

HONORING MAJOR JAMES ALLEN TAYLOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Major James Allen Taylor of the United States Army. I have personally known Major Taylor in the north State for about a decade through personal involvement with veterans issues and events in the north State.

I also wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to my colleague, Representative JARED HUFFMAN, whose district Major Taylor actually resides in. Also, Major Taylor had been a constituent of mine for several years when I represented Trinity County.

Major Taylor was with the 1st Cavalry Regiment and awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action on July 11, 1969, in Vietnam.

His men were engaged in an attack on a fortified position when a cavalry assault vehicle was hit and all five crew members were wounded. Major Taylor extracted the wounded despite heavy enemy fire. When a second vehicle was hit, Major Taylor moved forward again to rescue the wounded. While evacuating the wounded, Major Taylor engaged the enemy, killing several. At the evacuation point, a final vehicle was hit. Again, Major Taylor assisted in removing the wounded men and ensured that all wounded were safely evacuated.

I've met and known Major Taylor for several years, and it is my privilege to call him a friend.

It is through his selfless spirit and service to his crew that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Major James Allen Taylor.

HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL EDWIN THORNTON

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Lieutenant Michael Edwin Thornton of the United States Navy in Montgomery, Texas.

Lieutenant Thornton was a senior adviser to Vietnamese Navy SEAL patrols and was awarded his Medal of Honor for extreme bravery in action on March 6, 1976, in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Thornton and his team snuck behind enemy lines. At sunset, the team made contact with an enemy force and engaged in a furious firefight with the enemy, inflicting many casualties before withdrawing. When some of the men were cut off from the team, Lieutenant Thornton went back in, through enemy fire, to find the wounded men and carry them to safety. In killing several enemy combatants and hauling the wounded out, Lieutenant Thornton saved the life of his superior officer.

It is for his heroic spirit in service to our Nation that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Lieutenant Michael Edwin Thornton.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS GARY G. WETZEL

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Specialist Fourth Class Gary George Wetzel of the United States Army.

Specialist Fourth Class Wetzel served in the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extreme heroism in action in Vietnam on January 8, 1968.

While going to the aid of his aircraft commander, Specialist Fourth Class Wetzel became critically wounded. Although his left arm was severed, Specialist Fourth Class Wetzel held his position and engaged the enemy. After eliminating three, he refused treatment and attempted to assist his aircraft commander. Due to the severity of his wounds, Specialist Fourth Class Wetzel lost consciousness. Once he regained consciousness, he persisted in his efforts to drag himself to the aid of his fellow crewman and assisted in bringing the commander to safety.

Because of his valiant efforts towards his fellow crewmen, I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Specialist Fourth Class Gary George Wetzel.

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HONORING COLONEL JAMES FLEMING

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of a man from Manvel, Texas—an American hero, Colonel James Fleming of the United States Air Force.

Colonel Fleming was the pilot of a helicopter in the 20th Special Operations Squadron. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action on November 26, 1968, in Vietnam.

On that day, Colonel Fleming was ordered to rescue a six-man Special Forces patrol that was pinned down by enemy fighters. Already aware of one downed helicopter in the area, Colonel Fleming dropped his helicopter into the combat zone. Despite a failed first attempt and low fuel, Colonel Fleming did what every member of the U.S. military is trained to do—he left no man behind. He came back and hovered with an open cargo door while his helicopter was being raked by enemy fire. The six Green Berets jumped into his helicopter with the enemy 10 feet behind. Thanks to his heroic efforts, the six Green Berets made it out alive.

I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Colonel James Fleming.

HONORING COLONEL WALTER JOSEPH MARM, JR.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of United States Army Colonel Walter Joseph Marm, Jr., of Fremont, North Carolina.

Colonel Marm demonstrated indomitable courage and was awarded the Medal of Honor during a combat operation in Vietnam.

As his company was moving to relieve a surrounded friendly unit, he realized that his platoon was receiving intense fire from a concealed machine gun. He deliberately exposed himself to draw its fire. Colonel Marm charged 30 meters across open ground and hurled grenades into the enemy position. Although severely wounded, Colonel Marm continued the momentum of his assault on the position, and he killed the remainder of the enemy, breaking the enemy assault.

It is for his gallantry on the battlefield and his extraordinary bravery at the risk of his life that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Colonel Walter Joseph Marm, Jr.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD ARTHUR FRITZ

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Harold Arthur Fritz, who served in the United States Army and is a resident of the 18th District of Illinois.

Lieutenant Colonel Fritz served in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary gallantry in action on January 11, 1969.

While in Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Fritz' armored unit was ambushed, and his vehicle took a direct hit. Despite being seriously wounded himself, he fearlessly ran from vehicle to vehicle, positioning, providing aid and resupplying his men. The enemy attackers charged twice, but under Lieutenant Colonel Fritz' leadership, the unit stood its ground. Following the second charge, he led a brazen counteroffensive, forcing the oncoming enemy to withdraw. With the unit free from attack, he selflessly made sure that all of his men were cared for before allowing his own wounds to be treated.

