

one of her former students was even elected to the highest level of State leadership as president of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association. She teaches her students not to simply attend college but to become leaders.

In addition to pursuing state office positions within the organization, Davoudi has led the students of SGA at Kingwood College in multiple community service projects such as food, clothing and toy drives for non-profit organizations and local area shelters for abused women and children. In the words of one of her colleagues, Dr. Davoudi is "changing the world one student at a time."

I salute Dr. Vida Davoudi for being a shining example of a distinguished scholar and advocate for lifelong learning. Her life and eternal gratitude for living in a country so richly blessed with opportunity and freedom is an inspiration to us all.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. WILLIAM "DOC" WILKERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. William "Doc" Wilkerson. Dr. Wilkerson, who passed away on February 29, 2008, was one of the founders of Flower Mound, Texas and also the town's second mayor.

Doc Wilkerson was born in Madill, Oklahoma on December 21, 1917, and began working for a locksmith at age ten. This prompted his mother to enroll him in the Boy Scouts of America, where he later achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1935.

In 1954, Doc bought 150 acres of unincorporated rural land north of the newly-created Grapevine Lake. It was here that his fight for Flower Mound began. During the early 1960s, Wilkerson worked tirelessly to halt Irving's attempt to annex what is now the town of Flower Mound. Doc was ultimately successful in stopping the annexation. After this success, he worked to incorporate present-day Flower Mound.

Dr. Wilkerson was elected mayor of Flower Mound in 1968. He was only the second individual to hold the position of mayor for the young town, and he held this office until 1973. In honor of his passing, the town of Flower Mound will fly its flags at half-staff.

The first mayor of Flower Mound, Bob Rheudasil, once said about Doc, "No words are big enough to talk about him." This is certainly true; Doc's tireless dedication to Flower Mound greatly contributed to turning the small town into the thriving community it is today.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Doc's two sons, his brother and three sisters, as well as a long list of family members and friends. North Texas has lost a long-time friend and advocate. While Doc Wilkerson will be greatly missed by the community he helped found, he will forever be remembered for his dedication to the city of Flower Mound.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in north Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting, and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in north Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and America and north Texas will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

I interviewed Mr. Keith Fannon. He served in the United States Air Force. His beginning rank was just a basic airman, but he was able to rise all the way up being a Staff Sergeant when he finished his time of service. He served in the Korean War. Mr. Fannon may not have seen too much on the battlefield in itself, but he performed search and rescue missions for airmen who had been shot down through the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), helped civilians in need in Korea, and had been through six major offensives during his service time. Mr. Keith Fannon has been a family friend for about four years now, and I've solely gotten to know him for the person he is today. To be able to learn of Mr. Fannon's past in the Air Force, though, was a fascinating experience. It gave me more insight to Mr. Fannon as a whole, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Having the ability to learn even more about a friend, a veteran, and America's history from a first-person point of view all at the same time was mind-blowing. I would like to thank Mr. Keith Fannon and the Congressional Youth Advisory Council for giving me such a great opportunity.—Patrick Foster

For the Veteran's History project, I interviewed retired Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas, the most decorated Army officer of the 82nd Airborne, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Lt. Col. Megellas and his regiment fought through Europe in World War II from January 1943 to the end of the war in 1945, and were welcomed home to a victory parade in New York on January 12, 1946. He led his men as a Platoon Leader in many fa-

mous battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden, and the battle for Anzio, and he eventually participated in the American occupation of Berlin. Interviewing such an influential and heroic veteran truly affected my life in an undeniable and poignant way. Though Lt. Col. Megellas said that he does not agree with those who call him part of the "greatest generation," getting the chance to interview him reminded me that unbelievable heroism, valor, and selflessness can still exist in the face of a world where people's worth is often judged by their money and power in society. Whether he agrees with me or not, I believe that soldiers like Lt. Col. Megellas, including the brave men and women fighting in the military for America today, are the greatest of any generation in American history. As Lt. Col. Megellas put it, "We're blessed in many ways, but not more so than the quality of the young men and women who will step forward whenever we're been in trouble. They are the best of this generation."—Stephen Hayes

