

Medal with One Star, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After joining the U.S. Army Reserves in 1980, 1SG Owens supervised over 250 personnel at the 335th Military Intelligence Company in Louisville, Kentucky. He retired from military service in 2006, but remained active in his community. He was a volunteer firefighter in New Middletown, Indiana, and earned a "First Responders Certificate" for his work responding to emergencies and providing assistance to victims. 1SG Owens' exemplary record of service to his country and community has set the standard for generations of servicemen and servicewomen to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICER COLLIN ROSE

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service, sacrifice, and life of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University Police Department. Two weeks ago, Officer Rose's life was tragically cut short when he was gunned down in the line of duty. Mr. Rose was just 29.

Despite being such a young man, he leaves behind a long list of friends, family, and accomplishments. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area where he played baseball and was a die hard Steelers fan, even after his move to Michigan. He graduated from Ferris State University in northwest Michigan, and quickly seized on his first law enforcement opportunity as an intern with the Battle Creek police. He later enrolled as a cadet with the New Baltimore police, and the village of Richland gave him his first full-time police officer position.

Collin joined the Wayne State University Police Force five years ago. In that time, he and the entire force have become an integral part of the Detroit law enforcement network. The Wayne State force has worked diligently to improve the safety and security of not only the campus area, but all of midtown Detroit, freeing up resources of the Detroit Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies.

Collin leaves behind a beautiful and grieving fiancée, Nikki Salgot. He proposed to her just a few blocks from here at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial last May at the conclusion of the Police Unity Bicycle Tour. He was an avid bicyclist, and rode with Chapter One of the unity tour since 2013.

Collin was also a dog lover. In fact, he was a K-9 handler with the force, and leaves behind two beloved dogs, Wolverine and Clyde. He was also a member of a Metro Detroit dog training club.

On behalf of a grieving Detroit, I thank Collin for his service and his commitment. To Nikki, to his parents, Randy and Karen, to his brother Curtis, and to the rest of his family, friends, and brothers on the force, for your unimaginable loss my heart goes out to you.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MONETT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS 3A MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monett High School football team on winning the Class 3A Missouri State High School Activities Association State Championship.

The Cubs won the state championship on November 26, 2016, by defeating Maryville 27-18. This is the first state championship since 1977 for Monett High School and caps off an overall 14-1 season. This historic game saw trick plays and excellent coaching by both teams, all while taking place in Springfield's own Plaster Stadium at Missouri State University.

Monett High School is coached by Derek Uhl, and saw strong leadership from players Ian Meyer, Alex Turner and Michael Branch. It is my pleasure to help recognize the Monett High School football team on their well-earned celebration of success. It makes me proud to serve them, and all of Missouri's 7th Congressional District.

#### HONORING MR. CHARLES SELMON

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, Charles Selmon. Mr. Selmon has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve Warren County.

Mr. Selmon earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Mississippi College. He studied Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi. He furthered his studies in the Post Master's Degree program at Jackson State University. Mr. Selmon has received National Security Training from the U.S. Army War College located in Carlisle, PA.

Mr. Selmon has served as a Psychology Instructor at both Alcorn State University and Hinds Community College. Mr. Selmon was elected to the Warren County Board of Supervisors position in 1996. He was elected to a fifth term with the Warren County Board of Supervisors. While serving on the Board of Supervisors Mr. Selmon has served as President and Vice-President. He has also served as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Minority Caucus. Mr. Selmon was chosen to represent the State of Mississippi with the National Association of Counties regarding Human Services.

Mr. Selmon is a member of the Warren County Economic Development Committee, Back-To-School Committee (School Day Supplies), Warren County Community Develop-

ment Committee (Senior Citizens Dinner), and serves on the Workforce Investment Board. He is the President of the Boys and Girls Club of Vicksburg which he established.

Mr. Selmon was appointed Superintendent of Sunday School and selected to the Deacon Board of Travelers Rest Baptist Church.

Mr. Selmon received the President Award for Distinguished Leadership in Government.

Mr. Selmon is the father of twin daughters (Alyshia and Tericka). He is married to Fredia Selmon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Charles Selmon for his services to Warren County.

#### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS AND CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE INDIANS

#### HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 817 and S. 818 and ask my House colleagues for their support for these bills which are vital to two tribes I have the honor of representing.

Over the past three congresses Senators WYDEN, MERKLEY and I introduced these important bills to simplify the fee-to-trust process for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde respectively. Our legislation will provide considerable help to the Siletz and Grand Ronde in their continued efforts to restore land that was lost during federal policies of allotment and termination of tribal recognition in 1954. The Tribes' efforts to restore land are currently hampered by a lengthy, expensive, and cumbersome Bureau of Indian Affairs process. The ability to reacquire land is critical to self-determination efforts by terminated and restored tribes like the Siletz and Grand Ronde.

Under our legislation any property located within the boundaries of the respective Tribe's original reservation will be treated as "on-reservation" for the purpose of processing acquisitions of property into trust, and deemed a part of the Tribe's reservation once taken into trust. It should be noted that nothing in these bills prioritizes for any purpose the claims of any federally-recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

Once enacted, these bills will not only save the Tribes' time and money which could be better utilized serving its membership and the community, but would also streamline the BIA's land-into-trust responsibilities to the Tribes', thus saving taxpayer money. Reforming this process for the Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes reflects the federal policy of tribal self-determination and the priority of restoring lands to once-terminated tribes.

