

SGT. RAYMOND J. KOOMAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Raymond J. Kooman, who served bravely in World War II and survived as a prisoner of war in a German prison camp. Sgt. Kooman is being honored today at the 2015 POW/MIA Recognition Month Ceremony in Hackensack, NJ for his service.

In 1942, Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Kooman, enlisted in the service at the age of 19, serving in the United States Army, 28th Infantry Keystone Division. The red keystone, official emblem of the State of Pennsylvania, is the official shoulder sleeve insignia of the 28th Division which was originally a Pennsylvania National Guard organization. The Germans called it the 'Bloody Bucket' because of the blood-red keystone insignia and vicious fighting tactics during the Normandy Campaign. It was the 28th Infantry that paraded through the streets of Paris after the city's liberation. The division traces its history back to Benjamin Franklin's "Battalions for Associators" organized in 1747.

In October 1943, Sgt. Kooman was deployed to the European battlefield. He had been in action since D-Day and served with reconnaissance patrols, and in attacks on enemy strongholds. He continued to serve as a rifleman with the infantry in the European Theatre. On September 14, 1944 Sgt. Kooman was wounded when a German sniper shot him in the leg. He recovered quickly from his injuries and three weeks later he was sent back into action. After five months of fighting in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, the 28th Infantry was deployed along a 25-mile stretch of the Our River, from northeastern Luxembourg to Wallenstein, Germany.

On December 18, 1944, just three months after being injured, Sgt. Kooman was captured and taken prisoner by enemy German troops in Luxembourg. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and was eventually held as a POW in Stalag IV B in Germany. Sgt. Kooman weighed 155 pounds when he enlisted and weighed only 80 pounds when he was liberated by British soldiers. He also fell ill to dysentery, as had all prisoners. However, somehow, Sgt. Kooman found the will to survive. He still carries the prisoner identification tag he was forced to wear. Sgt. Kooman describes his experience as such: "We had 3,007 prisoners in our camp. Everybody slept on the floor in this prison. There were no beds and no toilets. There was nothing to eat—35 men to one loaf of bread. I never took my socks off, yet walked 800 miles in 35 days, the death march. I buried a lot of people, a lot of soldiers. Every day, I buried them."

After a year in captivity, he was eventually liberated by the British Army in 1945. His story of survival in the midst of so much agony is both inspirational and a snapshot of the true brutality of war.

In recognition for his service in the U.S. Army, Sgt. Kooman received several military decorations: the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal—1st Oak Leaf Cluster, World War II Victory Medal, ETO Campaign Medal, and the Bronze Arrowhead—Omaha Beach Assault.

It is an honor for me to recognize Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman, who hails from the Borough

of Little Ferry, which I am proud to represent within the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the life and achievements of individuals such as Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sgt. Kooman's family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the life and service of Sergeant Raymond J. Kooman.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD AND SANDRA BINTZ

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Harold and Sandra Bintz of Minden, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Harold and Sandra's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR FLIGHT OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to welcome the 35 World War II veterans visiting Washington, DC this week from our home state of Oregon. Their trip was made possible by Honor Flight of Oregon and their presence in the Capitol today is a humbling one.

We are joined by Navy, Army, Marine, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard and Army Air Force veterans who have faced terrors and dangers with bravery that continues to inspire. In this group are veterans who fought in Iwo Jima; those who fended off and survived the harrowing attack on the USS *Franklin*; documentarians who photographed the war; cryptographers who kept our secrets safe; and mechanics of all branches that kept us marching forward. These are just a few examples of the contributions these heroes made, but each deserves individual recognition:

Kenneth Anderson; John Fellas; RD, Sr. Fortner; James Riopelle; Stanley Wheeler; Donald Bean; Marvin Johnson; Leo Schammel; Earl Uptegrove; Clyde Harrop; Roland Halberg; Lawrence Torrey; Donald Fowler; Patrick O'Brien; Eldon Dyer; Raymond Stahly; Robert Bortvedt; Lawrence Kissinger; Everett Lee; Gerald Midbust; Harold Goff; Raynold Deluca Sr; Murray Watts; Lyle Wescott; George Prusynski; Donald Cresap; William Birkeland; Harold Englet; Kenneth Kerns; Juanita Price; Donald Ford; James

Sperling; Robert Zimmerman; Rupert Fixott; and Joe Bruer.

