

On roll call no. 601, YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
(RETIRED) RONALD J. TEIXEIRA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald J. Teixeira for receiving the Silver Star for his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States on March 22nd 1969.

Mr. Teixeira was destined for a life of bravery. Born soon after the end of World War II on Veterans Day, he first joined the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey to complete his basic training before being transferred to Ft. Gordon and Ft. Benning in Georgia to finish his training as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the airborne infantry. In December of 1968, he received orders and shipped out with the 101st Airborne for Vietnam. Due to a shortage of NCOs in the 4th Infantry Division, Sergeant Teixeira was placed with Company B, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division as part of security details for bridges, artillery units, medic visits to friendly villages and resupply convoys.

It was while protecting a resupply convoy on March 22, 1969, that enemy forces attacked. Sergeant Teixeira's armored personnel carrier was destroyed and he was wounded along with several of his crewmen. Rather than seeking safety and medical attention immediately, Sergeant Teixeira returned enemy fire and engaged their positions until his ammunition had been expended. After receiving basic medical attention, he assisted in the treatment of other wounded soldiers and set up defensive positions until a medical evacuation (medivac) helicopter came to the aid of the ambushed unit.

Sergeant Teixeira's fight to survive and protect his fellow soldiers that day was not over, however. While lifting off from the landing zone, his medivac helicopter was shot down by an enemy rocket. Pulling out the other wounded and injured from the wreckage, Sergeant Teixeira valiantly continued to risk his safety and life in order to keep his fellow soldiers alive until they were evacuated out of Vietnam and to Japan to receive medical attention.

With a slip of fate, Sergeant Teixeira never received the Silver Star during his service in the United States Army. Instead of returning home to file the necessary paperwork to receive this award, Sergeant Teixeira shipped out to Korea after recuperating in Japan to continue protecting American lives. His bravery, service, and dedication is unmatched.

And so, on this Veterans Day and, coincidentally, his 70th birthday, it is my sincere honor to be able to present one of our nation's highest military commemorations to Sergeant Teixeira for his outstanding military service and for the great credit he has brought upon himself, the Army and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this distinguished soldier for his determination and exemplary devotion to his duty. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Mr. Teixeira a happy 70th birthday and thanking

him for the sacrifices he made in service to his country.

HONORING BETTY GRAY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Betty Gray, a loyal public servant and a key staff member on the House Armed Services Committee. Betty has served in Congress for 40 years—a benchmark only the most dedicated public servants achieve.

Betty typifies what it means to be a public servant, a colleague, a friend and, most importantly, a mother and wife. Anyone who has had the opportunity to meet Betty quickly understands that the most important thing to her is her family. Her husband, Dick, and two children, Zach and Cal, are at the center of her life.

We all fear the day Betty decides to retire. While no one is irreplaceable, some people come very close. Betty is one of those people. Her institutional knowledge and administrative skill set are unrivaled. After 40 years of service, Betty has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding about the Armed Services Committee and Congress that cannot be replaced. When she retires, a part of Congress will retire with her.

Betty is a true professional. Ask anyone who has worked with her about the quality of her service and the response is unequivocal: Betty has always been the quiet, consistent presence on the committee—the person who is never rattled, regardless of how chaotic or stressful things become. She is always here to remind us of what has been tried before and whether it did or did not work.

An eagle-eye editor of letters and memoranda, Betty is literally the person who makes sure that we “cross our T's and dot our I's.” Not only is she the person with the clipboard checking off staff at Member meetings, she is the person who assures that the Members know the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the meeting. Throw five conflicting times and dates at her, and Betty can make calm out of schedule chaos. As security administrator for classified information, Betty literally handles our deepest, darkest secrets. For 37 years, she has shepherded every National Defense Authorization Act through committee markup, ensured every roll-call vote is tallied correctly, and served as the committee's unofficial historian.

On a more personal level, Betty is the librarian of the House Armed Services Committee, the school counselor, the motherly presence who remembers everyone's birthdays and, on occasions, even the school nurse. She is the go-to person to get things done and the one who lends a helping hand or a listening ear.

