

TRIBUTE TO JIM XINIS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize Jim Xinis and his twenty-five years at the helm of Calvert Memorial Hospital. Jim has been a tireless fighter to ensure the best service for the people of Calvert County and throughout southern Maryland.

Jim is an honest, confident, creative, and inspiring leader. He's been an effective manager and a visionary. His twenty-five years leading Calvert Memorial Hospital have been a period of growth and change that have increased quality, efficiency, and innovation for the benefit of patients and their families.

I will never forget how, in the summer of 2009, when the nation was engaged in a heated debate over passage of the Affordable Care Act, I asked Jim to facilitate a town hall meeting at North Point High School so I could hear from residents of the Fifth Congressional District on this important issue. It was quite a meeting with over 1,500 in attendance—and Jim displayed such grace and tact in keeping the meeting focused over several hours on the issues at hand and making sure everyone had a chance to weigh in. It was no easy task.

But Jim has never been one for easy tasks. Recognizing the challenge of rising health care costs and affordability, Jim created Calvert Healthcare Solutions, which serves the uninsured throughout the county. And under his leadership, Calvert Memorial Hospital has been the lowest cost hospital in Maryland for twenty consecutive years, with a reputation for providing a full range of services at a very high quality of care. At the same time, he has worked to preserve its warm community spirit, where patients can feel comfortable, cared for, and empowered. Jim's good humor and positive attitude have surely contributed to his effective leadership and his reputation for excellence.

I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his extraordinary service to Calvert County, to Maryland, and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING STAYUNITED

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize StayUNITED, a nonprofit organization based in Rockland County, New York, and its founders, Mark and Ismini Svensson.

StayUNITED is devoted to improving the quality of life for children and youth across the country and throughout the world. Their recent initiative, "50 Acts of Giving Back," promotes volunteerism while highlighting the power of social media to promote good causes. Mark and Ismini Svensson, both constituents of the New York 17th District, are traveling across the country, visiting all 50 states, to perform 50 acts of kindness. At the same time, they are using social media platforms to inspire others to become active members of their communities by performing their own acts of kindness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mark and Ismini Svensson for their hard work and devotion to improving the lives of children across the globe. Their charitable journey is an inspiration for others and, through their hard work and kindness, has made the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION
AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF
COLONEL JUSTIN MCCARTHY
"MAC" MILLER, USMC (RET.)**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Greatest Generation, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller, United States Marine Corps Retired, upon the occasion of his 100th birthday. Colonel Miller has dedicated his life to service to his community, his family, and to our great Nation, and I am humbled to honor him and his remarkable achievements today.

Born in 1914, aviation has always been a stronghold in Colonel Miller's life. As a young man, he admired the pursuit pilots, or fighter pilots, of the Allied Forces. From his early encounters with comic books and magazine covers depicting the Lafayette Escadrille, to his application to the United States Naval Academy, Colonel Miller knew his life's destiny was to become a fighter pilot.

While at the Naval Academy, he resigned as a midshipman and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an aviation cadet in 1940 before receiving his wings in 1941. His first assignment was as an Instructor Pilot in Pensacola, Florida, where he would return later in life. He then was assigned to Staff and Command school at United States Marine Corps Base, Quantico. Though these two assignments were perhaps not the most ideal for someone just pinning on wings eager to enter theater, shortly after the beginning of World War II, not only would Colonel Miller be presented with the opportunity to fly in combat, but he would be assigned as the Commanding Officer and take on the role of Executive Officer of the newly-established fighter squadron VMF 217, training in the F4F Wildcat. In 1943, the squadron embarked on the USS BARNES (CVE-20) deployed to the South Pacific, transitioned aircraft to the F4U Corsair, and flew combat missions over the Solomon Islands. In 1944, the squad embarked on the USS SANTEE (CVE-29) and deployed to Guam, where they commenced strikes against the island of Rota. In October 1944, Colonel Miller took Command of VMF-321 until 1945, when the squadron returned to the United States. Throughout his tour in the Pacific Theater, Colonel Miller commanded two fighter squadrons. He then joined the Reserves in 1948 after the end of the war, where he continued his career in flight while also proving to be a successful businessman, as evidenced by his ownership of many radio stations, including WCOA Pensacola.

Amongst his vast array of accolades and contributions lay a century's worth of anecdotes, including being taught to fly his favorite aircraft, the F4U Corsair, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh himself. Amazingly,

throughout his remarkable career, Colonel Miller flew 140 combat missions in 31 different aircraft, and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, and four Battle Stars, amidst an interminable list of decorations, honors, and awards for his distinguished service in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller is a valued member of our community and national history. He is a true "American Patriot" and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of his exemplary life. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday as he turns 100 years young, and we wish him and his entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED
STATES NAVY SEAL LIEUTENANT
MICHAEL MURPHY**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a fallen American hero, United States Navy SEAL Lieutenant Michael Murphy with a tribute to his most heroic life. On October 22, 2007 The Medal of Honor was presented to his family by President George W. Bush at The White House. This Veterans Day let us remember all of the Fallen like Lt. Murphy who have given That Last Full Measure to protect us. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

