

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilwoman Vera Ortegón. I rise today to thank her for her work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

**RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH GRAY  
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Joseph Gray. He is the American Legion Post Commander of Cooper Yerger Post-28 association for veterans, in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Mr. Gray is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Citadel. He is married to the former Mary LaUna Jones of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and they have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Upon graduation, Mr. Gray accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam from 1967–1968 where he received thirty-seven Air Medals representing over 750 combat missions. Some of the medals he received included the Single Mission Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Sikorsky Winged S for Saving lives. He also logged flight time in a U.S. Marine Sikorsky H-34 helicopter which is now housed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Mr. Gray is currently the CEO of Gray Enterprises, LLC, where he provides small busi-

ness counseling for startup companies. He conducts seminars and workshops for small business owners on the basic discipline of business, business plans and management-by-objective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Joseph R. Gray, a decorated Vietnam veteran and hero for his dedication and service to this country, community and family.

**A TRIBUTE TO WYATT  
CARPENTER**

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Wyatt Carpenter for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Wyatt's project was to assist in the creation of a resting place in the newest Madrid City Park. This project will be enjoyed by his community for years to come, and his achievement will not go unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Wyatt and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

**RECOGNIZING SERGEANT WILLIE  
NASON FOR HIS HONORABLE  
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life of Sergeant Willie Nason. Sergeant Nason was born on April 12, 1983.

Sergeant Nason, anxious to serve his country, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2000. In 2004, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines where he served in Weapons Company as a team leader and later squad leader. In August 2004, he deployed to Iraq. Having shown phenomenal capabilities as an inspiring leader, he would go on to become a Drill Instructor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Willie for his service to our country.