

Pleiku, South Vietnam, with the 1st Signal Battalion as a personnel specialist and rose to the rank of Spec/5. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1969. Spec/5 Brown was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation.

During his career as a VSO, Lynn Brown has served a large section of South Central Illinois veterans. His professional career has been described as defining what a Veteran Services Officer should be, and his private life has become an extension with the same devotion. He continues to serve veterans and their families long after the workday is over, on holidays, and on weekends. He has even built over a hundred shadow boxes for medals and awards for fellow veterans and their families, at no cost to the recipients.

I offer my congratulations to VSO Brown for his outstanding accomplishments while serving veterans. We need more men and women like him.

RECOGNIZING THE HOLT FAMILY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, family is the greatest gift life can offer to us. There is no relationship more special or more enduring than the bonds that are found within family. Family is truly the tie that binds us together. Both the friendship that is shared and struggles overcome are a testament of what is possible when a family is united and dedicated to loving God and one another. Because of their friendship, work, endurance, and giving spirit, it is an honor to recognize the Holt family for their efforts in the pioneering of Williamson County. Their story is a story of faith and family and it is an honor for those of us gathered this evening to share this story.

The presence of the Holt family in this area can be traced back to the 1840's, beginning with Lucretia and Henry Holt. With each trial that came along; with slavery and segregation, each member of the Holt family chose kindness and compassion and in the midst of injustice, they chose forgiveness. Their heritage will forever be memorialized by the naming of Holt Road off of Nolensville Pike and Stanfield Road in Brentwood, Tennessee.

There is much wisdom we can all glean from the example set by the Holt family, who created a generational legacy of love that will be remembered for decades to come. Their story is a story of a life well lived. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this family for their influence and impact on Williamson County, Tennessee.

HONORING U.S. NAVY SEABEE'S ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion,

also known as the Seabees, and congratulate them on their 75th Anniversary. In the opening weeks of World War II, the U.S. Navy began to organize unique and specialized construction battalions to support the building and maintaining of infrastructure in remote island locations throughout the Pacific. On March 5, 1942, these construction battalions were named Seabees by the Department of the Navy and served a vital role in meeting the logistical and strategic challenges the United States faced in the war effort.

Over the past 75 years, the Seabees have met continued challenges in strengthening our national security in times of war and peace. They have been responsible for building and maintaining numerous military support facilities throughout the world, such as military bases, as well as hundreds of miles of airstrips, roadways and bridges. From the beginning of the Second World War to our present day military operations, the Seabees have performed up to the highest standard and have done so while demonstrating outstanding courage, bravery and determination. They have even been immortalized on the silver screen in the 1944 film, *The Fighting Seabees* starring John Wayne.

In honoring the Seabees, let us remember the tremendous sacrifices that these brave men and women, as well as their families, have made in dedicated service to their country for the past 75 years. As a U.S. Marine and current member of the Mississippi National Guard, I can personally attest to how important their service and sacrifice is to the success of our military.

I am proud to represent Mississippi's 4th district, home to the Naval Construction Battalion Center, where in just the past year, thousands of Seabees, sailors, airmen and soldiers have received training. We congratulate the U.S. Navy Seabees on their 75th Anniversary and reaffirm our commitment to their service.

NATIONAL LOOK UP DAY FOR ADAM DAVID NUSZEN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Adam David Nuszen, who tragically lost his life after struggling with mental illness and addiction.

Adam, who grew up in my congressional district, had a bright future ahead of him and was taken too soon from his family and community. According to his mother, Linda, "Adam was the protector of our family. The oldest of three, his arms were always around his siblings and his loyalty was surpassed by his quiet quest for justice. He marveled at the night sky and couldn't resist sharing his enthusiasm with his friends and family. He taught us about the wonder and grandeur of the planets, galaxies and beyond. He was a gifted musician, a poet, a writer, a philosopher and an inventor."

