

In 2013 alone, more than 26,000 individuals volunteered directly through Volunteer Fairfax; an additional 2,700 employees from 12 corporations supported 29 local agencies. More than 1,000 non-profit and charitable organizations were served by Volunteer Fairfax, and the value of volunteer services provided exceeded \$1.3 million.

Each year from this group of extraordinary “Doers Who Do,” Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to be honored. It is my great pleasure to submit the following names of the 2015 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

Community Champions:

Braddock District: Joanne Elder
Dranesville District: Steven Bloom
Hunter Mill District: Sahana Arkalgud
Lee District: Dixie Wright
Mason District: Winnie Lebo
Mount Vernon District: Shirley Short
Providence District: Ken Quincy
Springfield District: Stephen Beck
Sully District: Reverend Doctor Eugene Johnson

At-Large: Philip Church

Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Michelle Bond
Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Mike Harrison

Adult Volunteer Group: Library Friends Groups of Fairfax County Public Library
Corporate Volunteer Program: CACI Cares

Fairfax County Volunteer: David Kline
Fairfax County Volunteer Program: Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Family Volunteer: Colonel Edward and Mrs. Kimberly Bellum

Lifetime Achievement: Peggy Ferguson
Rising Star: Roberta Bucher
Senior Volunteer: Lawrence Kelly
Volunteer Program: Marketplace Volunteer Program

Youth Volunteer: Carolina Sosa
Youth Volunteer Group: Boy Scouts of America Troop 55

Integrate Individual: Pedro Velasco de Paz
RSVP Northern Virginia: Elizabeth Pokorny
In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service, as well as in congratulating the 2015 Service Award honorees and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one reason that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING THE MARINE RAIDERS OF MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand and recognize the Marine Raiders of Marine

Special Operations Team (MSOT) 8231, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Command who lost their lives during a training exercise on March 10, 2015. These young men represent the finest our nation has to offer, and we are forever indebted to them for their service.

On the morning of March 10, an Army National Guard-operated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter embarked on a training exercise off the coast of the Florida Panhandle carrying seven members of MSOT 8231 and four members of the Louisiana National Guard, who were operating the helicopter. As part of a rigorous pre-deployment exercise, the Raiders were practicing special operations insertion techniques with two UH-60 aircraft. Sadly, it was on their training mission that the Marines and Guardsmen in one helicopter lost their lives.

As a unit with great distinction throughout the War in Afghanistan, MSOT 8231 first deployed in 2010 under Special Operations Task Force-West, operating from the City of Herat. While in Herat, MSOT 8231 primarily conducted Counter-Insurgency (COIN), Foreign Internal Defense (FID) and Direct Action (DA) activities within the Murghab District of the Badghis Province. After redeployment and reconstitution, MSOT 8231 deployed again in 2012 to Bala Murghab, in the Murghab District, where it built upon tactical and operational gains it and other MSOT's achieved on previous rotations.

MSOT 8231 continued building their Afghan partner's capacity, promoting good governance, and countering the insurgent initiatives in this highly remote and austere geographic slice of Afghanistan. During the 2012 deployment, MSOT 8231 was tasked with permanently closing their base and retrograding years' worth of hardware for consolidation at a larger base hundreds of miles south in Herat. Without a single paved road in the entire Badghis Province, this proved a difficult task. Nevertheless, MSOT 8231 completed the job and left Bala Murghab in the hands of the Afghan National Army, Police, and government.

After returning home, rebuilding and adding new personnel to MSOT 8231, the team again deployed in 2013 to western Afghanistan. Their most recent return to Afghanistan saw a change in tasks from previous deployments as they partnered with the highly regarded Afghan Commandos to conduct offensive activities against the Taliban. While the mission changed, their resolve did not, as consistent enemy combat persisted until the very end of their deployment. Even still, MSOT 8231 continued efforts to enhance their partners' capacity to operate effectively on their own. MSOT 8231 departed Afghanistan in June 2014; however, their focus never left the region.

Prior to any deployment, teams work together to hone and develop their skills, and when combat operations commence, the months of training leading up to deployment are finally put to test. For MSOT 8231, this meant building on the strong relationship established during previous deployments with the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion, based in Hammond, Louisiana. On March 10, two Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks participated in a routine training mission; however, the mission turned out to be anything but routine, as only one Black Hawk returned.

