

House Republicans ignore or pretend not to recognize the extraordinary success of Medicare. In fact, earlier this year House Republicans adopted a fiscal plan that ends Medicare as we know it and replaces it with a voucher program that requires seniors to purchase health care from private insurance companies with a voucher that is worth \$6,200 less than they receive currently under Medicare. Of course, my friends across the aisle do not explain how seniors can be expected to be better off fending for themselves with less money in a profit-based system with higher administrative costs that discriminates against older persons and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues and I believe that Medicare needs to be preserved and strengthened so that it may be available for future generations. Just as Medicare has been kept solvent for the last 46 years; we believe it can be strengthened and maintained for at least the next 46 years.

Because women constitute the majority of individuals on Medicare, the program is therefore critically important to preserving our health and well-being. In addition, because women, on average, are paid less, live longer and have more health care needs than men, Medicare plays a greater role toward preventing illness and destitution.

Therefore, in honor of Women's Equality Day, I rise to honor the brave and courageous women of past generations who fought for the right to vote and for equality. They deserve equal attention to their long-term health, and I intend to continue fighting to that end.

#### HONORING GAIL T. LOVELACE

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 26, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring native Washingtonian Gail T. Lovelace for 38 years of outstanding, tireless service to the federal government, and especially in celebrating her tenure at the General Services Administration (GSA).

Gail graduated from Notre Dame Academy, where she was a proud member of the basketball team, the French club, and the glee club, where she honed her signature voice. She is an honors graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Louisville.

Gail is a human resources guru and served as the first Chief People Officer in the federal government, as well as GSA's top human resources executive. During her tenure, GSA has repeatedly been voted as one of the top agencies to work for in the federal government. Her expertise and skill set have made her the "go-to" person and a problem solver on matters dealing with federal personnel. She is equally well known as a strong advocate for civil servants.

IN 2008, Gail served as the Director of Presidential Transition for GSA, an important role given GSA's responsibility for finding suitable and appropriate work space, for providing information technology services, and for providing a variety of administrative services for each incoming administration. Gail is known for her flawless approach to solving problems,

and has received numerous awards and honors during her career, including the Human Resources Executive of the Year Honor Roll Award and the Meritorious and the Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards.

In addition to her stellar career, Gail takes great pride in her family. Her husband, Reginald, her children, Ryan and Resa, her son-in-law, Salvatore, and her granddaughter, Lindsey, are highlights in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Gail T. Lovelace for her accomplishments and devotion to public service and in wishing her well on her retirement. Our federal government is a better place because of her service.

#### WINDSOR WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS MARCH ON TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 26, 2011*

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2011, I was honored to take part in a ceremony recognizing more than sixty 5th grade students from Virginia Beach's Windsor Woods Elementary School to mark the transition from the elementary level to the secondary level. After six years of hard work, they enjoyed reflecting back on their accomplishments, over this important time in their development, with different types of recognitions and awards. I spoke to them about their next challenge in the upcoming seven years of secondary school. I reminded them that each part of this next period in their lives is made up of small resolute steps toward their near goal of graduating from high school by illustrating numerous stories from my life. Below are the names of the 5th grade scholars:

Otoniel Adame-Perez, Dmitry S. Alelekov, Katlyn Allen, Aric L. Asper, Joshua A. Bailey, Joseph L. Baker, Peyton E. Berning, Tanner S. Blais, Julia M. Bland, Monica C. Boone, Fabricio Borda, Christopher Brazelton, Isreal Brownlow, Jacob A. Browning, Emily B. Bullock, Alexandria E. Carman, Justin D. Chesnut, Michelle Ciely.

Mya L. Clark, Briyana C. Davenport, Logan Davis, Morgan L. Davis, Michael Deany, Clayton G. Ditty, Justin W. Dowell, Christopher Dunlap, Evan Fisher, James Fisher, John P. Gordley, Nia S. Hamiel, Angel Harris, Chance W. Harbour, Kiavon Ingrain, Arne J. Jakobsson, Krystina A. Johnson.

Darryl Jones, Ky-Asia M. Jones, Cody T. Kaneiss, Gregory Klein, Sarah N. Kline, Benjamin R. Kohler, Nguyen T. Le, Joseph A. Leake, Makaela L. Leisy, Mahogany Leslie, Yong Hao Li, Noelle N. Litchfield, Anastasia E. Maletz, Christiana L. Marlowe, Emmalyn R. Martin, Isabella Martinelli, Raymond Matos-Dominguez, Sean McClurg.

Jackson Mills, Christian N. Moe, Bridget L. Moran, Dillon Morey, Mark A. Mount, Joseph L. Nguyen, Aaron J. Ortiz, John M. Pagan Lamberty, Andjee Phillips, Jeffery Proctor, Brianna I. Quilan, Emily I. Rice-Wheeler, Alexia R. Robbins, Andrew B. Rowe, Jenna A. Ryloko, Elijah Sailes, Esabel J. Samonte, Carson D. Saunders.

Joseph Savage, Joseph Scharf, Matthew J. Schreck, William Scott, Montez Scutchings, Colin S. Seys, Destani E. Shine, Christopher Smith-Dent, Sophie R. Sparling, Jaden G. Stanford, Jaekwon Vinson, Brandon M.