At 22, Adam was suddenly stricken with psychosis and diagnosed with schizophrenia. For ten years, he was in and out of hospitals attempting to balance his disease with normalcy. His illness slowly evolved into the dan-

gerous and devastating world of addiction. Tragically, in November of 2015, Adam lost his life to an overdose while in rehab.

While in rehab, Linda explained to me that despite his dark times, Adam always managed to remind his loved ones to "look ups" or you will miss all that there is in the world. Sadly, their last conversation before he passed, carried this same sentiment and tone. The words look up remain with her today as an important reminder of Adam's character and spirit.

In honor of Adam David Nuszen, I would like to support Linda's request in declaring Adam's Birthday, March 12, National Look Up Day. This is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and show support for those struggling with addiction and those we have lost to this disease. As members of Congress, we must all continue to support legislation that addresses the rise in drug and alcohol addiction to stop the tragic loss of life that is devastating our communities and loved ones across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, regarding the question considered yesterday, Wednesday, March 8, on passage of H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017, Roll Call Number 136, I am recorded as voting Yes. I intended to vote No.

IN RECOGNITION OF WENDELL YOUNG'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wendell Young for his service as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army during World War II. Mr. Young fought across Europe as part of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's reconnaissance squadron, earning a host of awards and commendations including two Silver Stars.

A native of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Mr. Young was drafted into the Army in 1943. A year later he was deployed to the European Theatre where he served under the legendary General Patton. As the war raged on, Mr. Young saw action throughout France, Germany, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia. He played a part in the Allied victory at the Battle of the Bulge and led an effort to liberate a prisoner of war camp that was housing a large number of both American and Russian troops. During this mission, he earned both of his Silver Stars by exemplifying tremendous personal courage and selflessness to accomplish his objective. In the citation for one of those awards, he was acknowledged for his daring and heroism as an outstanding noncommissioned officer. Furthermore, he was presented the Russian Medal of Courage, making him one of the only Americans to ever receive this honor.

Following the war, Mr. Young returned to North Carolina where he started a family and began a career at the N.C. Cooperative Extension. After 31 years with the Cooperative Extension, he retired and now works part-time for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Young is a living example of the American spirit, a man who answered the call of our nation in its time of need. As one of the dwindling number of WWII veterans, his story is one that needs to be cherished and shared so that we may continue to learn from their example. Mr. Young personifies both courage and patriotism and there is no doubt that he is part of the Greatest Generation. It is my hope that Mr. Young will continue to share his story so that we will never forget the lessons of his sacrifice. I wish Mr. Young and his entire family well, and thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the incredible legacy of Mr. Wendell Young.

RECOGNIZING WORLD KIDNEY DAY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize World Kidney Day and the impact of Chronic Kidney Disease, or CKD, across the globe. In the U.S., 26 million adults have kidney disease and 1-in-3 is at risk. We have to reverse this trend.

African Americans, in particular, suffer from kidney failure at more than three times the rate of Caucasians and constitute more than 32 percent of all patients receiving dialysis for kidney failure. A study says that Hispanics develop kidney failure at a rate of 2:1 compared to Whites. Improving care earlier to stop or slow progression of the disease, and improving access to kidney transplantation for those who do experience kidney failure, are successful tools in order to assist millions of Americans impacted by CKD.

Over 675,000 Americans have irreversible kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease, and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. CKD shortens life expectancy by 5–11 years and more than 95,000 people died of kidney disease last year. Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure, aged 60 or older, or from minority populations are at the greatest risk.

In order to avoid an irreversible stage, there are two simple, quick, and inexpensive tests for chronic kidney disease. If caught early, diet, exercise, and medications can help slow or even reverse some of the damage caused by kidney disease, allowing patients a better life.

I had the opportunity to meet with kidney patients, including Leilah Sampson from Chicago, who is a volunteer with the National Kidney Foundation. When she was 19, Leilah was studying to be a nurse at the historic Tuskegee University when she discovered that she had kidney disease. It quickly progressed to kidney failure, and has since caused significant physical and mental health issues.

