but his steadfast commitment to his community in Florida. Gary has been a key player in helping to raise more than \$6 million for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by hosting golf tournaments at various Palm Beach County courses. The Gary Carter Foundation based in West Palm Beach has been instrumental in having thousands of dollars in computers, software and books donated to Palm Beach County schools as well as gifts to local children who make strides in the "Reading Counts" program.

For all of his wonderful contributions both to baseball and to our community, I want to offer this tribute in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to our friend, a community leader and Hall of Famer—Gary Carter.

# TRIBUTE TO JACK WILKINSON ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

## HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Wilkinson, retired teacher in Leavy County.

On Sunday, August 24, Mr. Wilkinson celebrated his 90th birthday. As the son of a pioneering family who moved to the area in the 1840s, Mr. Wilkinson spent most of his years in Leavy County. As a child, he helped his parents on their farm. The neighborhood school he attended, Union School, was one room with grades 1–6 and was used as a church on the weekends. He went on to earn his teaching certificate from the University of Florida, which only enrolled 4,000 students at the time, and is proud to say he saw the very first football game played in "the swamp." Mr. Wilkinson then returned to his hometown of Chiefland, where he lives today. After dedicating half of his life to teaching math and helping students at the very high school he attended, Chiefland High School, Mr. Wilkinson quietly retired to his farm.

I commend Mr. Wilkinson for the teaching services he provided and the 90 years he has given his community.

# HEALTHCARE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

## HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the recess, I was pleased to meet with a group of representatives of The United Steel Workers in my district. They presented me with a petition with which I am in strong agreement—calling on those of us who serve in Congress "to pledge their support for the

Healthcare Bill of Rights in its entirety." In particular, this petition cited the importance of three key principles, which are: First, everyone has a right to quality healthcare, regardless of financial standing. The government must insure that no American is denied needed healthcare services because of inability to pay; second, healthcare should be affordable for all who need it. The government must see that healthcare costs are brought under control; and third, everyone has a right to affordable prescription drugs. The government must insure that every American has prescription drug coverage. No one should be forced to choose whether or not to buy needed prescribed medicine based on how much money they have.

Mr. Speaker, I will not enter here the long list of names of signers of this petition. But I believe that Members should be aware of the strong sentiment that exists on behalf of such an important public policy. And I salute the Steel Workers of America and those who have taken the lead in organizing this petition in my own district and elsewhere, for their commitment to a better America.

# TRIBUTE TO THE 98TH BOMBARDMENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group whose sacrifices, patriotism, and contributions to our country are immeasurable. I am honored that the 98th Bombardment Veterans Association will be having their annual reunion in my congressional district this year. Their distinguished history is one of duty, honor, courage and sacrifice.

The 98th Bombardment Group was constituted on January 28, 1942, at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. They were activated on February 3, 1942, at McDill Field, Florida with B-24 Liberator Bombers and continued their training at Ft. Myers and Drane Field, Florida.

On July 15, 1942, the 98th was alerted and departed for the Middle East, arriving in Palestine in late July. The 98th was initially assigned to the United States Middle East Air Force. They flew their first mission to Mersa Metruh on August 1, 1942.

One of their most famous missions was on August 1, 1943 when 47 B-24s launched for a low-level raid to Ploesti and only 21 returned safely. The Group Commander, Colonel John R. Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership. On another raid on Ploesti on July 9, 1944, Lieutenant Donald Pucket sacrificed his life trying to save three of his crewmembers who could not or would not bail out of their aircraft. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his sacrifice.

The 98th continued the campaign against Nazi forces during the rest of World War II, flying a total of 417 missions and earning a total of 15 battle streamers as well as two Presidential Citations. The 98th returned to the U.S. in April of 1945 and was re-designated the 98th Bombardment Group.

In 1950, with the beginning of the Korean Conflict, the 98th arrived at Yokota Air Base, Japan and flew their first mission to Korea on

August 7, 1950. The 98th repeatedly flew against the North Korean Communist forces until the cease fire in 1953. From August 1950 to July 1953, the 98th flew more than 5,000 sorties and dropped more than 40,000 tons of bombs. They earned 10 battle streamers and two Outstanding Unit Awards. They also received the South Korean Presidential Citation. Over the next several years the 98th would be re-designated, inactivated and reactivated until it found its current home as the 98th Range Wing at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

In 1949, Colonel Salvator Manzo, a former commander of the 98th Bombardment Group during World War II, began the idea of forming a veterans association for the 98th. In 1976 his idea became a reality when the 98th Bombardment Group Memorial Veterans Association was formed. B-29 and B-47 veterans were invited to join the group and spouses of deceased 98th veterans are given an honorary membership.

The week of September 2-6, 2003, the group will hold its annual reunion and ceremonies at the March Air Field Museum where commemorative tiles will be laid in honor of the 98th for their service and, in addition, their association name will be added to the prestigious "Flyers Wall" at the Historic Mission Inn. Our country is forever indebted to those individuals willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that the rest of us may live freely and without fear. I consider it an honor and privilege to welcome the 98th Bombardment Veterans Association to my district to celebrate and remember their distinguished history; they are truly living legends.

