

Gadsden, partnered with the Department of the Army G-3 and the United States Army Medical Command in developing the blueprint for the Warrior Transition Units and led the initial staffing efforts which proved to be instrumental in the care and transition of our wounded warriors returning home from the Global War on Terror.

Colonel Gadsden's selfless service and commitment to her Soldiers has distinguished her among her peers. She was instrumental in transforming the Army Reserve Medical Commands from a strategic force to an operational force. As the interim Chief of Staff for Western Regional Medical Command she expanded the command from a six-state region to a 20-state region in less than one year while ensuring the continuity of care for over 358,000 beneficiaries. As the Army Reserve Medical Command's G-3 she led the staff through a deliberate and comprehensive mission analysis which resulted in trained and ready medical units to support the Combatant Commands and enhance continental U.S. based mobilization platforms with a stable medical support plan. Colonel Gadsden's contributions to the Army have been immense.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Colonel Corliss Gadsden for a lifetime of service to her country. For all she and her family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saginaw Community Foundation on obtaining their National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations Standards Board.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board was established as a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations, a nonprofit membership association of grant making foundations and corporations, to administer the National Standards. This board is responsible for upholding the quality, value, and integrity of the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the first and only accreditation program of its kind.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than \$40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions. With such a presence—nationally and within local communities—comes responsibility.

Achieving confirmation and reconfirming compliance with National Standards is a rigorous process, guaranteeing that every community foundation that receives the designation has adhered to excellent philanthropic practice. This program requires community foundations to document their policies for governance, donor services, investments, grantmaking, community leadership, and administration.

The Saginaw Community Foundation of Saginaw, Michigan has obtained its National

Standards accreditation by demonstrating a commitment to operational quality, integrity, accountability, and adherence to the highest standards for grantmaking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Saginaw Community Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and in commending the foundation's dedicated service to Saginaw and other communities in Michigan.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MILAGROS "MILLIE" MUNOZ

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I bring news to the U.S. Congress that, last month, on Monday, August 6, the South Florida community and the Munoz family lost a courageous and strong woman: Milagros "Millie" Munoz.

I have twice previously come to the floor to speak of Millie, and the debilitating disorder from which she suffered: Dystonia. Millie was a remarkable woman described by all who knew her as "the sweetest person," who was strong even in the face of the inescapable pains of dystonia. Through all of it—her pain; her rigorous physical therapy sessions—Millie always greeted everyone with that warm, unmistakable smile of hers.

As a Member of Congress, it is my duty to help call attention to, and raise awareness of disorders such as dystonia to the American public. Together we can work together and call for additional research, with the hope that one day a cure may be found.

Right now, dystonia is a virtually unknown condition that stems from major neurological diseases. It causes the involuntary spasm and contraction of muscles that robs those affected of the freedom to move. The condition is often misdiagnosed; Millie herself was often told by doctors that "it was all in her head." It was only until her friend and doctor, Cynthia Gonzalez, astutely recognized Millie's symptoms as dystonia, that her mind could be put at ease.

Millie's case stands as an example of why more Americans should be aware of dystonia; so that more can be done to prevent it and others like Millie don't have to suffer unnecessarily in the future. People should know her story so that Millie's courage in the face of adversity does not get forgotten.

Millie may be gone, but her courage and resilience will be her lasting legacy. All of our hearts are a little heavier this week in South Florida as we honor and remember Milagros "Millie" Munoz. We should not mourn the loss of a life, but rather celebrate the memory of a life lived.

Mr. Speaker, her passing is not the end, but the beginning of a new future; a future where others need not suffer from disorders like dystonia. And we here in Congress can help facilitate that future.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUIS MARTINEZ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Luis Martinez for his outstanding commitment and dedication to the Latino community in New York City and in Puerto Rico.

Luis Martinez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Luis arrived in New York in 1954 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served our country honorably for 24 years. While Luis was in the service, as a non-commissioned officer, he played and participated in baseball tournaments throughout Puerto Rico, including in San Juan, Aguadilla, Bayamon, and Mayaguez. Luis also participated in All-Squad athletic competitions in Japan, Guam, California, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

Today, Luis is an active member of a variety of groups. He focuses many of his efforts in increasing sports participation in the Latino community. Luis is Vice President for Community Affairs for the Hispanic-American Sports Coalition, which was founded in 1992. The Hispanic-American Sports Coalition is an umbrella group for all sports activities within the Latino community. The group organizes tournaments for youth athletes in baseball, basketball, and soccer, in addition to conducting training for players, coaches, and league officials. One of the most notable, popular, and exciting events that the Hispanic-American Sports Coalition hosts is the Latino Little League World Series for 10–12 year olds, held in Red Hook, Brooklyn over a period of three days every Labor Day Weekend. This tournament has drawn the enthusiastic support of New York City Mayors, New York State Governors, and other public figures and distinguished personalities.

Luis is also a committee member of Latino Sports, Inc., as well as the Latino Sports Writers and Broadcasters Association. The latter group is responsible for annually selecting the most valuable Hispanic baseball players in the National and American Leagues. Luis is also the founder of the The Greater New York Cosmopolitan Amateur Baseball Association, Inc.

However, Luis is also an accomplished photojournalist for the weekly newspaper La Voz Hispana, the magazines Discomundo and Espectaculos, as well as the newspaper Impacto. Through his photography he has documented the day to day life of Puerto Ricans and Latinos in New York City, providing an unparalleled photographic history of one of the most vibrant communities in New York. Luis has also contributed to his community as president for 15 years of the Lower East Side Hispanic Committee, Inc. In recognition of all his work he was awarded the Ramon Emerito Betances Award from the National Puerto Rican Parade.

