

Sergeant Sullivan was promoted to Airman in 1977; Airman First Class in 1978; Sergeant in 1979; Staff Sergeant in 1980; Technical Sergeant in 1982; Master Sergeant in 1996; and her current rank of Senior Master Sergeant in 2010.

Without question, Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Sullivan is a very special person. She willingly served her nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For her unrelenting service and dedication to duty, Sergeant Sullivan can retire knowing she has earned such a status. I would like to wish Sergeant Sullivan well in her retirement years as she will now be able to spend more free time with her husband John, daughter Katelin Dardis, son and daughter-in-law Christopher and Amy Dardis, stepsons Daniel, Ryan, and Evan Sullivan, and granddaughter Ryleigh Dardis. Your late father Casper Mozo and your mother Margery (Burbank) Mozo can be proud of your service and accomplishments. Sergeant Sullivan, thank you for all your years of hard work, dedication and service to our country.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR FRED BROUSSARD

HON. GWEN GRAHAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Fred Broussard upon the occasion of his retirement after 29 years of honorable service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Major Broussard began his career in 1986, upon graduation of Basic Personnel School, as a Distinguished Graduate. He was then assigned to Hurlburt Field, where in 1990, as a recognized expert in the Personnel career field, he was selected to facilitate the stand-up of the Headquarters Squadron Section for Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (HQ AFSOC) and was nominated and selected as the Military Personnel Technician of the Year for 1990 and 1991; and deployed as the sole SOF representative of the Personnel Support for Contingency Operations team during OPERATION DESERT STORM. He was selected as a member of the USAF "Thunderbird" Team in 1993, where he served as the Assignments NCO until his separation from active duty in 1995.

After leaving active duty, he immediately entered the Air Force Reserve where he served as a Traditional Reservist and Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) in a variety of assignments. After nearly 15-years in the enlisted ranks, he earned his commission as an officer in April 2001. He was brought to Washington D.C. at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters, Pentagon in 2006 where he has served in three directorates filling numerous positions.

Throughout his myriad of assignments in the Pentagon, Major Broussard's ceaseless efforts and devotion to duty resulted in several accomplishments to include; successful articulation of the Air Force Reserve in the crafting of the Department of Defense policy on Active Duty for Operational Support and the Department of the Air Force policy for the Post Deployment-Mobilization Respite Absence; crafting the first ever game plan for the crea-

tion of the Air Force Reserve General Officer Vacancy Promotion Board, leading the nomination process, whereby shortening the timeline from nomination to Senate confirmation; building the foundation and ensuring the implementation of consolidated Full-Time support guidance; crafting revised promotion processes encompassing all three components of the Air Force in keeping with the implementation of the Under Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs initiative to consolidate personnel programs; pioneering the institutionalizing statute-required process for release of promotion results, which were adopted by the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Chief of the Air National Guard and the General Counsel for the Secretary of the Air Force.

Major Broussard's final role began in July 2012, as the AFR Program Manager for Legislative proposals, Office of Reserve Policy Integration, in direct support of the Chief of Air Force Reserve. In this position, Major Broussard played an integral role in proactively engaging Congress as he developed and defended legislation required to enact needed policy changes.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation of Major Joseph Fred Broussard for his many years of dedicated service. There is no question that the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefitted greatly from Major Broussard's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight, and we wish him and his wife, Elaine the very best.

HONORING J'MYIAH SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Quitman County Middle School.

J'Myiah Smith is the daughter of Ms. Teresa Smith of Sledge, MS. She is a very intelligent individual, and she is an outstanding student because she continues to strive to maintain a spot on the Superintendent's List. Among her outstanding grades, J'Myiah was also elected as Miss Seventh Grade 2014–2015 by her peers. She is an active member of the Quitman County Middle School Student Council, Newspaper Committee, and QCMS S.T.E.F. Ambassador Society.

J'Myiah is active in her community as well. On this past year, she participated in the "I Support the Bond" meetings and marches. She has collected clothes and donated them to the needy. She is also a member of her church's youth choir. J'Myiah plans to attend Jackson State University and later attend medical school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing J'Myiah Smith as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 2015, I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to be with the health care providers, first responders, and volunteers working to restore peace and safety to the scene of Amtrak Northeast Regional Train 188's derailment. For this reason, unfortunately, I missed some important votes on the floor of the House of Representatives, including H.R. 2048, the USA FREEDOM Act. If I were present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 224.

PEGGY PICKENS—TEACHER, COUNSELOR AND COMMUNITY WARRIOR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Peggy Pickens has served as a pillar of the greater Humble/Kingwood community for over thirty-five years, devoting herself to her family, church, and school communities. A native Houstonian, Mrs. Pickens graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in the historic Fifth Ward, going on to earn a degree in education from the University of Houston in 1974 and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Prairie View A&M University. She then began her career in education as a teacher in the Al-dine Independent School District at Teague Middle School, Nimitz High School, and MacArthur High School. In 1987, Mrs. Pickens joined the Counseling team at Kingwood High School, serving with true distinction until her retirement from public education in 2002.

Immediately following her first retirement, Mrs. Pickens began developing the Counseling program at Northeast Christian Academy.

During her successful tenure at NCA, Mrs. Pickens has assisted over three hundred graduating seniors earn acceptance into some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in our nation. Through the guidance of Mrs. Pickens, NCA graduates have successfully attended such schools as Stanford University, Duke, Vanderbilt, West Point, the United States Air Force Academy, Rice University, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University. Her love of students and commitment to their lifelong success has been the hallmark of her distinguished career.

