

THANKING BERN BEIDEL FOR HIS  
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Bernard E. Beidel, an employee of the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Beidel was honored with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA). The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an EAPA member who has made a significant contribution to Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), the EA profession, and to individuals over an extended period of time.

Mr. Beidel has been a leader in providing EAP services to organizations and currently serves as Director of the Office of Employee Assistance. He has held this role for over 20 years providing direct EAP services to members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives since its inception in 1991.

I am proud to stand before you and the Nation on Mr. Beidel's behalf to recognize the importance of his public service, and honor his award for lifetime achievement and his contributions to the House community.

We wish Bern much happiness in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RECOGNIZING CURTIS MARTIN

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Curtis Martin for his life-long efforts to support agriculture and ranching, which are so important to jobs and the economy in rural Oregon. Over the past two years, Curtis has done a tremendous job serving as the president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. As his term as president comes to an end, I'd like to take a moment to pay tribute to his leadership.

Before and during his service as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Curtis served in several capacities locally to the benefit of farmers and ranchers. He has been a member of the Powder Basin Watershed Committee, a Director on the Union Soil and Water Conservation District and President of the Powder Valley Water Control District.

During his tenure as Oregon Cattlemen's Association President, Curtis has worked tirelessly to represent Oregon's livestock industry across the state. During the summer of 2012, wildfires devastated over one million acres of rangeland and forest across Oregon, affecting many ranchers' livelihoods along the way. Curtis took the lead in coordinating a relief effort, helping raise over \$200,000 in donations for ranchers who had lost cattle and pasture due to the fires. In a further response to the fires, Curtis established the Restore Everything Strategically Through Organized Response (RESTOR) Task Force, bringing to-

gether federal agencies, the State of Oregon, local governments and the Oregon congressional delegation to channel resources and assistance to affected livestock communities. RESTOR also put forth proactive solutions to reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires, and improve government and community responses when fires occur. Federal agencies continue to work towards implementing several of the task force's recommendations.

Curtis also led the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Oregon Habitat Monitoring Initiative, pulling together a diverse group of stakeholders from federal and state agencies, Oregon State University, private consultants and other industry groups to develop a cooperative monitoring standard for producers on the ground. This effort resulted in the current development of the Oregon Rangeland Monitoring Guide, so that livestock producers can easily monitor their pastures and supplement federal agency data supporting public land grazing allotments.

Curtis was raised on a ranch in Vale, Oregon, on the far eastern edge of the state. After high school, he moved full time into the family's ranch operation, building fence, piping water and moving cattle on horseback. By 1978, Curtis had married his wife Cheryl and moved to North Powder, where Cheryl's family has roots back to the Oregon Trail pioneers who first settled the Baker Valley in the 1860s.

In 1983, Curtis and Cheryl bought a ranch in North Powder, where they now center their ranching operation. Curtis has said that upon buying the property, it was so run down it was only suitable for producing "weeds and ground squirrels." Together, they turned their efforts to rehabilitating the property to a state fit for raising cattle and have been successful in their efforts. Curtis and Cheryl treasure their four sons and six grandchildren. They take great pride in their family ranch operation and in seeing yet another generation involved in the ranch and learning the lifestyle that means so much to them.

I'd like to offer a special thank you to Curtis and Cheryl for their friendship and guidance over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Curtis Martin for his tireless dedication to agriculture and ranching in Oregon as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

HONORING SGT KYLE CLIFTON ON  
EARNING THE U.S. ARMY ENGINEER  
ASSOCIATION'S DE  
FLEURY MEDAL

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SGT Kyle Clifton on being presented with the U.S. Army Engineer Association's prestigious de Fleury Medal. The de Fleury Medal is awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering. Since 1779, the de Fleury Medal has held a special place in the ranks of our

service engineers for the values that one must demonstrate in order to be deemed worthy of its receipt.

