

sum of funds," said Ron Spoor, chief operations officer for Habitat Pinellas. "In fact, when calculating the monetary value of Dan's in-kind donation, Dan is the largest individual donor in the affiliate's history. Through his donation of time and resources to Habitat, Dan has enabled the affiliate to increase its production and serve many additional families."

The Clive Rainey Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to volunteers for significant accomplishments that have advanced the mission of Habitat for Humanity. The award honors Habitat for Humanity's first volunteer, Clive Rainey, who made an exceptional and sustained commitment to advancing Habitat for Humanity's mission through generously sharing his time and talents.

TAASA: TRUE HEROES FOR
VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award as part of the Department of Justice's National Crime Victims' Service Awards.

Since its founding in 1982, TAASA's work has changed the lives of sexual assault survivors in Texas and throughout our great country.

TAASA serves as a powerful voice for the Texas sexual assault movement.

Their work in prevention, training, and advocacy is unparalleled.

TAASA has successfully advocated for legislation to protect and serve victims of sexual assault on the federal and state level.

Like true Texans, they fight hard and do not back down when they know something is right.

Most recently, TAASA played a critical role in the passage of the bipartisan SAFER Act, which I introduced to help reduce the rape kit backlog, bring justice to victims of sexual assault and put perpetrators behind bars where they belong.

As co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, it is reassuring that there is such an effective group advocating on behalf of victims. And, of course I'm proud that they're from the great State of Texas.

I congratulate TAASA on their award and commend their important work.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CPL.
THOMAS PARKER OF RONAN

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, Military Appreciation Day is an important reminder for all Americans of the importance of thanking and honoring the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces.

I want to especially recognize Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas Parker of Ronan, Montana.

Lance Cpl. Parker served in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, and on December 11, 2010 he lost both of his legs and much of his left hand from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

After months of surgeries and rehabilitation, Lance Cpl. Parker returned home to Montana, and I'm proud to have him joining us for Military Appreciation Day in Helena. His strength, perseverance, and selfless service has made Montana proud and is worthy of our deepest appreciation.

I'm proud to honor Montana's veterans and service members on Military Appreciation Day, but may we always remember to thank these selfless Americans each and every day for their service to our country and the sacrifices they have made to protect our nation's security and our freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARA
CAZARES

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sara Cazares, who passed away last week.

Sara was born and raised in Stockton, attending Franklin High School, and later earning a degree in social anthropology from Harvard before coming back to the San Joaquin Valley she loved, to raise her family.

For Sara, the American Dream was something we should all aspire to: you go to school to live a better life and you take responsibility in your community. Her actions spoke to this commitment and to her character.

Sara had a long history of community involvement, working with the local hospitals, actively participating in the democratic process, mentoring children in the Franklin IB program, which aims to encourage students to become active and cross-cultural in this inter-related world, and other efforts. Most recently, she served as a Board Member of the Stockton Unified School District, influencing the lives of children. She took great pride and joy in giving back, ensuring that our children received a quality education.

Sara was the epitome of how each of us can make a meaningful impact on those around us and that we can accomplish anything when the community works together. Her dedication, enthusiasm, spirit, and commitment to others is inspiring.

It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Sara Cazares and in sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

DEDICATING THE WORLD WAR II
MEMORIAL OF AVON, INDIANA,
AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF OUR VET-
ERANS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 4, 2013, the Parks Foundation of the

town of Avon, Indiana, will dedicate the Avon World War II Memorial Park in honor of our valiant World War II veterans. The park includes a sculpture in the likeness of one of Avon's remaining World War II veterans, Brigadier General Clyde C. "Chet" Wright, who exemplifies the sacrificial service of our veterans.

Brigadier General Wright was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. He graduated in 1938 from Ben Davis High School in Marion County, and two years later enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard. By December 1943, Chet Wright was deployed to New Guinea, staging there in preparation for some of the hardest fought battles in the South Pacific theater, Leyte and Luzon. After the war, Chet Wright returned to the states and to active duty with the Indiana Army National Guard. He served in several leadership positions, and was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General, Army, for the State of Indiana in March 1973.

