

Lieutenant Colonel Rascon came out of retirement and joined the United States Army Reserves and served this Nation in both Iraq and Afghanistan in our recent conflicts.

It is for his amazing valor and heroism that I am proud and humbled to honor and remember the actions of Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Velazquez Rascon.

HONORING SERGEANT ROBERT EMMETT O'MALLEY

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Marine Corps Sergeant Robert Emmett O'Malley of Goldthwaite, Texas.

Sergeant O'Malley was a squad leader with Company I, 3rd Marines, during the Vietnam War, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for supreme bravery in action on August 18, 1965.

Sergeant O'Malley's unit came under heavy enemy fire while conducting an amphibious assault on an enemy position during Operation Starlite. Disregarding his own safety, Sergeant O'Malley charged forward and killed eight enemy soldiers. Then he directed his men to fire on the enemy, with deadly effect. He also rallied his squad to help an adjacent Marine unit suffering heavy casualties.

Although he was wounded, Sergeant O'Malley refused to allow medics to treat him, insisting instead on helping evacuate wounded marines. After being wounded a third time, Sergeant O'Malley refused to yield the engagement until all of his men were accounted for.

It is for his valor, leadership, and courageous efforts on behalf of fellow marines that I am proud to represent Sergeant Robert Emmett O'Malley of the 11th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING CAPTAIN PAUL WILLIAM BUCHA

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I'm thrilled tonight to join my colleagues in honoring these extraordinary men and women who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

I rise today to honor the manifest bravery and courage of my constituent, Captain Paul William Bucha of the United States Army, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Captain Bucha was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action during March 16-19, 1968, in Vietnam. For 3 days, on a mission to seek and destroy enemy positions, Captain Bucha led his 89-man unit through intense combat. On March 18, a North Vietnamese battalion with numerical su-

periority pinned down the forward units of his company. When Captain Bucha discovered the origins of the heaviest fire, he maneuvered into position and single-handedly eliminated the enemy position. Due to his exceptional leadership and guidance during the 3-day engagement, Captain Bucha's men held their position, refused to yield, and inflicted considerable casualties upon the superior enemy force.

It is for his extraordinary heroism and exemplary leadership that I'm proud to honor and remember the actions of Captain Paul William Bucha.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES MICHAEL SPRAYBERRY

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel James Michael Sprayberry of the United States Army.

Raised in Sylacauga, Alabama, he joined the Army in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1967. Lieutenant Sprayberry was just 21 years old and serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam when, on April 25, 1968, he engaged in extraordinary acts of heroism for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

On that day, his company commander and many of his fellow soldiers were wounded and separated from the unit. When a daytime rescue attempt was deterred by entrenched enemy machine-gun fire, Lieutenant Colonel Sprayberry organized and led a nighttime patrol to eliminate the enemy fire and rescue his fellow surrounded soldiers.

When the patrol came under intense enemy machine-gun fire, he single-handedly conducted multiple attacks against multiple enemy machine-gun bunkers and eliminated them one by one with hand grenades. After destroying bunkers, he was able to direct the isolated men to safety. The operation was a resounding success and resulted in the safe return of many fellow soldiers.

It is for his conspicuous gallantry and indomitable spirit that I am proud to honor the actions of Lieutenant Colonel James Michael Sprayberry.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT HIROSHI H. MIYAMURA

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Staff Sergeant Hiroshi H. Miyamura of the United States Army, who called Gallup, New Mexico, home.

Sergeant Miyamura was with the 3rd Infantry Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for extreme bravery in

action from April 24-25, 1951, near Taejon-ni, Korea. Staff Sergeant Miyamura's company was holding a defensive position when a strong enemy force launched a surprise attack to overrun them. Understanding the severity of the situation, Staff Sergeant Miyamura hustled to the line and plunged into the oncoming enemy forces with his bayonet, killing 10 of the attackers.

During the second assault, he used his machine-gun, taking out the enemy. He insisted that his men pull back while he covered their withdrawal. While unloading on the enemy's advances, Staff Sergeant Miyamura killed at least 50 and provided a safe withdrawal of his unit.

It is for his heroism and distinguished service that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Staff Sergeant Hiroshi H. Miyamura.

HONORING CORPORAL RODOLFO PEREZ "RUDY" HERNANDEZ

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Corporal Rodolfo Perez "Rudy" Hernandez of the United States Army.

Corporal Hernandez was with Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for visible gallantry in action on May 31, 1951 in Korea. His platoon was in a defensive position on Hill 420 when it came under heavy attack by enemy forces. Although his comrades were forced to withdraw, Corporal Hernandez stood his ground. When his machine-gun jammed, he valiantly charged with rifle and bayonet straight into the attacking force and he was seriously injured by a grenade blast. Due to Corporal Hernandez's heroic charge, the enemy advance was stalled long enough for his unit to mount a counteroffensive and retake the hill.

It is for this extraordinary courage in action that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Corporal Rodolfo Perez Hernandez.

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HONORING MAJOR FREDERICK EDGAR FERGUSON

(Ms. SINEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Major Frederick Edgar Ferguson of the United States Army. Major Ferguson served in the 1st Cavalry Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for supreme gallantry in action on January 31, 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam. Today he lives in Chandler, Arizona, in the district I have the honor of representing.