Howard Montfort, known to all his friends as Dusty, was born in Carrollton, Texas and has lived in Texas all his life, except for his time of service. He was originally drafted in 1966, but was unable to comply with his draft notice due to an infection of viral encephalitis. After recovering, he was given pardon and transferred from Texas A&M, where he had been going to school, to NTSU. There he was drafted a second time, but decided instead to visit the school's recruiter to join a program which allowed him to finish school while training for the Air Force. Dusty entered the Air Force in 1969, flying the infamous B-52. After joining the Vietnam Conflict, he quickly rose from Second Lieutenant to Aircraft Commander, and flew numerous Tours for a total of 141 combat missions. Dusty received the Air Medal and seven Oak Leaf clusters during his service. In addition, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in December 1972 for "Heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

In March of 1974, Dusty left the service after flying for five years. He is now married to Gila Montfort, his wife of thirty-eight years. Together, they have a son, Steven Montfort, who lives in Los Angeles and works as an actor. By conducting this interview, I have heard first-hand the experiences of an American veteran. These people have served our country. They have died to pay for our freedom, and I had the opportunity to speak to one of them. In addition, I learned more about the Vietnam Conflict than I previously knew. I am extremely thankful for the experience.—Weston Barker

Mr. Billie Bob Norris proudly served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps for 19 months during the Korean War. He was a member of the First Marine Air Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Air Group 12, Service Squadron 1. During that time, he was stationed in the frigid area of Wonsan, North Korea, shortly after its liberation by the South Korean forces. He then joined with the K27 Yonpo Airdrome as they went to Hamhung-Hungnam as part of the "Frozen Chosin" or "Chosin Few." He was also stationed in Pusan, South Korea, and later worked as a radio-radar technician in Japan for the duration of his service. Mr. Norris currently holds a bachelor's degree in industrial art, a master's degree in secondary school administration, and a specialist degree in vocational education. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and lives in Frisco, Texas with his wife, Armetha.

Throughout the process of writing this essay I have earned both a greater respect

for this Nation's veterans and a greater understanding of one war in our country's history that is, sadly, looked over by many people. The United States' veterans have gone through experiences that neither I nor anyone in my generation can truly begin to imagine. And for that, we can never thank our troops, both past and current, enough.—Ashley Newton

Lloyd was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 10, 1923. At age 11, his family moved to Peacedale, Rhode Island. Some seven or so years later Lloyd voted for his first presidential candidate, Harry S. Truman, for his second term. Then in the November of his nineteenth year, he enlisted in the Navy. He was a payroll officer, and a soldier. When it was necessary, as it was for the Japanese invasion, the payroll was to be set down, and they would fight with the rest of the outfit. When the war was ended, Lloyd decided to stay in the army, and was assigned to Okinawa. Soon thereafter, he sent for Dorothy and their fourteen month-old daughter, Carol. When they arrived, it was the first time Lloyd had ever seen Carol. In January of 1951, he was called to active duty and was stationed at the Air Force base in Miami. Although he was still a payroll officer, his outfit supported the troops in Japan facing Korea. Lloyd retired from military service on a Sunday in 1965 as a senior master sergeant, and began work at the PANTEX Ordnance Plant the very next morning in Amarillo, Texas. He retired from his job in 1986. Lloyd died on February 24th, 2008, in the center of a circle of family members. This project came at the perfect time. I may have missed my chance to learn about him had I not conducted this interview. There was an opportunity for closure, and I'm beginning to see how quickly we are losing the WWII generation.—Bethany Johnston

For the Preserving History project I interviewed Sergeant Quentin Higgins. Higgins served as a tank commander in World War II throughout England, North Africa, and Italy and earning several medals. In addition, he has written a memoir, reached the age of ninety years old, and blessed the lives of many people. Through this experience I have learned more about the dedication of our military to preserve our liberty in the United States that can often be taken for granted. I was initially stunned and amazed that the man I was speaking to went through intense front line combat in World War II and lived to tell about it at ninety years old. While I had read and heard second hand about World War II stories, the reality of the events and experiences of the soldiers came alive in my mind when I spoke with Mr. Higgins. I have acquired a greater appreciation for our troops who sacrifice their lives daily for their country and a deeper comprehension of the traumas of war. Most importantly I gained a fuller gratefulness as Higgins stated "appreciate life and count your blessings."—Stephanie Tison

I had the pleasure of interviewing Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Aikens, formerly of the United States Army, on 29 February 2008, at his office in Plano Fast Senior High School. He provided me with his personal history, from his many academic achievements in high school, his introduction to the military during college, and some of his more memorable experiences as an officer in the United States Army. I have also had the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Aikens for the past four years, and I have found him to be a great example for the students he leads, and very helpful in my own pursuit of goals for the future, as well as instrumental in the roads to success for several other students, my peers, and those who have gone before. His life has been and con-

tinues to be one of dedicated and energized service to those around him, to his community, and to his country.—David Paxman