In Avon today, all citizens enjoy the manifold blessings of liberty secured by veterans like Brigadier General Wright. Entrepreneurship is alive and well. Our growing economy includes world class transportation and logistics-based businesses. We are blessed with good schools, good government, and natural and abundant resources, including rich farmland which plays a pivotal role in feeding our nation and world.

It is my sincere hope that this memorial will properly honor the bravery and sacrificial service of our World War II veterans. May it serve as a daily reminder to all who pass it of the sacrifice that was required to secure this experiment in freedom known throughout the world as America, the land of liberty. May it fortify the resolve of this current generation to be vigilant in our sacred duty to preserve and protect it at all costs. May God bless our World War II veterans, may God bless Avon, Indiana, for its efforts to honor these heroes, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF GERARD BELCHER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mr. Gerard Belcher, who was born in Pike County, Kentucky into a family of eight children. Mr. Belcher's story is an all-American story—the story of the American Dream.

His father was a coal miner and his mother was a homemaker. As a young man, Mr. Belcher spent hours in the backwoods and mountains of eastern Kentucky hunting, trapping, and exploring caves. These hours spent in the woods would later provide critical skills for his experience in the jungles of Vietnam.

Mr. Belcher volunteered to serve our country in the Army. He trained as a paratrooper and became an expert with the rifle, pistol, Bowie knife, and hand to hand combat. He was selected first in his class at the Army Leadership School in Fort Polk, Louisiana where he also volunteered for combat in Vietnam.

In August 1968, he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division and was soon selected to join

the special operations Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) operating with naval ships, boats, and personnel along the Mekong River of South Vietnam.

After surviving four months of intense combat, he was promoted to sergeant and volunteered to walk point, a position with a life span of approximately three weeks. He served for over four months, using the skills he learned in the hills of eastern Kentucky to protect himself and his fellow soldiers until he was shot five times during an ambush operation. Fortunately, he survived this attack.

Mr. Belcher was decorated with the Army Commendation Medal for Valor twice, earned the Air Medal, combat infantryman's Badge, Vietnam Service and Campaign Ribbons, the elite spear-header shoulder patch of the MRF, and the Purple Heart.

After his military service, he attended the University of Kentucky on the GI bill where he earned a bachelor's degree in business and marketing. Despite devastating war wounds to his chest and arm, he successfully walked onto the university's baseball team where he earned a scholarship, along with All-SEC and All-American honors.

Mr. Belcher has since founded HoldTime, an award winning national message-on-hold production company over 20 years ago. He remains vocal and active in the political life of his community, and has just been awarded the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Patriot Award.

As a U.S. Congressman, I am forever grateful for Gerard Belcher's service to our country. Because of his bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms are protected for future generations. He is truly a hero to us all.

HONORING VIRGINIA STATE POLICE TROOPER JAMES LAWSON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my thoughts and prayers to Virginia State Police Trooper James Lawson of Gate City, Virginia.

On April 9, Trooper Lawson was injured during a high-speed pursuit in Scott County, sustaining a spinal cord injury. He was transported to Holsten Valley Medical Center in Kingsport. Trooper Lawson is now receiving treatment at Atlanta's Shepherd Center, which specializes in treatment and rehabilitation for people having sustained spinal cord or brain injuries.

Trooper Lawson is a dedicated member of the Virginia State Police, having served in law enforcement for 18 years. He is also active in serving the area as a proud member of the Gate City Volunteer Fire Department. He is now Assistant Chief, serving in the Gate City Volunteer Fire Department since he was 16.

Trooper Lawson is married to his wife Aimee, who is employed by the Scott County Sheriff's Department. He also has two children, Ashley and Trey. Trooper Lawson and his family are friends to many in the Gate City area, including members of my staff.

