

year, 1,357 of Weyerhaeuser's employees participated in more than 164 service projects and contributed more than 31,820 volunteer hours. Through their efforts, 164 WAVES grants were awarded last year to the community. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser has instituted an Employee Volunteer of the Quarter program to honor Weyerhaeuser employees who significantly impact their communities through their personal efforts.

Recently, Weyerhaeuser teamed up with World Vision, a non-profit faith-based organization focused on fighting poverty and injustice, creating Operation Diaper Drive. Operation Diaper Drive is an annual event held by Weyerhaeuser employees where diapers are collected and donated to low-income families. In March of this year, nearly three quarters of a million diapers were distributed to families throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Weyerhaeuser Company on their recognition. Weyerhaeuser continues to strive as a leader in the community and in the nation for their impressive philanthropic work.

**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:

Sergeant James Fairbairn served in the United States Marine Corps from 1950 to 1954. After completing boot camp, James headed to Korea in December of 1950 where he joined the 2nd Platoon of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Division. It was in this assignment that Mr. Fairbairn served as a fire team leader during an attack against a strong enemy force. Without regard for his personal safety, he was able to rush and attack the enemy, which ultimately resulted in overrunning the enemy and completing the mission.

For his heroism in battle and his distinguished years of service, James Fairbairn earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Valor, a Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Richardson, Texas, Mr. Fairbairn has continued to serve his community. He served as the president of the Dallas Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association. He has also worked extensively with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots pro-

gram. He currently represents the Sons of the American Revolution on the Volunteer Board of the Dallas Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Sergeant James Fairbairn, 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.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LIFESERVE
BLOOD CENTER**

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to National Blood Donor Month and to recognize the great work being done by the volunteers and professionals who comprise the LifeServe Blood Center.

Established in 1969 by President Nixon, National Blood Donor Month is celebrated in January to bring awareness to the immeasurable difference made by blood donations. During National Blood Donor Month, we thank those across the country who have saved lives by donating in the past and encourage previous and first-time donors alike to schedule an appointment. Each year, only 10 percent of those eligible to donate blood choose to do so, although nearly 38,000 pints of blood are needed every day to sustain a sufficient and secure blood supply.

As one of the largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe Blood Center assists more than 100 hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota by providing much-needed blood and blood supplies. In addition to their role as a local blood supplier, LifeServe also provides a wide range of healthcare solutions to our communities including transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, and research. It is blood centers like LifeServe that stand ready, in the face of disasters and emergencies, to meet the blood supply needs of our cities, states, and nation.

Mr. Speaker, the great work done every day by LifeServe, and all blood centers across the country, provides a crucial and life-saving service to our communities. In honor of National Blood Donor Month, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in encouraging regular blood donations in this time of need and thanking all blood donors for their invaluable and selfless contribution. It is a great honor to represent the men and women of LifeServe in the United States Congress and I look forward to all of Iowa's participation in the busiest National Blood Donor Month yet. Thank you.

**TRIBUTE TO NACARSIA "NIKKI"
MAYES**

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to bring your attention to a very special person, someone I respect and whose friendship I value. I'm referring to Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes

who after 36 years of dedicated public service, will be retiring this December.

Nikki started work here in 1977 as an elevator operator and it was not long before her professional and cheerful manner caught the eye of her superiors. In 1980, she became the first African American woman ever hired by the Office of the Doorkeeper. It was a tremendous achievement then and it remains an exceptional moment in both her personal history and the history of this body.

As her career progressed she joined the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and served as a member of the Chamber Security Division. Her career is a testament to what dedication, hard work and a positive attitude can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I don't need to remind you that our work here can be difficult and stressful. But that's what makes Nikki such a treasure. Even when there was tension inside the House Chamber, there was friendship and kindness waiting at the door.

Nikki, I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this next part of your life. You will be greatly missed by me and every one of my colleagues.

