

The First Special Service Force was the first official special operations unit in American history. It was formed in July 1942 as a result of a top secret plan conceived by the Chiefs of Staff of the United States and Great Britain to assemble a new type of fighting force capable of combining special warfare tactics and speed of movement to attack and destroy key military and industrial installations in Europe supporting the Nazi war effort.

It was initially composed of 1,800 American and Canadian volunteers who had been mountaineers, loggers, ranch hands and outdoorsmen before the war. They received extensive training at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana, in parachuting, demolitions, mountain-climbing, winter warfare and amphibious landings.

From 1943 onward, the First Special Service Force took part in high risk missions in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, in Italy and in the south of France; and they were the first Allied unit to enter liberated Rome. During combat operations at Anzio, Italy, captured Nazi documents indicated that, due to their ferocity and stealth in combat, the Germans had begun referring to the First Special Service Force as "the Black Devils." It was from this revelation that the unit received its nickname—the Devil's Brigade. By the end of the war, the First Special Service Force lost a total of 2,314 men, equating to 134 percent of the original combat force.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize the service and sacrifice of those valiant American and Canadian volunteers who served the cause of freedom as members of the First Special Service Force. Their dedication to duty, their selfless service to their countries, and their enormous contribution toward halting the spread of Nazi tyranny bear testament to the shared heritage of freedom between the United States and Canada. My wife Vicki joins me in saluting the men of the First Special Service Force on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the formation of the First Special Service Force.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT BUJAR  
NISHANI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bujar Nishani, the President of Albania, on the occasion of the dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden, taking place on September 22, 2012.

President Nishani was born in Durrës on September 29, 1966. He obtained a law degree from the Justice Faculty of Tirana University in 2004 and a Masters Degree in European Studies from the same university a year later. President Nishani began a long career in public service in 1993 as the Director of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Defense. A year later, he began serving at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Relations Department of the Ministry of Affairs.

President Nishani's political career began in 1991, when he first became a member of the Democratic Party. In 2001, he was elected as the Secretary of the Tirana Democratic Party

Branch. Two years later he was elected as a member of the Tirana Municipal Council. In 2005, President Nishani was elected as a parliamentary member of Tirana's 34th electoral district. He later went on to serve as Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice. In July of this year, Mr. Nishani was sworn in as President of the Republic of Albania.

Mr. Nishani is married to Mrs. Odeta Nishani, and has two children: Ersi and Fjona. The dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden will also commemorate the 100th year of Albanian Independence and the dedication of the Mother Teresa memorial statue.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of President Bujar Nishani and in recognition of his visit to Cleveland, Ohio on the occasion of the dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden.

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the parishioners of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, who are celebrating the church's 150th anniversary. In 1862, several members of the first German congregation in Hazleton established a separate church to identify themselves as distinctly Lutheran. On September 25, 1862, the cornerstone was dedicated, and the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church began its mission of glorifying God.

The church faced many challenges throughout the years, from adjusting to our nation's customs and general society to growing its congregation. In the late 1800s, parishioners of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church recognized the importance of helping parishioners assimilate into the community and culture, so the English language was introduced at worship services. By 1903, parishioners formed their first English Sunday School and demonstrated a strong commitment to a Christian education for all ages. As the number of the church's devoted parishioners grew, the congregation built a new church and, most importantly, a new Sunday school. The buildings, which still stand today, were dedicated on November 2, 1930.

Today, the dedicated parishioners of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church continue the virtuous work started by their forefathers 150 years ago. To help the people in their community, the church has partnered with Seeds of Hope, a nonprofit organization that assists families in crisis, and the Salvation Army. Through these organizations, this church's parishioners help maintain a food pantry, provide services such as property cleanup to promote a safe environment for children, and donate to the Salvation Army's food and clothing drives. The present church is the result of faithfulness to the teachings, customs, and traditions of the Lutheran church. With the guidance of their present pastor, Reverend Wayne Lupole, the church welcomes all families as they seek to explore the rich Christian faith.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my most sincere congratulations and deepest respect to the parishioners of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and I wish them many years of successful, faithful future service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAQUEL  
CREITOFF

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the life and work of Raquel Creitoff, who passed away on September 6 at the age of 90.

Raquel Creitoff was born in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, on December 7, 1921, but left her native island in the mid-1940s to live in Manhattan. Raquel soon began working as a member of the staff of the old Migration Division of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of office in New York City. The office's goal, and Raquel's work, was to help Puerto Ricans moving from the island to New York City, adjust to their new home. From housing to jobs to health services, the Migration Division helped Puerto Ricans establish new lives in unfamiliar surroundings. For close to half a century, Raquel worked in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's offices in New York City, and was a dedicated public servant who helped countless Puerto Ricans who had made the trip from the island to New York City in search of economic opportunity.

Raquel was a well-recognized leader of the Puerto Rican community in New York. She was active in numerous organizations, including the Puerto Rican Family Institute and the New York Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women. Additionally, she served on the Board of Universidad Boricua, previously known as Boricua College.

Over the years, Raquel helped countless individuals in the Bronx and in New York City. She will be missed.

HONORING THE VOLUSIA HONOR  
AIR VETERANS FROM CENTRAL  
FLORIDA

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central Florida Veterans who will be participating in the Volusia Honor Air flight to our Nation's capital on Saturday, September 29, 2012.

Over the past five years, the Volusia Honor Air program has provided an opportunity for our World War II Veterans from the Central Florida area to travel to Washington, DC to visit the memorial built in their honor. That one day event for these World War II heroes is one of the most special in their lives and is certainly well deserved.

