

Veterans of WWII. Andy Kyle has lived an adventurous life full of courage, honor, and spirit all throughout his 95 years. In East Texas he is known as an arrowhead collector, donating the majority of his finds to the Sam Houston Regional Library. He and his late wife Kay were married for nearly 50 years with two daughters, Andrea and Libby.

Andy holds a very distinguished wartime record for his service during WWII. Because he was over the age for pilot school he went to the Army Air Corps for mechanic training completing a 2½ and a half year program in only 6 months. Soon thereafter he became the Crew Chief on a C-47 Dakota transport plane. He served as Crew Chief for 2 years during combat operations in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, England, and France.

As a member of the 50th Troop Carrier Squadron, Andy took on the role of dropping paratroopers and supplies into the war zone. Oftentimes this meant carrying flammable gasoline. One of Andy's great feats was flying 55-gallon drums of gasoline to the East coast of Italy to resupply African American pilots.

The 50th Troop also participated in the infamous invasion of Normandy on D-Day where his plane dropped fully geared paratroopers to the drop zone in France. It was during the Battle of the Bulge that Andy's squadron received the most hits. Of the 13 planes, 6 were lost in trying to aid the Allied Forces. It was a costly victory for the Allies as well as a personal loss for Andy who lost his brother-in-law JG and his other friend Junior Price. Andy still carries pictures of the monument erected in their honor, showing what a caring and honorable soul he is.

Madam Speaker, Andy is one of our many veterans who gave so much to honor our country by serving in a time of war. It is because of his courage and dedication to the United States that we, the Second District of Texas, honor him today.

#### THE PRINCIPLES OF THE OATH AND LAW OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the principles of the Oath and Law of the Boy Scouts of America. This year marks the Centennial Celebration of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. On February 8th, 2010 the Penn's Woods Council will be promoting "The Rededication to the Principles of the Scout Oath and Law Ceremony" at the County Courthouses in Pennsylvania's Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Somerset, and Indiana Counties.

The Oath and Law of the Boy Scouts bind the 55 million alumni of the organization at all levels of participation. Among these alumni: lawyers, doctors, industrialists, educators, labor leaders, military leaders, astronauts, and Presidents of the United States. The principles of the Oath and Law propelled them to the tops of their professions, and in some cases to the stars. The Oath expects Scouts to be patriotic, obedient, generous, and upstanding. Indeed, the law requires them to be: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,

obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These principles make good scouts, and they make good citizens.

And that is the greatest legacy of 100 years of the Scout Law and Oath. As Scouts learn the Law and Oath, repeat them, adopt the principles within them, and live them, they learn at the same time how to be good Americans. The accomplishments of many of our citizens drew on the timeless virtues they developed as Scouts. Such a record of good work deserves another 100 years. I applaud the Boy Scouts of America for their excellent virtues and their success in living them. I commend the Penn's Woods Council for its work in central Pennsylvania. I hope they continue to contribute to our country for years to come.

#### HONORING CLAUDE LAVAL III

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Claude Laval upon his retirement as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Central Valley Business Incubator. Mr. Laval will be honored on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Mr. Claude Laval was born and raised in Fresno, California. Upon his graduation from Fresno High School, he attended and graduated from Stanford University. After returning to the Central Valley, Mr. Laval had a calling to help develop the greater Fresno area. Mr. Laval established the Claude Laval Corporation over thirty years ago. The company has become a worldwide leader in water technology with a strong reputation for supplying water filtration equipment around the world and leading the company into a range of industrial, commercial and agricultural markets. He currently serves as Chairman of Claude Laval Corporation, while his daughter, Melinda Laval, serves as President.

In addition to his responsibilities with his own business, Mr. Laval has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) since inception in 1996. The mission of CVBI is to nurture and develop entrepreneurs through an integrated network of incubation and business development partners providing access to comprehensive services aimed at creating sustainable high growth ventures. Under Mr. Laval's leadership, CVBI has created over two thousand five hundred jobs, raised millions of dollars in start-up capital and hundreds of students have completed various entrepreneur training programs offered by the organization.

