

1 Device, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corp Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity with 5 Devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 "M" Devices, New York Recruiting Medal, New York Humane Service to New York State Medal, New York Air National Guard Outstanding Enlisted Leader of the Year Ribbon, and New York Defense of Liberty award.

Chief Ditro has served his country honorably and for that he has my utmost respect. I want to thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and service to his country. I wish Chief Ditro the best and I hope that he enjoys his retirement with his wife Sandy and his two sons, Jason and Joshua.

CONGRATULATING LOCAL  
LEADERS IN COCHISE COUNTY

**HON. MARTHA MCSALLY**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate local leaders in Cochise County, KE&G construction, and Cemex for their outstanding work on the Palominas Flood Protection and Groundwater Recharge project. This project is the first-ever aquifer protection and recharge effort of its kind implemented at a regional scale, and aims to protect flows of a desert river and its lush streamside habitat while also replenishing the water supplies of local residents. The Palominas project embodies the values of the residents of Cochise County who not only want to ensure protection of our waterways and natural resources, but are looking for solutions to provide more economic opportunity. One-size-fits-all requirements from Washington fail to take into account Arizona's unique landscapes, but the formation of local partnerships allowed the community to come together to create a solution to benefit all, including the citizens, businesses, and native plants and animals.

This project received top state and local honors in Arizona and was recognized internationally for offering a long-term solution to the recurring problem of sheet flow flooding at a local elementary school and the need for aquifer recharge. The project includes a 17 million gallon detention basin that holds storm water runoff, as well as dry wells and infiltration trenches covering 290 acres. These dry wells and infiltration trenches provide additional storage capacity during storms, reduce the loss of water through evaporation, and increase the amount of water recharged into the nearby San Pedro River.

Dennis Donovan, a civil engineer overseeing the project for Cochise County told the Arizona Republic that the project includes the large detention basin with berms to slowly steer the water into a wide channel before spilling over four foot walls that "slow down the storm water to where, to the best it can, it (sinks and) recharges." The water control mechanisms in the basin keep storm water from washing through in a day leaving the basin dry again the next.

The Sierra Vista Herald noted that, "CEMEX's Sierra Vista Plant joined forces

with KE&G Construction to complete the project within a three-month time frame. Working through more than two inches of rainfall, these dynamic teams beat the heaviest rains of the summer monsoon season."

The health of the San Pedro River is important to Fort Huachuca and the vitality of the surrounding community. Projects like these help to protect the future of the San Pedro River and demonstrate the commitment of the Army and the community to preserving their natural environment.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS IN VIRGINIA'S 10TH  
DISTRICT

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement personnel who have recently been honored at the 11th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner in my district for their invaluable service and commitment to our communities. I submit the following excerpts from a speech delivered by Mr. Jim Wink, who spoke at this event in the fall. This year's honorees are Officer Dustin Bowers of the Mount Weather Police Department, Officer William McCann of the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center, Deputy Shane Jewell of the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Mackenzie Carter of the Winchester City Sheriff's Office, Deputy Aaron Jeter of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Laura Patten of the Berryville Police Department, Corporal Richie Lewis O'Connor of Winchester Police Department, Trooper Terry Hilliker of the Virginia Department of State Police, and DEA Special Agent Thomas Hickey of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force.

Officer Dustin Bowers has continually displayed the highest degree of competence, esprit de corps, and dedication to the mission at Mount Weather. He routinely goes above and beyond to perform his duties as a police officer, and in doing so, improves the Mount Weather department. Officer Bowers, without hesitation, took on the responsibility of serving as the field training officer for new officers. This year, Officer Bowers was selected to attend the federal law enforcement training center's active shooter instructor course. Since completing the course, Officer Bowers has worked to improve the department's capability to respond to an active shooter incident. He is currently developing an active shooter training program for Mount Weather emergency operation center employees focused on teaching them how to react to shooting incidents in the work place and other public locations. Officer Bowers also, through his own initiative, researched and proposed new equipment that the department purchased, which improved police officer readiness at all levels. Mount Weather Police Department can think of no finer officer more deserving of recognition.

Officer William McCann is the head of the field training officer program, a CPR instructor, training officer, and constant mentor at the detention center in Winchester. He has been nominated and will be the recipient of two life-saving awards. In addition to these two critical incidents, Officer McCann's impact is present on a daily basis. He is one of the most respected and influen-

tial staff members in the detention center which accounts for nearly 200 employees. Officer McCann's wealth of knowledge comes from over 20 years of experience in the Maryland department of corrections where he served as a lieutenant.

