

interest and conducted 11 named operations, 5 air-assault missions, and 17 combat resupply missions during the heat of battle. Medics helped in more than 30 mass casualty and MEDEVAC trauma events.

Through their deployment there was no single loss of life, limb, or eyesight.

Our courageous SAPPERS earned 39 Purple Hearts, 23 Bronze Stars, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, 87 Army Commendation Medals, 5 Army Achievement Medals, 87 Combat Action Badges, 4 Combat Medic Badges, and received a special commendation from the Polish Battle Group Commander.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the 235th Engineer Company for their service to our Nation. Our heroic soldiers were true to the SAPPER creed by completing the mission regardless of available assets and overcoming insurmountable odds.

CONGRATULATING JAMES A. GILMARTIN, RECIPIENT OF THE W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James A. Gilmartin, who was selected to receive the "W. Francis Swingle Award" from the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gilmartin graduated from Pittston High School, Class of 1952.

He worked in private industry for six years before enrolling in King's College Night School in 1958. In 1960, he became a full-time student and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1962.

Mr. Gilmartin returned to his high school alma mater where he was appointed as a teacher of social studies for five years until he moved to Hamburg, Pennsylvania, to accept a position as assistant junior-senior high school principal.

He moved through the ranks, serving as assistant superintendent for seven years and, in 1978, was named superintendent of schools, a position he held until his retirement.

Subsequently, he has served in eight school districts and the Intermediate Unit in temporary capacities.

Mr. Gilmartin continues to be involved in education, serving as a reader for the Educational Testing Service and as a special education auditor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. During the last school year, he served as a mentor to two new administrators as part of the Principal's Leadership Initiative and as an advisor to the Superintendent of the Pittston Area School District.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Reading Area Community College, Hamburg Center Board of Trustees, a member of the Berks County Municipal Authority and he also serves on U.S. Congressman TIM HOLDEN's Academy Selection Team.

He has been active with the volunteer fire and ambulance units in Pittston.

He has also written a weekly newspaper column for the Pittston Sunday Dispatch in recent years.

Mr. Gilmartin has noted that it was W. Francis Swingle, a former King's College professor, who guided him through the college enrollment process more than 50 years ago. In 2002, Mr. Gilmartin established a scholarship at King's College that provides a substantial four-year award to a student from the Greater Pittston Area. The application and selection process is determined by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Gilmartin on this notable occasion. His commitment to the education of our young people is evidence of the positive influence W. Francis Swingle had on him more than a half century ago and his selection to receive the Swingle Award is a fitting tribute to both.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 PRESERVATION ACT OF 2010"

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act of 2010." This bill represents the combined work of my colleague and E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair, JOHN SHIMKUS, as well as our Senate Co-Chair counterparts, Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and RICHARD BURR.

I'm very grateful to my colleagues for their efforts. Representative SHIMKUS and I are the remaining original co-founders of the E9-1-1 Caucus and we have shared in its mission over the years. I'm very pleased that Senators KLOBUCHAR and BURR have joined us in this important work. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans who call 9-1-1 each day.

For the past seven years, the E9-1-1 Caucus has worked in a bi-partisan, bicameral fashion to ensure that 9-1-1 call centers have essential technology to perform their life-saving tasks. In 2004, we introduced the ENHANCE 911 Act, which established a National 9-1-1 Office to coordinate the implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 services at the Federal, State and local levels. We provided funding resources for a grant program and made certain that funds collected on telecommunications bills for 9-1-1 were used only in support of 9-1-1 services.

We followed up on this initial core legislation with language in the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007;" the "New and Emerging Technologies 9-1-1 Improvement Act of 2008;" and the "National 9-1-1 Education Month Resolution in 2008." The 2008 Farm bill also included language to make loans to improve 9-1-1 access to entities eligible to borrow from the Rural Utilities Service.

Our work and dedication to 9-1-1 call centers is ongoing and evolving because technology changes and new tools have become available to upgrade safety protocols. In part, that's why we call the new program "Next Generation 9-1-1." We have moved from the point where we are mainly concerned about

enhanced services for location identification. Now we take global positioning technology for granted. We need to focus on coordinated efforts to recognize essential technology and upgrades, and facilitate this process at the national level through a coordinated, Federal effort. We need to enhance interoperability and citizen access, while providing tools for the call centers as they route information and coordinate responses.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 bill authorizes \$250 million in grants for each fiscal year for the next five years for ongoing programming and moves the Coordination Office to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce. When this program initially began, it was placed in the Department of Transportation, but we now recognize that NTIA is the proper location for public safety technology grants and programming.

We also remain concerned about states that raise funds for 9-1-1 services on consumers' telecommunications bills, but divert those funds for other budgetary purposes. Now, more than ever, we need to provide incentives for States to keep their promise to use the funds for the purpose for which they were raised. We cannot permit routine raids of the 9-1-1 coffers at the expense of public safety.

And that's what this bill really is about—public safety at its most basic level. The first tool of first responders is the E9-1-1 call center. Let's ensure that these centers have the tools that they need to serve the public and keep us all safe.

