

HONORING MONTANA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today it is my distinct privilege to welcome a very special group of men and women to our Nation's capital. And while it is incumbent upon us to honor them, the truth is, they honor us with their presence here.

On September 23, 2012, nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War will arrive in Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight program. Since 2005, Honor Flight has worked to bring WWII veterans to visit their war memorial at the foot of the Washington Monument, and a few feet from the White House. In that first year, 137 veterans participated in the program. By last year, that total annual participation had swelled to 18,055.

And while each of the veterans who has participated deserves our thanks and our honor, this particular group is special because it marks the second time this year that Honor Flight has brought out a group of veterans from Montana.

You won't find a state that's more proud of our veterans than Montana. And we have a lot of them. In fact, you won't find many states that have more as a percentage of our population.

On December 7, 1941 the United States was pulled into the war and Montanans answered the call to service. Within the first year, 40,000 men and women from the Treasure State enlisted. By the end of the war, 57,000 had served—nearly 10 percent of the state's entire population at the time, one of the highest rates in the country.

They served in every branch and in every theater of the conflict. And too many of them never made it back to Montana, although I think that heaven must be a little something like a peaceful sunset over the Yellowstone River.

But Montana's veterans didn't sacrifice in vain. They bled and died to defeat the greatest threat to freedom the world has ever seen. They fought across the bloody islands of the Pacific and in the frozen forests of Europe. They fought in the air, land and sea. Some even fought below the waves. And they won.

Today, the men and women who fought and won that war are justifiably part of what is called the Greatest Generation. The sacrifices of men and women who arrive in Washington, D.C. are the reason for this honorable title. It is not something we gave to them, it's something they earned.

As they visit this city and reflect on what it stands for as a beacon of freedom to the world, I think the rest of us should remember that the reason liberty still exists is because good men stood up to tyranny. They are the greatest of the Greatest Generation, and on behalf of all Montanans, I want to thank them.

57,000 Montanans served during World War II. Just under 100 are here this week. Please join me in welcoming and honoring:

Lee Alderdice (Polson, MT); Milton Lyman Amsden (Broadus, MT); Harry A. Arvidson (Lincoln, MT); Peter N. "Bert" Bertram (Absarokee, MT); Leonard E. "Len" Bestrom (Laurel, MT); Warren Charles Bodecker

(Plains, MT); Ralph Floyd Brewington (Broadview, MT); James C. "Jim" Brook (Lewistown, MT); William Boner "Bill" Brown (Billings, MT); Jackson Lamar "Jack" Burger (Lavina, MT); Filmore Burton Canon (Broadus, MT); John M. Clark (Butte, MT); Harold Lee "Hal" Conrad (Lewistown, MT); Hollis E. Coon (Butte, MT); Gool Counts (Livingston, MT); Carley Rhein Cromwell (Missoula, MT); Leo Eckhardt (Billings, MT); James E. "Jim" Elander (Missoula, MT); James "Jim" Ellison (Billings, MT); Charles T. "Bosco" Eskro (Billings, MT); Frank D. Evans (Billings, MT); Alvin Oscar Fisher (Billings, MT); Samuel W. Frank (Laurel, MT); Durl J. Gibbs (Buffalo, MT); Raymond P. "Ray" Gregori (Hungry Horse, MT); Robert Glover Hall (Potomac, MT); Charles E. "Chuck" Halstead (Columbus, MT); Thomas A. "Tom" Hanel (Billings, MT); Russell LeRoy Hartse (Missoula, MT); James "Jim" Hasterlik (Great Falls, MT); Milam V. Hearron (Billings, MT); McDonald Watkins "Don" Held (Billings, MT); Lewis William "Louie" Holzheimer (Great Falls, MT); Bernard E. "Barney" Ilertson (Corvallis, MT); Earl T. Jackson (Deer Lodge, MT); Elwin M. Johnson (Laurel, MT); George L. Kimmel (Billings, MT); Vincent Leo "Vince" Koefeld (Laurel, MT); Vernon Lee "Vern" Koelzer (Billings, MT); Frank J. Koncilya (Lewistown, MT); Andre Rioul "Andy" Kukay (Great Falls, MT); Willard E. "Bud" LaCounte (Billings, MT); Albert Raymond "Al" Lasater (Ryegate, MT); Harold J. Lasater (Forsyth, MT); Gorvan J. "Duke" LeDuc (Laurel, MT); Oscar Lawrence "Lawrence" Lee (Shepherd, MT); Norman D. Leonard (Billings, MT); Joseph Biggs "Joe" Little (Bozeman, MT); Max E. Long (Laurel, MT); Robert W. Lubbers (Billings, MT); Leonard John "Pat" Mager (Harlowton, MT); James J. Marshall (Missoula, MT); William R. "Bill" Matthew (Anaconda, MT); Paul Messer (Billings, MT); Elizabeth Steele "Betty" Meyer (Paradise, MT); Geraldine E. "Gerry" Mihalic (Missoula, MT); Gerald Kenneth "Jerry" Nelson (Billings, MT); John H. "O'bie" O'Bannon (Stevensville, MT); Clarence Allan "Ole" Olson (Billings, MT); Eddie C. Olson (Vida, MT); Ray A. "Ole" Olson (Billings, MT); Thomas F. "Pat" Patterson (Stevensville, MT); Roy Louis "Pete" Peters (Roy, MT); John W. Porter (Deer Lodge, MT); Carl "Corky" Redding (Billings, MT); Michael Gene Rhodes (Billings, MT); Robert V. "Bob" Ryan (E. Helena, MT); Charles Franklin "Frank" Sandford (Missoula, MT); Dave Schledewitz (Townsend, MT); Lawrence Norbert Shipp (Miles City, MT); William James "Jim" Sivelle (Poison, MT); Anthony William "Bill" Skorupa (Bridger, MT); Charles E. "Chuck" Smith (Billings, MT); Donald E. Smith (Melville, MT); Kenneth C. "K.C." Smith (St. Regis, MT); Robert M. "Bob" Standefer (Billings, MT); John R. "Jack" Stevenson (Missoula, MT); Frank Phillip Thatcher (Billings, MT); Clifford V. "Cliff" Thomsen (Billings, MT); Robert E. "Bob" Torgirson (Billings, MT); Ronald Wilmar "Buck" Torstenson (KalisPELL, MT); James Arthur "Jim" Vick (Billings, MT); Albert "Al" Wade (Billings, MT); James Forest "Jim" Walker (Billings, MT); Bernard Edgar Wanderaas (Vida, MT); Joseph A. "Joe" Weber (Deer Lodge, MT); Allen L. "Buster" Whittington (Billings, MT); Bryce Wood Williams (Billings, MT); Andrew R. "Pete" Winter (Ronan, MT).

