

As we take time this month to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of caregivers, I would like to make special note of the many organizations that advocate, develop best practice programs, and provide resources for millions of caregivers around the nation, including many in Massachusetts. The ARC of Greater Plymouth County, Friends Or Relatives With Autism and Related Disabilities (FORWARD), Alzheimer's Family Support Center of Cape Cod, Coastline Elderly, and Old Colony Elder Services are but a few of the instrumental organizations assisting caregivers in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, during National Family Caregivers Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of caregivers and to pledge our continued support for their selfless efforts.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN  
RHONDA R. POWELL

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Captain Rhonda Powell, a daughter of Metro Atlanta, for her extraordinary service to the nation while serving in the United States Army for the past 23 years.

Since the beginning of her career, Captain Powell exhibited a steadfast commitment and dedication to serving her country. A graduate of the University of Memphis and George Washington University, Captain Powell has been stationed in Fort Gillem, Fort Bragg, and is currently a congressional legislative liaison to the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve for the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon.

While deployed in Doha, Qatar from 2006–2007, Captain Powell served as the detachment commander of the 312th Adjutant General Company in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Camp As Sayliyah. Captain Powell exhibited strong operational planning and intelligence analysis, and assumed duties as the officer in charge (OIC) of the Quick Reaction Force element on Camp As Sayliyah. She not only supported the health, welfare, morale, and development of her assigned soldiers, but also led her team in rapid responses to threats and other developments on or near the base.

In her current role interfacing with the U.S. Congress, Captain Powell used her experience in military relations to establish the Soldiers and Leaders United Through Engagements (SALUTE) Program. This unique and timely initiative helps connect Members of Congress with issues and experiences facing American soldiers.

Upon her retirement next month, Captain Powell plans to return to her roots in Atlanta, where her parents still reside near Howell Mill Road, and to begin a new chapter of her life. Mr. Speaker, I join others in congratulating and thanking Captain Powell, for her service, perseverance, hard work, and contributions to our nation. I and the other residents of Georgia's 5th Congressional District are happy and proud to welcome her home.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLYE BROWN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the first registered nurse elected to the U.S. Congress, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a remarkable woman for her remarkable devotion to the nursing community, as well as wish her a safe and happy 90th birthday.

Dr. Billye Brown graduated from nursing school at Arkansas Baptist Hospital in Little Rock and received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Education from the University of Texas' Medical Branch School of Nursing at Galveston, Texas. She earned her Master's degree in Nursing Education from St. Louis University and a Doctor of Education degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Internationally recognized as a leader in education and administration, Dr. Billye J. Brown has been at the forefront of nursing for more than 30 years through her achievements as both professor and dean at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, and as a prominent leader in nursing's most distinguished professional organizations.

In 2013, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, awarded Billye its prestigious President's Award to honor her lifetime contributions to the nursing profession, including her support of original research in the 1980s that led to the establishment of ANCC's Magnet Recognition Program.

During her years at The University of Texas at Austin, Billye was dean and professor of the School of Nursing for 17 years. Billye's visionary approach to teaching and administration led to her appointment as the LaQuinta Motor Inns Centennial Professor in 1983 and her induction into the Hall of Fame at the University of Texas' School of Nursing at Galveston in 1992.

Her numerous professional awards and honors include being named Nurse of the Year by the Texas Nurses' Association; her selection as one of the Most Influential Women in Education by the Austin American Statesman; and resolutions passed by the State of Texas Senate and House of Representatives acknowledging her contributions to nursing.

At the national and international level, Billye is widely respected for her service as past president of both the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). As chairman of the fundraising task force for STTI, Billye led a successful multi-year campaign that produced more than \$7 million in planned gifts. She was honored by the AACN with the Sister Bernadette Armiger Award.

In 1999, STTI selected Billye for the Mary Tolle Wright Award for Excellence in Leadership and announced the formation of the Billye Brown Society to pay homage to her dedication to planned giving efforts that contribute to the advancement of scholarly nursing. She was recognized with the Nell J. Watts Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Award at the 2007 STTI Biennial Convention. Billye was recognized as the 2010 American Academy of Nursing Living Legend, and in 2011 she was selected to receive the prestigious National

League for Nursing President's Award for an Enduring Legacy in Nursing Education.

