

bronze statues of the Military Working Dog teams, a granite history wall with an engraved narrative, and a bronze military working dog and handler water fountain. The entire monument sits on a 3,000 square foot granite plaza with five flag poles representing each of the armed services.

To pay for its construction, Master Sergeant Burnam organized an ambitious public fund-raising campaign, which secured \$2.1 million dollars for the project. He even went as far as to raise a maintenance fund so this burden would not be placed on the American taxpayer. After closely overseeing the installation and construction of the national monument, the John Burnam Monument Foundation officially gifted it to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Joint Base San Antonio, where the Department of Defense has been training Military Working Dog teams of all services since 1958.

On October 28, 2013 the national monument was officially unveiled and dedicated at the Lackland Air Force Base, where Master Sergeant Burnam provided a moving testimony. The monument is currently accessible to the American people and their dogs, and attracts thousands of visitors and veterans from across the United States and the world. Since the completion of the national monument, Master Sergeant Burnam continues to be an advocate for our nation's Military Working Dog teams.

Master Sergeant Burnam's extensive career is distinguished by his desire to serve the Marine Corps and our nation. His sacrifices may never be fully recognized, but his impact will be felt by Americans for generations to come. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Master Sergeant John C. Burnam for his outstanding achievements and contributions to our nation both in active duty and in retirement. His extraordinary efforts to honor the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Military Working Dog teams will never be forgotten. I pray his legacy lives on forever.

HONORING JOHN ROY DODSON, JR.

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Roy Dodson, Jr., a World War II veteran and a shining example of patriotism. We in the 7th District of Missouri are proud to share our home with folks like him.

In 1943, Mr. Dodson went to basic training at Camp Robinson in California. This was the first step in a fruitful career of service that took him from Hawaii to New Zealand on a troop ship to repel encroaching Japanese forces. He was part of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division that secured Guadalcanal after the Guadalcanal Campaign, and from there he was sent to battle on Bougainville Island and later to the Philippines. There, half of the division was responsible for taking Manila while Mr. Dodson was part of the effort to secure the mountains. As a member of the planned invasion of Japan, Mr. Dodson was 50 miles away from the shore of Osaka when the U.S. dropped its atomic bomb. Finally, he was part of the occupying force that kept order in Japan.

This December, Mr. Dodson will be honored for his service by peers and loved ones. Newscaster Tom Brokaw wrote that those who fought in WWII were part of the "greatest generation any society has ever produced." They served not for fame or fortune but simply because they loved their country, and having grown up during one of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history, these men and women exemplify the resilient frontier spirit that makes America great.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the opportunity to honor Mr. Dodson and veterans like him any chance I get. The 7th District of Missouri, as well as the rest of the United States, are forever indebted to John Roy Dodson, Jr. We thank him for his service and wish him all the best in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD ALLGOOD
FOR THE MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Allgood of Big Sky for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Allgood served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, yet his service to his community continued well after his military career.

In Big Sky, Mr. Allgood was instrumental in the revival of American Legion Post 99, which now provides scholarships for local high school students and sponsors Boys State and Girls State programs as well as other local youth activities.

Mr. Allgood's tireless efforts have helped provide assistance to financially troubled veterans, aid to community members needing help with medical expenses, and support for the Vietnam War Memorial in Bozeman.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Richard Allgood for his dedication and service.

RECOGNIZING THE NINTH ANNUAL
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRA-
VAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2017, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather together to celebrate the Ninth Annual Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay, FL, will provide an uplifting message of hope and future during this Christmas season as so many families are still facing difficult challenges.

The House at Palm Bay, the City of Palm Bay Parks & Recreation, Gator Automotive, Thrifty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, and Church on the Rock, Elevation Church, Calvary Chapel,

Discover Life Church, Victory Church, Jornada Church, Victory in Christ Church, and several other business partners have recognized the importance of providing a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas.

What makes the Family Christmas Extravaganza so special is that there is no cost to attend—everything is absolutely free to the public. From cotton candy and hot dogs, to live music, and fun activities for children, the sponsors of this annual event are committed to serving others during this Christmas season and giving back to their community.