WISHING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN A JOYOUS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou on the occasion of Republic of China (Taiwan)'s National Day. This national holiday commemorates the 1911 Wu-ch'ang uprising that ended centuries of monarchy and led to the birth of the Republic of China.

Taiwan and the United States enjoy a robust relationship that reflects our two countries' historical, cultural and economic ties over the last century. Despite lack of formal relations between the two countries, the United States and Taiwan continue to be strong partners in trade, cultural and educational exchanges as well as cooperation in many other areas. Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in combating global terrorism has earned the trust of the American people and boosted exchanges and friendship between our two nations. Such relations also extend to discussions over Taiwan's military needs. A strong Taipei-Washington relationship is in both governments' best interests for the stability of East Asia. This year, we celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

My additional congratulations to the people of Taiwan for their continued participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May in Geneva. I hope Taiwan will also soon join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I join my fellow colleagues in wishing the people of Taiwan a joyous National Day celebration and look forward to expanding our strong relationship.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT SMALL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Robert W. Small for the time and energy he has dedicated to the Military Academy Nomination process by serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District as a member of our Academy Selection Board.

Robert W. Small was born in Lordsburg, New Mexico on February 11, 1935. Mr. Small served his country in both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army. While in the Marine Corps, he was called to duty on combat missions in both Korea and Vietnam; yet, his service went beyond combat. Mr. Small completed duty as a Marine Corps Drill Instructor and Marine Corps Recruiter in addition to assignments with Inspector Instructor Staff, Hawk Missile System, and Infantry and Tanks.

Beyond his work with the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Small has a distinguished career with the United States Army. As an Army

Recruiter, Mr. Small recruited for the Army National Guard. His hard work was recognized in 1981, when he was awarded as the Top Recruiter for the entire nation—having enlisted 139 soldiers in one fiscal year. This award is a testament to Mr. Small's impeccable work ethic.

Mr. Small's enthusiastic service to his country is demonstrated by his wide range of military work, including the California State Military Reserve. He served as Battalion Commander and Director of Recruiting State Wide and was assigned to the Commanding General's Staff as Staff Duty Officer. Mr. Small retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. With forty years of military service, he serves as an example to all in his community.

Beyond the military, Mr. Small continues to exemplify true citizenship in his civilian life. He attended California State University, Fresno and West Coast Bible College. Mr. Small was a founding Pastor of Wahiwa Church of God in Oahu, Hawaii and a Pastor of Pinole Church of God in Pinole, California. He currently serves as Senior Care Pastor at Northwest Church in Fresno, California. He is a member of the American Legion, VFW, and current Commandant of the Marine Corps League.