Mr. Speaker, the only list more longer and more plentiful than the list of Billye's professional achievements is the list of people whose lives she has touched. She dedicated her life to nursing because it is a profession on the forefront of patient care, human interaction, and practiced compassion. Her work is selfless, but she is so humble, she would never even say that. Her life is for others, but today is for her. May the RECORD recognize Dr. Billye Brown's historic career and milestone birthday.

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IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
DIABETES MONTH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Diabetes Month, during which we reflect on the importance of understanding, treating, and caring for this serious condition.

The diabetes endemic is a present and growing threat in today's society. Close to 30 million Americans have diabetes, while another 86 million are pre-diabetic. According to the Centers for Disease Control, if current trends continue, 1 in 3 Americans will have diabetes by 2050.

The economic burden of diabetes, pre-diabetes and the largely preventable chronic diseases resulting from diabetes costs the United States approximately \$245 billion. Many of these costs are associated with diabetes-related complications, including kidney failure, blindness, and amputations. Diabetes is also a major cause of heart disease and stroke.

To address this problem, it is critical that we make investments in diabetes prevention, care, and treatment. In my district and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, citizens are benefiting from the exceptional efforts of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the New England Office of the American Diabetes Association. These organizations are dedicated to raising awareness, providing support to patients and families, and funding promising diabetes research. Both of these organizations are also extraordinary advocates on behalf of families and individuals living with diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring November as National Diabetes Month and in supporting diabetes research and care.

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 117  
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a Veterans Day speech written and delivered by Mr. Don Hirst to American Legion Post 117 on Veterans Day 2015.

[From American Legion Post 117 Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, 2015]

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

(By Don Hirst)

Good morning and thank you all for coming to Post 117's Veterans Day Event.

Let me start off by asking for a show of hands, to include family members and surviving spouses. Please leave them up until I'm finished with a few brief questions, if you can.

How many of you are veterans of World War II? Of the Korean War? The Cold War? Vietnam? Grenada, Panama or similar actions? Desert Storm? Afghanistan? Iraq? Deployments to support any of those action or similar ones I've overlooked?

Now look around the room. Quite a lot of hands, right? Okay, please put them down and relax while I make a few observations and comments. Everyone who raised a hand is a veteran, or a significant part of a veteran's family. Some of you may even be both.

Today is Veterans Day, and that's why we're gathered here and in tens of thousands of other places across the nation and the world: to mark an important date in America's history. For us, it's a day that represents a whole lot more than big sales at the supermarket, shopping mall or car dealerships. Yeah, we all may take part in some of that, but we know to the core of our being that it's intended to honor those who served the nation and served it well. You're all part of that select group. Many of you bear scars, physical or otherwise, as a result of your service.

So what does it mean to be a veteran? In the minds of a lot of folks, a veteran is someone whose service is over, tour of duty ended. That's a long way from the truth. Especially in today's world, with all of the dangers and challenges that seem to be popping up everywhere. Kind of like a grim version of Whack-a-Mole.

As I sat writing this a couple of days ago, the news reports once again trumpeted more acts of violence against the nation's citizens. Two American trainers—civilians but working to help train police in Jordan, a U.S. ally headed by a courageous leader with extensive military experience and service—were gunned down in an apparent blue-on-blue attack. They were murdered by a Jordanian officer. This wasn't the first such case we've encountered in recent years and in different locations. It won't be the last, either. You can take that to the bank.

The list of incidents, both overseas and, increasingly, at home here in the United States, grows with each flip of the calendar page. Unless you're totally ignorant, oblivious or intellectually challenged—or a combination of all three—you sense with a growing feeling of foreboding that we are at war.

So what do we do about it?

This isn't the venue to get into partisan political discussions, something we're not supposed to do at official events since we're part of the American Legion and thus have nonprofit, tax-exempt status. We Legion members each have our own political beliefs, but we're a nonpartisan organization. We do our politicking informally, over a beer, and at the local precinct ballot box each election day. As an aside, I hope all of you voted on November 3 and repeat that civic duty in the coming year. Voting is a precious right. That right was earned by blood sacrifices of the past, and is kept alive by the sacrifices that will come.

