

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS EDWARD "GRADY"
HALCOMB

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Edward "Grady" Halcomb and his brave and selfless acts while serving as a medic for Company B, 1st Battalion of the 29th Infantry Division in the United States Army during the Korean War. Sergeant First Class Halcomb passed away on July 2, 2017.

A veteran of 20 years of service, Sergeant First Class Halcomb's strength and care for his fellow soldiers during the war was truly exemplary. At only 19 years old, he endured and witnessed unspeakable horrors that no one should ever have to experience. No matter how dangerous or grim the circumstances, he never gave up hope on his fellow soldiers, his country or himself.

His company was outnumbered by North Korean troops, depleted of all ammo, and captured. One of only 11 men left after battle, then-Private First Class Halcomb was forced to walk the 120-mile Seoul Death March to Pyongyang, North Korea, where he and more than 300 American troops were held as prisoners of war (POWs).

As numerous soldiers were dying daily from malnutrition and medical issues, Private First Class Halcomb risked his life day-after-day to protect and save his fellow soldiers by helping to negotiate food and medicine for them.

After 85 torturous and terrifying days of being POWs, Private First Class Halcomb and four other soldiers miraculously escaped and were rescued, only days before the rest of the prisoners were brutally murdered.

Sergeant First Class Grady Halcomb's valor, sacrifice and service to this country communicate an incredible testimony of a man who put his life on the line for America and its people. Because of him, and soldiers like him, we are able to enjoy the benefits of living in the greatest nation on Earth.

Although we owe more to Sergeant First Class Halcomb than we can ever truly repay, one of my greatest honors and joys of being a Member of Congress was presenting him with the Distinguished Service Cross, for which he so richly deserved and humbly accepted after never seeking any recognition or glory for his heroic actions.

Not only was Sergeant First Class Halcomb a tremendous soldier, he was also an exceptional representation of the Polk County communities that I am honored to represent. Having the opportunity to meet him and his family is a treasure I will forever hold close to my heart.

The depth of appreciation, respect and admiration I have for Sergeant First Class Halcomb and his fellow soldiers is immeasurable. He will be dearly missed.

Let us never forget or take for granted the selfless and courageous acts by Sergeant First Class Halcomb and our service members to protect us and our freedoms every single day. May God bless them all, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING LEE BEALUK

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership and contributions of Lee Bealuk, of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, specifically all that he has done for the Township of Medford. Lee has served in a leadership capacity with Boy Scout Troop No. 20 of Medford for over 50 years, currently serving as Scoutmaster Emeritus and mentor to scouts who are working towards attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Lee has mentored 84 young men from Troop No. 20 who have achieved this rank, the highest within the Boy Scouts of America organization. Lee's accomplishments with Troop No. 20's Eagle Scouts are astonishing given that less than 5 percent of youth who participate in Boy Scouts achieve this rank. As a component of the Eagle Scout process, the candidate must develop, coordinate, and implement a community service project and with 84 Scouts earning this rank, the Township of Medford as well as many other local facilities, have been the beneficiaries of the projects undertaken by the Eagle Scout candidates.

Lee serves as the liaison between each Eagle Scout and the entities where the projects are conducted and his diligence in ensuring that all the logistics have been addressed is an excellent example to the Scout, while imparting other Boy Scout ideals including responsibility, community involvement, and civic duty. Lee's leadership skills and dedication are an asset to the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 20, his community, his family, and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Mr. Lee Bealuk as a selfless and devoted member of their community who has made a tremendous impact on our future generations of leaders. It is my honor to recognize his outstanding achievements and untiring dedication in mentoring the young men and fellow Scoutmasters who participate with Troop No. 20, especially those who commit to attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and thank him for all that he has done, before the United State House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER
OF TOM BEEDE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize Mr. Tom Beede's illustrious and successful career as President, CFO, and CEO of MetroList Services, Inc. On the occasion of his retirement, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Beede and his outstanding career at MetroList.