HONORING RITA WISCHMEYER AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to rise today to recognize Ms. Rita Wischmeyer and the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

These women truly broke gender barriers and defied tradition when they served as military pilots during World War II. From September 10, 1942 until December 20, 1944, roughly 1,000 women served in this group and helped to lay groundwork for future generations of women to serve in the armed forces, and particularly, as pilots. Their actions were both heroic and daring, and we honor their legacy with heartfelt thanks and warm thoughts.

Recently the Women Air Force Service Pilots were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I applaud them on receiving this long overdue recognition. America is a better country because of these women and because of their service, and I extend a personal thank you for their sacrifice.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Ms. Rita Wischmeyer, a citizen from my district, who served with this group. We can all learn a valuable lesson from her courage in the face of discrimination and willingness to give to her country. Together with these women, Ms. Wischmeyer helped to change the course of history so that people

could serve both in the military and as pilots, regardless of gender.

Madam Speaker, the Women Airforce Service Pilots were remarkable women that gave unselfishly and wholeheartedly for their country. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in honoring their accomplishments and celebrating their legacy for future generations of women.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUELIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1910, a small congregation was formed under the leadership of the Reverend James Alfred Lampley. This was the founding of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois. Serving with Pastor Lampley as the original church officers were Deacons John Wright and Charles King, Clerk Mary King, and Treasurer Frank Settles.

Originally located at 14th Street and Baker Avenue, Truelight Baptist Church would move several times as the requirements and size of the congregation grew, while always staying within the same East St. Louis neighborhood. When the current, brick church at 1535 Tudor Avenue was under construction, the congregation met for a time at the funeral home of one of its members. When the first floor of the church was completed, the congregation marched from the funeral home to the new church building.

Upon the death of founding Pastor Lampley in 1956, Reverend Henry Nicholson was chosen as pastor at the very young age of 23. Pastor Nicholson continues to serve as pastor to this day. It is a rare blessing that Truelight Baptist Church has had only two pastors in its 100 year history.

Truelight Baptist Church has grown and expanded since its humble beginnings. Several parishioners have moved but continue to return for services. The congregation has started several ministries and has developed an active participation in social, political and educational issues while remaining rooted in its spiritual foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

JENNIFER ROBINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jennifer Robinson. Jennifer 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.

Jennifer's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Jennifer 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 Jennifer can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jennifer Robinson 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.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM A. CURTSINGER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom A. Curtsinger of Owensboro, Kentucky for his service both to his country and the Commonwealth.

Born in Graves County, Mr. Curtsinger grew up working on his family farm and honorably served in the US Air Force during World War II. After his service, Mr. Curtsinger received his bachelor's degree in agriculture and his master's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Tom and his wife Rose were married in 1954, and they have five children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. In 1968, when Mr. Curtsinger was hired as Daviess County's 2nd Extension Agent, the Curtsinger family moved to Owensboro, where they still reside today.

During his work in Daviess County, crop yields improved by nearly 100 percent, an accomplishment that greatly benefited his community.

For all his hard work and dedication, Mr. Curtsinger received the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on December 12, 2000. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rural Life Celebration Committee recognizing Mr. Curtsinger's commitment to promoting the agriculture industry and helping his community.

As a leader in Daviess County, Mr. Curtsinger has been involved with many organizations, including serving as Treasurer and Secretary of the DC Lions Club and past president of the Kentucky Agriculture County Extension Agent Association. Mr. Curtsinger has also served as an honorary board member of the DC Farm Bureau and is the founder and organizer of the Annual Agriculture Farm Expo.

I want to thank Mr. Curtsinger, along with Rose and their family, for serving as role models for all Kentucky families, especially those within the rapidly changing farming industry. I wish them nothing but the best, and I hope their success continues for many years to come.

HONORING MR. JACK JONES JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 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. Jack Jones Jr. Mr. Jones served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Carroll.

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. Jones 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. Jones is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County, Texas on its sesquicentennial year. It was 150 years ago when Wilson County was founded in South Texas by an act of the state legislature. The area is rich in culture and history and serves a great part to the state of Texas.

Before the founding of the county, the first Spanish explorers traveled the area in the early eighteenth century and used the land mostly for ranching. Most notably, the birthplace of ranching took place at Rancho de las Cabras. This was a ranching outpost for Mission San Francisco de la Espada where the first ranches and cowboys settled near Floresville in Wilson County. By the 1800s, Mexicans, Anglo American, German and Polish settlers began moving into the area. Soon after, the state Legislature founded Wilson County on February 13, 1860. The county was named after James Charles Wilson, who was an early settler of Texas and a state legislator.

Throughout the years, Wilson County has played a significant role in South Texas history. After the Civil War, Wilson County's population underwent the greatest growth due to the completion of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway, which reached Floresville in 1886. By the early nineteenth century, farmers who were once known for cotton crops as the most important cash crop, then diversified into a wider range of like peas, watermelons, and peanuts. Today, some call Floresville the "Peanut Capital of Texas." Wilson County residents have served valiantly in combat from the Civil War to today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. One hundred and fifty years has shaped the county and development of Texas through its rich culture and history and of a diversified economy that includes farming, ranching, and even oil discovery.