I would like to personally thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Subcommittee Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member RUIZ, and former Chairman HASTINGS and former Ranking Member DEFazio for their leadership, assistance, time, and patience over the years moving these bills through the Natural Resources Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes for their friendship and wish them a much deserved congratulations. Their tireless efforts and perseverance over the last six years has been critical to getting this legislation across the finish line. It's an honor to represent both in Congress and I am proud to play a small part in your continued efforts to restore your historic lands.

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#### STAY OUT OF MOSUL

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#### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, haven't we learned anything?

In 1899, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called *The White Man's Burden*, urging America to bring "civilization" to the Philippines. The results were 250,000 deaths, war crimes, and denial of Philippine independence for half a century.

Haven't we learned anything?

U.S. forces occupied Iraq for nine years, until the Iraqis insisted that we leave. The results were more than 600,000 deaths, a cost of \$4 trillion (8 percent of our national net worth), and a Sunni vacuum that the Islamic State terror group has filled.

Haven't we learned anything?

I've been to every country in the world recognized by the United Nations. There are a few universals. Everywhere, people want to fall in love; they love children and pets; they're acquisitive. And everywhere, people don't want to see foreigners with guns. They'd prefer a local dictatorship to a foreign military occupation. So please don't tell me that sending U.S. troops back to Iraq would be "for their own good."

Some argue that we must send U.S. troops to Mosul for our sake, regardless of what the Iraqis want or need. That's called "colonialism." It pits us against one of the great narratives of our times, world decolonization. It invites the hatred not only of more than 1 billion Muslims but the entire world. They will see us not as liberators but as the enemy.

It is a bizarre misconception to think that sending U.S. troops 8,000 miles from home somehow makes us safer. It doesn't. And it is a great disservice to our troops to fight in a place where they don't understand the language, the religion or the customs.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I asked 10 nearby Sunni Muslim countries whether they would send ground forces to fight ISIL. Four said yes. Then I asked Secretary of State John Kerry whether he had asked the same question. He said "no."

If Iraq actually is a thing, then it should be capable of defending itself. If it can't or won't, then fighters who look and sound like locals should do the job.

It isn't the white man's burden. It never was.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2016 TOWN OF HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal of Valor.

This year, Special Police Officer Mark Butler of the Town of Herndon Police Department is being honored with the Silver Medal of Valor for his exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include his name.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

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#### HONORING CONSTANCE BLAND

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constance Bland, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Constance G. Bland, Ph.D. was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in the spring of 2014. As VPAA, she is responsible for leadership, educational policy, academic programs, budgeting and resource allocation; supervision of staff development programs, federal grant program administration; monitoring of personnel actions and transactions, and participation in academic personnel policy development and negotiation. She is also responsible for relationships with the wider educational and occupational community, particularly the public schools, as well as additional responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Before becoming VPAA, Dr. Bland was Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences. She developed computer science educational curriculum related to database management systems, software engineering and introduction to computer science. In an effort to impact

retention of computer science majors, she was involved in a project to determine the impact of introducing the concepts of object oriented programming for first year computer science students using a visual animation tool known as Alice.

Dr. Bland also acquired significant external funding for the department from sources including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Eisenhower (state of Mississippi), SUN Microsystems and mini-grants from Jackson State University. Her last external funds secured for the department included an S-STEM scholarship grant and an HBCU-UP implementation grant. A major focus of the scholarship grants secured by Dr. Bland involved initiatives to increase the number of computer science and mathematics majors at MVSU. Funds secured were used to institute tutorial services, provide student development activities and support debt reduction through scholarships to decrease external employment of students seeking degrees. The goal of the latest HBCU-UP grant is to encourage STEM graduates to pursue graduate education.

Dr. Bland has devoted 23 years of service to MVSU, and has demonstrated her passion and commitment to the University, faculty, staff and students. Her involvement has been extensive, yet she finds time and energy to serve, work and lead, shouldering countless burdens with good humor and grace. She is a tower of strength and a strong force for progressive efficient public service. She always shows patience and tolerance, qualities of an experienced and committed leader. Dr. Bland is a visionary leader who inspires staff, students and the community. She is responsible for developing MVSU's first Women in Science and Technology Conference (WIST) designed to encourage young girls in grades 7th through 12th to consider majoring in STEM disciplines. The conference will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Spring 2016 and can boast of numerous female students who have gone on to become practicing women in science and technology.

Dr. Bland holds an Associate's degree in Mathematics from Coahoma Junior College, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, Bachelor of Science in computer science, Master of Science degree in computer science and a Doctoral degree in computer engineering from the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constance Bland, an Educator, a leader and Public Servant for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

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#### HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT KEVIN WAGNER

#### HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Kevin Wagner for his service to his country and community. 1LT Wagner completed two tours in Iraq, each marked with heroism, tragedy, and compassion. During his second tour, as the winter season settled into Mosul, rain fell with little