

here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JACOB CURTIN JOHNSON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jacob Curtis Johnson of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jacob Johnson has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jacob has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jacob's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jacob Curtis Johnson on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1975. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mr. Bjorklund headed to pilot training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Later, he was assigned to the 668th Bomb Squadron, at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York and was shortly deployed to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. He served two tours of duty at Anderson, and flew 75 Arc Light combat missions over Southeast Asia as a B-52 pilot. For his distinguished service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Since his honorable discharge in 1975, Mr. Bjorklund has worked as an investment advisor in Dallas, Texas, and has tirelessly devoted his time and efforts in service to our community. Back in 1985, he helped Congressman Dick Arme establish his Service Academy Selection Board. Mr. Bjorklund served as chairman of that board for the next 18 years until Congressman Arme retired as the House Majority Leader. Also involved in local politics, Mr. Bjorklund has been a delegate to the Texas GOP State Convention in both 2010 and 2012 and currently serves in an appointed position on the Collin County Health Care Advisory Board. He is also an active member in his church, Christ Church in Plano, Texas, and has served as chairman of the Building Fund Campaign as well as chairman of the Stewardship Campaign. On Memorial Day 2012, he hiked 35 miles with the Carry the Load Campaign in memory of veterans that have lost their lives for our great Nation. What a fitting reminder that all gave some, but some gave all.

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING? IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's Armed Forces, and their Families during this Christmas and Holiday Season. The ones who are separated by death, war, and plagued with life altering health conditions throughout America, are paying the price of freedom for us all. The ones who give us the greatest gifts, "That Last Full Measure". Say a prayer for them, and keep them in your hearts this Christmas and Holiday Season. Say a prayer for peace, I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

"What gift can I bring?" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 "That's fit for a King" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 What gift can I give?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All in this life I live . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 While,
 into the valley of death I walked!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Out into that darkness standing tall!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 My arms and legs I gave . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 For you I limp this day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And in my arms my love ones I shall never
 hold this way . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so we may live in peace this day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And . . . my eyes I gave . . .
 so all in darkness I must stay . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As another beautiful sunset I shall never so
 see portrayed . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And my ears I gave,
 so I can never hear the words "I love you"
 say . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And all those scars upon my face . . .
 In the mirror I must look at each day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All for the beauty of peace on earth this day
 . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As all in such nightmares I awake . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All in the name of Freedom I paid . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 What greater gift can I give?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 That's fit for a King . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As I did . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As all in such pain and worry my family now
 lives . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And all of those Doctors and Nurses,
 Corpsmen and Medics who witness such
 death and carnage each day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Who so many lives so save!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Creating such demons inside they must now
 so face!

Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And my life I gave!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As approached the face of death . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As out to me so called . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As its hand upon me I felt and saw . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my Brothers In Arms gathered around
 cried,
 praying with tears in eyes . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 I gave my best for them!
 I gave my life for them!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And I'd do it all over again my son!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so one day more they could live!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As they so lowered me into my quiet grave
 . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my family so wept upon that day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As ever the tears they made!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As they now live with the kind of pain which
 won't go away!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so,
 we may have peace on earth this day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Was but the price of Freedom I paid . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pum . . .
 Pum . . .
 What gift can I bring?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 That's fit for a King!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And then,
 he smiled at me . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my Lord said,
 "come to heaven son" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Smiled at me!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pum!
 Pum!
 Pum!

HONORING THE EDDIE VALLUS
 POLKA BAND

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the harmonious and melodious career of Eddie Vallus and the Eddie Vallus Band. The sweet sounds of the Eddie Vallus Polka Band included talented musicians John Ross, Ed Wasacz, Al Martini, Lou Tofil, and of course Eddie Vallus. They spent their lives on the bandstand sharing their music with their fans who love to dance, dance, dance. Since the release of their debut album in 1963, the Eddie Vallus Band has been recognized as a musical force. They were honored by former mayor of Youngstown Pat Ungaro and the Mahoning County Commission in 1985. The band's success garnered them a Grammy nomination in 1989, the Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame Trustee Award in 2003, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

I am convinced that the world needs more polka but after a lifetime of extended bookings, it saddens me that the Eddie Vallus Band has decided to put their instruments down. Many of my friends and neighbors continue to cherish their music. On October 26th, the band played its final concert at St. Paul Church in New Middletown, Ohio. As a 77 year resident of Boardman, Ohio, incomparable Eddie Vallus is an inspiration to our community. Although the Eddie Vallus Band will be no more, Eddie will continue to perform with the Rex Taneri Band. Eddie has led a long and happy life marked by success and a love of the arts. For Eddie there is never a sour note and he is always on key and in rhythm. I wish Mr. Vallus all the best and know he will spend time with his wife Pat of 51 years, his three daughters, and his five grandchildren. And a one and a two and a three for Eddie Vallus.

HONORING KARYN SINUNU-
 TOWERY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery to the County of Santa Clara.

For over 30 years, Ms. Sinunu-Towery has served the people of Santa Clara County in the District Attorney's Office. She has made enormous contributions to the office, and after her final day of service on December 20, 2013, she will undoubtedly be missed.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery began her career in 1983 as a law clerk for the Santa Clara District Attorney. Two years later, on December 12, 1985, she became a member of the California Bar and joined the office as a staff attorney.

After serving eleven years as a Deputy District Attorney and the Supervisor of the Sexual Assault Unit, prosecuting over 50 jury trials, Ms. Sinunu-Towery was promoted to the executive position of Assistant District Attorney. In this role, she has lead-by-example, and provided valuable counsel to the District Attorney.

Throughout her career Ms. Sinunu-Towery has been known for her fairness, resilience, professionalism, and commitment to justice.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery has a reputation as a reformer who truly cared for the victims she was charged with protecting. She wrote Victim's Rights manuals that were distributed throughout California and developed a model procedure for the investigation of child-abuse investigations with the goal of reducing the trauma to the children involved.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was just as vigilant when it came to ensuring that the accused received fair treatment. She worked with local police chiefs and the Sheriff to create fairer line-up procedures to accurately identify suspects, and guidelines for the interrogation of mentally ill suspects. She personally worked to free defendants wrongly convicted and is a model for prosecutors everywhere in this regard.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was a trailblazer when it came to the use of technology to better administer justice. She was instrumental in the office's transition from paper to electronic data

storage, and continued to push for greater technology use.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery on her impressive career and commend her for 30 years of service to the Santa Clara County community. She leaves the District Attorney's Office a better place and will be dearly missed.

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HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

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Sergeant Paul Gade served in the United States Navy from 1979 to 1991 and currently serves in the Naval Reserves. During his time in service, Mr. Gade served isolated duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his 3rd Duty Station, Mr. Gade became interested in the SEAL program and in 1986 he qualified for the program. Having started the SEAL class with 120 participants, Mr. Gade was one of only 12 original classmates to complete the training. During graduation, he was selected as the Lead Petty Officer to ring out his class. To date, Mr. Gade is the only enlisted man to have that honor while officers present.

Mr. Gade continued his relentless service by joining the McKinney Police Department. He has served in the Patrol Division, as a Detective, in the Special Operations Division, and was a SWAT member for several years. When the McKinney Police Department was attacked in August 2010, Mr. Gade was among the officers to respond to the shooting by running into the fray to protect his fellow officers and citizens nearby.

Additionally, on July 4, 2009, Mr. Gade was sworn into the Naval Reserves, it's clear his desire to serve his community and country after all of these years continues. His contributions leave a legacy for us to recognize and honor as he goes out of his way to help fellow officers and citizens and has received numerous commendations for his actions.

Sergeant Paul Gade, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.