

Ken once was perhaps the youngest American fighting man since the Civil War. At the age of just 14, he talked his way into the fight when World War II was raging. When the Navy found out that this seaman assigned to the destroyer escort USS *Edwin A. Howard* was far younger than he had claimed, they put him ashore in the Philippines. He spent two months hitch-hiking his way back to North Carolina in something of a Huckleberry Finn odyssey. He still calls that journey the greatest adventure of his life. "What young boy wouldn't love an adventure like that?" he still asks today, puzzled that most of us would find such a challenge daunting indeed.

Ken wasn't about to let a little thing like age keep him from serving his country, and when he turned 18 he legally signed on once again, this time in the Army. His fighting days had only just begun. He rose through the ranks as an enlisted man and then an officer, a man's man in charge of men. It was during the Korean Conflict that the rare commitment and courage of this man was most remarkable. Again and again, he led his men into battle and never lost a one though he on several occasions personally braved enemy fire to return to the battlefield to rescue wounded fallen comrades. Once wounded himself, he was ordered by doctors to recuperate far from the sounds of battle. He refused to leave his men, and returned to the front lines once again and to more battles.

To this day, Ken carries in his aging body the shrapnel from twice having been blown up by grenades, and he bears the scars that testify to the fact that he has faced and survived many battles.

He served our country for all those years as a military man, and then he served his fellow Americans as something of a rogue in the greeting card industry. And he did that so well that his efforts saved two major national companies from disappearing prematurely at the hands of corporate raiders and kept hundreds of Americans at work for years in the greeting card industry.

Simpson lives a quiet life now in a home atop Walker Bald, a tall mountain in western North Carolina, which he shares with his wife Laura. Though his steps have slowed and his hearing is no longer as keen as it once was—despite the concussions of nearby exploding grenades of the past—he remains the epitome of an American fighting man.

And America owes Kenneth Walton Simpson and fighting men such as him our sincere appreciation. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I am proud to bring his story to light through this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to highlight Wilt Browning's outstanding book about an outstanding North Carolina and American hero.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER SOMA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jennifer Soma for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jennifer Soma oversees product development and new initiatives in the individual disability insurance business for Principal Financial Group Inc. In this role, Jennifer serves as a liaison between the operations, quality assurance and information technology facets of the business. Outside of the office, Jennifer spends nearly 30 hours a week in various volunteer roles to make her community better. One of Ms. Soma's biggest passions is her dedication to animal welfare. Before working for Principal, Jennifer worked for the Animal Rescue League of Iowa in numerous roles including major rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Iowa flooding. Ms. Soma certainly takes her causes home with her as she shares her Ankeny home with her four senior rescue dogs and continues to advocate for animals through her efforts at Iowa Voters for Companion Animals/Iowa Friends of Companion Animals. Also a big supporter and alumnus of Drake University, Jennifer currently chairs Drake's Graduate Student Advisory Council. Last year, Jennifer's numerous volunteer efforts earned her the recognition of the U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award—Gold Level for volunteering more than 1,000 hours of her time. In all facets of her life, Jennifer is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Soma for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE PREPARING FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to welcome and acknowledge our national and international visitors to the International Centennial Planning Conference. The conference is being hosted by the National World War I Museum, located in Missouri's Fifth District, on March 22–24, 2013. With the recent enactment of Public Law 112–272 to establish a World War I Centennial Commission, it is vital that the exchange with our historical counterparts begin.

This was the first global war, declared on July 28, 1914, after the assassination of Arch-

duke Franz Ferdinand. The United States entered the war in 1917 and concluded with the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918. The world would never be the same as the ramifications changed nations, warfare and technology. The reality of war comes with the understanding of its effects, not only geographically but on the military and all of the people who endured the suffering of war.

Representatives and scholars from the allied nations of Australia, France, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and Belgium will join representatives from the United States to exchange ideas on international planning for the Centennial. This workshop will foster coordination of commemorating these historical events and rediscovery of our combined involvement in World War I. The lessons of war will be discussed and viewed through an international prism to obtain a better understanding of how the "War to End All Wars" impacted and changed the course of history.

In Kansas City, we have progressed as a city under the flame of the Liberty Memorial. The Liberty Memorial stands as a testimonial to the past and a quest for our world living in peace. Since my time as Mayor of Kansas City, I have considered the Liberty Memorial and now the National World War I Museum a treasure worth fighting to protect and preserve.

As the World War I Centennial Commission's twelve members meet to plan for the commemorative events across our nation, it will do so under the flame of the Liberty Memorial and benefit from the work garnered from this planning conference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in wishing the participants of the International Centennial Planning Conference success in their collaboration. There is a lot of work to do in honoring and commemorating the history from our first global war.

ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of Greek Independence Day, in recognition of the courageous revolution that freed the people of Greece from the Ottoman Empire and established the modern Hellenic Republic. We come together to recognize Greek Independence in advance this year because the U.S. Congress will not be in session on March 25th.

There is no doubt that Greece's struggle for freedom from the Ottoman Empire is one which inspired the world. Carrying out a bold and inspired revolution, the people of Greece set an example for others in the region and globally. Their commitment to genuine self-determination made it possible for millions to determine their own future rather than continue a pattern of subjugation.

And, since establishing diplomatic relations with the United States, Greece has joined our own country in many cooperative endeavors, including during World War II in the fight against fascism. Today, the United States and Greece are not only partners in commerce,

but have forged international alliances in many areas, including business, tourism and international security.