Deputy Shane Jewell joined the Clarke County Sheriff's Office in 2009. He is a respected instructor at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, where he teaches defensive tactics. Deputy Jewell supports the mission of this office and is the epitome of a team player. Deputy Jewell's hard work and dedication to the Clarke County community is valuable.

Deputy Mackenzie Carter joined the Winchester City Sheriff's Office only a year ago; however, in a short time, she has displayed her dedication to the office and her team. She exerts a strong ability to assist others and volunteers for extra duties at the sheriff's office. Deputy Carter has the willingness to take on difficult projects and see them to a successful completion, which has repeatedly impressed the sheriff over the past year. Deputy Carter has also shown that she is dedicated to going above and beyond in serving her community. She has participated in and started several community-based fundraising events and community service incentives, such as the CCAP food drive, Evans Home for Children food drive, the Winchester Literacy Foundation summer reading program.

While on patrol one evening, Deputy Aaron Jeter, observed a speeding violator. He made the decision to stop the vehicle for the violation. With the assistance from other deputies, Deputy Jeter was able to recover a large amount of heroin from under the vehicle. The total amount seized from the traffic stop was 261 individual packets of heroin and over \$400.00 in cash. Following this seizure, Deputy Jeter continued his increased effort to combat the local heroin epidemic, which plagues our community. Deputy Jeter's work against the local heroin problem is truly noteworthy. The efforts of deputies, like Aaron Jeter, will help curb the amount of heroin related overdoses and deaths, which our community has recently faced. Deputy Jeter's outstanding work with these cases makes him a worthy and deserving candidate for this year's HSCBA award.

Laura Patten serves the Berryville Police Department as the sole civilian employee in the capacity of administrative assistant. She began working for the department in August of 1989 and is looking forward to her upcoming retirement in 2016. Early in her career she served as a crossing guard making sure the children of the community made their way safely to school and back home. In the office, Laura keeps the flow of communication working between the community and officers in the field. Indeed, she is the face and voice of the department working the front desk and answering the phones. It is often an under-appreciated function that Laura provides to the department. Berryville PD Chief Neal White states he is very thankful that she is getting the credit she truly deserves.

Corporal Richie Lewis of Winchester responded to a violent kidnapping last year that involved a male holding a knife to the throat of a female. Lewis helped to neutralize the situation with the help of his team. Upon seeing the officers the suspect became agitated, so the officers withdrew from the building out of fear the suspect would harm the female. When the suspect shut the hall door Cpl. Lewis reentered the building and snuck up to the landing on the third floor. While Cpl. Lewis was approaching the landing, with gun drawn, the suspect reopened the door. Out of fear of shooting the female Cpl. Lewis transitioned from his pistol to his Taser. When the suspect gave

Cpl. Lewis an opening between the female's body and his own, Cpl. Lewis was able to shoot the suspect with his Taser and incapacitate him, bringing the situation to a quick and effective resolution.

Trooper Hilliker handles all traffic and criminal matters with professionalism and personal pride. He continues to take on the extra responsibility of being an explosive K-9 handler on top of his other duties. Trooper Hilliker's dedication to the department and the citizens it serves is unmatched. 2001–2002 Winchester Police Department, 1997–1999 Muskego Police Department Muskego, WI. Terry Hilliker served as a member of the Winchester and Muskego Police Departments as a patrolman where he was tasked with a multitude of responsibilities and challenges when working in local law enforcement. The experience Terry learned during this time is evident in his current role as a trooper. Terry Hilliker started his service related professions with the United States Marine Corps (1976–1996). He served in various command, staff and administrative billets from the platoon, company, and battalion levels to the regimental, brigade, and division level. Terry retired from the Marine Corps with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

DEA Special Agent Thomas Hickey is a contributing member of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force and assists members of the force with numerous narcotics cases annually. Special Agent Hickey has been and continues to be a major supporting federal entity essential to fighting the current heroin epidemic. Special Agent Hickey has been instrumental in numerous local heroin cases by providing intelligence information, identifying major Baltimore, Maryland heroin suppliers and arresting and prosecuting large scale Baltimore heroin distributors who have plagued our communities. Special Agent Hickey is a dedicated law enforcement professional who believes in the working relationships between state, local and federal law enforcement agencies. He continues to provide an expert element to the drug task force that is necessary in combating the drug epidemics that plague our communities. Special Agent Hickey responds to active drug overdoses and assists agents by providing support and advice. He prefers to be involved in local drug cases from the beginning, and often responds to and assists local agents at all hours of the day and night. In 2014 special Agent Hickey initiated, investigated, and prosecuted fourteen large scale federal heroin investigations all of which were directly related to the Winchester, Frederick and Clarke county communities.

#### TAIWAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE IN THE TAIPIING ISLAND OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere appreciation for the Republic of China (Taiwan) recent leadership and initiative in pursuing long-term peace and stability in the South China Sea.

In December 2015, a U.S. State Department official expressed that all claimants should work to reduce regional tensions.

I encourage all relevant countries to resolve maritime disputes in accordance with international laws and regulations, including the United Nations Charter and UN Convention on

the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). I especially take note of Taiwan's willingness to work with other parties concerned, through consultations conducted on the basis of equality and reciprocity, to jointly ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea, to uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight, and to conserve and develop resources in the region.

Taiiping Island is the largest natural and self-sustainable island in Spratly Islands. This island qualifies as an island according to the UNCLOS. Taiwan has set up a hospital in Taiping Island. Over the past decade, this hospital has offered humanitarian assistance to 21 people in 20 cases, including 12 Philippine and Myanmar nationals, which fully demonstrates Taiwan's dedication to humanitarianism.

#### COMMEMORATING TROY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID A. TROTT**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the city of Troy, Michigan. Troy has always been a community of opportunity.

The township of Troy became a home rule city in 1955 after the introduction of commercial and industrial development led to tremendous growth in the post-World War II period. Since 1955, Troy has witnessed a myriad of changes including the construction of I-75, the explosion of growth on Big Beaver Road, as well as thriving residential neighborhoods.

These achievements have not gone unnoticed. Troy is consistently rated as one of the safest cities in Michigan, best places to raise a family, and most recently, one of the happiest places in America.

None of these things would be possible without the thousands of city residents that strive each day to improve their community and take care of their families. It is to you, the residents of Troy that I say thank you for the privilege of representing you in Congress and congratulations to Troy for sixty prosperous years, with many more to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE MARSHALL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TCAL DIVISION II STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, for more than twenty five years, Marshall Christian Academy has been providing Christian based education to students whose families desire them to have a solid foundation in academics and athletics, while developing excellence and Christ-centered character. It is a great honor to recognize the Marshall Christian Academy Guardians on their most recent accomplishment, capturing the Texas Christian Athletic League Division II 6-man Football State Championship title.

Marshall Christian Academy takes pride in working on the A, B, and Cs—attitude, behav-

ior, and conduct, in both academics and athletics. The school website states, "At Marshall Christian Academy, we play Six-Man Football to work in the character of Christ to our young men. God has blessed us with the opportunity to play the great game of football. Six-Man is an effective tool for developing young men in discipleship and training them in the game of life—how to play a game, how to be tough and how to represent Jesus Christ on and off the field."

The team fought and overcame a number of obstacles before claiming the state title, proving once again they are champions in every sense of the word. Their season was riddled with lengthy travel, inclement weather, illnesses, and a devastating car accident which seriously injured two team members and claimed the life of a family member. But through it all, the Guardians relied on the power of prayer to persevere and emerge triumphant, resulting in a season culminating in their first ever state football championship with a 36–28 win over Annapolis Christian Academy.

The Marshall Christian Academy Guardians achieving this landmark accomplishment include David Florence, Stephan Florence, William Hency, Ryan Stokell, Aslan Bell, Andrew Stokell, Dylan Alford, Hunter Cagle, Dazmond Lewis, Noah Heredia, Caleb Beesinger and Matthew Stokell.

Congratulations should be extended to the dedicated faculty and staff members who so skillfully created the solid foundation of direction and motivation necessary to build a team of champions: Marshall Christian Academy Administrators Raymond Bade, Duane Schultz and Guy Barr III, along with the Guardians' athletic staff comprised of Head Coach Guy Barr III, along with Assistant Coaches Jeff Arrington, Tyrone Robinson and Robert Stokell.

May God continue to bless their efforts so they may one day dedicate their drive and determination to help make this great country even stronger. My most enthusiastic and heartfelt congratulations to the Marshall Christian Academy Guardians, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

#### REFLECTING ON THE RECOVERY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SINCE TYPHOON SOUDELOR

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on the night of August 2nd and through the early morning of August 3rd this year, Typhoon Soudelor lashed through the Northern Mariana Islands, causing widespread destruction to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, uprooting the lives of the people I represent here in Congress.

Today, I want to reflect on that event, and on the exceptional grace and generosity that have made recovery possible.

The typhoon's impact was especially grave on Saipan, the most populated island in the