Mr. Beede has served more than thirty-two years with MetroList and more than forty years in the MLS industry. Before his time with MetroList, he was an Account Manager for PRC Realty where he created the first MLS computer system for the Sacramento, El Do-

rado, and Placer Associations of Realtors. He was eventually hired by MetroList to help manage, build, and lead it as the first MLS company in the United States to own and operate its own MLS computer system.

In large part due to Mr. Beede's hard work and visionary leadership, MetroList became an organization with a culture of unparalleled customer service, subscriber value, and high level data integrity. His success can be attributed to his ability to bring the best products and services to MetroList's customers, and to his commitment to forming regional relationships and finding new, cost-effective ways to share MLS data.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me nothing but pride to stand and honor Mr. Tom Beede today and wish him the best of luck in retirement. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Beede and his outstanding service to the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN
SCHLECHTER, 2017 NFIB YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
FINALIST

HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellen Schlechter, a South Dakotan and recipient of the 2017 National Federation of Independent Business Young Entrepreneur Award.

A resident of Orient, South Dakota, Ellen is the founder and owner of the Calving Book App. Being a South Dakota farmer and rancher myself, I understand the onerous nature of calving season. Any effort to make this time of year more manageable should be pursued. Ellen's app makes it simple and convenient to keep, search, and share your operation's calving records on a phone, tablet, or computer. Data on breeding, preg-checking, and weaning can also be recorded. This might just be the next generation of ranch management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing a fellow South Dakotan, Ellen Schlechter, for her bold, innovative steps as a young entrepreneur. I can't wait to see where this app goes next.

HONORING CHIEF ALONZO MO-
RALES, TEXAS' FIREFIGHTER OF
THE YEAR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Alonzo Morales, Texas Firefighter of the Year.

Chief Morales began working with the Goliad Volunteer Fire Department when he was eighteen years old. He has been with the department for 37 years, serving for the past 27 years as its Fire Chief.

In addition to his role with the Volunteer Fire Department, Morales is County Commissioner for Precinct Two, a post he has held since 2010.

Morales represented the Guadalupe District at the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas' conference in San Marcos earlier this summer. His district nominated him for Texas Firefighter of the Year before the conference, and he was interviewed by a panel of judges which selected him for the award.

Chief Morales has had a substantial positive impact on his community, dedicating his life to serving the city of Goliad and its surrounding county, and will undoubtedly continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate Chief Alonzo Morales for being honored as the Texas Firefighter of the Year.

CPL. EDWARD LEE BORDERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and tell the story of Army Reserve Corporal Edward Lee Borders, a soldier who gave his life for this country in the Korean War.

Cpl. Borders served as a member of D Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting South Korean Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF). On February 11, 1951, the DPAA report shows that the CPVF was able to force the South Koreans to withdraw and leave the Support Force 21, which included Borders' unit, behind at Changbong-ni.

Cpl. Borders was reported as missing in action on February 13, 1951, when he did not report with his unit in Wonju. Three years later, he was declared dead, but his body was never identified. Cpl. Border's father put up a monument in a Harrisburg, Illinois cemetery with the hope of someday laying his son to rest.

For 66 years, the family could not glean any further information, despite consistent investigations from Borders' father and stepmother. However, recently Army Reserve Cpl. Edward Lee Borders' body was finally identified from the remains returned to the United States from North Korea between 1990 and 1994. Per his family's request, his remains are returning home to Illinois. After receiving plane-side honors, Cpl. Borders will be escorted to his final resting place by an honor guard and members of the Patriot Riders.

The Borders family will bury Cpl. Borders on July 29 in Harrisburg, Illinois, where he will receive a service with full military honors. Finally, the Borders family will be able to honor Army Reserve Cpl. Edward Lee Borders by laying him to rest at the monument placed in his name, thereby fulfilling the 66-year-old wish of a father to bury his son.

I am proud to acknowledge the Borders family for their love for our country and their family, and I thank Cpl. Edward Lee Borders for his service and his sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING MS. MAY LIANG MUI
AND MR. BAITON YAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. May Liang Mui and Mr. Baitong Yan on their upcoming 2017 "No-Boundaries" International Art Exhibition.