For my Preserving History: Veteran's Interview. I am honored to have received the opportunity to interview Wesley C. Browning. This remarkable individual served in the Iraq War for a nine month period. He was titled as a civilian and worked with the Hazardous Material Management in Baghdad, Iraq. Mr. Browning conquered many challenging obstacles and accomplished well respected goals. He faced the boot camp, bombings, and hardships like the hero he truly represents. During the time he spent in Iraq, his primary task was to assist the soldiers so they could concentrate on defending their country. Mr. Browning dealt with the contamination of foods after battle and vermin localized around the camp. He handled weapons, bomb materials, and fought adjacent to the soldiers while participating in the war. Mr. Browning has gained a wide breadth of experience from joining the Iraq War. He not only has made lifelong friendships, but has learned about the various cultures and traditions in other parts of the world.

I have the utmost respect for anyone that risks their life to defend their country. Conversing with Mr. Browning has allowed me to gain an innovative view of the world and our society. Hearing him discuss passionately his values and morals was very impressive and refreshing. I have learned from this war hero that the materialistic side of life is submissive to the people and relationships present and nothing is worth being taken for granted.—Ally Crutcher

Non-commissioned Officer Josh Bomar joined the United States Marine Corps to find discipline and focus. Bomar served two terms of seven months each in Iraq. The Marines protected, patrolled, and regulated the areas. Bomar's assignments were gunner, who lies on top of the humvee and shoots a machine gun, and vehicle commander, who is in charge of an entire humvee. Bomar's family was very encouraging, both extending and immediate family supported his decision to join the service. Bomar is now attending the University of Texas at Dallas where he is studying criminology. Bomar's military experiences has made him more confident. Becoming a Marine has given Bomar the tools to do better in his life. He now has the discipline to accomplish everything he wants to in the future. Bomar feels fortunate to have been part of the United States Marine Corps and is thankful for all the opportunities he has been given.

By interviewing Josh Bomar, I have gained a better understanding of how joining the service can change your life. This opportunity allowed me to learn about the daily life of soldiers and the realities of combat during the war. I admire the courageous men and women who sacrifice their lives to protect our country.—Emily Buss

Command Sergeant Major Robert F. Donahue epitomizes everything it means to be a proud American. Even after two tours of duty in Vietnam and another in Iraq, he loves to share his experiences and wisdom gained from his time in the military. People are always trying to find someone who can be a great role model for today's young people, CSM Donahue is exactly that. Born into a military family with a career soldier for a father and a World War II nurse for a mother, CSM Donahue was born in North Carolina. He moved many times during his early life and spent most of his high school life in Lawton, Oklahoma. Growing up in Lawton, CSM Donahue didn't know a life other than the one he was living, of military orientation, very regimented and discipline oriented. Prior to his last year of high school, the Tet Offensive happened in Vietnam. Once

he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, heading off to Vietnam for ten months on separate tours of duty. After Vietnam, he stayed in the army reserve up until his time in Iraq. I gained many things from my experience interviewing CSM Donahue.—Michael Buss

I chose to do my biography on Matthew Edward Rice, my dad. In August 1981, at nineteen years old he went to Basic Training at Ft. Gordon. He then went to AIT where he learned to be a Telephone Switchboard Technician, and then he was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany in May of 1982 with the C Co. 44th Signal Battalion. He then received orders to go back to Ft. Gordon for new advanced digital telephone switch training. He was then assigned to Ft. Bragg with orders to the 327th Signal BN. However, he was transferred to B Co. 50th Signal BN, for the liberation of Grenada. He was reassigned to A Co. 327th Signal BN. My dad went to Germany in 1984 and attended Primary Leadership Development Course. He then was transferred to the 17th Signal BN. He then returned to Ft. Gordon as an Instructor. His last assignment was with Headquarters Co. 304th Signal BN South Korea from May of 1991 to June 1992. I have learned a lot about dedication, hard work and responsibility from my father and his stories of his time in the Army. My dad has instilled in me the values that the military has instilled in him.—Allyson Rice

Larry Lucido joined the Marine Corps. He began as a private in the Marine Corps and ended his service as a Sergeant. During his nine month tour of duty in the Korean War he saw a lot of action and fought in several battles including the battle of Chosin Reservoir where the Chinese entered the war and surrounded the Marines until the Marines managed to break out. He was awarded two Purple Hearts during his tour. The first Purple Heart was awarded to him after he was shot in the back. His second Purple Heart was awarded to him after he went to go help one of his injured friends and he stepped on a land mine that took off his leg. He also captured a North Korean soldier than gave them information about the other North Korean Troops in the area.

