

Daycare Center and an active member of the First Christian Church in Concord. He wrote a book about his life that was published in 2010 titled *I Made the Best of It*.

Such an upstanding, dedicated local leader will be missed by his friends, family, and community. Robert is survived by his wife, four children, nineteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in this time of deep loss; I hope the memories and principles that Robert Mathis lived his life by bring them comfort. Robert will be missed by his community and his country. I am honored to be able to recognize the life of such a selfless, upstanding individual as Robert Lee Mathis today before Congress and our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NORA CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in the City of Newburgh, New York as this Catholic school for low-income girls prepares to dedicate its permanent home on November 21, 2011.

I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy on this important and wonderful milestone. The Academy was organized in 2003 and officially founded in 2004 by the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer a high quality educational alternative to young girls in the struggling City of Newburgh, which remains one of the most economically distressed communities in the State of New York. With strong support from the local community, the Academy was established through the vision and dedicated efforts of Sisters Nora Cronin, Joan Mary Gleason, Yliana Hernández, Ann Marie McMahon, Carol Melsopp, and Helen Marie Raynor, and Associate Jackie Martinez. The Academy was renamed in honor of Sister Nora following her passing in 2004.

Under the diligent leadership of its Principal, Sister Yliana, the Academy accepted its first class of fifth grade students in 2006–2007 and has grown steadily as the first class advanced and new classes entered the school. Originally housed in temporary locations in New Windsor and at another location in the City of Newburgh, the Academy purchased and redeveloped a long-neglected historic property at 69 Bay View Terrace in the City of Newburgh. The Dedication of the Academy's new permanent home is a testament to the commitment and leadership of the Presentation Sisters as well as the generosity and hard work of the Academy's Board of Directors and many local supporters.

As a result of this inspiring effort, dozens of underprivileged young girls in the City of Newburgh will have the opportunity to receive an incredible education in a supportive and safe environment. I congratulate and offer my gratitude to all those who make the Academy and the Dedication possible, and I wish the students and faculty of the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy the very best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM AND MEGAN WHITE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding Pennsylvanians, Jim and Megan White, who are being presented the Barry Award by the American Catholic Historical Society. The Barry Award is named after Commodore John Barry, the "Father of the American Navy." John Barry was a Philadelphia Irish mariner who served as a Captain in the Navy during the Revolutionary War and subsequently received 'Commission Number One' in the Navy from President George Washington on June 4th, 1794. His military service to a young nation was instrumental in establishing the legacy of a strong Navy that we still enjoy today. The Barry Award is awarded to an American who, by their character and their contributions to church, community and professional accomplishments, has distinguished themselves. By all accounts, Jim and Megan White have exceeded these expectations, serving church and community with distinction. As a Member of Congress representing Pennsylvania, I am proud to join you in honoring them.

Jim and Megan White are an example of servant leaders who are committed to serving their local community. A devoted couple, they are loving parents to five children; whom they have taught to never back down in the face of popular opinion; and to always do what their heart and soul directs them. Megan has devoted countless hours at parish food and clothing drives and is also a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home for Children. She provides constant support for her children and husband in all their endeavors.

Jim is a member of Legatus, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights of Malta, Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute. He is the President of J. J. White Inc., a family business founded by his great-grandfather in 1920. His business is the largest contracting employer in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

I am privileged to recognize Jim and Megan's commitment and selfless dedication to others. The White's exemplify the values that make Pennsylvania a great place to live and raise a family. I congratulate them on this honor and commend the American Catholic Historical Society for selecting Jim and Megan White for the Barry Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL ARMSTRONG UPON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, in 1900, Orville and Wilbur Wright left Dayton, Ohio for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to begin testing the first manned aircraft. Little did they know in less than 70 years, another individual from Ohio would be making aviation history yet again.

Mr. Speaker, we will gather today in the Rotunda to recognize the historic accomplishments of Neil Armstrong—along with three other extraordinary men: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn.

I, like most Americans, remember watching television in awe that July evening as Neil Armstrong took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" onto the moon.

While the accomplishments of the Apollo program would not have been possible had it not been for those that came before it—including the Mercury and Gemini programs—we must recognize those pioneers, like Neil, who selflessly volunteered their lives for the pursuit of knowledge to go where no one had gone before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in joining me in congratulating my constituent, Neil Armstrong, as well as Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn upon receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT LUIGGE ROMANILLO UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Technical Sergeant Luigge Romanillo upon his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On May 4, 2010, Sergeant Romanillo flew a high-risk Medical Evacuation mission to extract wounded coalition forces engaged by over one-hundred insurgents near Baghran Airfield in Afghanistan. The confined landing area left the cargo door nearly five feet off the ground as hostile insurgents fired from less than 200 meters away. The aircraft received small arms damage to several control surfaces as Sergeant Romanillo and his teammate stepped off the aircraft toward the patients amid the firefight.

Under a storm of enemy bullets, Sergeant Romanillo led his team in recovering the patients. Once in the aircraft, he administered life saving treatment to his patient who had suffered a gunshot wound. The actions of Sergeant Romanillo and his team led to the successful evacuation of two wounded coalition soldiers and repatriation of two killed in action.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Sergeant Romanillo at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Sergeant Romanillo has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

HONORING JOHN FREDERICK
KENSETT AND THE HUDSON
RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a recent event in the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey" by Albert Bierstadt, have been placed in the Capitol complex after years in the Members' staircase in the House. These works are part of the Hudson River School of painting, a movement that influenced not only American art, but our culture and environment as well.