Greece has also been a source of immigrant communities that have helped build the United States, and Greek-Americans proudly contribute to our society in the arts, sciences, business, politics and sports.

There can be no doubt that Greece faces tough times. The economic downturn has created difficult and ongoing challenges and hardships. Yet, the spirit of Greek Independence is alive and well in Greece and throughout the diaspora. I have no doubt that Greece is going to come back stronger than ever. I am proud to call Greece and the Greek people friends and allies, and the United States cherishes a continued friendship based on mutual values and trust.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, April 10th will mark the 34th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, legislation designed to “help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific” and promote the “continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations” between the American and Taiwanese people.

Since this legislation’s passage, Taiwan has become an economic powerhouse and a beacon of democracy in Southeast Asia. Taiwan is also a major consumer of American products—importing over \$267 million in goods from my home state of North Carolina in 2011. In addition to being our 9th largest trading partner, Taiwan is the largest per capita importer of U.S. farm products in the world.

I am therefore pleased that trade talks between the United States and Taiwan, as part of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, began recently after a six-year hiatus. My hope is that these discussions will bear fruit and help strengthen our vibrant commercial partnership with Taiwan.

For these reasons, and many others, it seems appropriate to mark this occasion and highlight my sincere hope that the American and Taiwanese people will continue to work together in friendship to promote shared prosperity and further our mutual interests.

HONORING MILDRED MANNING, ANGEL OF CORREGIDOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of a great American woman, Mildred Manning, a World War II Veteran, POW, and nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. Ms. Manning was the last survivor of the 66 nurses who were taken into captivity by the Japanese in May of 1942 on the island of Corregidor.

Ms. Manning was born in rural Georgia on July 11, 1914. She graduated from the Grady

Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta and was head nurse at Grady before entering military service when she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1939.

Ms. Manning was stationed in the Philippines at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She spent the first five months of the war treating servicemen at field hospitals in the Philippines, most notably during the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula, and then on Corregidor. After the U.S. surrender at Corregidor, Ms. Manning was taken prisoner.

She spent the next 33 months under guard at an internment camp, where she faced near-starvation and disease while treating nearly 4,000 men, women, and children. In the winter of 1945, Ms. Manning and the other nurses were finally liberated. For her service to this Nation, Ms. Manning received a Bronze Star and a message of gratitude from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Two weeks ago, on March 8, 2013, Ms. Manning passed away in Hopewell, NJ at the age of 98. She is survived by her son, James Manning, and daughter, March Price, five grandchildren and a great-grandson. Her husband, Arthur Brewster Manning, died in 1994 and their youngest son, William D. Manning, died in 2006.

Ms. Manning once said of her internment, “I came out so much better than many of my friends, I have never been bitter, and I have always known that if I could survive that, I could survive anything.”

Mr. Speaker, how privileged I am to be able to honor her life and pay tribute to her outstanding service to this nation.

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the “Helping Heroes Fly Act.”

I authored this legislation to authorize and improve the Transportation Security Administration’s, TSA, Wounded Warrior/Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Program, which facilitates and expedites the passenger screening process for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Customer service at airport checkpoints is an issue that evokes passionate reactions from constituents across the Nation. As a representative from Hawaii, one of the country’s foremost vacation destinations, I have a special interest in ensuring that the screening experience is as effective and smooth as possible. Unfortunately, too often, we hear stories from our constituents and visitors about time-consuming, inconvenient, and invasive TSA checkpoint searches. For wounded members of the Armed Forces and veterans, however, this ordeal can be a particularly difficult experience due to the nature of both their injuries and disabilities and TSA’s strict screening requirements.

Recognizing the need to improve customer service for all passengers, particularly those with a disability or hindering medical condition, TSA has, in recent years, established several alternative methods of screening, including TSA’s Wounded Warrior Screening Program.

Under the Wounded Warrior Screening Program, a severely injured or disabled service member, veteran, or family member contacts the program’s Operation Center at TSA before a flight to arrange expedited screening. An officer at the Operations Center then notifies the appropriate personnel at the involved airports to ensure that screening is conducted in such a way as to make the screening experience as simple as possible.

The establishment of the Wounded Warrior Screening Program is a positive step. However, through my work on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have spoken with advocates of members of the Armed Forces and veterans and have come to learn that the program could be improved. In particular, as implemented in the field, there is a lack of consistency that needs to be addressed. Some wounded warriors have reported a lack of sensitivity and respect for privacy during the screening experience. Certainly, active engagement with advocate organizations would improve the program and help ensure that it accomplishes its goal.

To improve the program, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” requires:

TSA to develop a process to expedite screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans that protects the privacy of the individual being screened; requires TSA to consult with advocacy organizations to ensure that TSA is addressing the needs of wounded warriors to the best of their ability; mandates training of Transportation Security Officers on the expedited screening process protocols; requires TSA to maintain an operations center that severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans can contact for assistance in advance of flying; and requires TSA to report to Congress on its progress in implementing the screening our Nation’s wounded warriors and veterans deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” is an important, bipartisan bill, crafted in consultation with advocacy organizations.

It comes in response to documented grievances associated with airport checkpoints and represents an important step we can take in acknowledging the service of our Nation’s heroes.

Just this week, we got reports of the difficulty a Marine at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor airport had during the screening process.

The “Helping Heroes Fly Act” will ensure TSA establishes the policies that will allow them to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” so that we can ease the screening process for my fellow service members and show them the respect and honor they have earned.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of March as American Red Cross Month. For over 130 years the American Red