Since the first flight in 2008 the program has accommodated more than 1,000 veterans in hosting a special visit to their memorial. This flight marks the 10th and final flight for the program.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize each veteran of this final Volusia Honor

Air flight. The veterans of Volusia Honor Air, Flight-Ten are:

Edward Achatz, Floyd Adams, Charles Anders, Edward Bachman, Raymond Banas, Frederick Baum, Angelo Bellanco, Robert Bernacchi, Daniel Bernstein, Frank Bonomo, Herschel Brohinsky, Herbert Brucker, Kenneth Burgess, Edd Byrd, George Carter, Vincent Cascioli, Patricia Chambliss, Henry Cleaveland, Irwin Cohen, Thomas Cook, Albert Covello, Robert Curboy, Thornwell Davenport, Virgil Davis, George Desotle, Walter Dickey, Anastasia Domaszewski, Charles Eamshaw, Chauncey Elkins, Howard Genser, Kenneth Gildersleeve, Douglas Hallahan, Charles Hargrove, George Hatzenbuehler, Arion Hinckley, Arthur Hobbs, Charles Hoeck, George Holm, Harold Johnson, Glenn Jones, Clayton Kaster, Earl Killian, Charles Kitching, James Kraker, Walter Lambert, Ernest Laquerre, Leslie Lee, Evelyn Leonard, James Long Jr, Louis Lorenzo, Delia Majure, Eugene Makowski, Harold Marine, John Marshall, Rene Mauboussin, Robert McAlpine, Francis Micara, George Murphy, Edward Obremski, Garlan Odor, George Ottendorf, Donald Palmiter, Loucious Pancoast Jr., Pandi Pani, Joseph Parise, Nathan Polinsky, Paul Pratt Jr, William Rhoads, Gerald Roberts, Charles Robison, Alexander Roskoski, Charles Rowell, Joseph Schmidt, Thomas Schultz, William Seitz, Samuel Shoup, Henry Slager, Stanley Sowinski, Levis Swallows, John Temple, Lonnie Terrell, Forrest Thomas, James Trott, Edward Vaissiere, Henry Vendryes, Anthony Visco, Harold Williams, Murray Zealor, Stanley Zeiger, Theodore Zrinyi.

I would like to salute them, their chap-erones, the Volusia Rotary Clubs and other sponsors who helped make these flights possible.

It has been my honor and pleasure to accompany our veterans during most of these trips to Washington, and I will always remember the satisfaction, joy and solace I have witnessed in these remarkable men and women and often their family members as they visited our most cherished memorials in our Nation's capital.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Volusia Honor Air program and the service of these World War II Veterans.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WARD FAMILY AS THE 2012 WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Ward family for being selected as the 2012 Walton County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family.

Bruce and Shirley Ward have been farming and raising livestock in the Liberty Community of Walton County for many years. They raise cattle and grow a variety of fresh produce, peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. The Wards' vegetable stand located off of Highway 331 affords local citizens and those traveling through the area an opportunity to enjoy their fresh produce. The Wards' farm also includes a

portable sawmill, which Mr. Ward operates in his spare time to grind sugarcane.

Bruce and Shirley share their time on the farm with their loved ones and have always cherished the time they have spent with their children and grandchildren. They are also longtime members of the Florida Farm Bureau. It is appropriate to say that the Wards exemplify the perfect balance of farm, family, and community.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families, and I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to the outstanding farm families located in Northwest Florida. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Ward family and thank them for their contributions to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

#### ABILITYONE PROGRAM

#### HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which is one of the largest providers for people who are blind or have severe disabilities. AbilityOne has helped over 40,000 people gain the necessary skills to enter and succeed in the workforce. In my home State of South Dakota, Black Hills Services Inc., helps to implement this critical program.

The AbilityOne program connects Federal Government agencies with community based non-profits that are dedicated to employing the blind and disabled. This program affords Americans with disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of Services at Ellsworth Air Force Base. I recently had the pleasure of visiting with many team members and seeing first hand the great job they do. With the support of the AbilityOne Program, BH Services provides assistance and employment to more than 325 people with disabilities in the Rapid City area. The direct impact this program has on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to work, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute to their society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like BH Services are invaluable.

The work AbilityOne and BH Services do everyday help people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I applaud each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make South Dakota and our country, a better place to live.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COALINGA HURON LIBRARY DISTRICT

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Coalinga Huron Library District on its 100th anniversary. The Coalinga Huron Library District has served as a great asset to the community as well as a historical site for the citizens of Coalinga and Huron to enjoy every day.

On June 25, 1912, the vote passed by the County Supervisors to form the Coalinga Huron Library District. After gaining overwhelming support for the Library District, they successfully received a Carnegie grant of \$20,000. Today, the main library sits on 4th and Durian streets which is the site of the original purchase.

Libraries serve as the ideal place for people to read, study, and research; and beyond that libraries have turned into great venues for holding workshops, seminars, and events. The Coalinga Huron Library District is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds. Thanks to the renovations done in 1955, 1994, and today, the citizens in Coalinga and Huron have beautiful libraries to visit.

Research and technology are vital components to education today, and public libraries are great tools for students to get research done for free. The Coalinga Huron Library District understands the importance of technology in our world today, and they are staying up-to-date with software programs. Members of the library have access to view books, e-books, periodicals, and historical documents.

Thanks to the public library system, citizens are provided access to books and computers that they normally would not have access to. Along with the access to books and reading materials comes literacy. The abilities to read and write can be overlooked by some people, but librarians and educators know that without the current availability of books, literacy rates have the potential to go down. The Coalinga Huron Library District is obviously aware of their importance and is committed to staying open. They should be commended for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing the Coalinga Huron Library District for its numerous contributions to the cities of Coalinga and Huron and central California. The libraries serve as a great source for members, and the services provided will hopefully be available for many more years to come.

#### HONORING STEVE CHANEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Chaney, Superintendent of Redwood National Park, honoring his 40-year dedication to our nation's national parks.