While this medal is certainly a testament to the valor and professionalism possessed and exhibited by SGT Clifton, it is also a natural tribute to SGT Clifton's distinguished service career with the Army Reserve. As the medal itself is inscribed, this is "a memorial and reward for courage and boldness," and perhaps more than that it is a physical accolade of the thanks that his community, his fellow Reservists, and his nation have for the service and sacrifices he has devoted to the defense of the United States of America. In addition to the de Fleury Medal, SGT Clifton's long list of awards also includes the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. These honors have been bestowed upon SGT Clifton for his proven expertise in service efforts including ground clearance missions and professionalism while serving on the front line of duty. Throughout his tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, SGT Clifton proved to be an asset for our Army in holding positions, exhibiting versatility within his vehicle command, clearing improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and demonstrating exceptional instincts and tactics in the midst of contact fire.

Last year, SGT Clifton's truck was struck by an IED while involved in a supply route clearing mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This cruel attack seriously injured SGT Clifton and claimed the lives of his three brothers in arms who were in the truck with him: SSG Dain Venne; SGT Brett Gorniewicz; and SPC Ryan Jayne. Upon his arrival at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, I had the opportunity to personally visit with SGT Clifton and his wife. On that day and in the days since then, I have been continuously impressed by the progress that SGT Clifton has made in his physical recovery and the modesty that he has shown. SGT Clifton exhibits daily the traits of bravery, resolve, and a genuine desire to selflessly serve our nation that exemplify the very best of our troops.

While every soldier's experiences are unique, the story of SGT Clifton, SSG Venne, SGT Gorniewicz, and SPC Jayne shares aspects with far too many others that have paid a personal price in their efforts to counter the challenges of the modern battlefield. IEDs are the leading cause of casualties for American servicemembers and the leading cause of injuries afflicting our veterans. In 2012 alone, 104 American troops were killed and 1,744 were wounded by these indiscriminate weapons. SGT Clifton is just one of the more than 51,000 service members who have been wounded in action in our engagements since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. With these figures in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in continuing to explore and support ways to reduce the prevalence of these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating SGT Clifton on being awarded the Steel de Fleury Medal. I express my utmost gratitude to him and all of our servicemembers and veterans for their valiant service and sacrifices, as well as to all of the families and communities who make up the invaluable foundation of support for these men and women.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2013, I travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa, as part of the Congressional Delegation appointed to attend the memorial service for Nelson Mandela, the first president of the new Republic of South Africa and one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. Because of my participation in this important event I was unable to return in time for Roll Call Votes 630 and 631.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 630 I would have voted "aye" (December 10) (H.R. 3521, The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, as amended (Rep. MILLER (FL)—Veterans' Affairs)
2. On rollcall No. 631, I would have voted "aye" (December 10) (H.R. 1402, VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, as amended (Rep. COFFMAN—Veterans' Affairs))

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVE  
WARDEN**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dave Warden for his twelve years of service on the Belmont City Council, including three years as mayor in 2002, 2005 and 2012. Dave was first elected in 1999 and served two terms until 2007. He returned in 2009 for his current term.

Dave has been a tireless advocate for open space and was a driving force behind voter-approved Measure F, the Hillside Preservation Ordinance, and the Slope Density Ordinance. He worked hard on the acquisition of 35 acres in the San Juan Canyon which are now permanent open space. He was also instrumental in getting the new library built and was the council's representative to the library JPA. He also made the seismic upgrade of city hall a reality. He supported the smoking ordinance and the creation of Semeria Park.

Dave's top priority has always been to spend Belmont taxpayers' money wisely. He was critical in negotiating with the city's bargaining units to rein in escalating pension costs. He is well-known for his bargaining skills and has helped keep Belmont's budget balanced with a minimal use of reserves even in a down economy.

Before joining the council, he served as the Planning Commissioner and Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He is also a former president of his neighborhood association and former member of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

Dave was born and raised in Belmont and graduated from Carlmont High School in 1979. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from UC Berkeley and is a medical software engineer. He worked for several Silicon Valley start-up firms and developed successful products for Sony, Zenith, Samsung,

RCA, Casio, Panasonic and the U.S. Navy. He is also a former school teacher at Ralston Middle School where he was named the PTA Teacher of the Year in 2002.