On that day, our nation lost seven Marine Raiders. Not only did they accept the challenge of becoming the best that the Marine

Corps has to offer, these Marine Raiders did so during a time of war. Along the way, the Marine Raiders of MSOT 8231 received such awards as the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry and Bronze Star Medals for valor, and all had Valor awards from their time fighting on combat deployments.

To the families, friends, and loved ones of Captain Stanford Shaw III, Master Sergeant Thomas Saunders, Staff Sergeant Marcus Bawol, Staff Sergeant Trevor Blaylock, Staff Sergeant Liam Flynn, Staff Sergeant Kerry Kemp, Staff Sergeant Andrew Seif, Chief Warrant Officer George Wayne Griffin, Chief Warrant Officer George David Strother, Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron, and Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich, please know that we are a grateful nation. On countless training exercises, your brave warriors risked their lives to ensure the tip of the spear always remained sharp and ready for battle. And while the Marine Raider community lost these warriors, their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Never above you, never below you, always beside you. Semper Fi.

HONORING THE YAZOO FAIR & CIVIC LEAGUE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of innovators who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the Yazoo Fair & Civic League. The Yazoo Fair & Civic League has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo Fair & Civic League's history date back to 1932; when R.J. Pierce and T.J. Huddleston decided to establish a county fair for black residents to enjoy. D.W. Lindsey assisted in sponsoring the first fair in October 1932. Three years later, Gov. Martin Conner signed the charter for the Yazoo Negro Fair Association. The group purchased land on Calhoun Avenue where an exhibit building was constructed.

During the early 60s, H.A. Scott was elected president, and H.C. Fouché was chosen as vice president. As president Scott faced several challenges. The biggest challenge was finances. The association was \$67,500 in debt. In order to resolve the debt the property facing Calhoun Avenue and a plot west of Lamar Avenue was sold along with the exhibit building.

After these challenges were met the association had the vision for a community center. Also during this time the Yazoo Negro Fair Association became the Yazoo Fair and Civic League. Federal funding was used to construct the L.T. Miller Community Center which was completed in 1971. The large tract of unused space around the center was used to construct 48 apartments for elderly and disabled residents with a grant for over \$1.5 million from HUD. The Lintonia Apartments opened in May of 1986. During the 1990s the association built H.A. Scott Apartments with about 80 units creating a very healthy tax base to the Yazoo area. Currently, the association has a 60 unit apartment complex in

Jackson, MS, 40 in Meridian and 30 in Clarksdale.

The Yazoo Fair and Civic League began as an effort to provide black Yazooans with a public place to hold community events during a time when they had nowhere else to go. Today, the Yazoo Fair & Civic League continues to provide a public facility for all of the community to enjoy, and the organization has expanded its mission to provide affordable housing to many residents. The association also manages the historic Oakes African American Cultural Center, which was home to the legendary Oakes Family in Yazoo City for over a century. A.J. Oakes, III deeded the home to the Yazoo Fair & Civic League in 1990, and the home has become a museum highlighting and celebrating local black history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Yazoo Fair & Civic League for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote due to a funeral on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Had I been present for roll call vote number 149, H. Res. 189, the combined rule providing for consideration of H.R. 650—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act and H.R. 685—Mortgage Choice Act, I would have voted “yea.”

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE PADRE DAM ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION DEMONSTRATION PILOT PLANT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event that took place in my district this past week on April 10, 2015, by the Padre Dam Municipal Water District. The Grand Opening of the Padre Dam Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Pilot Plant in Santee, California is an important and critical step in the overall effort by San Diego County to become more water independent as a region and maintain the very best in our water management practices.

We all know that California is currently in the midst of a severe multi-year drought, but ensuring our communities can rely on being provided with clean and healthy water has been the mission of Padre Dam for many decades. In fact, on this same day in 1962, founding General Manager of Padre Dam Ray Stoyer wrote to President Kennedy complimenting him on his commitment to the science of water management innovation and requesting his assistance in a groundbreaking water reclamation study and project at Padre Dam. President Kennedy supported the District's reclamation efforts and today the appropriately named Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility

treats and recycles more than two million gallons of water per day. Over the years, these efforts have been recognized by the California Water Environment Association, which awarded this facility its “California Plant of the Year” designation in 2005, as well as naming it “San Diego Plant of the Year” multiple times in 1977, 1978, 1981, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2010.