How many lives can be improved or saved by a simple set of tests that costs \$80 to \$140? More needs to be done in order to promote testing by physicians and reward them

for identifying and managing this chronic disease. In addition, empowering patients through education can help allow them to make informed decisions about all available treatments, further improving their lives.

As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am committed to working with Congress and stakeholders in the public health and research communities to promote strategies to fight kidney disease.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against H.R. 1301, the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Act.

The legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support, including giving service men and women a well-deserved raise of 2.1 percent. The bill provides much-needed funding to address traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, sexual assault and suicide prevention, and vital cancer research. It also includes funding for Ukraine and Eastern Europe security initiatives to counter Russia's heightened military provocations and annexation of Crimea.

However, H.R. 1301 funds provisions I do not support, including \$61.8 billion to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an account which is not subject to the budgetary caps imposed on all other discretionary programs, and is used as a slush fund by the Pentagon.

Unlike every other federal agency, the DOD has been unable to complete a financial audit to inform taxpayers how the biggest bureaucracy in the federal government spends their money. In fact, a shocking report released last December exposed \$125 billion in administrative waste that the Pentagon tried to bury from being viewed by the public. I refuse to support increased bureaucratic waste at the expense of American taxpayers. A more accountable and transparent department would ensure more taxpayer money is directed towards the needs of our troops and the benefits they deserve rather than buying unnecessary weapon systems, sustaining a Cold War era military force, and giving the President a blank check to fund wars Congress hasn't authorized.

Along with bloated defense spending, the bill prohibits the closing of Guantanamo Bay, which costs more than \$100 million each year and has been used as a top recruiting tool by terrorists. Frankly, the prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States. It has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions abroad, and put U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation in places where the Geneva Conventions are not followed.

Congress can make responsible cuts to the DOD budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CAPTAIN DALE HARRIS, JAGC, USN (ret),
CORPS, U.S. NAVY (RET)

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Dale Harris, JAGC, USN (ret), who recently retired after 23 years of combined active duty and reserve service to our nation with the United States Navy.

Captain Harris was born in Two Harbors, Minnesota and raised in nearby Duluth. After graduating first in his class at East High School in 1985, he received a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota in 1990. He subsequently earned his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law, cum laude, in 1993 and began his Navy career.

Captain Harris served on active duty in the Navy JAG Corps from 1993–2000. He was an honors graduate of the Naval Justice School and winner of the school's trial advocacy competition. He spent three years assigned to Everett and Bremerton, Washington, serving stints both as a defense attorney and as a prosecutor, where he handled more than fifty courts-martial and forty administrative discharge boards, quickly gaining notoriety as one of the Navy's best young litigators. Captain Harris then worked as appellate defense counsel at the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity in Washington, D.C. In that role, he filed briefs in over one hundred cases, and argued twenty-five cases before military appellate courts. Following his release from active duty in 2000, Captain Harris continued his military service in the Navy Reserve, including distinguished tours as a judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and as the Commanding Officer of the Navy and Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity support unit. Over the past 23 years, he earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the preeminent uniformed lawyers of his generation in the area of appellate litigation. For his outstanding service to our Nation, Captain Harris earned numerous personal awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and three Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Captain Harris returned home to northeastern Minnesota in 2000 and served the citizens of Minnesota's Eighth District as an attorney in private practice and later as an Assistant St. Louis County Attorney, where he handled state and federal civil litigation, and provided counsel for the sheriff and Arrowhead Regional Corrections. He continued his appellate work by arguing cases at the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Minnesota Supreme Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Since 2010, Captain Harris has served his community as a state District Court Judge chambered in Duluth, establishing himself as a fair-minded and extremely capable jurist. The integrity, work ethic and leadership skills that were the hallmark of his military career will continue to define his ongoing public service as a judge.

I commend Captain Harris for his commitment to our country and the sacrifices he and his family made on its behalf. On the occasion