

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

on Pearl Harbor. Mr. Herrera faithfully served his country for much of the remainder of WWII in the Sixth Armored Division throughout Europe until January 1946.

Mr. Herrera maintained an active role in his community throughout his life. His family remembers the stories he recounted about his memories during his service passing on his love for his country. The love for his country was transmitted to his grandchildren, as one serves in the Marines and another one in the Air Force. Mr. Herrera is survived by his wife, 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Herrera was an exceptionally devoted husband and father and I know that he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Mr. Herrera's story will live on to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, and I thank him for his dedication to our nation.

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
ANNUAL STATE LOYALTY DAY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Annual State Loyalty Day celebration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on May 1, 2013.

Loyalty Day was officially recognized by Congress on July 18, 1958. President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 the first official observance of Loyalty Day. President Eisenhower's proclamation declares Loyalty Day "a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom."

Our veterans have protected that freedom for generations. Their devotion and dedication to our nation set an example for American loyalty. I thank all of our nation's veterans for their service and sacrifice for our nation, and I thank the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars for its tireless work in speaking out on behalf of veterans and promoting cherished American values.

McGLOTHLIN FOUNDATION'S 2013
AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENTS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each year, the McGlothlin Foundation of Bristol, Virginia awards one kindergarten through fifth grade teacher and one sixth through twelfth grade teacher from selected areas of Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky with its Award for Teaching Excellence.

I am pleased to say that both 2013 award recipients teach in the district I am proud to represent, the Ninth District of Virginia.

Today, I extend my congratulations and also my gratitude to Pamela MacDonald, a fifth-grade teacher at Pearisburg's Macy

McClagherty Elementary School, and to Steve Ahn, a biology and earth science teacher at Abingdon High School.

For their efforts in the classroom, both of these educators won a monetary prize, a portion of which must be used on an international trip so they can ultimately bring the world back into their classrooms. Reports indicate that Ms. MacDonald intends to travel to Europe with her winnings, and that Mr. Ahn will head to Norway and Finland.

On behalf of other parents in our area, thank you, Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Ahn, for all that you do for children of Virginia's Ninth District, and congratulations on receiving the McGlothlin Foundation's 2013 Award for Teaching Excellence.

HONORING PETER S. CARTER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Peter S. Carter.

Peter was born on February 20th, 1943 in San Diego, California. At the age of 14, he and his family moved to the Santa Clara Valley where he graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory in 1961. Peter attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He became a photo editor, yearbook editor-in-chief and managing editor of the Georgetown Magazine.

It was with his college press pass that Peter was able to capture historic events like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" and the inauguration of President Lyndon Johnson.

After graduating from Georgetown in 1966 he worked at American University. It was in 1963 that Peter married his first wife, Michelle Villere. Peter and Michelle had two sons, Scott and Shawn. She passed away in 1986. Peter married Dennise McNulty in December of 1987. Together, they celebrated life with a constant stream of family and friends.

Peter's advertising agency was located in historic parts of San Jose near Japantown. He began his career shaping the message of the Mobile Home Dealers Association. He worked with a variety of partners and his clients included everything from local boutiques to large commercial developers. He did charity work for many local causes and organizations.

Following a long career in public relations and advertising, Peter turned to photography. Peter was present at almost every town event with his trademark camera dangling from his neck. Peter's work was often featured in the local newspapers of the community. Whether it be a jazz festival, a special dinner, or the annual holiday parade, Peter was there to capture the event through the shutter of his camera.

Beyond his own career Peter was a strong advocate of the arts. He was one of the most active members and supporters of The Museums of Los Gatos.

Peter helped the museums grow into cultural staples of the community.

Throughout the years he became active in many causes. Peter was a founding member of the Los Gatos Weekly, which went on to

merge with the Los Gatos Weekly Times Observer to become the Los Gatos Weekly Times. He was a longtime member of the San Jose Rotary Club and served on the board of directors for the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Foundation. Peter also served on the Los Gatos Music & Arts Committee for many years.

On February 20th Peter turned 70. This milestone was celebrated with the Los Gatos Social Club, the same organization Peter founded in the 1990s. Through this club Peter became a champion of locally owned businesses throughout the community. The Los Gatos Social Club hosted their weekly dinners at various family owned restaurants and cafes.

Peter was a special member of our community. For many years he has been a cherished friend. By example, he taught us to squeeze the most joy out of life as one possibly can and to do it with sublime purpose, a sense of humor, a fabulous wit and a dazzling smile.

It is in thanks for, and in admiration of Peter that I stand in honor today. I hope his legacy of public service serves as an inspiration to the young people of generations to come. He will be missed greatly by the Silicon Valley community.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
PHILLIS M. KULASZEWSKI FOR
HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here to honor and celebrate the life of an American patriot, Private First Class Phillis M. Kulaszewski.

Phillis was born on December 22nd, 1919 in Cherokee, Iowa, was raised there, graduating from Immaculate Conception High School in 1937. She joined the Women's Army Air Corp in 1944, serving for 14 months as a Clerk General, tracking the movement of fighter and bomber aircraft until they reached their point of embarkation. For her service, Phillis was decorated with the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

In 1945, while serving at Wright Field, she met and married her husband, Arthur J. Kulaszewski, who served his country until his retirement in 1967. That year, Phillis, Arthur and their two adopted children, DuWayne and Karen Ann, moved back to Cherokee. She was a proud Iowan.

Phillis dedicated herself to supporting veterans and working on veteran projects. In 2003, the AMVETS Benton County Post 218 was chartered with 13 members. Phillis was the first woman veteran and life member of the post. Now thriving with over 65 members and 5 women veterans, AM VETS honors her passion and dedication by bestowing her name on the Post. It will now and forever be known as the "Marion B. Gaultier-Phillis M. Kulaszewski AMVET Post 218 Benton County, Iowa."