But let's get back to the "what do we do about it?" part. The situation is serious—and getting worse. The historian in me says that we arguably haven't been in such perilous

times since the 1930s. Back then we saw economic chaos, the rise of Nazi Germany, Japanese militarism and a continued avoidance of taking action by the great democracies of the world.

Finally, of course, we did act, winning a stunning, hard fought victory against the forces of pure evil. We won, and that's a fact beyond dispute. But we paid a much higher price for that victory by not acting sooner, when decisive action may well have saved millions from a horrible fate.

I think we're at such a crossroads today. Even a casual glance at the headlines shows how dangerous it is right now. And it's likely to get worse before it's over.

As the horizon grows darker, I believe it's a good idea to take stock of where we are, what assets we have and what we can do about it. I'm not advocating forming a militia of disgruntled, angry veterans or vigilante groups. But I am strongly urging us as free citizens, neighbors in the vibrant, close-knit communities of the Northern Neck, to stand up and stand together so that we are better prepared for what may come.

It's like insurance. You might not need it right this second, but when you do, it's too late to buy a policy after the flood waters reach the second floor of your home or the volunteer fire department battles the blaze threatening your house.

Now let me ask for one more show of hands. Are there any members of our local government, our sheriff's department or other similar agencies here today? Please raise your hands. And if there aren't any hands up, I expect that more than one person here today is acquainted with such folks and can help spread the word.

You saw a few minutes ago how many people raised their hands when I asked about prior military service. They're veterans. They're experienced. They've been in the tough places, done the tough jobs. And they're an extremely valuable asset that shouldn't be overlooked in future times of need. Those times could be months or years from now—or maybe never come. Or they could be this afternoon or tomorrow. Think Pearl Harbor. And 9-11.

So I urge the local authorities to reach out, to connect with us, the veterans who are your friends and neighbors. We're here, we're near—and we're something you should put in the emergency kit. This T-shirt I ordered [holds up T-shirt in front of the audience] came in the mail just in time for Veterans Day. Rather than wear it under my shirt, I wanted to use it to reinforce my point. I don't know if you all can see it, but the inscription on the back says,

VETERAN.

Don't Think Because My Time Has

Ended

That I Won't Suit Up Again &

Protect This Flag

Against Terrorism

On American Soil

I'd add protecting against other threats to the terrorism part, because that's what we can do, too.

At the dawn of the birth of our nation, a group of poorly armed patriots stood together at Concord Bridge to fight for their freedom against the might of the British army. Standing strong against great odds also is the theme of the epic poem "Horatius at the Bridge" written by English poet Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1842. The poem tells of a time in ancient Rome when the citizens wanted self-rule against kings and tried to hold the city against the king's attacking army. One bridge across the Tiber River had to be demolished by the defenders for the city to hold, but they needed time to do it.

Horatius, a valiant Roman soldier, and two stalwart comrades-in-arms, stood shoulder-to-shoulder at that bridge. They bought the time needed. It was Winston Churchill's favorite poem, and a few short verses tell you why:

Then out spake brave Horatius,  
the Captain at the Gate.

"To every man upon this earth

Death cometh soon or late.

And how can man die better

Than facing fearful odds

For the ashes of his fathers

And the temples of his gods.

So saddle up, fellow veterans. We've got a job to do. See you at the bridge!

## IN RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, since its designation in 1990, this month seeks to honor the influence of Native Americans in shaping American history, acknowledging the injustices wrought upon the many tribes, and looking forward so we can strive to forge a better future together for all.

As we prepare to celebrate the 394th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts, so too should we pay tribute to the significant contributions of the original Americans. As some of the earliest inhabitants of this beautiful land, the Native Americans paved the way for future settlements by mastering skilled ways of farming, discovering natural medicines, and hunting.

Their contributions to our shared history continued through the centuries; they have served in the Armed Forces during times of war and peace. Most notably, we celebrate the service of the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II, who ensured that our vital communications could not be decrypted by the enemy. Native Americans are woven into the nation's fabric, having taught us new sports and craft such as lacrosse, canoeing, kayaking and snowshoeing, as well as provided our shared culture with celebrated athletes, musicians, dancers, politicians, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to reflect on the significant accomplishments of our proud Native American tribes—including the Wampanoag and Aquinnah tribes in my district. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing all Native American tribes across the nation for their indomitable spirit and remarkable achievements.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and observe November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.