In March 2007, the Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology (WET) Incubator was established under the CVBI umbrella. The WET Incubator was designed to establish the Central Valley as a world wide leader in water and energy innovation. With almost three years into the project, the WET Incubator houses five on-site members and has been very successful in its endeavors. Finally, Mr. Laval is also serving as the Chair of the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT). ICWT was established to provide education and research to assist in developing innovative solutions and technologies to improve water use efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Claude Laval for his years of dedicated service to the Central Valley Business Incubator and business and water leadership in the greater Fresno area. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Laval many years of continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2010*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, February 2, I was unable to cast my vote on three suspension bills.

Had I been present, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted:

"yes" on rollcall Vote 26; "yes" on rollcall vote 27; and "yes" on rollcall vote 28.

#### TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT RALPH BLINCOE

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2010*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Special Agent Ralph Blincoe, Deputy Director, Management and Administration, of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), who will retire from that agency on February 27, 2010, after 28 years of highly distinguished service.

Mr. Blincoe began his career as a Special Agent in 1982 with the then-named Naval Investigative Service (NIS) after graduating cum laude from Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. After being selected for and completing the first NIS special agent basic class to graduate from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Criminal Investigator Training Program, Mr. Blincoe assumed his first duty assignment in San Diego, CA. While there, he served on the narcotics squad and, became dedicated to investigating procurement fraud matters. Mr. Blincoe was the first NCIS case agent to work a Group I undercover fraud operation with the FBI code-named "Sandfish," which resulted in the conviction of multiple contractors and naval personnel for kickbacks and bribery. In 1986, Mr. Blincoe was short-toured from his assignment in Hawaii and transferred to the first of three NCIS Headquarters tours to become the co-case agent on Operation Iron Eagle, a massive effort focused upon corruption and irregularities committed by members of Seal Team 6, resulting in numerous indictments and convictions of civilians and military members including famed Navy Seal Richard Marcinko. For his efforts, Mr. Blincoe received a Navy Special Act Award and the Department of Defense Inspector General's Award for Investigative Excellence.

Following Supervisory Special Agent tours at NCISRA Washington, D.C., and Jacksonville, FL, Mr. Blincoe was reassigned as the Supervisory Special Agent at Rota, Spain. Mr. Blincoe believes his three years in Spain were amongst the best of his life due to the excellent staff, great work, and close working relationships he developed with the Spanish law

enforcement and intelligence agencies. It was also in Spain where Mr. Blincoe led a dedicated team of NCIS personnel whom were credited with saving the lives of two naval officers. As a result, Mr. Blincoe was awarded the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal. In 1995, Mr. Blincoe moved to Naples, Italy and served as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge.

In 1997 Mr. Blincoe was transferred back to NCIS Headquarters and then in 1999 was appointed the Deputy Assistant Director for Criminal Investigations. It was during this time period that he was selected to be the Navy's lead for the removal of hundreds of protestors from the Navy's bombing range at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. This highly emotional crisis received daily international media attention, involved multiple federal agencies, and briefings to the senior-most levels of government. The removal plan was flawlessly executed and Mr. Blincoe received the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his efforts.

After tours as the Special Agent in Charge at NCISFO Washington and as the Assistant Director for Administration, Mr. Blincoe was selected to be the first NCIS Executive Assistant Director for Combating Terrorism following the tragic events of 9/11. It was during this time period that Mr. Blincoe was promoted to the Senior Executive Service and has noted that he is particularly proud of the development of the counterterrorism strategies he and his team put together shortly after 9/11, many of which still endure today. Following his 2004 to 2006 assignment as the Executive Assistant Director for Atlantic Operations in Norfolk, VA, Mr. Blincoe returned to Washington for the final time when he was selected by Former NCIS Director Thomas Beto to be the Deputy Director for Operations, a position he held during one of the most demanding operational tempos in the agency's history. Some highlights of that time period include the Haditha/Hamdan investigation, the Chi-Mak and Ariel Weinmann espionage investigations, and the rebuilding of the NCIS economic crimes and proactive criminal operations programs. In 2008, Mr. Blincoe moved to the Management and Administration position and focused much of his time in the areas of leadership development, increasing diversity, the upcoming BRAC moves to Quantico and Fort Meade, and improving the expeditionary communications capability of NCIS.

In retirement, Mr. Blincoe intends to initially volunteer his time and energy to various charitable causes in the greater Washington, D.C., area and then explore employment opportunities in the private sector. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Blincoe for his 28 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter of his life.