Robert served as Staff Assistant and Military Liaison to Congressman George Radanovich, former Representative of the 19th District of California. In addition, he served on the Academy Selection Board for both Congressman Radanovich and me.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert W. Small for his outstanding service to his country and community. His expertise as a member of the United States Armed Services and life experiences have made his time on the Academy Selection Board invaluable. He is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN PAUL F. OREFFICE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chairman Paul F. Orefice of The Dow Chemical Company for his distinguished life and career as he nears his 85th birthday. Mr. Orefice is a true American success story, having immigrated to the United States from Venice when he was 12 years old to later becoming the CEO of one of the world's largest and most recognized corporations.

Paul joined The Dow Chemical Company in 1953, after graduating from Purdue University and serving two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He maintained a variety of international assignments early in his career before being named President and Chief Executive Officer in 1978. His adept business skills while head of the company helped him become the first person to receive both the Palladium medal and the Chemical Industry medal in the late 1980s. He was named Chairman of the Board in 1986, and served in that position until his retirement in 1992. Throughout his tenure, The Dow Chemical Company remained one of the largest and most well-respected manufacturing companies in the world.

It is because of the determination and success of individuals like Paul that America remains the land of opportunity for folks wishing to achieve great things through hard work and ingenuity. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Paul for his remarkable life and career.

CRANE HERITAGE DAY HONOREE— EVELYN STRODER

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a stalwart of our community, Evelyn Stroder, who is being recognized as this year's Crane Heritage Day honoree.

When I think of what it takes to make a strong community, I think of someone like Evelyn. Communities can be united in many aspects, but one central component found in strong communities is service. And service to our community has been at the core of Evelyn's life.

Evelyn's journey began in Corpus Christi where she graduated from high school and attended Del Mar Junior College before she went on to earn a B.A. in English and Journalism from Baylor University. Later she earned an M.A. in American Literature and Mass Communications from UTPB.

In 1955, Evelyn and her husband, Charles, moved from Corpus Christi to Crane. Once in Crane, Evelyn would use her education to give back. She served others as an educator for 28 years and continues to serve on the Crane School Board. While Evelyn no longer teaches, she still remains active in the Permian Historical Society and the Crane County Historical Commission. Her journalistic accomplishments include her presented papers and published work in a variety of publications throughout Texas, and currently she serves as the assistant editor of the Permian Historical Society Annual.

One would think that with such a busy schedule, Evelyn would not have time for much else in life. However, in between all these accomplishments, she has managed to raise three children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren—a notable accomplishment in itself!

On behalf of the 11th District, it is an honor to recognize Evelyn because she is an example of those who have made our nation strong. Our nation did not become great from the top down, but from the bottom up—from the people in our neighborhoods willing to serve and make their community a better place for others and their children. Evelyn is one of these individuals. Through this award, she is rightly recognized for the time and sacrifice she has dedicated to others and it is an honor to represent her in the Halls of Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLONEL THEODORE C. "TC" WILLIAMS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Colonel Theodore C. "TC" Williams. Throughout his 27 years of distinguished service, COL Williams has personified the Army values of duty, integrity and selfless service across the many missions that the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As the Chief of Programs Division in the Office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with COL Williams on a wide variety of Army issues and programs. It's my privilege to recognize COL Williams and his many accomplishments.

COL Williams, the son of the late Theodore C. Williams, Jr and Phyllis Kane Williams of Potomac, Maryland, attended Winston Church Hill Senior High School in Potomac, Maryland, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry in 1985 after graduating from The Citadel in South Carolina.

He served from 1986 to 1989 as a rifle platoon leader, company executive officer, and reconnaissance platoon leader in 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry "Wolfhounds" at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. From 1990 to 1993, he served as the battalion assistant operations officer then commander of Bravo Company in 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Cotton-Bailers during the Persian Gulf War and at Fort Stewart, Georgia. From 1993 to 1994, COL Williams served as a Senior Infantry Trainer in the 24th Infantry Division Resident Training Detachment assisting the 48th Brigade, Georgia National Guard. From 1995 to 1998, COL Williams was a small group instructor for the Infantry Officers Advanced Course and tactics team chief in the Tactics Department of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. From 1999 to 2001, he served as operations officer and then executive officer in 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry "Tomahawks" at Fort Lewis, Washington.

From 2001 to 2003, COL Williams was an Army Congressional liaison in the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison where he was principally responsible for overseeing the efficient operation of the division and managing the Army's legislative portfolio on the Chem-Bio Defense program.

In 2003, LTC Williams left OCLL to take command of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry "Gators" during Operation Iraqi Freedom and at Smith Barracks in Germany from June 2003 to June 2005. For twelve months, Force Gator conducted combat and stability operations in southeast Baghdad. In April 2004, while conducting transfer of authority to the follow-on unit, the tactical situation in Iraq deteriorated and the battalion task force was alerted to conduct combat operations in Najaf and Al Kut. Following decisive combat operations in south-central Iraq, the task force was extended in Iraq for three months to conduct combat and stability operations in the infamous "Triangle of Death." For operations conducted April to July 2004, the battalion received the Presidential Unit Citation as part of