He and his wife of 17 years, Lisa, have always had an eye out for preserving Belmont's village-like charm and character.

As you can see from this long list of accomplishments, Dave has a love of Belmont that has been demonstrated over many years and in many forms. Working in local government is not always the easiest task. You often face your neighbors and friends whose expectations are sometimes difficult to meet. However, through his tireless efforts, Dave Warden has demonstrated that he truly wanted to meet the needs of residents as much as was possible given fiscal and other constraints.

Mr. Speaker, this dedication over time is rare, but his length of service and focus on the quality of life in Belmont is why Dave Warden's tenure on the council and in so many other capacities will be remembered. He will be missed on the council but his legacy will live on for many, many years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR  
CONRAD J. JAKUBOW'S DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO OUR NATION**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Conrad J. Jakubow, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Conrad has served for the last three years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army and will soon depart for his next duty assignment.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Conrad earned his commission as an Officer in the United States Army at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in calendar year 2000. Major Jakubow's assignments have been diverse and include over twenty-eight months of combat experience. While assigned as a Lieutenant to the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, at Armstrong Barracks in Buding, Germany, Conrad served with Charlie Troop, Alpha Troop, and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, as a tank and scout platoon leader, executive officer, and squadron motor officer and deployed his units twice to combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a Captain, Conrad attended the Civil Affairs Qualification Course and became a civil affairs officer serving in both the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion and the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade deploying again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After returning from his third combat deployment, Major Jakubow began his professional studies as a United States Army Congressional Fellow, earning a Master's of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University. Conrad was then nominated and assigned as an Office of the Secretary of Defense Congressional Fellow in the office of the late Congressman C.W. Bill Young and served as his military advisor on defense and veteran matters, providing critical analysis and insight on defense appropriation matters and pending legislation. Major

Jakubow served one year in the Congressional Office and thereafter was subsequently assigned as a Congressional Budget Liaison Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller in the Pentagon with responsibility for managing the Army's tactical wheeled vehicle program, military construction accounts, installations, energy, and special access program portfolios. Conrad has skillfully advised the Army's senior leaders, fostering and strengthening the relationship between the Congress and the United States Army. Major Jakubow's leadership as both a Company Grade and Field Grade Officer throughout his career has positively impacted his peers and superiors, Soldiers and civilians alike. As a Congressional Budget Liaison Officer he worked directly with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Representatives, Senators, and staff about the diverse and important tactical procurement initiatives of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my esteemed pleasure to work with Major Conrad Jakubow during his time as a fellow and legislative liaison. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major Conrad J. Jakubow for over a decade of active service to his country in the United States Army. We wish Conrad, his daughter Mara, all the best as they continue their journey of service to our great Nation.

HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN  
COLONEL ERIC OLSEN**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the honorable and distinguished career of Army Chaplain Colonel Eric Olsen. I have had the distinct privilege of knowing Colonel Olsen since serving in the United States Army.

Born in Staten Island, Chaplain Olsen entered the United States Army in December 1983 through the Pennsylvania National Guard. He completed the Chaplain Candidate Course in 1985 and was subsequently ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1988. From 1988 until 1992, he led the parish at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Saranac Lake before going on Active Duty and serving tours of duty in South Carolina, Germany, Egypt and Fort Drum. Finally, he transitioned to the New York National Guard in 1999 where he remained throughout his career.

Chaplain Olsen's long career has included assignments as Assistant Chaplain HHC 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Chaplain HHS 1-156 Field Artillery, Chaplain HHC 27th UEX, and the State Chaplain of the New York National Guard.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chaplain Olsen deployed to Iraq, operating in the dangerous Sunni Triangle region. Serving as the Battalion Chaplain, his unit conducted combat and stability operations as a part of Task Force Hunter.

During his notable career, Chaplain Olsen earned various awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with 3 bronze oak leaf