This year, over eighty local businesses and organizations have made donations of food, gift certificates, equipment, cash and goodie bags. The Bayside High School Marching Band will be performing along with Chagy the Clown.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said, "With today's news being filled with division, contention and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with the city's businesses and the citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace are expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for, and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus saying "Peace and good will towards all men."

Mayor William Capote said, "The Family Christmas Extravaganza is a wonderful annual tradition in the great City of Palm Bay. I am proud to be the Mayor of a City where groups like The House church spend so much time and energy selflessly giving back to our community. The House has captured the giving spirit of the holiday season with this event, providing a day of celebration and Christmas joy completely free of charge. I've seen the positive impact of the Extravaganza over the years and I am excited to see this event continue to grow!"

Palm Bay City Manager Greg Lynk states, "I'm excited to welcome the Family Christmas Extravaganza back to the City of Palm Bay. Over the past several years, the Christmas Extravaganza has become a cherished holiday tradition in Palm Bay, reminding all of us the reason for the season. The City is proud to partner with The House on this wonderful event that brings so much Christmas spirit to the great citizens of Palm Bay."

Gator Automotive owner Joe Kelly said "Gator Chrysler has been a proud supporter of the Christmas Extravaganza for a few years. I support it because indeed it is a great thing the House of Palm Bay has established for families that can't enjoy the holiday. I have heard firsthand from some of those families and it touches my heart."

Fred Poppe, Director of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation, said "I am always looking for partnerships in the Community to serve our City to the best of our ability. The partnership with The House is very important in that we provide a free Holiday spirited event for thousands of our residents. It's the kind of partnership that embodies the true spirit of the United States of America. Thanks for all that you and your hundreds of volunteers do to make this possible."

The City of Palm Bay issued a proclamation declaring December 16, 2017 as Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who have worked so hard to make the Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible; and those who spread the Christmas

spirit through good deeds and charitable acts across our nation.

HONORING FORMER NY REP.
MAURICE HINCHEY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow New Yorkers in honoring and celebrating the life of our colleague, Congressman Maurice Hinchey. Congressman Hinchey embodied what it means to be a true public servant and patriot with a vocation to serve his country and the people of New York.

From his 18 years serving in the New York State Assembly to his 10 years in Congress, Congressman Hinchey remained a steadfast champion for working people, American families, and the environment.

During the Congressman's time in the New York State Assembly, where he served as Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee, he sponsored the nation's first ever acid rain prevention bill. His passion for the environment followed him from New York State to Capitol Hill, where he famously sent President Reagan a tree and a gallon of acid rain water to draw attention to environmental pollution.

The Congressman represented some of New York's most beautiful land, from the Hudson Valley to the Finger Lakes, and we can attribute much of the preservation of New York's natural beauty to Congressman Hinchey's tireless dedication to conservation.

While on the House Appropriations Committee, the Congressman served as a staunch advocate for progressive policies and innovation to help American families and veterans.

My thoughts are with the Congressman's wife, Ilene, the Hinchey family, and all those who loved him as we honor his legacy of activism, advocacy, and passion for public service.

RECOGNIZING GARY GERMUNDSON
FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Germundson of Scobey for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Germundson joined the United States Army in 1957 and served in Vietnam. In 1965, he ended his military career but continued to serve as a community leader in Montana.

Mr. Germundson spent 45 years as a public educator. He became an alderman of the Scobey City Council and served as president of the Scobey Lions Club. Mr. Germundson remains active in his local American Legion and is treasurer of the Daniels County Color Guard.

In addition to raising their four children, Gary and Bonnie Germundson were foster parents to fifteen children.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Mr. Gary Germundson for his dedication and service.

HONORING MAURICE HINCHEY

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our former colleague and my friend Maurice Hinchey, who passed away last week.

All told, Maurice served 18 years in the New York State Assembly and 20 years in the House.

The story goes that after some youthful indiscretions, a judge gave him the option of joining the Navy or else . . .

