

STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA, MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER AT THE MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valuable resource available to Minnesota veterans; the Student Veterans of America Chapter at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC).

The Minneapolis group operates as a chapter of the national non-profit organization. The Student Veterans of America have three primary missions: 1) Develop student veterans groups on college campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups; 2) connect student groups with resources; and 3) advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level. Since their establishment, the Minneapolis chapter has consistently achieved these goals. Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe are welcomed by the staff at the Minneapolis chapter. Veterans are able to discuss issues, receive assistance, and share common bonds with fellow veterans who are experiencing the stress of integrating into an academic environment. Whether they ultimately transfer to another college or begin their professional careers, veterans who attend the Minneapolis Community and Technical College have a high graduation rate.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans, who have served, and continue to serve, our country and I am proud to announce that veterans are receiving the respect and assistance they need from the Minnesota Chapter of the Student Veterans of America. MCTC is hosting an event to honor student veterans on March 10 as one of the many ways we express our appreciation for student veterans. I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to find ways to honor student veterans in their communities.

The post-9/11 G.I. Bill passed by Congress has allowed more veterans an opportunity to achieve their academic goals. Organizations such as the Student Veterans of America, and the additional benefits available through the G.I. Bill, help to ensure that our veterans achieve their goals. I want all student veterans to know that I am grateful for their service and proud of their achievements. I wish them nothing but success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. WALLY HUCKNO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Wally Huckno. Mr. Huckno served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 10.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but

only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Huckno served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Huckno is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MILITARY SERVICE OF TIBOR RUBIN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tibor "Ted" Rubin, a prominent U.S. Army Veteran and POW during the Korean War whose selfless and heroic actions earned him the Medal of Honor. Madame Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Rubin and share his story which serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Having been born in Hungary in 1929, at age 15 Mr. Rubin was sent to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria where he survived the next 14 brutal months of captivity. Tragically, his father perished in Buchenwald while his mother and sisters faced the gas chambers at Auschwitz. When Mauthausen was liberated by the U.S. Army in 1945, Mr. Rubin immigrated to the United States with a vow to show his appreciation to the country that gave him his freedom, and saved his life.

Mr. Rubin joined the army in 1950 and served as a rifleman with I Company, Eighth Regiment, First Cavalry Division, fighting in the Republic of Korea. Once there, Mr. Rubin hit the ground running and it wasn't long before he was recognized for his bravery and readiness to accept the most dangerous of missions. In one such mission, Rubin secured a route of retreat for his company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers.

In November of 1950, after sustaining shrapnel wounds from a grenade, Mr. Rubin and others in his company were captured by the Chinese, who were fighting with the Korean Communist government. Despite the extreme conditions of low temperatures, shortages of food and medicine, all in the face of capture, this is where Rubin's selfless heroism truly shined. Mr. Rubin continually risked his life as he snuck out nightly to forage food for his fellow prisoners, especially the sick and dying. His fellow prisoners credit him with saving 35 to 40 lives by this brave and daring endeavor.

Mr. Rubin spent a total of two and a half years in the North Korean prisoner of war camp. Yet in the face of these unthinkable circumstances, Mr. Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism time and again. His harrowing acts of bravery and extraordinary devotion to his brothers in arms resulted in numerous recommendations from his Commanders for the Medal of Honor, among other prestigious awards. Regrettably, Mr. Rubin's deserved recognition was met with unwarranted obstruction due to his religious beliefs.

After more than 50 years of waiting, Mr. Rubin was finally given the acknowledgment he rightfully deserved. On September 23, 2005, President Bush awarded Mr. Rubin with the Medal of Honor—the highest military decoration awarded by the United States Government—for his many acts of valor throughout the Korean War.

Even to this day, at the age of 81, Mr. Rubin continues to inspire fellow veterans and service members as an active keynote speaker for military and Jewish communities across the United States. Most recently he has spoken to troops at Fort Hood, First Calvary, the California state military reserve, as well as to the 100 new soldiers enlisting in the five branches of the military service in Century City, California. In May of this year he will be speaking to the Army National Guard in Mississippi.

There is no question that Mr. Rubin has an unshakeable love for his adopted homeland of America. We are truly grateful for his demonstrated courage, compassion, and selfless military service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all those brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the valiant service of Mr. Tibor Rubin.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALAN N. DIKCIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor a true American hero—U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis, a native of Wheatfield, New York.

Sadly, this past Friday, March 5, while serving his second tour of duty, Specialist Dikcis lost his life when he was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Specialist Dikcis enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Niagara-Wheatfield High School in 2006, and had hoped to spend his career in the service.

He enjoyed spending his time outside, whether it was going for a hike or riding his motorcycle or four-wheeler, and he enjoyed spending time with those he loved—his family and friends.

As Specialist Dikcis's stepmother recently said, "Alan loved being in the Army. He was proud of his work. He made us proud, he made his daughter proud."

I ask that the house join me in thanking Specialist Dikcis for his honorable service to our great nation, and extend our condolences to his family and friends, who had Alan taken from them far too soon.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF MR. FONTAINE BANKS

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to

honor the military and public service of a true legend in Kentucky, Mr. Fontaine Banks. Throughout his many decades of service, Mr. Banks has made countless contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to our nation.