BUT, WHERE OUR HONOR LIES

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

All . . .
All in our darkest days of night!
As all around us the most wicked of evil
casts its light!
When before us death so lies!
While, all out there on that road of life!
When, all in the throes war realized!
All in those moments of truth comprised!
Are but all of those defining moments of
light!
Which shine so very bright!
Are but a true reflection of one's soul and
might!
Which shines like gold this sight!
Comes the most precious of all things!
Above all else which surely rings!
As lies the proof of ones most inner being!
Is But, Where Our Honor Lies!
When all between life and death comprised
. . .
When one's courage comes to rise!
All in those moments when who lives or dies!
So all depends on you comprised!
But comes only America's Best!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies this test!
When, uncommon valor is extolled!
And with clenched fist we see the greatest of
all virtues, behold!
Coming from all within one's soul!
To our world as now exposed!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies!
As we lose so lose our breath!
As we so reflect upon all of this and those
. . .
Most Christian acts as so!
Now carried deep in our souls!
All in hearts to have and hold!
Could we but live by such an honor code?
Would we ever see such light as have all of
those?
With such Uncommon Valor who into that
darkness did go!

What all their fine hearts emote!
 To win that day and night!
 All in those darkest of all fights!
 All in this brilliance,
 As when one's soul ignites!
 Shinning All In The Brilliance of Honor's
 Light!
 Now In Hearts To Hold!
 Of which all our children must be told!
 Will we so be the ones?
 With such uncommon courage,
 And grace as you Murph on earth as it is in
 heave they will be done!
 And shine as bright as the midday sun!
 While all in the face of evil,
 For your Brothers In Arms to death look
 upon . . .
 To Follow!
 To Lead!
 To help them succeed!
 But, Where Our Honor Lies!
 To evil to erase!
 As with your fine heart they could not keep
 pace!
 Out On Point!
 All In Your Strength In Honor!
 No one could take your place!
 As you heard death's haunting call!
 And the face of death Michael you saw!
 And yet you did not hesitate!
 Standing Strong and Standing Tall!
 As our Lord and his Angel's watched you fall
 . . .
 With tears upon their face!
 How proud of you they must have been that
 day!
 Watching you all in Honor's way!
 Standing back all in such awe . . .
 As your fine soul up to Heaven would ascend
 . . .
 With you new life as an Angel to begin . . .
 In The Army of Our Lord,
 to watch over us and defend!
 This Congressional Man our Nation has so
 blessed!
 For Heaven could not wait for one of its best!
 As we lower you fine body down to rest!
 With but tears upon our face,
 as Michael you showed us how to behave!
 As these word in our hearts At East we
 made!
 But Michael,
 we will hear you in the night!
 Upon gentle breezes so slight . . .
 And we see will see your face and realize . . .
 You are an angel to watch over us both day
 and night . . .
 In life,
 moments are all that we so have!
 As our time begins To Make A Difference to
 grab!
 To Crush Hearts!
 To But Find Where Our Honor Lies!
 SEAL . . . ED WITH A KISS,
 AS MURPH WE SAY GOODBYE!
 On this day knowing . . .
 But Where Our Honor Lies!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
 OF MR. SONNY HASHMI IN AD-
 VANCING INNOVATIVE TECH-
 NOLOGY INITIATIVES THAT EN-
 HANCE CITIZEN SERVICES, SAVE
 TAXPAYER DOLLARS, AND PRO-
 MOTE BEST PRACTICES ACROSS
 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Mr.

Sonny Hashmi of Oakton, Virginia for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the management excellence category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Mr. Hashmi serves as the Chief Information Officer for the United States General Services Administration, or GSA. In this role, Mr. Hashmi is responsible for managing GSA's \$600 million information technology budget and ensuring that GSA's IT initiatives effectively align with the agency's strategic goals and government-wide leadership responsibilities in key areas, such as information security and enterprise architecture efforts.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Mr. Hashmi was instrumental in launching GSA's groundbreaking "Drive to the Cloud" initiative. This program enabled GSA to lead by example in becoming the first agency to transition its email services to a cloud-based platform, along with its collaboration and documents management tools. It is projected that these two migrations from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms will result in \$15 million in savings for the agency by 2016.

Under Mr. Hashmi's visionary leadership, GSA has also worked to ensure its lesson learned and best practices permeate across the Federal Government, and it is a testament to Mr. Hashmi's success that each year, additional agencies follow GSA's blueprint and guidance in moving to embrace shared services and innovative cloud-based solutions.

Mr. Hashmi represents precisely the type of Federal Chief Information Officer our government desperately needs more of. I fully concur with GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini's recent observation that, "Sonny not only fixes problems, but also provides newer and better solutions. He is a leader in the best sense. He is all about the outcome and builds a team that shares that desire."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Mr. Sonny Hashmi for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal. Mr. Hashmi and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Mr. Hashmi and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Each one deserves our gratitude and respect.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF
 SERVICE BY THE SISTERS OF
 MERCY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and well-being of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
 VERSARY OF THE WEST FLOR-
 IDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUN-
 CIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council and recognize its significant impact and contributions to Northwest Florida.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council was established in 1964 as the Pensacola-Escambia County Regional Council when the need of transportation planning and coordination was recognized. As the third regional planning council to have been formed in the State of Florida, it has since grown to also include Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties and their municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, the Council today provides a forum