Thank you, Trooper Lawson and Aimee, for your service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Gate City community. I think I speak

on behalf of all Scott County residents in wishing Trooper Lawson the very best as he continues working to recover.

COL. POOLE'S BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a great American, a dedicated small business owner in the North Georgia town of Ellijay. Who is often spotted with a yellow suit, an American flag tie, and top hat.

He is a true advocate for low taxes and less government, and is always sure to voice his opinions about candidates for political office.

Col. Poole and his lovely wife Edna founded Poole's Bar-B-Q . . . known in some circles as the "TAJ-MA-HOG". . . which rests in the shadow of the "Pig-Hill-of-Fame" adorned with plywood cutout hogs with patron's names painted on them.

In order to qualify for a pig on the hill, he has stated that all you need is, "an honest face, good intentions, and five dollars."

Next Monday, April 29, this fine patriot will turn 83 years old—so today I wanted to take a minute to say—"Oscar, from all the way in Washington, DC—I want to wish you a very happy birthday!"

TOYOTA ARIZONA PROVING GROUND'S (TAPG) 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate the Toyota Arizona Proving Ground (TAPG) as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. I have had the opportunity to visit and learn about their operations and am proud to represent the Toyota team members working at this fine facility. The 12,000 acre facility's most dramatic feature is the 10 mile, high speed, oval track. But in addition, it is home to many more miles of unique test tracks and a state-of-the-art engineering facility.

TAPG, which is part of Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing, Inc., is responsible for evaluating the performance and endurance of Toyota vehicles on the test tracks in Wittmann, Arizona. TAPG employs about 50 team members and welcomes hundreds of contractors and visiting engineers each year—all contributing to Arizona's economy and to the development of Toyota's American made vehicles.

As their representative to Congress, I want to reiterate my commitment to supporting policies and a federal regulatory environment that encourages companies, like Toyota, to continue to invest in research and development in Arizona and across the United States.

HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE STUDENT JOURNALISTS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House of Representatives today to honor five young people from Raymondville, Texas. Their project, titled "I Am Raymondville," earned them the top prize in the Diocese of Brownsville's Mobile Journalist Project, and their work has been entered in a national contest.

Rosa Barrera, Carla Bocanegra, Ralia Cortinas, Jose Trevino, and Celyna Vasquez set out to report on life in their community. With the assignment to chronicle poverty and homelessness in Raymondville, the five students from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish interviewed a bearded homeless man who was often seen near the Expressway 77 overpass.

The students, ranging from sixth graders to a high school junior, were impressed by Kent Karl Kauten's warm and friendly manner, and he told them he had served in the Vietnam War and was a Navy veteran. Kauten was found dead just three days after the interview, and, when the student journalists learned that he would be cremated and buried in a pauper's grave, they sought to ensure that Kent Karl Kauten's passing was honored with a full Catholic funeral mass and a military burial.

Working with local officials, the five students were able to confirm Mr. Kauten's military service and his eligibility for military honors, and they raised money to pay for his funeral—often seeking donations on the streets. As the students participated in the funeral at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and the burial, they stood in place of his family and ensured that the combat veteran was treated with dignity and respect.

Rosa, Carla, Ralia, Jose and Celyna set out to chronicle life in Raymondville. They saw poverty and homelessness, but they didn't just take a snapshot—they made a difference. They recognized a need and they stepped in where no one else had to ensure that an American hero would not be forgotten. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our nation's veterans who have sacrificed so much, and these dedicated young journalists have set an example of kindness and respect that our nation should follow.

Today, I join the City of Raymondville, the State of Texas, and the United States Congress in honoring the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mobile Journalists.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA'S LUPE C. HERRERA

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, let us commemorate the life of Lupe C. Herrera, a devoted member of the United States Army, who passed away on April 22 in Ontario, California at the age of 94.

Mr. Herrera enlisted in the Army on December 2, 1941, just a few days before the attack