

Mr. Pounds was inducted into the Army Air Force on September 24, 1942 at the age of 22. A decorated World War II veteran, he served his country with the 34th Depot Repair Squadron where his talent as a sheet metal worker was used to repair bullet ridden planes.

The records reflect that Mr. Pounds fought alongside his Squadron in the Rome-Arno, Naples-Foggia, Po Valley and Southern France battles and campaigns. He also spent several months in North Africa fighting the German Afrika Korps commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. While serving in North Africa, Mr. Pounds suffered wounds from a German bomb that landed and exploded approximately twenty feet from him. Large pieces of hot flak imbedded into his back, and his hip was crushed resulting in a permanent limp. His family gave us these direct quotations—made by Mr. Pounds—and we have no reason to doubt the veracity of his description of his wounds, nor his reason for not obtaining medical information.

Following medical treatment by a British doctor, he served three additional years before being honorably discharged. Mr. Pounds was among the brave and compassionate soldiers who stormed the Nazi Concentration camps, rescuing and liberating their victims. In addition, he was also responsible for guarding German prisoners, and rounding up the German citizens surrounding those camps.

Upon time of discharge in October of 1945, I am told that when asked if he received any wounds, Mr. Pounds humbly declined to disclose his injuries. He considered his own wounds sustained at the beginning of his military service insubstantial in light of what he witnessed in war—comrades who lost their lives, and the atrocities he observed at the concentration camps. War decorations awarded to Mr. Pounds include the Good Conduct Metal and the EAMET Ribbon (“Europe-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign”). However, because Mr. Pounds did not complain about his war injuries, and no medical records from the British doctor who operated on his back exist, Mr. Pounds has yet to receive a much-deserved Purple Heart. My staff and I attempted to acquire first-hand accounts from fellow soldiers who could formally verify his wounds. We were unable to contact the veterans Mr. Pounds served with from Emory, or his comrades he fought alongside, due to the fact that they preceded him in death.

On March 16, 1973 Clifford O. Pounds married Evelyn Mayfield in Corpus Christi. A devoted husband and family man, he celebrated thirty-seven years of marriage with his wife, during which time they were blessed with six children.

Clifford Pounds was also known as a man of deep faith and quiet leadership. He was a member of the Church of Christ, taught bible study classes, and could be found daily reading his bible in his family’s dining room every morning. Staying “behind the scenes,” he preferred to quietly help those in need rather than seek out credit for his actions. If an elderly or disabled person needed home repairs, he would readily offer his services until the repair was complete. It was also not uncommon for him to answer a 1:00 or 2:00 phone call in the morning just to be a sympathetic ear for someone needing to talk.

Clifford O. Pounds is preceded in death by his sisters, Joy Sickles and Mary Jo Hart, and

his son, Russell Cole. He is survived by his wife Evelyn; their children Sheron McCain, Dell Pounds, Donna Draudt, Lisa Preuss, and Mike Pounds; as well as seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Pounds was such a kind and deserving man and veteran, that I was proud to search and search for the proof required, and am so disappointed that I am still working for his Purple Heart award.

Clifford Pounds was an American patriot and man of faith who lived with honor and integrity. He had a compassionate heart for those less fortunate, and gave generously of himself in all aspects of his life. It has pained me to know how entitled Mr. Pounds was to receive his Purple Heart, but I am proud to have gone the last mile trying to get the award to one so deserving. I am personally acquainted with the Pounds family, and we all know that although I was unable to get testimony for presentation for the Purple Heart, that on the 31st of July, 2010—the date of his death—we said goodbye to a great American, a great patriot, and a loving husband, father and grandparent to those who loved him. God, and those buddies he served with, know of his sacrifices. Though he will probably never receive a Purple Heart award, he proudly walks those streets paved with gold, and he will always be remembered as a fiercely loyal soldier, a true and loving family man, and a Red, White and Blue American that we will never forget. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues present today to join me in honoring this unusual American hero, Mr. Clifford O. Pounds.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAIT EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently we have seen many breakthroughs in cross-strait relations: direct, scheduled flights, direct shipping and postal services, a framework for financial cooperation and investment. On June 29, 2010 Taiwan and Mainland China signed the historic Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in Chongqing, China. At the moment, Taiwan’s Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Mainland’s Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) are discussing and exploring further measures to improve cross-strait relations.