Mr. Speaker, Luis Martinez has made an outstanding contribution to his community. His extraordinary dedication and devotion in bringing athletic opportunities to youngsters is remarkable. His multifaceted background as a photojournalist, community leader, and sports enthusiast has enriched the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my

colleagues join me in recognizing a gifted individual, Luis "White Shoes" Martinez.

# RECOGNIZING THE TRINKA DAVIS VETERANS VILLAGE

## HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today to recognize the grand opening of the Trinka Davis Veterans Village in Carrollton, Georgia on September 28, 2012. This is a momentous event for the 3rd district, and I am proud to help honor their great service to our nation's brave veterans.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village would not have been possible without the \$17 million donation from the Trinka Davis Foundation. Ms. Katherine "Trinka" Rynne Davis was a Carroll County business leader who was profoundly impacted after learning of the difficulties our veterans and their families face on a daily basis. She founded the Trinka Davis Foundation on November 9, 2004 and focused the majority of the funding on improving the lives of our soldiers and healing the trauma from deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Following her unexpected death, Ms. Davis left her entire estate to her foundation. Over \$25 million was left to aid our veterans and their families. In working with the Atlanta VA Medical center, the Foundation developed the concept of the Veterans Village to best serve the needs of our local veterans in rehabilitating injuries and problems faced upon coming home; such as loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, depression, PTSD, unemployment, and loss of homes.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village has been built to serve as both a medical office and community living center for veterans across Georgia. Through regional research, the Foundation Board learned that veterans in the Bowden and Atlanta area needed a Community Based Outpatient Clinic and nursing facility in Carrollton, Georgia. Without the donations from the Trinka Davis Foundation, the construction and operation of the village would never have become a reality. The facility anticipates around 3,000 veterans in the area will use the primary care services, and with 42 beds, rehabilitation will be more accessible than before. The facility will have a family-centered approach to treatment and will let residents and family members of the village be more involved in their care. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village will also provide home-based care for patients who cannot travel to the clinic.

I would like to thank Trinka Davis, who I know is smiling down from above, her wonderful Foundation and the Atlanta VA for their hard work and donations to make the Veterans Village possible. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village is a great step in improving veteran care in our great state and helps us to give back to our veterans who have given everything so that we can live free.

# CONGRATULATING EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

## HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate East Tennessee Foundation in Knoxville, Tennessee, on obtaining its National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

East Tennessee Foundation is headed by my longtime friend Michael McClamroch.

Mike is one of the hardest working and finest men I know, and I am very proud of his leadership of East Tennessee Foundation and all the great work it does for East Tennessee.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than \$40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions.

Achieving this accreditation is a rigorous process, demonstrating that East Tennessee Foundation has a commitment to the highest standards possible.

I want to again congratulate my friend, Mike McClamroch, and East Tennessee Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and commend the foundation's dedicated service to East Tennessee.

# IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BILL RHEA STARNES

## HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative PHIL ROE, I submit these remarks in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Bill Rhea Starnes, a veteran and distinguished pilot, who was prematurely taken from us on August 24, 2012.

As a member of both the United States Air Force and the Tennessee Army National Guard, Bill gallantly served our country for 39 years. At the ripe old age of 14, his love for aviation was first cultivated when his father taught him how to fly a plane. After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Bill continued his flight training at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Following flight school, Bill served in Vietnam, where he flew approximately 800 combat hours. In 2005 and 2006, he was deployed to Kosovo. Throughout his military career, Bill demonstrated the courage, fortitude, and wisdom that a nation prays for and a military dreams of having. He was the recipient of nearly 50 awards including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and air medals with valor and army commendation.

Even down to his voicemail—"Hello, it's Bill. Learn as if you will live forever, and live as if you will die tomorrow."—Bill embodied a strong desire to live life to the fullest. Though he didn't reside in the Ninth District, I assure you, Bill was an active member of our community. As the chief pilot for K-VA-T Food Stores and Central Coal Company, he was even said

to be a "fixture" at the Virginia Highlands Airport.

A committed family man, a man who loved God and his country, and a friend of many, Bill will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those he served. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lisa; his two sons; his father; his family; and his friends.

Well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the United States military and our community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be long remembered throughout our region.

# HONORING MEL BIRDWELL

## HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell, the wife of Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell. She has been one of the most active and visible spouses of a Hood County elected official on the local, state or national level.

For three years Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Republican Women of Hood County. During this time she has assisted with expanding the party, as well as, securing copies of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence to give to every 5th grade student in every Hood County elementary school.

Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Hood County where she had extensive positive influences for the children in our community.

One of Mrs. Birdwell's most significant accomplishments would be to that of her and Senator Birdwell's Face the Fire Ministry. This ministry assists burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women and their families. Mrs. Birdwell and her husband began this ministry after her husband's recovery from severe burns due to the 9/11 terrorist attack of the Pentagon. Because her husband's duties as Senator require much of his attention, Mel has single-handedly taken charge of the ministry.

Mrs. Birdwell is also a role model for wives and mothers everywhere in her loyalty to her husband. When presented by the military with a form for her signature which read "soldier's death imminent within 72 hours", Mrs. Birdwell fought for them to do whatever it takes to ensure the survival of her husband. Her never ending fight for his life and God's intervention is why we have Senator Birdwell with us today.

In 2002, Mrs. Birdwell was presented with the fourth annual Robertson McQuilkin Award for Commitment to Marriage by Family Life Ministries. In 2004, the Department of the Army recognized her 17 plus years of service to the Army family with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

Today we recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell's devotion, dedication and loyalty to our Nation, our state, our county, and her family.