Mr. Banks showed his desire to serve the public at an early age, starting out as president of the Student Government Association at Belfry High School, and later, serving as the president of the Student Council at Berea College.

But Mr. Banks' sense of service extended far beyond his education. Two weeks after graduating from college, Mr. Banks volunteered for the Marine Corps and reported to Parris Island. After basic training, he was deployed to Cho-do Island to fight in the Korean War, where he served two tours of duty in the fall of 1952 and the spring of 1953. He fought courageously with his fellow men and sustained injury while on the battlefield.

After his tour ended, Mr. Banks returned home to Kentucky and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve where he reached the rank of Colonel. He then began his civilian career with IBM and the Kentucky Department of Education, where he quickly moved up in state government. Mr. Banks eventually served as chief of staff to Governors Bert Combs and Ned Breathitt. To this day, he is the only person ever to serve as chief of staff to two Kentucky governors.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Banks has served his country in so many ways: in combat in Korea, as a Marine Colonel, as a public servant, and as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is a fine example of a man dedicating his life to making the lives of those around him better. Mr. Banks has made a career of exemplary service, both to his state and country, and it is with great pride that we thank him for his service today.

TESSA GRAYBILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tessa Graybill. Tessa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Tessa's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Tessa has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Tessa can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Tessa Graybill for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL AM 1490 WMBM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM. Since its inception in 1995, WMBM's leadership and staff have continued to serve as an important communications tool for the south Florida community. The listeners are fortunate to have a radio station committed to keeping them informed and entertained.

Acquired by New Birth Broadcasting, Inc. on March 10, 1995, WMBM has remained the only 24-hour gospel station in the Miami-Dade area. For the past 15 years, WMBM has distinguished itself through the breadth and depth of its programming, as well as through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout the 17th Congressional district.

With talk programming such as Spirit and Soul: Compassion, Business Showcase: Business in the Black, Business Showcase, Tuesday Talk, Spirit and Soul: Victorious Life Management, Spirit and Soul: Sister to Sister, and Spirit and Soul: Brother to Brother—it is quite clear of WMBM's commitment to provide up-to-the-minute news, empowering its listeners, and playing inspirational and encouraging gospel music.

Moreover, as the first Black-owned and operated radio station in South Florida, WMBM currently has a coverage map of over 1,500,000 homes and businesses. WMBM is also one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the internet.

In 2007, WMBM was the recipient of the Stellar Award Radio Station of the Year, which is a premier gospel event that recognizes and honors African-American artists, companies and organizations in the field of gospel music.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM as it celebrates 15 years of dedicated fellowship through its radio station. WMBM has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming and integrity. It is my hope that WMBM continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration and worship for many years to come. I wish them many more years of outstanding achievement.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL DOUGLASS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Douglass for 34 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mike began his career at the House in 1975 as a Sales Clerk in the Office Supply Store. Mike's leadership, dedication, and positive attitude were visible to his management and he moved up to become a Sales Clerk filling or-

ders for delivery and then he moved into the Accounting Department. Mike eventually became the Supervisor of the Accounting Department in Office Supply, where he was responsible for the server, software, and business accounting process in the Supply Store. Later he took these skills to play a key role in implementing the House's first fully computerized purchasing system, which continues in use to this day. His people skills were essential to the successful rollout of that system (Procurement Desktop).

Mike eventually became responsible for configuring the purchasing system so that users could purchase goods and services in compliance with best practices and the Office of Inspector General recommendations. With his role in developing recommendations for implementing the system that will replace the current financial system, Mike's valuable contributions to the House community will continue long after he has left. Mike is known by his colleagues for his sound business judgment and problem solving skills. He is also known for his quick wit and fairness.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Michael for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Michael many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the unsung heroes of our ongoing military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq: the Military Working Dogs (MWDs). For over 60 years, military dogs have been working, serving, and risking their lives alongside our brave servicemen and women around the world. Like their handlers, these Military Working Dogs have served this country with honor and distinction, keeping our country safe both at home and abroad.

During World War I, many dogs, beginning with the first military dog, Sergeant Stubby, served alongside American forces overseas. On March 13, 1942, the Army Quartermaster Corps officially recognized and incorporated the so-called K-9 Corps. Between 1942 and 1945, over 10,000 dogs were trained in the War Dogs program. Military dogs have continued to play an important role in the U.S. Armed Forces through the 20th century and into the 21st. Today, these four-legged soldiers serve alongside our soldiers overseas, searching for explosive components, drugs, and IEDs. As they do every day in our homes and yards, these dogs have proven to be man's best friend on the battlefield as well.

I became aware of the important work of Military Working Dogs through Frank Yevchak, a constituent from Hewitt, NJ and founder of Support Our Four-Legged Soldiers. Frank and his organization have sent thousands of dollars of supplies to MWD handlers stationed in Balad, Iraq. Supplies range from cooling vests and blankets to toys and treats—whatever the