Major Ferguson was the commander of a helicopter monitoring an emergency call from wounded passengers of a downed helicopter under heavy attack. Without hesitation, Major Ferguson volunteered to respond to the call despite warnings to stay clear of the area.

Major Ferguson displayed superior flying skill by landing his aircraft under heavy fire. And although the helicopter sustained severe damage as the wounded men boarded, Major Ferguson flew his crippled aircraft to safety. That day, Major Ferguson saved the lives of five fellow servicemen with his brave and selfless act.

It is for his outstanding display of bravery that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Major Frederick Edgar Ferguson.

Thank you, Major Ferguson.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS FRANK A. HERDA

(Mr. RENACCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Specialist Fourth Class Frank A. Herda of the United States Army.

Specialist Herda was with Company A, 506th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for extreme bravery in action on January 29, 1968, in Vietnam.

When five enemy soldiers charged the position held by Specialist Herda and two fellow soldiers, one of the attacker's grenades landed amongst the men. Without hesitating, Specialist Herda threw himself on it, shielding the blast with his body. Specialist Herda's valiant and selfless actions saved the lives of his two comrades.

For his extraordinary bravery and commitment, I am proud today to honor and remember the actions of Specialist Frank A. Herda.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT SALVATORE AUGUSTINE GIUNTA

(Mr. ENYART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Salvatore Augustine Giunta of the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Giunta was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry in action on October 25, 2007, in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Giunta and his team were ambushed by heavy enemy fire. After sprinting for cover and returning fire, Staff Sergeant Giunta raced to his wounded squad leader to assist him. While disregarding the withering enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Giunta continued to assist the wounded and link up with men separated from his unit.

When he observed two insurgents carrying away one of his men, this staff sergeant charged their position, killing one enemy and wounding the other. He then carried his comrade away from the exposed position and began to administer first aid before his squad caught up to provide security.

It is for his extreme heroism and valor that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHARLES HENRY COOLIDGE

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, resident Technical Sergeant Charles Henry Coolidge of the United States Army. Technical Sergeant Coolidge was with the 36th Infantry Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry in action on October 24, 1944, near Belmont-sur-Buttant, France.

As Technical Sergeant Coolidge led a platoon to cover part of the 3rd Battalion, they ran into an enemy force and engaged in a fierce firefight. With no officer present, Technical Sergeant Coolidge assumed command of the new replacements and led his men through 3 days of hard fighting. Armed with a bazooka, he advanced within 25 yards of the tanks before it failed to function. Then, gathering as many hand grenades as he could, he inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy.

It is for his superior leadership and bravery that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Technical Sergeant Charles Henry Coolidge.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEO THORSNESS

(Mr. BROOKS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of a courageous Congressional Medal of Honor recipient living in Alabama's Fifth Congressional District.

Pilot Lieutenant Colonel Leo Thorsness was on a mission over North Vietnam when he lost his wingman. As the crew members parachuted to the ground, Colonel Thorsness destroyed a MIG-17 that was threatening their safety. Low on fuel, Colonel Thorsness went in search of a refueling tanker, but upon hearing that the downed men were again threatened—this time by four MIGs—he immediately returned to their aid. Low on fuel and perilously close to crashing himself, Colonel Thorsness attacked the four MIGs, damaging one, driving them away, and saving the downed men and their rescuers. Then he flew further afield to refuel, aiding another plane that needed the emergency fueling station.

Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness' extraordinary heroism, self-sacrifice, and

personal bravery saved many lives, and our Nation is forever grateful for his service.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS JOHN PHILIP BACA

(Mr. COTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Specialist Fourth Class John Philip Baca of the United States Army.

Specialist Baca was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, the "First Team." His Medal of Honor was awarded for extraordinary bravery in action on February 10, 1970, in Vietnam. On that February day, a platoon from Specialist Baca's company came under enemy fire. Upon realizing his team could be of assistance, Specialist Baca jumped into action. He led his unit through enemy fire to a position within the patrol's defensive perimeter. But before they were able to attack, an enemy grenade was thrown directly into their unit. Specialist Baca covered the grenade with his helmet and fell on it, absorbing its blast. His quick action bravely saved eight of his fellow soldiers from death or serious injury.

It is for this brave act and his unwavering courage that I am proud to honor the actions of Specialist Fourth Class John Philip Baca.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CLINTON ROMESHA

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the heroic efforts of former Staff Sergeant Clinton Romesha of the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Romesha was with the 4th Infantry Division and awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life in Afghanistan on October 3, 2009.

Attacked by an estimated 300 Taliban fighters, Staff Sergeant Romesha moved uncovered to conduct a reconnaissance and seek reinforcements. Romesha took out one enemy machine gun team and was wounded attempting to take out the second. Despite his wounds he continued fighting and directed air support, resulting in the elimination of over 30 enemy fighters.

Clint, his wife Tamara, and their three children—Dessi, Gwen, and Colin—live in Minot, North Dakota, and are the pride of our State.

It is for his extraordinary heroism and resolute commitment to his fellow soldiers that I am proud to honor Staff Sergeant Clinton Romesha.

HONORING CORPORAL DUANE EDGAR DEWEY

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1