

HONORING NINE WORLD WAR II FEMALE VETERANS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the nine outstanding World War II female veterans from Palm Beach County who will soon be honored by the Palm Beach County Veterans Committee. They are a cohort defined by dedication, excellence, and selflessness in their willingness to serve.

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the men and women who throughout history and to this day have defended our Nation and our values through service in our armed forces. The debt we owe to these veterans is immeasurable, and we must always strive to be a nation worthy of their heroic sacrifice.

For the past eight years, the Palm Beach County Veterans Committee has sponsored annual Veterans Day parades and ceremonies honoring our Nation's veterans. This year, nine female World War II veterans will be personally honored as Grand Marshalls in the Palm Beach County Veterans Day Parade on November 8th.

Congratulations to Dorothy Echeverria, Maxine Bodman, Nina Gebrarian, Marjorie Ulsamer, Florence Mascott, Virginia Stefan, Bernice Harwood, Eleanor McFadden, and Jean Mahonney on being chosen as Grand Marshal's in this year's Veterans Day parade. I am proud to honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and express deep appreciation for their service to our Nation.

HONORING BARBARA CHRISTWITZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Barbara Christwitz, a community leader and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Barbara Christwitz was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Barbara Christwitz is the founder of Citizens Caring 4 Clearlake, a non-profit organization that leads neighborhood clean ups of trash and debris. She is dedicated to making Clearlake a better place.

Whereas, in addition to Citizens 4 Clearlake, Barbara has been an active community member with an extensive volunteer resume. She volunteers for the Lake County Time Bank and Lake County Coop and is a coordinator of monthly Peace Prayer dances. Barbara helped establish the Highlands Senior Service Center Garden and is a leader in the Girl's Circle sponsored by the Lake County Family Resource Center.

Whereas, Barbara has been a tutor specialist at Yuba Community College for the past ten years. She is an amazingly giving person with an inexhaustible spirit who takes pride in her community.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional

District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Barbara Christwitz.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the Puget Sound Partnership for its tireless efforts to protect and restore America's largest estuary.

The Puget Sound Partnership is the agency of Washington state serving as the backbone organization for Puget Sound recovery. The Partnership coordinates the efforts of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, businesses and nonprofits to set priorities, implement a regional recovery plan, and ensure accountability for results.

It is this kind of cooperative effort that can turn back the tide of degrading habitats and changing ocean chemistry, and I commend the Partnership for taking on the mantle of leadership in this vital mission.

The Puget Sound is not only a national environmental treasure; it is the centerpiece of our cultural identity and economic strength in the Pacific Northwest. If habitats continue to degrade and our cool, clean water is jeopardized by changing ocean conditions, we will lose much of what makes the Puget Sound and Washington state so special.

That is why I have worked closely with the Puget Sound Partnership and its Executive Director, Sheida Sahandy, to bring their model of cooperative, coordinated recovery to federal agencies through the Promoting Unified Government Efforts To Save Our Sound Act, or the PUGET SOS Act. This bill is a significant first step to bring more federal attention to bear on Puget Sound recovery, and I sincerely thank the Partnership's staff for their assistance and advice in crafting this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts. Fifty years ago today, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts in Humanities Act as an umbrella for creating the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Since President Johnson signed National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) into law 50 years ago, the NEA has been supporting artists and arts organizations across this country. The NEA's grant programs have helped support the creation of new artwork in our communities, taught generations of children the power of creativity and problem solving, preserved our nation's artistic heritage, and brought art forms to stages, movie theatres,

televisions, and public spaces across the United States.

The investment we make in the arts provides us not only with the enrichment of our communities across the country, but it is also a powerful economic driver. Each year, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity, providing 4.13 million jobs, and returns billions to the federal government in income taxes. Additionally, for every one dollar of federal funds we invest in the arts, we return 9 nonfederal dollars back—an unprecedented return on investment. Through this federal investment, the non-profit arts industry generates \$22.3 billion in government revenue.

The NEA has been at the forefront of a national effort to support arts and health in the military through the NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership. This program supports writing, visual and music arts therapy, and yoga for service men and women at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOE). These cost effective, non-invasive arts therapy programs rank consistently in the top five "helpful" and "wish to continue programs" on patient satisfaction surveys of men and women who have gone through the program. Through art therapy programs, our servicemen and women can transition away from large numbers of prescription medications to art therapy programs which allow for healing, psychosocial skill building, and self expression directly correlated to an increase in quality of life after leaving the treatment at NICOE.

The NEA also supports life-long learning in the arts through education programs that have been proven to help close the education achievement gap and help increase better grade point averages in core academic subjects.

As President Johnson said: "The arts and humanities belong to the people, for it is, after all, the people who create them." Please join me in recognizing the NEA on its 50th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYSHORE SENIOR HEALTH, EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center in Keansburg, New Jersey as it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Center's efforts to enhance the well-being of the community's senior population is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Through its activities, workshops, outings and classes, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center provides an opportunity for seniors to receive resources, information, exercise and lunches, but also an opportunity to give back to the community through programs such as Crochet for a Cause and ESL lessons. In addition, the Center's community involvement extends beyond its services to seniors, offering internship and practicum opportunities to college students

pursuing nursing and social services degrees. Above all, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center aims to provide a sense of fellowship in a safe, welcoming environment.

Since its inception, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center has continued to grow and transform to meet the changing needs of its members. Its current location was recently expanded and renovated to include individual rooms dedicated to particular activities, including a computer lab and craft room, a community room and an upstairs hall that can be rented out for special functions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center on its 40th anniversary and thanking its staff and members for their extraordinary service to the community.