It is apparent to the international community that the tone of Taiwan-mainland relations has improved significantly. With the conclusion of numerous cross-strait agreements, economic and cultural ties between Taiwan and mainland China can be expected to grow in the future. I am happy to see increased stability in the Taiwan Strait and upsurge in Taiwan-mainland economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

Mr. Speaker, these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of President Ma Ying-jeou and the leaders of Taiwan’s Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and the Straits Exchange Foundation. On the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Straits Exchange Foundation, I applaud the courage shown by President Ma in taking steps to improve cross-strait relations.

Again, on this anniversary, it is my belief that future stability in the strait will depend on open dialogue between Taiwan and Mainland China, free of force and intimidation and consistent with Taiwan’s flourishing democracy. In order for Taiwan to deal with Mainland China confidently, Taiwan needs to be confident in its role in the international community, its ability to defend itself and its place in the global economy.

The United States must continue to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations. We must help Taiwan feel that it has the physical capacity to resist intimidation by selling defense articles and services to Taiwan, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Lastly, we must explore new initiatives to expand our economic relationship with Taiwan.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF SPACE SHUTTLE “DISCOVERY”

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome home the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and its crew of six from the STS-133 mission. The Space Shuttle *Discovery* landed safely at Kennedy Space Center located in Florida’s 24th Congressional District this morning. The brave astronauts of *Discovery* spent 13 days in Space and delivered their payload to the International Space Station flawlessly.

This is the final flight of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and with its now 39th successful mission since 1984, including the delivery of the Hubble Space Telescope and the Ulysses robotic probe, we will bid farewell to the most traveled spacecraft in our fleet. *Discovery* has carried over 180 courageous astronauts to space including the first female shuttle commander and shuttle pilot in history and has been a symbol of space exploration and technological innovation for decades.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done to Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Eric Boe, and Mission Specialists Alvin Drew, Steve Bowen, Michael Barratt, and Nicole Stott. They are true American heroes and pioneers in the race for discovery and exploration. Welcome home team.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize the efforts of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), which is headquartered in my district in Westerville, Ohio. NGWA is sponsoring National Ground Water Awareness Week which began on March 6. Each year, this event puts the national spotlight on a critically important issue, the preservation and protection of groundwater for human and environmental purposes.

National Ground Water Awareness Week is the pinnacle of NGWA’s year-round effort to

educate the public about proper groundwater and water well stewardship. For private household well owners, stewardship includes regularly testing their well water quality and treating it if necessary. An estimated 95 percent of America's available fresh water is in the form of groundwater.

NGWA is a nonprofit organization composed of more than 12,000 U.S. and international groundwater professionals—contractors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers, scientists, and engineers—is dedicated to advancing groundwater knowledge. NGWA's vision is to be the leading groundwater association that advocates the responsible development, management, and use of water.

Association members will be using Ground Water Awareness Week to participate in a variety of activities and events. I want to thank them for their efforts to preserve, protect and safely utilize this most valuable resource.

ANGIE GIARRATANO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angie Giarratano of Pueblo, Colorado. Before her passing, she was a philanthropist and longtime leader in her community. She raised thousands of dollars for various charities and brought recognition to a number of other causes.

In addition to her philanthropic work, Ms. Giarratano worked full time, raised two children and was an active member of her church. She also was a grandmother to four and great-grandmother to five. Her husband, John Giarratano, was a World War II hero who played an important role in the D-Day invasion. After the war, he became a small business owner and, like his wife, was a key leader in the community. Family was an important part of Ms. Giarratano's life and was one of the reasons she became such a valuable citizen of Pueblo. While raising a family, she volunteered for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and was very active in the American Cancer Society. Ms. Giarratano also worked as the collection manager for the Pueblo Credit and Collection Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Angie Giarratano and her family's legacy. It is an honor to recognize her life today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DANIEL KANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Daniel Kane, who devoted his life to the assistance of others and to improving the well being of the Cleveland community.