A non-profit exhibition held annually, "No-Boundaries" harnesses the power of art and art education to promote social responsibility among students who hail from all corners of the globe. During this event, students have the opportunity to work alongside professional artists and cultivate a project that fuses art, culture and global human rights.

Held at the United Nations (UN) in New York City, UN officials will present awards to outstanding young art students. Taken to prove that art truly has no boundaries, students of all different backgrounds will gather to traverse cultural barriers and express themselves through art.

I applaud all those involved in organizing such a rich cultural event right in the center of New York City. I extend my best wishes for a successful and inspiring exhibition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.
RYSZARD "RICHARD" LABA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ryszard "Richard" Laba, a longtime resident of Northbridge, Massachusetts who served as a United States Army Military Policeman in Vietnam.

Mr. Laba was born in Poland and moved to the United States at 16 to live with his brother in Worcester, Massachusetts. At 21, he was drafted into the Army and served honorably in Vietnam between 1967 and 1969. Wounded in combat and exposed to the dangerous chemical Agent Orange, Mr. Laba returned home to Massachusetts.

Back home, Mr. Laba was a hard worker and a family man who loved his community. He served as an assistant foreman at the Worcester Gear Company for 39 years, retiring in 2003. He passed away on September 10, 2012 at the age of 66. He is survived by his wife Margaret, who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about Vietnam veterans, like her husband, who have experienced the debilitating effects of Agent Orange.

Mr. Laba may not have been born an American, but he was so proud of his adopted country. His selflessness is an example for all who aspire to public service.

Mr. Speaker, while we cannot change the past, we can make every effort to express our most sincere gratitude to all Vietnam veterans and their families that are with us today.

On behalf of the people of Massachusetts, please join me in extending my deepest thanks to Richard Laba for his courageous service to our country. It is imperative that we continue to remind future generations of the character and integrity of those who served

during the Vietnam War. I know my House colleagues will join me in remembering Richard, along with all those who served with him in Vietnam.

INTRODUCING THE INTERSTATE
TEACHING MOBILITY ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce the bipartisan Interstate Teaching Mobility Act. This broadly supported and bipartisan proposal would authorize the Secretary of Education to work with an outside entity to create a voluntary, interstate teacher licensing program that would allow eligible teachers to transfer their licenses between states.

Our country's systems of teacher licensure create problems for teachers, students, and schools alike. Licensing and certification requirements for teachers are inconsistent from state to state, and even within states, with hundreds of licensure tests in use and other requirements varying substantially. The level of rigor is also highly variable—with the bar far too low in many cases. As a result of these differences, the majority of states do not accept out-of-state teaching credentials.

For teachers, this poses clear obstacles. A teacher licensed in one state who wishes to teach in another may have to complete additional requirements, such as exams or coursework, or pay additional fees, even if he has already completed an approved credentialing program or has a strong teaching record. As our nation's workforce becomes increasingly mobile, these requirements dramatically decrease the mobility of our nation's teaching workforce. For military spouses, who frequently relocate—among whom teaching is the second most common profession—or out-of-state college graduates wishing to teach in their home state, this problem is particularly acute. These roadblocks likely deter many prospective teachers from entering this vital profession.

The system also presents a real problem for school districts, as schools across the country face a growing teacher shortage. Across the board, teacher education enrollment dropped 35 percent from 2009 to 2014; however, the types of shortages vary across states. Limited licensure policies make it even more difficult for school administrators to fill teaching positions—and for students, the consequence results in less access to high-quality teachers.

The Interstate Teaching Mobility Act would direct the Department of Education to create a new, voluntary program for states to participate in an interstate teaching application process. Teachers licensed or certified in one participating state would be eligible to teach in another. A participating state would be required to adhere to standards of content knowledge, pedagogical assessment, and performance assessment identified as sufficiently rigorous by an outside organization. This would ensure high standards for our teachers, while maintaining the essential role of the states in setting specific requirements for teaching in the state or obtaining licenses in the state.