**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 Shep Stahel served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1989. After earning a Navy ROTC Scholarship to Tulane University, Mr. Stahel's Naval career began during his college years where he served on summer midshipman cruises; one in the North Sea with NATO forces and the other in Hong Kong. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Economics, he commissioned as Ensign and served for two years as Navigator on the USS Matthews and then as Executive Officer on the USS Duval County. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USS Duval County operated out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, training soldiers to conduct amphibious landings.

After transitioning from active to reserve duty, he served as commanding officer of Surface Warfare Units in both Trenton, New Jersey and Buffalo, New York until he moved to Dallas to command a unit at Naval Air Station Dallas.

This year, Mr. Stahel retired from IBM after 50 years of service. During his time there, he managed business affairs for IBM Corporation's legal department in the South-Southwestern region of the U.S. Additionally, for the

past twenty plus years, Mr. Stahel has served as the founder and chairman of countless city and transportation boards for crucial city development of Dallas and Plano.

Captain Shep Stahel, 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.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR'S RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my full support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that I rise today at the request of First Selectman Kurt Miller, the Board of Selectmen, and the Town of Seymour to officially submit the following town resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; these herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991, to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; this presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, Pursuant to a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Seas; and

Whereas, The United States Navy has been excluded ever since, Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy Ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking,

and washing; this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and

Whereas, More than 30 Veterans Service Organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; by not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying other groups without any financial, scientific or consistent reasoning, and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure, the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace; similarly, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Town of Seymour hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

THE INNOVATION ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act.

While not perfect, this legislation would take significant steps toward reducing the number of costly and abusive patent lawsuits.

"Patent trolls," or non-practicing entities that take advantage of the legal process for their own economic gain, are a massive cost to businesses and a significant strain on our already overburdened justice system.

I strongly agree that we should be addressing this critical problem especially at a time of continuing economic recovery.

However, like many, I had serious concerns about specific portions of this legislation.

That is why I voted in strong support of an amendment introduced by my dear friend and colleague Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee.

His amendment would have improved the Innovation Act by adding provisions that pro-

tect customers targeted in infringement suits, promote transparency in patent ownership, and direct the Patent and Trademark Office to develop educational materials for small businesses.

Unfortunately, while his amendment failed, I hope we will continue to work to implement many of his suggestions.

As we vote on this legislation today, it is also important that we remember other issues affecting our ability to fight patent fraud.

For example, the sequester cost the Patent and Trademark Office nearly \$150 million this year. It also resulted in 1000 fewer patent examiners and delayed the construction of a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

I commend this legislation's well intentioned goal to curb abusive patent litigation and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to end this destructive practice.

THE U.S. POST-TYPHOON RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Recently, the deadliest typhoon ever to hit South East Asia devastated portions of the Philippines, including the islands of Leyte, Samar, and Cebu. With sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda reached as high as 270 miles per hour at one brief point. The storm surge reached a maximum height of 40 feet. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing more than 5,600 people. Another 1,759 are listed as missing. Approximately 26,000 were injured. Yolanda is also the strongest storm ever recorded at landfall, and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed. Philippines Foreign Secretary Alberto Del Rosario told us the storm was "three and a half times the size of Katrina."

Several weeks ago, I led a congressional delegation to the Philippines to witness the devastation unleashed by Typhoon Haiyan—known locally as Typhoon Yolanda—and to gain a better understanding of the unmet needs going forward.

Joined by my distinguished colleagues TRENT FRANKS and AL GREEN—and staff director Greg Simpkins and counsel Piero Tozzi—we were unanimous in our deep respect and abiding gratitude for the accomplishments of the U.S. military, USAID leaders, and NGOs on the ground including Catholic Relief Services—who alone has committed over \$20 million to assist victims. For their part, the Philippine military was also playing a vital role along with the remnants of local governing bodies.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm—right up until arrival—highly motivated U.S. service members brought desperately needed supplies, including food, water, medicine, and housing materials by the plane load to the ruins of Tacloban, with homeless, destitute victims—over 19,000 and counting—hitching flights back to Manila for safety and shelter.

As was the case after the 2004 tsunami, the United States deployed an aircraft carrier—this