HONORING ANGIE GATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Angie Gates a community organizer and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Angie Gates was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Angie Gates is inspired by the people she serves through her volunteerism. "After the floods, I saw the good in people," explained Angie. "It made me proud to call Yuba County my home."

Whereas, Angie has been a community organizer and volunteer in Yuba County for over 20 years. She spearheaded 'So You Can', a canned food drive and a critical networking agency. Originally designed to serve Olivehurst, the networking agency has expanded to include Linda, Arboga, Plumas Lake, and Marysville.

Whereas, hundreds of local families are helped each year by the organizations and annual events Angie provides leadership for, such as Olivehurst's Christmas Parade and Car Show, Marysville Boots and Brews, Operation Turkey Swap, Holiday Dinner and Toy Drive, Olivehurst Little League, Marysville Kiwanis, Yuba County Senior Center, and Duke Memorial Foundation.

Whereas, beyond providing food for the hungry and conducting toy drives during the holidays for low income families, Angie is passionate about creating positive family events that promote a sense of community wellbeing so that people feel good about where they live.

Whereas, what keeps Angie motivated are the smiles that she sees on the faces of many who return to say, "Thank you for helping our family out last year. Now that we are back on our feet, what can we do to help someone else this year?"

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Angie Gates.

FOUR U.S. AVIATORS FROM THE GREAT WORLD WAR I

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, the United States came—not for the last time—to the free world's aid, as Europe descended into a bloody war that would ultimately end the Age of Empires. Much has been written about the First World War, its impact on subsequent history, and the future trajectory of the Western world. But what are often forgotten are the stories and sacrifices of brave individuals.

According to Blaine Pardoe's "Terror of the Autumn Skies," the average life expectancy of a new United States WWI pilot was just 19 days. These four men defied the odds and boldly fought their way through the war. These men deserve special tribute. They are all young Americans who came to the aid of our allies and helped make the world more secure and prosperous.

All four were recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military honor, and yet they are not household names. That is unfortunate.

We must remember our warriors from 100 years ago because the greatest tragedy of war is to be forgotten.

FIRST LIEUTENANT FRANK LUKE, JR.

Known as the "Arizona Balloon Buster," Lieutenant Luke was born into a family of nine siblings in Phoenix, growing up a keen sportsman and bare-knuckle boxer—a pursuit that would help prepare him for the fight to come. Lt. Luke enlisted in the Aviation Section of the U.S. Signal Corps in 1917 and received his training in the Great State of Texas before being deployed to the Western Front. Perhaps reflecting his childhood sports prowess, Lt. Luke went on to become one of an elite number of "fighter aces," and in September 1918, he successfully completed a record personal campaign against German observation balloons and aircraft, earning him his nickname. He died in combat on 29 September 1918. He was 21.

CAPTAIN EDWARD V. RICKENBACKER

Eddie Rickenbacker always had a knack for driving. He competed in the Indianapolis 500 four times as a racecar driver before becoming America's most successful WWI fighter ace. Born in Ohio to Swiss-German parents, Captain Rickenbacker had a personal connection to the turmoil engulfing Europe and even tried to join the Allied cause before the United States entered the war. With 26 aerial victories to his name, Captain Rickenbacker is widely considered one of the most accomplished military aviators of his generation. He was also one of the hardest-working, clocking up a total of 300 combat hours. Rickenbacker was lucky enough to return home after the war and went on to become an airline executive and advisor to the U.S. Air Force effort in WWII. He died in Columbus in 1973 aged 82.

CHIEF MACHINIST'S MATE FRANCIS E. ORMSBEE, JR.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Frank Ormsbee, Jr., was not even yet a pilot when he conducted the brave rescue attempt that would earn him a Congressional Medal of Honor. After being motivated as a patriot to

enlist in the Navy in 1917, the following year, as an aircrew member stationed at Pensacola, Florida, Ormsbee witnessed a plane go into a tailspin and crash less than a mile out from his position. The young Navy recruit jumped overboard and swam to the wreck, partially extricating the gunner and making a number of attempts to save his life. While the rescue was unsuccessful, Ormsbee's heroism was extraordinary. He died in a plane crash two decades later at the age of 44.

ENSIGN CHARLES HAZELTINE HAMMANN

In addition to his congressional medal, Charles Hammann's service has been memorialized by two Naval ships named in his honor. Originally from Baltimore, Hammann joined the Naval Reserve in 1917. Less than 12 months later, the young naval aviator found himself flying a Macchi M.5 seaplane off the Austro-Hungarian coast when his colleague and compatriot Ens. George M. Ludlow was shot down. Despite his aircraft being deemed suitable for one person, Ensign Hammann dove to the water and pulled his fellow American onboard, saving his life amid danger of enemy fire from Austrian planes. He was killed on duty in Virginia on 14 June 1919. He was 27.

All four of these brave Americans, two of them barely more than boys, exemplify the very best in our fine tradition of military service. As the world reflects on the Great War on the occasion of its centenary, it is my hope that we remember the names and stories of these heroic individuals who risked or, indeed, gave their lives in service of this Nation.

The boys of the Great War were the fathers of America's Greatest Generation. Their efforts cannot and will not be forgotten.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 518, I was unable to vote due to a veterans event in the district with VA Secretary Robert McDonald.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

HONORING ANDREA ARMSTRONG

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Andrea Armstrong, a community leader and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Andrea Armstrong was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, committed to the guidance and activities of Williams youth, in addition to serving as a school board member for 20 years, Andi has been a key organizer and speaker for the 'Every 15 Minutes' program in schools. As a teenager, Andi was in a serious car accident involving a drunken driver. She has