So I am honored to stand and to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Harold Arthur Fritz for his undaunted courage, extraordinary bravery and fearless leadership.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS PETER C. LEMON

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the valiant efforts of Specialist Fourth Class Peter C. Lemon of the United States Army.

Specialist Fourth Class Peter C. Lemon was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy in Vietnam.

When the base came under heavy enemy attack, Sergeant Lemon engaged a numerically superior enemy with machine gun and rifle fire from his defensive position until both weapons malfunctioned. He then used hand grenades to fend off the intensified enemy attack launched in his direction. After eliminating all but one of the enemy soldiers in the immediate vicinity, he pursued and disposed of the remaining soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Lemon carried a more seriously wounded comrade to an aid station, and as he returned, was wounded a second time by enemy fire. Disregarding his personal injuries, he moved to his position through a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Sergeant Lemon immediately realized that the defensive sector was in danger of being overrun by the enemy, and he unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy soldiers by throwing hand grenades and engaging in hand-to-hand combat. He was wounded yet a third time, but his determined efforts successfully drove the enemy from the area.

It is for his courage and unwavering devotion to duty that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Specialist Fourth Class Peter C. Lemon.

HONORING COLONEL DONALD E. BALLARD

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the valiant efforts of Colonel Donald Everett Ballard of the Kansas National Guard and formerly of the United States Navy.

Colonel Ballard, a Corpsman Second Class at the time, was with the 3rd Marine Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for extreme fortitude and gallantry in action on May 16, 1968, in Vietnam.

Colonel Ballard's company was ambushed as they were evacuating a landing zone. Upon seeing wounded fellow marines, Colonel Ballard braved enemy fire to render medical assistance. As they prepared to move the wounded marines, an enemy soldier hurled a grenade that landed near the marines. After shouting a warning, Colonel Ballard threw himself upon the grenade to protect his fellow soldiers from the

blast. When the grenade failed to detonate, Colonel Ballard continued his treatment and saved countless marines.

It is for his courage and unwavering devotion to duty that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Colonel Donald Everett Ballard.

ROLL CALL OF HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOHO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is again an honor for me to be here today with my colleagues to honor the 79 living Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

To continue what we started earlier, I'd like to yield to my colleague from the great State of Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

HONORING CAPTAIN HOWARD V. LEE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend for the recognition and for the opportunity to recognize Captain Howard V. Lee from Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Captain Lee was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy in Vietnam.

When Lee realized that the unit had suffered numerous casualties, depriving it of effective leadership, and being fully aware that the platoon was even then under more heavy attack by the enemy, Major Lee took seven men and proceeded by helicopter to reinforce the beleaguered platoon. Major Lee disembarked from the helicopter with two of his men, and braving withering enemy fire, led them into the perimeter, where he fearlessly moved from position to position, directing and encouraging the overtaxed troops. Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy grenade in several areas of his body, including his eye, Major Lee continued undauntedly throughout the night to direct the valiant defense, coordinate supporting fire and apprising higher headquarters of the plight of the platoon. The next morning, he collapsed from his wounds and was forced to relinquish command.

It is for his courage and unwavering devotion to duty that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Captain Howard V. Lee. Semper Fi.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, my good friend Mr. SHIMKUS.

At this point, I would like to yield to my colleague from the 20th Congressional District of the great State of New York (Mr. TONKO).

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS FRANCIS SHERMAN CURREY

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentlewoman from Hawaii for bringing us together in a bipartisan, spirited way to recognize the living Medal of Honor winners, who are much applauded and much recognized and deeply loved by this Nation.

I rise this evening to honor the heroic efforts of Sergeant First Class Francis Sherman Currey of the United States Army.

Sergeant Currey served with the 30th Infantry Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for acts of conspicuous gallantry on December 21, 1944, near Malmédy, Belgium.

While defending a strong point, Sergeant Currey's platoon was overrun by German tanks, leading to the withdrawal of his platoon. Sergeant Currey was able to obtain a bazooka despite taking heavy fire from enemy tanks and infantrymen just a short distance away. Pushing forward, Sergeant Currey eliminated one tank and cleared three German soldiers from a house. In discovering five trapped American soldiers, Sergeant Currey acquired several anti-tank grenades. In driving the tank men from their vehicles, he provided enough cover fire to free the five soldiers.

It is for his indomitable heroism and consummate devotion to duty that I am proud to honor and remember the actions of Sergeant First Class Sherman Currey. I thank you for the opportunity to share with you this evening on behalf of this wonderful gentleman.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much for being here to honor a true hero.

I would like to now yield to my colleague from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN).

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HECTOR ALBERT CAFFERATA, JR.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Hector Albert Cafferata, Jr., of the United States Marine Corps.

Private Cafferata was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in action in Korea on November 28, 1950, while serving with the famed 1st Marine Division.

As the only unwounded member of his squad, he singlehandedly engaged the enemy while under heavy fire from machine guns, mortars and grenades. For over 7 hours, he was able to successfully fend off wave after wave of enemy attacks until reinforcements could arrive. However, as reinforcements moved in, an enemy grenade landed in his trench. The private immediately grabbed the grenade and threw it from the trench before it detonated. Though wounded by the blast,