The world as we know it would not be the same were it not for their courage, their bravery, and I hope that this trip bestows upon them a tiny fraction of the respect and gratitude that can never be fully repaid. To our Greatest Generation, I wish them my very best on their visit and thank them for their service.

These events are so important, connecting our veterans with the memorials erected to honor their service and with younger generations to ensure they know this important history. And a trip such as this would not be possible without the help of the volunteers who donate their time, resources and passion to Honor Flight Oregon. They ensure that each visit is met with the heroes welcome these veterans deserve.

OBSERVING SEPTEMBER AS CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, when my constituent Matthew Nehaus was 9, he suddenly lost weight, became too tired to participate in sports, and was frequently overcome by coughing bouts. Concerned, his parents took him to the doctor, who initially thought the cause was an infection or pneumonia. But an X-ray led to a much scarier diagnosis—cardiomyopathy.

Cardiomyopathy is a degenerative disease of the heart muscle that weakens its ability to efficiently and effectively pump blood around the body. Though more common for adults, it is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest and heart transplants in children.

This September is the second annual Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month, an opportunity to educate people about the condition, its signs and risk factors, as well as advocate for policies that help address it.

One of those policies, which I'm proud to support, is H.R. 829, the SAFE PLAY Act. Introduced by Representatives Lois CAPPS and BILL PASCRELL, the bill would take a number of needed steps to protect the safety of student athletes, including developing emergency response plans at schools, communicating the risks of overexertion in hot weather, and teaching students to conduct CPR and use defibrillators. Another important measure of this bill is identifying students with cardiomyopathy to help them get treatment and reduce their risks.

Luckily, Matthew Nehaus and his family found out about his condition in time to stabilize his health and, after years on the donation list, he received a heart transplant. I'm so grateful that Matthew has the opportunity to pursue a bright future and dearly hope that other children facing cardiomyopathy get the same chance. Please join me in spreading awareness about this condition and supporting policies that can lead to early detection and better health outcomes for these kids.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY BUCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dorothy Buch on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Dorothy celebrated her 100th birthday on August 12, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Dorothy's life. Dorothy grew up on a farm in Mills County, Iowa. She would walk a mile to and from school every day. She was a 1932 graduate of Glenwood High School. Dorothy and her late husband, Carl, worked their farm for 61 years and are the proud parents of three daughters, five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. For years, Dorothy was the pianist and organist at the Trinity Lutheran Church where she still attends Sunday services.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Dorothy. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dorothy on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

THE JOHN WAYNE IN SCRUBS—DR. JAMES HENRY ‘RED’ DUKE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on 25 August 2015, the Great State of Texas lost one of its greatest sons. A world class trauma surgeon, educator and family man, Dr. James “Red” Duke is a legend of the Houston and Texas A&M communities.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of this good man and my friend.

Dr. Duke—or as I liked to call him “the John Wayne in scrubs”—was Texan to the core. His trademark bristly mustache, gold rimmed glasses, lanky Texas swagger and heavy twang were second only to his colorful personality.

I met Dr. Duke in the ‘80s when he appeared as an expert witness in criminal cases in my courtroom. (I was a felony court judge.)

A few years later we teamed up as doctor and judge to teach high school students lessons about drunk driving.

Working with him to make those kids think twice about their decisions is something I will never forget.

But while Dr. Duke may have been a straight shooter from humble roots, he was also one of the most celebrated folks in his field. He founded the Life Flight air ambulance service, wrote over forty publications, eighteen textbook chapters and gave almost 600 lectures. He became a household name through his educational TV series *Bodywatch* and the *Texas Health Reports*.