Daniel was born and raised in Slavic Village, in the very same house his mother had been raised. Through his commitment to serving others, he helped bring about several sig-

nificant improvements within the community. He founded the Morgana little league, which provided the youth of his community an opportunity to participate in America's pastime, baseball. He also established the first community garden for Slavic Village, which would eventually be named in honor and recognition of his hard work.

Daniel's devotion to his community and country was apparent from the early years of his life. He served his country in the Second World War, risking life and limb. After the war he began to work for the Cleveland Division of Police as a patrolman and would eventually work his way up to the rank of detective. He retired from the force in 1978, but could not be separated from his devotion to the community. He continued to serve as an Investigative Counselor for the Cleveland Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the distinguished life of Daniel Kane, whose legacy of community involvement is admirable. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences to his wife Yolanda and his children, Diane, Donna and Daniel Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR 2010 CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Folsom High School Bulldogs Varsity Football Team for their 2010 CIF Division II State Championship win on December 18, 2010.

With their win at the CIF Division II State Championship in Carson, against Serra High School of Gardena, the team joins the level of elite high school football teams in the State. Their win is a source of pride for the students, faculty, and the alumni of Folsom High School, as well as the residents of Folsom.

The Bulldogs had an impressive season in which they attained a 14–1 record. Along the road to the State Championship, the Folsom Bulldogs had one of the greatest playoff runs in Section history. After defeating a solid 6–4 Roseville team 56–13 in the first round, the Bulldogs then steamrolled the 10–1 Vacaville Bulldogs 75–6 in round two. In the Section Semi-finals the Folsom Bulldogs traveled to Atwater to face the 12–0 Buhach Colony Thunder. The Bulldogs defeated the Thunder 55–20. In front of a record crowd of 20,000 plus fans, the Bulldogs battled the nationally ranked Grant Pacers to a 41–20 victory and the Division II Section Championship. Winning the Section Championship in the toughest division in the San Joaquin Section and finishing the season with a 13–1 record earned the Folsom Bulldogs a State Bowl berth. This set the matchup between the 13–1 Folsom Bulldogs and the 14–0 Serra Cavaliers in the Division II State Championship. The Serra Cavaliers came into the State Championship game with a 29-game winning streak. The Folsom Bulldogs proved to be too much for the Cavaliers as the Folsom Bulldogs rolled to a 48–20 victory. This earned the Folsom Bulldogs their first State Championship and a number 5 National Ranking by MaxPreps.

In their 5 postseason games the Folsom Bulldogs faced teams with a combined record of 55–5 and outscored them 275–79. This is an amazing feat by an amazing team. Postseason awards include Dano Graves winning the title of Cal-Hi State Football Player of the Year and the MaxPreps National Player of the Year. Coach Kris Richardson has been honored as the Nike and MaxPreps Division II State Coach of the Year.

This team represents heart, strength, determination, and resilience. I commend Coach Kris Richardson for his leadership throughout the season, and applaud him and his fellow coaches for keeping the team focused and determined to achieve their goal of a state championship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Folsom High School Varsity Football Team.

CONGRATULATING MR. LANE TOKITA FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE CLOSE UP WASHINGTON CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lane Tokita, an outstanding A.P. History teacher at Kauai High School in my district. Mr. Tokita is in Washington this week with his high school students for the Close Up Washington Civic Education Program. The Close Up Foundation is presenting him with an award for his dedication to the program over many years.

Mr. Tokita's students report that his history class is tough but fair. He instills his students with the philosophy that "Quitting is not an option!" I experienced first-hand Mr. Tokita's effectiveness as a teacher when I visited his class. The students impressed me with their enthusiasm and lively participation.

Mr. Tokita is a strong supporter of this program to give students a first-hand experience with democracy in our Nation's capital. Using the Close Up curriculum—tied to state history standards—Mr. Tokita helps his students understand how our democracy works, and inspires them to become more active in their school and community.

Over 95 percent of the program's 500,000 participants have reported that the program helped them better understand their roles as citizens.

I salute Mr. Tokita for his dedication to providing a well-rounded civic education for his students. I have requested to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in his honor.

Congratulations to Mr. Tokita and the many students he has helped influence over the years.

THE VOLUNTARY STATE DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ACT OF 2011

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with my colleague,