Betty has outlasted eight Speakers of the House, seven Presidents, and ten House Armed Services Chairmen. Speaking as someone who has been here for a while, I understand the difficulty of achieving that level of longevity. We are here today to celebrate all that Betty has done for her country and for Congress, and to thank her for her service. You are a true public servant, Betty. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Betty Gray for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BEN FLANAGAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long, successful career of Ben Flanagan, who served the Grapevine Police Department for 25 distinguishable years.

Ben served the Grapevine Police Department in several capacities from 1989 to 2014, ultimately retiring as Assistant Chief of Police. Born and raised in Grapevine, Texas, Ben graduated from Grapevine High School in 1970. Upon graduation, he joined the US Army for two years before attending Tarrant County Community College where he studied political science. Ben would then serve the Lewisville Police Department for one year before beginning his exceptional career with the Grapevine Police Department.

The career Ben made for himself is full of honors, success, and hard work as he held seven different positions within the department, quickly moving up the ranks. In 1989, Ben began as a patrol officer and eventually retired as Assistant Chief of Police, acquiring an impressive resume along the way. Ben was honored as officer of the year in 1991 and detective of the year in 1994. He also participated in hostage negotiations and was a member of the SWAT team. Ben played a pivotal role in shaping the police department into the institution it is today, as well as helping keep the city safe for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Ben's North Texas roots are deep, as he grew up fishing the shores of Lake Grapevine and his father had farmed the land that is now part of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. To this day he enjoys the outdoors and many of its activities including fishing and hunting. Ben accumulated 46 commendations during his career, including an outstanding service award in 2004 from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Ben's dedication and positive attitude is known throughout the community and travelled with him during his tenure. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize one of the great citizens of the 24th district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the career of Ben Flanagan. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under

TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I support the Neugebauer amendment because it will force the Conference Committee to deal with the use of enterprise guarantee fees in the Highway Bill. I do not necessarily oppose the reduction of dividends paid by the Federal Reserve to the largest banks.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
WHIPP

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished veteran from my district in Massachusetts: William David Whipp. This Veterans Day, Mr. Whipp will be recognized by the Dartmouth Veteran's Advisory Council for his outstanding service during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Born in 1926, Mr. Whipp joined the Army soon after his eighteenth birthday on April 11, 1944. Following his basic military training as an infantry scout, Mr. Whipp was assigned to the 11th Infantry Regiment of the 76th Infantry Division and deployed as a Private First Class to Western Europe as part of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations in World War II.

It was during Mr. Whipp's deployment to Ardennes that the Germans launched one of the most brutal offensive campaigns against Allied forces in this densely forested region. Known as the Battle of the Bulge, this bloody ground offensive claimed over 19,000 American lives—more than any other single battle in World War II. Surviving this fierce surprise attack and the ensuing counteroffensive by Allied forces, Mr. Whipp went on to serve through the end of World War II until, having received, among other medals and awards, the illustrious Bronze Star for his actions during battle, Mr. Whipp received an honorable discharge in January of 1946.

Upon the conclusion of the war and his return home, Mr. Whipp has been viewed by the citizens of Dartmouth and the Commonwealth as a leader, a trusted civil servant, and a friend to the community. His guidance on several Town Boards over the last twenty years has contributed significantly in improving the lives of everyone in Southeastern Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Whipp for his years of service to a grateful nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for receiving this recognition and in humbly thanking him for all that he has done for his country.

CELEBRATING THE STATE CHAMPION
MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marian High School

Knights for their victory in the IHSAA Class 1A Boys Soccer State Championship. Hard work and dedication led the Knights to this victory and allowed them to finish out the season with twenty wins, eight of which were shutouts, and two losses. The championship game was the team's first appearance in the state finals and is their first state title.

During the championship game, Marian senior Augie Hartnagel started off with high intensity, scoring a goal within the first 20 minutes. The team took this momentum and scored two more goals, made by Kevin Torres and Jordan Morris. The team finished with 24 shots to Cardinal Ritter High School's four and a 3-0 victory.