Waddington, Cassidy M. Wagner, Amari T. Wall, Aliya D. Walker, Christian Walker, Erica M. Walker, Desmond O. Warren, Nicholas H. White, Javon Williams, Janasia L. Woodard, Victoria E. Yocom, Matthew Zieger.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL TRAVIS M. NELSON, USMC

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 26, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Lance Corporal Travis M. Nelson.

Lance Corporal Nelson succumbed to wounds sustained in combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on August 18, 2011. At the time, he was assigned as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Born in Pace, Florida, on August 5, 1992, Lance Corporal Nelson was a true American patriot. Drawn to military service at an early age, with the support of his family, he joined the Young Marines of Pensacola at 14. He later participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Pace High School, where he graduated from in 2010. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and upon completion of basic training in January 2011, Lance Corporal Nelson chose to serve in the infantry. He knew of the challenging role; however, he felt that the job should not be left for someone else. His decision to join the Marine Corps is a true testament to his character's strength and selflessness.

Lance Corporal Nelson was a beloved member of his community, remembered as an athlete, an avid fisherman, and a friend by those who knew him. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Beckie; his sister, Anna; his brother, Daniel; and his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Lance Corporal Travis Nelson for his selfless service and sacrifice in defense of our nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

#### CONGRATULATING COLONEL HARRY M. "MIKE" ROBERTS ON THE OCCASION OF CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT

#### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 26, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to congratulate Colonel Mike "MR" Roberts on the occasion of his change of command and retirement and for his outstanding service to our Nation.

Colonel Roberts is to be recognized for his outstanding command of the 178th Fighter

Wing, Springfield Air National Guard from January 5, 2008 to August 21, 2011, and upon his retirement after more than 29 years of dedicated service to the United States and the United States Air Force.

Colonel Roberts received his commission in 1982 upon his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. After graduation, he completed Air Force Pilot Training with an assignment to fly the A-10 Thunderbolt. Following his A-10 assignment, Colonel Roberts went on to fly the AT-38 and various models of the F-16C, while stationed in numerous locations including: New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, and Torrejon Air Base in Spain.

While assigned to Torrejon Air Base, he deployed and flew combat sorties in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Colonel Roberts was shot down over downtown Baghdad on January 19, 1991 and spent six weeks as a Prisoner of War until combat operations ceased and he was released in March of 1991.

In 1996, Colonel Roberts was assigned as the Active Duty Advisor to the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard. In 2000, he resigned from active duty and was commissioned into the Ohio Air National Guard. As a member of the Ohio Air National Guard, Col. Roberts held numerous leadership positions, culminating as the Commander of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard Base.

Colonel Roberts' command of the 178th was simply outstanding, as evidenced by his winning the 2010 Ohio Adjutant General's Commander of the Year Award. He won this award for his invaluable contributions to the families of the 178th by ensuring all of their needs were met while maintaining a 100 percent deployment cycle and a changing mission set that required a complete retraining and reassignment of many of the Wing's personnel.

His "people first" style of leadership helped lead the 178th Fighter Wing through a successful transition from an F-16 Training Wing, including international students, to an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing flying the MQ-1 Predator. During this

transition, the 178th completed all sortie requirements, totaling more than 5,800 flying hours with zero mishaps.

Colonel Roberts is a Command Pilot with over 5,000 flying hours, and has received numerous Department of Defense Awards, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Prisoner of War Medal.

For his tireless service and strong dedication to our Nation and the world's greatest Air Force, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our congratulations for a mission well done and a huge thanks for his many years of service. We wish him and his family the very best in their future endeavors.

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IN HONOR OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT CAMP ROBERTS

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**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 26, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Satellite Communications Station at Camp Roberts, California, for fifty years of service to our nation. Nestled in the rolling rangeland of California's Central Coast, Camp Roberts has a long continuous tradition dating back to WWII of training soldiers for the active duty Army and Army National Guard. Many veterans remember Camp Roberts for its beautiful vistas and searing summer heat. But there is a lesser known side of Camp Roberts history and continuing service.

Half a century ago, at the dawn of the satellite age, defense engineers focused on Camp Roberts for its ideal location for communicating with satellites stationed over the Pacific Ocean. The Department of Defense installed a satellite communications terminal on a remote hill in the center of Camp Roberts in support of the then nascent Defense Commu-

nications Satellite Program. It was the first world-wide strategic communications station of its kind to be established. Today, the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station, provides highly reliable, relevant, and unique advanced communications that are crucial to the combat effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the U.S., and critical to our national security.

This station is the premier Gateway for the Department of Defense, providing joint interoperable communications capabilities and the full spectrum of communications services in direct support to the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, Department of Defense components, Warfighters, and civil authorities.

Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station is one of the oldest and most prestigious operational signal assets belonging to the U.S. Department of Defense. Since its inception a half-century ago, the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station has flawlessly executed critical communications support during the most pivotal times in our nation's history. The unsung heroes of the Satellite Communications Station at Camp Roberts have been vital to the success of every major conflict from the fall of Saigon to the killing of Osama bin Laden, every space shuttle launch, and every disaster relief effort since Hurricane Katrina. Every day they contribute to global stability and national security and help protect the lives of the men and women serving our nation in harm's way. Indeed this House approved last year funding for a major expansion of the station and its capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in commending the men and women who have served at the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station over the course of the past fifty years. Their efforts are not forgotten. And on the occasion of this anniversary, I want to particularly single out those on duty today, for their unceasing efforts are indeed the true monument to this important milestone in the history of our nation's defense.