Following his Navy service, he returned home to Saugerties, New York and worked at a cement factory, and then as a toll collector on the New York State Thruway while earning his degree at SUNY New Paltz.

He eventually ran and won a seat in the New York State Assembly in 1974, becoming the first Democrat to represent Ulster County since 1912.

I had the privilege of serving with Maurice in both the State Assembly and Congress.

As a freshman in the Assembly in the 1980s, I was assigned to serve on the Environmental Conservation Committee, which Maurice chaired.

During that time, I saw firsthand as he worked to expose illegal waste dumping by organized crime, which led to many convictions.

I saw him investigate toxic contamination of Love Canal in Niagara Falls, which would become the nation's first Superfund site.

He passed hundreds of bills, including the nation's first acid rain law to protect New Yorkers from harmful pollution, especially in the Adirondacks, and the Hudson River Valley Greenway Act.

Governor Mario Cuomo called him the "environmental conscience of New York State."

Maurice was elected to Congress in 1992, where he represented a serpentine district, from Poughkeepsie to Ithaca—including parts of the Hudson Valley, Catskill Mountains, and Southern Tier.

It was a tough district with disparate interests, but you could not have found a more fitting representative than Maurice.

No one was as equally as comfortable at a pool hall in Binghamton, a lecture hall in Cornell University, or one of Levon Helm's Midnight Rambles in Woodstock.

Throughout his career, Maurice blended his progressive and populist beliefs in tireless support of America's working families.

Maurice was a fighter—especially for the underdog, the voiceless, and the environment.

He was a rare breed of politician—not a weathervane—he stuck to his convictions. He knew that the best choice was not always the easiest or most popular one.

As a freshman in Congress, despite requests from the President, he opposed NAFTA, knowing it would result in the loss of American manufacturing jobs and suppress wages.

He opposed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for fear that it would encourage media ownership consolidation.

He opposed the repeal of Glass-Steagall because it would allow banks to become too big to fail and encourage riskier investment behavior.

He opposed the unconstitutional, discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act. Maurice knew it was just as wrong then as it is today. And he wasn't afraid to say so.

He was a fierce and vocal opponent of the Iraq War.

He had the courage and vision that many lacked to be on the right side of those issues when it mattered, when the votes were cast.

He was on the losing side of those votes, but history has vindicated his positions.

His passion and courage should serve as a model for anyone who enters public service.

Maurice will be remembered most for being a champion of our environment. And I say our environment, because he believed without politics, without the efforts of so many engaged members of the public, there would not be conservation, or national parks, or wilderness. Only through acts of government and relentless advocacy have those national treasures been preserved to be cherished by all Americans.

He led the effort to establish the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and fought for the cleanup of PCBs that contaminated the river . . .

He secured funding to rehabilitate an old railroad bridge that became the Walkway Over the Hudson, which has attracted millions of visitors since its opening.

He supported renewable energy, and sought to prohibit oil and gas development in protected wilderness areas. That effort led him to work on requiring the disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals and secure an EPA study on the impacts of fracking on drinking water.

Every two years the Almanac of American Politics writes an entry for every Member of Congress.

They tend to be fair and well-researched, but I take issue with one description of Maurice, where year after year he was described as a "leader of lost causes."

For 20 years in the House and 18 in the State Assembly, Maurice sought to give a voice to the voiceless and defend the weak against the powerful.

These are tiring, uphill battles; often frustrating and always difficult, but he never thought they were lost; never hopeless. He believed in them, and so do I.

We do not live in a perfect world, and we never will. There will always be those among us who are disadvantaged and in need. They will always need a champion, a Maurice Hinchey.

Our nation needs leaders who will dedicate their lives to carrying the banner of these so-called "lost causes" and the courage to fight, even when it is hard.

Maurice spent his life fighting for working and middle-class Americans and protecting the Hudson Valley and America's environment and natural beauty.

He was one of the most principled and courageous public servants I have ever known.

I want to express my deepest condolences to his wife, Ilene Marder Hinchey, and his children, Maurice, Joseph, and Michelle.