From this experience I have gained a greater respect for those who serve in our country's armed forces and fight to keep this and other countries free. His service in the Marine Corps is a great inspiration. How he was shot in the back and lost his leg in the service of our country shows how high the price of freedom can be and how we must respect those who fight to protect it.—Brian Bruck

My name is James Garrett Follette and I interviewed Captain Ralph Peter "Pete" Langenfeld on January 26, 2008. Pete enlisted with the Air Force in the summer of 1942 and saw active duty in January 1943 as a 2nd lieutenant. Pete was assigned to the 785th Bombardment Squadron of the 466th Bombardment Group of the 8th Air Division stationed in England as a bombardier for a B-24 Liberator. His last day of service was on December 19, 1945. For two years, Pete also flew B-29 Bombers during the Korean War. He held the rank of Captain when he was discharged on April 14, 1951.

On August 24, 2006 he received the Distinguished Flying Cross with valor for his heroism on January 2, 1945. On his 31st combat mission over Remagen, Germany, one of the live 2,000-pound bombs on his B-24 Liberator did not release. Pete removed his parachute and oxygen mask so he could move to the open bomb bay and manually release the weapon. Interviewing Captain Langenfeld has been an incredible experience. To listen to the thrill and patriotism in his voice is

contagious. It makes one realize how important history is and we do not want to lose these experiences.—Garrett Tollelle

The tributes, memories, and lives of those who serve or have served in the armed forces must be exalted and above all else never forgotten. Thanks to this interview of United States Marine Corps Major John Lauder, I have first hand insight on the life of a true patriot. Major John Lauder went from only a Cadet, to Captain, 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant all the way to where he is now at Major. As I listened to the memories and experience of Major Lauder, it occurred to me the massive amount of courage, dedication, and perseverance it takes to serve. As a marine he has served four tours of duty thus far and is still an honorable member of the Marines. It is to him I owe my understanding of the true hardships that one must take on as a Marine. I hold people like Major John Lauder responsible for my feelings of security and pride in such a beloved country.

The memories of our men in service and veterans are important ones. They are memories that should not be lost. These people have put their lives on the line and triumphed over all odds. I proudly say that Major John Lauder is one of these people. While serving, Major Lauder has truly excelled as a Marine, earning awards such as Iraqi and Afghan campaign medals as well as being decorated for valor. Not only those, but he has also received the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, expeditionary medals, along with a combat action ribbon. Major John Lauder is a truly exemplary person and I give thanks to God for people like him.—Amanda Dees

Colonel James E. Gilliland grew up in a changing time throughout the tides of war and peace. He entered the Air Force as the Korean War had ended, but answered the call to defend his country during the Vietnam War, flying 100 vital reconnaissance missions over North and South Vietnam war zones in a very short amount of time. The dangerous missions which he completed helped to contribute to the key strategies during the war, saving countless American lives. Throughout his tour in enemy skies, he was a highly decorated RF-4C pilot in the United States Air Force, which includes the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Air Medals. Even after his combat tours in Vietnam, Colonel Gilliland continued to hold senior command and staff positions in Saigon, Hawaii, Colorado, Texas, England, and eventually Belgium. Not only was this man a hero throughout his career with the Air Force, but he is also my grandfather, a man I hold in the highest regard. Hearing his story, which even now is hard for him to tell, has helped me to better understand just how much he has sacrificed for his country.—Trevor Ede

What Corbett Reagan accomplished was a 6 month tour (1990–1991) of duty in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm where he specialized in anti-tank gunning. He was the recipient of the Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Citation, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. What I gained from this interview experience was how committed Corporal Reagan was to his country. It was part of his heart and soul to be a Marine and serve our nation, particularly growing up in a military family. I also was struck by the influence the Marines and his overall service in Kuwait/Iraq during Operation Desert Storm had in molding him into a man of character. Being in the Marines shaped his life in many ways, particularly in helping him understand the issues of life and death, obtaining his education, the importance of family and friends, as well as gaining an appreciation for what it means to live in this great nation of ours.—Lauren Hill