The Hudson River School was dedicated to an accurate depiction of landscapes, particularly emphasizing the untouched beauty of the land. Ultimately, these beautifully represented panoramas helped influence the environmental conservation movement and were used in 1916 to support the creation of the National Park Service.

John Frederick Kensett, a member of this first indigenous American school of painting, has ties to my district. Born in Connecticut, John Frederick Kensett worked as an engraver before traveling to Europe and the American West to study and paint. However, he is best known for the works he did upon his return to my state. The light-filled landscapes of the coast of Contentment Island became Kensett's signature.

Kensett's contributions to both art and culture are lasting. He was chosen by President Buchanan to serve on the only United States Capitol Art Commission to supervise the decorations of this very building during renovations in 1859. He also assisted with the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, which continues to be one of the most prominent cultural institutions in the United States. Inspired by the Hudson River School's founder, Thomas Cole, Kensett was commonly seen as Cole's successor as the leader to this important movement.

I encourage everyone to make time to appreciate these paintings and the legacy of the Hudson River School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, due to my responsibilities related to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE
MONTFORD POINT MARINES RE-
CEIVING THE NATION'S HIGHEST
CIVILIAN HONOR—THE CONGRES-
SIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran myself in a so-called "Forgotten War" in American history, I know what it is like to come home and feel unrecognized. The Montford Point Marines for too long have been unsung heroes. These men fought abroad to preserve our freedom and democracy, then came home and had to fight for their civil liberties.

On the eve of 11-11-11, the United States Senate passed legislation, which the United States House of Representatives voted unanimously 422-0 to honor the Montford Point Marines with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. These truly great American men fought in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II—the first Black Marines in the Navy. After 70 years, they have finally received the honor they deserve for a legacy we must not forget to pass on to our future generations.

At the time of their military service, discrimination and violence toward Blacks in America were rampant. Black Marines were sent to untraditional boot camps; they were segregated and instead received training at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

One of these heroic men is my beloved brother, the Honorable David N. Dinkins, who is also the first African American and 106th Mayor for the City of New York. He recounted some obstacles he and his comrades faced in an interview: "Italian and German prisoners of war, some of them were guarded by Black soldiers. They were treated better than those people who were protecting our country; soldiers and Marines." My brother David further stated, "During training, Black Marines were often kicked, slapped, could not eat until the whites had finished, and were routinely passed over for promotions."

He even heard stories of some Black Marines following orders to march into a river where they soon drowned. Despite their hardships, the Montford Point Marines proved to be a solid force within our military, just as capable as any group of white Marines. Originally organized to serve as a temporary surge in manpower, the Blacks trained at Montford Point comprised roughly 10 percent of the Marine Corps strength during the war and were to be disbanded after hostilities ended.

Montford Point Marines won praise from several white officers for their heroism during the seizure of Okinawa and at Iwo Jima. They were even sent to Nagasaki to clean up after the atomic bomb was dropped. Documented by the Montford Point Marine Association, much of that heroism occurred with the 51st Defense Battalion, which arrived at Saipan in the Mariana Islands to support the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions of V Amphibious Corps. While they were assisting the combat units, one of their own, Private First Class Leroy Seals of Brooklyn, New York, was shot and died the next day of his wounds. The Montford

Point Marines picked up their rifles that day, fought back the Japanese, and even destroyed one of the Japanese machine guns from the beachhead perimeter side-by-side with the white combat units. In February 1945, a group from the 51st landed on Iwo Jima with the 5th Division, 28th Regiment. The combat regiment came ashore and it seemed that taking Iwo Jima would be a cakewalk. The Japanese, however, had planned an ambush. They (the Japanese) had placed guns on either side of Mount Suribachi and were firing at will onto the Marines on the island. The Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company landed during the second or third wave and somehow they kept ammunition in the hands of the combat units throughout this deadly firefight. Repeatedly the Black Marines delivered the much-needed ammunition. Though the Japanese actually shot two trucks from under one of the drivers, he kept coming back. Combat Marines who thought they had seen everything cheered this young, Black Marine from their foxholes. The Montford Point Marines knew their job was to keep the combatants supplied and they did so with great valor and at great expense to their company. The Japanese soon saw this and began to make their assault on the Ammo Company as well as the combat Marines. The Montford Point Marines rose to the occasion by fighting off these attacks as they continued their supply missions. This is the courage and stamina that lead Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Fleet in the Pacific to say, "On Iwo Jima, in the ranks of all the Marines who set foot on that Island uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Those early Montford Point Marines were the catalyst for the great presence of African Americans in the Marine Corps. By the time that camp was closed for recruit training in 1949, over 21,000 recruits were trained and molded there. In July of 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order No. 9981, ending segregation in the military altogether. In September of the following year, Montford Point was deactivated, ending the legacy of inequality.

Twenty years following World War II, during August 1965, a group of enterprising Marine veterans and active duty Marines from Philadelphia organized a reunion. The purpose was to renew old friendships and share experiences of former comrades who received recruit training at Montford Point Camp, Camp Lejeune, and New River, North Carolina. This group, chaired by then Master Gunner Sergeant, Brooks E. Gray, USMC, held a meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and formulated and developed plans for a National Reunion. The response was overwhelming and 400 Marines from all over the country convened at the Adelphia Hotel in Philadelphia. In 1966, the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. received its Charter and founder Brooks E. Gray became the Association's first National President.

Next year, the Marine Corps will officially begin teaching all their servicemen and servicewomen about the Montford Point Marines. There is a museum dedicated to their service located at Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The Montford Point Marines Association continues to work tirelessly to preserve their stories, which serve as a reminder of the struggles behind us and the challenges ahead. In order to truly appreciate their legacy, we must continue sharing this story.