Yet, not only has Mrs. Pickens invested herself into the lives of countless students, but she has faithfully served her church community at Second Baptist Church North Campus in Kingwood for over a decade. Through the teaching of various Bible studies, the mentoring of others, as well as numerous public speaking engagements, Mrs. Pickens has modeled for others the life of a servant leader in all she has done. Her influence and impact on the lives of others has been a living testimony to the work of Christ and His gospel in and through her.

Peggy Pickens and her husband Al have five children and twelve grandchildren, each of whom have continued their legacy of service to Christ, their families, our nation, and their communities. She we will be greatly missed, yet the seeds that she has sown throughout her tenure at NCA will continue to bear great fruit in the lives of the future graduates of Northeast Christian Academy.

As the husband and father of school teachers, I know that educators, like Peggy, are the backbone of our communities.

Thanks for the work you've done Peggy, best of luck in newest chapter of your life.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCA—ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES, SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sacramento Chapter and the distinguished leaders who are being honored at their 2015 Dragon Boat Festival and 20th anniversary gala. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring OCA Sacramento and these fine Sacramentans.

Dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Islander Americans, OCA's Sacramento chapter is an active advocate for all Asian Pacific Islander Americans and works diligently to develop strong leadership, community involvement and civic participation. OCA Sacramento also fosters cultural heritage by hosting a variety of annual events celebrating traditional Chinese holidays and festivals, such as the Dragon Boat Festival. The events bring together the Asian Pacific Islander American community, while also educating and sharing its heritage with our entire community. OCA Sacramento promotes education and leadership for young people by offering essay contests and scholarships, as well as internship opportunities. It is clear to me and so many others that OCA Sacramento's deep involvement and commitment to improving Sacramento is exemplary.

In keeping with their theme of "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future," being recognized at this year's Dragon Boat Festival are past Chapter Presidents Dwanchen Hsu, Tom Bhe, Ph.D., Felix Chen, Ph.D., RungFong Hsu, Sam Ong, Linda Ng, Joyce Eng, Michael Head, and David Low. These community leaders have all dedicated their lives to improving Sacramento through their work with OCA Sacramento. All that has been accomplished by the organization would not be possible without these individuals at the forefront of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sacramento Chapter gather at the Dragon Boat Festival to celebrate their 20th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to the Sacramento region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2015, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #216. I would have voted "NAY" on #217 and 218. I would have voted "YEA" on #219 and 220.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE BRUCE REYNOLDS ALGER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of an outstanding citizen and public servant, my former congressman, Bruce Reynolds Alger. He recently passed away in Palm Bay, Florida at the age of 96.

The Honorable Bruce Alger served the 5th District of Texas in the House of Representatives from 1955 to 1965. Congressman Alger served in a very significant time in Texas history with President Lyndon B. Johnson and Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn, both of the Lone Star State, leading the country during his tenure. He was a pioneer of his time by being the only Republican Congressman in the Texas delegation for eight years. It wasn't until his final term in Congress that he could hold a Republican meeting of Texas Representatives with more than just himself. Congressman Ed Foreman from Odessa, Texas was elected in 1963 to double the size of the Texas GOP delegation.

Congressman Alger was one of the earliest Republican members of the Texas Delegation in the mid-20th Century and the first Republican Representative from Dallas County. He fought and spoke for limited government, balanced budget, flat income tax, and many other ideals that became the basis for conservative principles for years to come. He was the eleventh Texan to be appointed to the Ways and Means committee, which I sit upon today.

Prior to being elected to Congress, he was also a distinguished veteran. Like many of the greatest generation, he answered the call to service. He served during World War II in the United States Army from 1941–1945. As a pilot, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and attained the rank of Captain. He devoted much of his life to public service and did what he could to better our country. Congressman Alger's endless energy benefited so many who he served.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the life of the Honorable Bruce Reynolds Alger. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating our former House colleague's remarkable life and service in Congress and to our country.

HONORING MIKE WOLF, NAPA VALLEY GROWER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mike Wolf upon being named the Napa Valley 2015 Grower of the Year.

For more than 35 years, Mr. Wolf has been involved with developing and managing California vineyards. Michael Wolf Vineyard Services was founded in 1997, and oversees all phases of the vineyard development process for many of Napa Valley's leading independent growers, and premium and ultra-premium wineries. Mr. Wolf currently farms over 800 acres across Napa County.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wolf has been committed to innovation and the advancement of viticultural best practices in the Napa Valley. Never afraid of new ideas, he has researched and applied new technologies to continually improve the quality of the grapes that he grows. Also widely respected for his humble leadership, Mr. Wolf has graciously contributed his approach to farming and extensive experience in viticulture to the mentorship of the next generation of Napa Valley's grape-growers.

Mr. Wolf has been a consistent and committed benefactor to his community through his patronage and support of innumerable causes and events in Napa County from the annual NVG Pruning Contest, Harvest STOMP, and the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation to his ongoing sponsorship for the County Crop Report. As part of his contributions to the Napa Valley grape-growing community, he has served in a number of posts including Board Trustee of the California Grower Foundation since 1987, a member of the Napa Valley Viticultural Technical Group's Executive Committee, and as a professional member of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Mike Wolf for his professional and philanthropic contributions to Napa Valley. He is an invaluable asset to our district and the grape-growing community of California.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,446,693,102.28. We've added \$7,525,569,644,189.20 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.