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Castle was born in 1946 in Rochester, New York. His decision to join the Army was voluntary but also influenced by his family. His grandfather had served in the Navy during WWI while his own father had been a captain in the air corp. Even his brother had served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Richard served in the Vietnam War as a logistics officer. During his entire military career, Richard reached the position of 5th corp commander under a three star general. At the end of his military career, he reached the position of lieutenant colonel for his incredible service. The things I learned from Lieutenant Colonel Richard Castle were so astounding and intriguing. He seemed like a man who genuinely cared about his country and had loved serving in the Army. It made me gain a much greater appreciation for the men and women in the service right now. Talking on the phone with him, I realized how much of an ordinary person Mr. Castle was. Yet for him to have done so much for the Army is absolutely amazing. His story truly shows that anyone can serve the country and be an inspiration.—Lisa Hu

Colonel Vernon David Gores was born on December 27, 1929 in Bisbee, North Dakota. He grew up exposed to the agricultural environment of North Dakota, in addition to the small city life of Fargo, North Dakota. Vern Gores graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in civil engineering in 1951. While there he attended ROTC, then entered the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant and attended flight school. Vern served in several capacities for the Air Force. For most of his Air Force career, Vern served as a pilot for transport (C-46) and reconnaissance aircraft (EC-121). He also advised an ROTC unit. He held positions of operations officer, commander advisor to the National Guard, and inspector general. Vern lived across the nation and internationally during his career. After North Dakota he lived in Alabama, Oklahoma, Illinois, Vermont, California, Massachusetts, Florida, and Ohio. He also served in several foreign countries: Japan, South Korea, Libya, Vietnam, and Thailand. Vern served in the Korean conflict and Vietnam. He remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis and the “ongoing” Cold War.

Vern retired from the Air Force at the rank of Full Colonel in 1979 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio after 28 years of service. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Air Medal, and Bronze Star recognitions. Today Colonel Gore lives in the Villages of Lady Lake, Florida with his wife Colleen. They have been married for more than fifty years. They have one son, two daughters, and five grandchildren. His family is very proud of his accomplishments. He served with untiring effort, superior intellect, and uncompromising values of honesty, integrity, and loyalty. The nation and our family are fortunate to be associated with him.—Garrett McDaniel

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 120, on motion to adjourn, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATHWAY FOR BIOSIMILARS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the field of biotechnology is the future of medicine. Scientists and doctors are just beginning to scratch the surface of the potential to harness the extraordinary power of biology and the astounding natural processes which occur in the human body, in animals, and in other living organisms to advance breakthrough medical discoveries and treatments. While ordinary pharmaceuticals primarily treat the symptoms of a disease or illness, biotechnology products—“biologics”—can be manipulated to target the underlying mechanisms and pathways of a disease.

Through the study of biotechnology, we will develop effective treatments for cancer and AIDS, many of which are already saving lives. We will cure diabetes. We will prevent the onset of deadly and debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and arthritis. We will save millions of lives and improve countless more.

The development of biologics is expensive and extremely risky. Bringing a biologic to market can require hundreds of millions of dollars in research and development costs and can take several years. For every successful biologic, there are another 10 or 20 that do not pan out, making the incentives for investment in this field extremely sensitive to any changes in the regulatory structure for biologics.

In the relatively young industry of biotechnology, many of the original patents on biologics are beginning to expire and it's appropriate for Congress to consider how “follow-on” biologics or “biosimilars” are considered and approved by the FDA, and the impact these products will have on patient health and safety, health care costs, and incentives for innovation.

As a primary matter, it's important to recognize that traditional “small-molecule” pharmaceuticals and biologics are fundamentally different in their development, their manufacture and their chemical makeup. A traditional small-molecule drug is manufactured through synthesis of chemical ingredients in an ordered process, and the resulting product can be easily identified through laboratory analysis. A biologic is a large, complex molecule, which is “grown” in living systems such as a microorganism, a plant or animal cell. The resulting protein is unique to the cell lines and specific process used to produce it, and even slight differences in the manufacturing of a biologic can alter its nature. As a result, biologics are difficult, sometimes impossible to characterize, and laboratory analysis of the finished product is insufficient to ensure its safety and efficacy.

The pharmaceutical drug production process is easily replicated and a “generic” drug product is virtually identical to the original innovative product, so generic drug manufacturers are permitted to reference the original testing data submitted by the innovator companies when the original drug is submitted to the FDA for approval. With biologics, the manufacturing process is unique to each biologic and is not