I am pleased to see that this proud tradition is being carried on with Padre Dam's most recent effort in its Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Pilot Plant. Funded through a \$3 million state grant, this innovative project will test the feasibility of creating a new source of approximately 2,000 to 3,000 acre feet of purified water for East San Diego County. If successful, this project has the potential to provide up to 20% of our current drinking water demand via a locally-controlled, independent, drought-proof and environmentally sound water supply, thereby reducing our dependency on outside sources of imported water.

California's current drought conditions, coupled with San Diego's historical reliance on imported water, mandate that we pursue every alternative that will lead to the San Diego region expanding its resource portfolio and utilize an “all the above” approach to water management. This includes traditional efforts such as conservation and reservoir and aquifer storage, as well as taking advantage of new technologies and science in the areas of desalination and reclamation projects like the one developed by Padre Dam which we are today recognizing.

My colleagues, I ask that you join me in congratulating Padre Dam Municipal Water District for its forward-thinking vision and willingness to pursue new ideas on an old, but important, problem. Everyone at the District, from leadership to all members of staff, is making a direct positive impact in our community and I am confident that your investment will prove to be valuable in helping us reach both our short and long-term water management goals.

INTRODUCING THE CRUDE-BY-RAIL SAFETY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to increase the safety of transporting crude oil by rail. Explosive growth in crude-by-rail transport in recent months has led to increased rail traffic and an unprecedented rise in rail accidents—sometimes with fatal results. This issue has affected communities across the nation and cemented the need to increase safety standards and accountability. Four derailments in the US and Canada in under a month earlier this year underscored the urgency of action to curb the risks of transporting volatile crude oil.

The Crude-By-Rail Safety Act addresses a number of shortcomings in our approach to transporting volatile crude oil near and through many American towns and cities. It includes provisions to lower oil volatility, prohibits use of unsafe DOT-111 tank cars, strengthens tank car standards, improves oil spill response

readiness, and increases fines for violating volatility standards and hazmat transport standards. It also requires disclosure of train movements through communities as well as the implementation of a confidential close-call reporting system to further increase the safety of transporting crude oil by rail.

Last summer, a derailment in my district in Seattle exposed the vulnerabilities in our current standards, and how easily we risk exposing our communities to danger from oily spills or fiery explosions. We risk too much—our urban centers, our clean waterways, our natural environment, our robust transportation network, our pocketbooks—in sitting back and waiting for an accident to wreak havoc on our communities. We must continue to fight for stronger standards and accountability, and this bill offers a comprehensive approach toward tackling this urgent threat. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

HONORING THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, following the December 7, 1941, attack of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, President Roosevelt sought and received from Congress authorization to declare war on Japan. In January 1942, Lieutenant Colonel James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle was selected to lead a top-secret retaliation attack on Japan. With just three weeks of special “short field takeoff” training, Doolittle's men set sail toward Japan aboard the USS *Hornet*.

On April 18, 1942, the *Hornet* was sighted by a Japanese ship and the Doolittle Raiders, as they would come to be known, set off on their mission—twelve hours early and some 150 miles from their planned launch position. Within one hour, these 80 volunteers, aboard 16 B-25 bombers, took off in the first U.S. air raid on Japan in World War II. The air raid resulted in the bombing of multiple military and industrial targets in Tokyo and other Japanese cities. Their mission a success, the crews headed for their rendezvous point in China.

Flying on fumes and facing poor weather, one plane diverted to Russia, and the fifteen others were forced to crash land. With the aid of Chinese civilians, most of these brave men reached safety, but not all of our famous flyers made it home. Three of the raiders were killed in action; and, of the eight that were captured, three were executed and one died in captivity. Their sacrifice and the success of this mission served as an essential boost to American morale, and the exploits of the Doolittle Raiders marked a critical turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Following their daring drama over Japan, the Doolittle Raiders spread out across the nation and globe. Some continued in the military, enjoying long careers into retirement. Others gave their lives in later service to their country, while still others rejoined civilian life as doctors, teachers, businessmen—serving their communities in every capacity.

Earlier this year, we lost two of the surviving Raiders, LTC Edward Saylor, and LTC Robert Hite. LTC Hite was one of the brave souls