A man dedicated to serving others, Dr. Duke completed a two-year tour of duty as a tank officer in the 2nd Armored Division, before returning home from Germany to enter a theological seminary in 1955.

Shortly thereafter he switched from one life-saving vocation to another, qualifying as a physician and taking up a residency at the Parkland Memorial Hospital, where in 1963 he was the first surgeon to receive President Kennedy after he was shot on that fateful day in Dallas.

For the next 50 years, Dr. Duke dedicated himself to treating trauma victims and educating young doctors, while in his spare time, generously giving his time to the Boy Scouts and wildlife conservation efforts.

In 1989 he was considered for the position of Surgeon General of the United States, one year after being named Surgeon of the Year by the James F Mitchell Foundation.

While the United States did not receive the pleasure of Dr. Duke's service in this role, we in Texas were happy to have him stay. We were fortunate to call Red our own.

He was bigger than life.
He was “John Wayne in Scrubs.”
And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE STEVE HAYES OF THE COPPELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Steve Hayes on receiving the Star of Texas Resolution for his service and dedication to the community.

Detective Hayes has been a hardworking and respected member of the Coppell Police Department in Coppell, Texas, for several decades in different capacities. One routine traffic stop on March 31, 1995, changed his life forever. During the stop, a different vehicle struck his patrol car and left him with severe injuries to both his legs. Yet this didn't stop him from returning to work and continuing to make a positive impact on the community in any capacity he could.

After Steve lost his right leg to amputation, endured multiple surgeries, and many months rehabbing and caring to his injuries, he came back to the police department as a training officer and dispatcher and has since been promoted. Today Steve works as a crime scene investigator and property crimes detective. His story is an inspiration and a strong message to all.

Steve also volunteers and has become a board member of the Peace Officers Angels foundation. He regularly calls, travels, and meets with injured officers across the state as part of their program. He has been an integral part of the foundation and provides emotional support to other members of law enforcement injured on the job. It's admirable and inspirational that he uses his unfortunate accident as a positive influence to aid fellow members of law enforcement with their struggles from being injured in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the hard work and support Steve contributes as well as being awarded the Star of Texas Resolution. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Detective Steve Hayes of the Coppell Police Department.

TRIBUTE TO THE FARMERS TELEPHONE COMPANY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Farmers Telephone Company of Essex, Iowa. This year marks the 60th year of operation for the telecommunications company, which opened its doors in 1955.

The Farmers Telephone Company was formed by a group of area farmers. The company has grown a great deal over the past 60 years, but they have kept their roots and remained at 615 Iowa Avenue in Essex since it first opened. While their location hasn't changed, the way they operate their business has. The biggest change is the growth of internet service and the effects it has had on businesses and residents alike. General Manager Tim Hill attributes the longevity of the Farmers Telephone Company to its core base of local customers and its constant willingness to evolve to keep up with the times.

Mr. Speaker, I command and congratulate the Farmers Telephone Company and its staff for providing cutting-edge telecommunication services to the Essex community and southwest Iowa for the past 60 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Farmers Telephone Company for their numerous achievements in the communications industry. I wish them and all of their employees nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN LESCOE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of John Lescoe, Jr. of Willimantic, Connecticut who passed away on September 14, 2015. John was a lifelong resident of Willimantic, where he lived with his wife Pauline “Bunny” Lescoe. He served as a State Representative for the 49th District in the Connecticut General Assembly for 12 years and First Selectman for the Town of Windham for two and a half years.

John graduated from Windham High School in 1956. Following his two year service in the Marine Corps, John worked at Pratt & Whitney for eight years as a machinist. John then entered another phase of his life by enrolling in Eastern Connecticut State University in 1966, and graduated with a degree in Physical Education.

John put his new degree to work by teaching physical education, social studies, and language arts for 30 years at Horace Porter Elementary School in Columbia, CT. In 1986, John won election to serve as State Representative of the 49th District in the Connecticut General Assembly. After representing the 49th District in Hartford from 1987 to 1999, John shifted to serve two and a half years as First Selectman for the Town of Windham.