MAJOR THOMAS HARDIN JR.

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Thomas Hardin, Jr., a World War II veteran from Spring Hill, Florida in my Fifth Congressional District.

Over the August recess, Mr. Speaker, I will have the honor of recognizing, Major Hardin for his heroism and bravery as a B-17 pilot, an American soldier flying—because there was no U.S. Air Force—with the British Royal Air Force on January 22, 1945.

On that date, the-then Lieutenant Hardin and his crew lead their formation through extremely intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire over Europe. During the mission, one of their plane's engines was knocked out and the propeller would not feather while oil and fuel were leaking from two other engines.

Despite the terrible odds for survival, Lieutenant Hardin's first concern was for the safety of his crew. He issued an order for his crew to prepare to bail out, but reconsidered, not wanting to risk the crew's capture by hostile forces.

Lieutenant Hardin succeeded in controlling his seriously damaged aircraft across the English Channel to the plane's home base, returning his crew safely to the ground. For his bravery, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by the Secretary of the Air Force.

Lieutenant Hardin continued his service to this nation as an officer in the army, flying a

total of 35 missions over Europe and engaged in combat during the Korean War. He retired as a major and this weekend, I will present Major Hardin's Distinguished Flying Cross to him, more than 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him next month the Distinguished Flying Cross for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

### TRIBUTE TO THE 864TH HAM COMPANY

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me to pay tribute to the members of the Third Army veterans 864th Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company on the occasion of their 48th annual reunion. They gathered together in Lapeer, Michigan on August 31st.

During World War II the 864th HAM Company was instrumental to the success of D-Day and the allied victory. These veterans of the Third Army were originally stationed at Fort Ord in California. During their stint at that post they worked with local authorities to defend the California coastline against a possible invasion by Japanese forces. The mobilization of troops during the first days of World War II was very rapid and troops were often barracked in makeshift quarters. The 864th HAM Company was no exception. When the Company was detailed to the community of Pomona California they were provided temporary barracks at the Sears and Roebuck store.

In 1943 the Company was transported from the United States to the South Hampton Naval Yard outside Portsmouth, England. For the next eight months the 864th HAM Company prepared the vehicles that were going to be a part of the D-Day invasion. In addition to this work they also trained as part of the invasion force.

The Company landed at St. Mere-Eglise France and immediately began the awesome task of supplying rations, ammunition, and medical supplies to the front lines. Under the leadership of General George S. Patton, the statistics for the Third Army during this time are staggering. 2,186,792 tons of supplies were transported. The Third Army had over 99,000 general purpose vehicles and over 21,000 combat vehicles. The veterans of the 864th HAM Company risked their lives to retrieve and repair damaged vehicles. Never shying away from the danger involved, the members of the 864th HAM Company were an integral part of General Patton's march to Berlin. Their versatility was demonstrated during the Battle of the Bulge as they quickly moved from Verdunne to help repel the German counter-attack.

Once the war in Europe ended, the 864th came home and were mustered out of the military in November 1945. As the members of the company scattered throughout the United States and began their civilian lives, they maintained contact with each other. In 1957 they gathered together for the first reunion and

the tradition of getting together to remember their fallen fellow soldiers, to reminisce, and share the civilian experiences was born. We as a nation are better for the sacrifices these veterans made so we could all be free. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and honor the members of the 864th HAM Company. Again and again they have earned our respect and admiration and I am deeply grateful for their service to our country.

### IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL MCKEAND

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic sacrifice of a young man from my district, who risked and then lost his own life while saving a friend.

Michael McKeand was an avid outdoorsman and vineyard manager in Santa Cruz. On July 7, he was returning from a music festival with friends when they stopped along Highway 70 near the Feather River in Plumas County.

Although the river appeared peaceful, there apparently was a strong undercurrent that swept one of McKeand's friends downstream. The 24-year-old man jumped in the water to help and eventually rescued the struggling friend. But in the process, the strong current slammed McKeand against a rock and he drowned.

No one who knew Michael McKeand was surprised to hear of his selfless deed. They were, however, shocked and saddened that the swollen waters of Feather River took his life.

His parents, David and Linda McKeand of Clovis, brother Steven and sister Candace, all mourn his loss, as do many other family and friends.

I invite my colleagues to join me in extending sympathies to McKeand's family, and in honoring their loved one.

### TRIBUTE TO VA VOLUNTEER JOAN SHEEHAN

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Sheenan, a constituent of mine who has selflessly given her time to the Veterans of my Fifth Congressional District for more than 8 years.

My district is home to thousands of our Nation's veterans and has the fourth-largest concentration of American heroes in the Nation. So it is only natural, that at our veterans' clinics and hospitals there's never a shortage of things to do and never a time when additional helping hands are not desperately needed.

It was once said that, aside from love, the most precious thing a person can give another person is labor. Joan has given over 2200 hours of her labor to help the veterans of Florida's Fifth Congressional District—and that is truly something to be honored.

Volunteering at both the Gainesville VA Medical Center and at the Inverness VA Clinic