I also would like to highlight the many players who were honored for their performance in the tournament. Seniors Richie Ontiveros and lead scorer Augie Hartnagel were named to the Northern Indiana Conference's First Team, Kevin Torres and Cristian Juarez were named to the NIC's Second Team, and Christian Verstraete received Honorable Mention. Keeper Michael Cataldo also walked away with eight shutouts for the season.

I want to congratulate Coach Ben Householter on this victory, which is truly a testament to his dedication to the boys' soccer program. This win gave Householter his first state championship in 18 years as head coach and earned him recognition throughout the entire conference as Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year.

The Knights' level of excellence as a whole is a reflection of the individual players and their desire for success and dedication to hard work. This victory is a result not only from talent, but also from hours of practice, strategic planning, and fine tuning the skills of each player. I look forward not only to cheering for the Knights in the future, but to cheering on the men of this year's team as they pursue their goals in the years to come. I have every confidence that they will succeed.

Congratulations to the entire team for their contributions: Kevin Torres-Villa, Christian Verstraete, Richie Ontiveros, Augie Hartnagel, Carlos Torres, Nate Pullin, Lorenzo Martinez, Michael Wuszke, Michael Cataldo, Max Frausto, Justin Saavedra, Alex Kokot, Cristian Juarez, Oscar Tavarez, Johnathan Tavarez, Roberto Ontiveros, Jordan Morris, Alex Rodela, Will Tiller, De'Quarius Strowder, Dennis Mammolenti, Gabriel Martinez, Juan Botello, Adam Evans, Alfredo Medina, Jonathan Magallon, Head Coach Ben Householter, Assistant Alfredo Juarez, Assistant Coach John Jonas, Assistant Coach Matt Englert, Manager Chloe Householter, Manager Jenna Householter, Athletic Trainer Anne Micinski, Assistant Athletic Director Linda Martin, Athletic Director Reggie Glon, and Principal Mark Kirzeder.

The Knights' dedication and sacrifices have truly paid off, and is a source of pride for the entire city and Indiana. This is truly an exciting victory and this is a memory these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter for building this program, thank the student athletes for their determination, and congratulate them all on an amazing season. It is my honor to represent Marian High School, and I wish continued success to the team and each of its members in their future endeavors.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY:
EVALUATING THE TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS REPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened an oversight hearing on the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report. Far more than simply ink on paper, this report has proven to be both prize and prod: a prize for those countries whose progress in the fight against the grave abuse of human trafficking the report acknowledges, a prod to those nations that are failing the trafficking victims within their borders.

The power of the report lies in its credibility. And the credibility of the report lies in its accuracy. We must get the report right, or we will lose the most effective tool we have to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

Some countries openly credit the TIP Report for their increased and effective anti-trafficking response. Over the last 14 years, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings: Tier 1 for those who fully meet minimum standards, Tier 2 for those who are making significant efforts to meet minimum standards, and Tier 3 for those who are not making significant efforts to meet minimum standards and, indeed, may be subject to sanctions.

And for those in a purgatory between Tier 2 and 3, Congress in 2003 created a "Tier 2 Watch List" for those which may have undertaken significant anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year. Unfortunately, this ranking has been misused to allow countries to escape accountability.

I held the hearing yesterday due to well-founded concern that some of the rankings in the most recent report are grossly inaccurate and greatly undermine the credibility of the report.

Indeed, we have massive grade inflation for certain favored countries, thereby defeating accountability, and demoralizing countries that actually made significant progress last year.

The State Department heard from many House members—161 to be exact—when it was leaked that Malaysia was upgraded this year from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List.

The report justified the upgrade because Malaysia introduced—but did not pass—an amendment to their trafficking law, and allowed a limited number of their trafficking victims to work outside of detention, while keeping the rest of the victims in detention.

These incomplete actions pale in comparison to the size of Malaysia's trafficking problems. Malaysia was the subject of a Reuters investigative report in 2014, which found that human traffickers were keeping hundreds of Rohingya refugees from Burma captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families.

At least two million vulnerable migrants work in the informal economy in Malaysia. NGOs on the ground tell us that traffickers operate openly and with impunity. And that those who get in their way are killed.