#### RECOGNIZING NINA HUMPHRIES OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nina Humphries of Zephyrhills, FL. On February 1, 2010, Nina did something that all of us strive

to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish; she celebrated her 105th birthday.

Nina Humphries was born February 1st, 1905 in Ontario, Canada. She originally came to the United States to attend nursing school in Buffalo, New York.

Widowed by her late husbands George Clayton and Ed Humphries, Nina cherishes the time she spends with her family. She has two children, Anita and Robert, six grand children, and four great grand children.

Madam Speaker, on February 5th, the city of Zephyrhills will honor Nina's life achievements. I ask you to join me today in honoring her on the floor of this House. May we all have the good fortune to live as long as she.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH "BUZZ" COHO, OUTSTANDING ROTARIAN

#### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this week I will be proud to attend a dinner honoring an outstanding member of our community in the 16th District of Pennsylvania, Ralph "Buzz" Coho.

Born on the Fourth of July, Ralph likes to be known as a genuine Yankee Doodle Dandy who loves his community and his country.

He served his country with honorable service in the United States military and served his community as an honest businessman.

Ralph is known as "Mr. Rotary" around Lancaster County and has been an outstanding ambassador for the organization since 1934 when he first joined the Lancaster club at the age of nineteen.

Twenty years later he formed the Lancaster Northeast Rotary Club.

In his time with Rotary International, he has championed the formation of 11 clubs in District 7390.

In 2004, he was awarded the District 7390 Lifetime Achievement Award.

In both his business and his personal affairs he has faithfully honored the Rotary Four-way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? And, will it be beneficial to all concerned?

He is still very active with Rotary International and three clubs in his district are honoring him with an honorary flagpole in front of the new Manheim Township library.

A flag flown over the United States Capitol will wave in honor of Ralph "Buzz" Coho.

I am pleased to honor this upstanding and outstanding member of our community and thank him for his decades of exemplifying the Rotary motto, "service above self."

#### ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the compassionate work of the tens of thousands members of the U.S. armed forces, federal agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and volunteers on the ground providing direct assistance to the people of

Haiti. Our brothers and sisters from the island nation of Haiti are facing an unimaginable human catastrophe as the country works to recover from the magnitude-7 earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010, the largest recorded in Haiti in over a century. By providing critical services ranging from emergency medical care and food distribution to helping maintain security, these men and women represent the best of the humanitarian character and make us all proud.

It is prudent, then, that we match their bravery and selflessness in the epicenter of the disaster with a compassionate, multi-pronged response. President Obama quickly brought the focus of the relevant federal agencies onto Haiti, and Congress has acted swiftly to encourage the American people to contribute to the effort by passing H.R. 4462, which would allow taxpayers to deduct charitable cash donations for the relief of victims of this tragic event on their 2009 income tax returns.

Further, I recognize that the Government of Haiti cannot afford to invest in humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and development efforts, while continuing to make payments on debts owed to multilateral financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Even before the earthquake, debt service payments to these institutions were a tremendous burden that interfered with the ability of the Government of Haiti to meet the needs of its people. For this reason, I have long been a supporter of efforts to cancel Haiti's debts owed to these multilateral financial institutions, and I have reiterated my call for debt cancellation in the wake of the earthquake. In addition, many of my colleagues and I have joined the effort to extend temporary protected status to Haitian nationals who are currently in the U.S. so that they can assist their fellow countrymen and women through remittances and other support.

The effect of the earthquake on Haiti is reflected not only in the thousands of buildings destroyed, but more accurately in the cost of human lives and families devastated. According to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "[o]f Haiti's 9 million people, initial reports suggest roughly a third may be affected by the disaster." The international humanitarian and security response has already provided much needed shelter, food, and medical support. As these initial efforts unfold, the need expands into maintaining security, reestablishing the democratically elected government, and providing sustainable services to the people of Haiti. To help fulfill this need, I am a proud cosponsor of the Next Steps for Haiti Act (H.R. 417). Introduced by my dear friend Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, H.R. 417 would support the capacity building efforts by the Haitian government and civil society, supporting President Obama's commitment to support the people of Haiti in their efforts to not only recover from this human catastrophe but also to hold on to and work hard toward their vision of a strong economy and democracy.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my condolences to the victims' families, both here at home and on the island, and encourage all Americans to help in Haiti's rescue, recovery and empowerment.