

by a roadside improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Nimroz Province, Afghanistan. This was his first deployment.

MSgt Pruitt, a Gautier native, was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. MSgt Pruitt was a financial management Marine for 18 years and also an instructor with the Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools. He volunteered to go on deployment with his junior Marines.

MSgt Pruitt was honored for his sacrifice by family, friends, and fellow service members during a memorial service held at the base auditorium at Camp Johnson, a satellite installation of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune on May 31, 2012.

“He not only wanted to deploy as a Marine,” said Lydia Hobson, MSgt Pruitt’s mother, “but as a human being. He wanted to help the people and children over there. When he got to Afghanistan, he asked me to send him crayons and coloring books for the children in the hospital because they didn’t have the things American children had. He was a great man.”

“Pruitt never stopped surprising me,” retired Master Sergeant Ron Scott, one of Pruitt’s mentors said. “I had a special bond with him. He grew from this young, wide-eyed kid to someone I called a brother.”

MSgt Pruitt was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service and sacrifice. He was also recognized by the Marine Corps Combat Service Support School “Wall of Heroes” where his memorial frame was placed.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation has designated a section of U.S. Highway 90 in Gautier as the Scott E. Pruitt Memorial Highway.

MSgt Pruitt is survived by his daughters Jennifer and Jordyn, and his fiancée, Trisha Lane.

MSgt Pruitt’s dedication to protecting our nation will always be remembered.

HONORING BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. MICKEY L. BURNIM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, Bowie State University celebrated the leadership and career of its ninth president, Dr. Mickey Burnim, at its annual Founders Gala. The annual Founders Gala marks the anniversary of the founding of the school in 1865 that would later become Bowie State University. While I was, unfortunately, unable to join the celebration in person, I want to express my great thanks to Dr. Burnim for all he has achieved during his tenure and congratulate him on being honored at this year’s gala. I also join in wishing him well on his upcoming retirement.

When Dr. Burnim steps down as President of Bowie State University, he will complete eleven very successful years leading one of Maryland’s great institutions of higher education and one of our nation’s oldest and most illustrious historically black universities. Having come to Bowie State after serving as Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University in

North Carolina and as Provost and Vice Chancellor of North Carolina Central University, Dr. Burnim brought to his presidency an already long and distinguished career in university administration. At a time when higher education costs are rising, Bowie State has been recognized for its outstanding value, including being ranked by The Economist for having the best higher education value in Maryland. An economist by training, Dr. Burnim has recognized the criticality of securing a sound fiscal future for the University, and during his time in office he took steps to put Bowie State on a solid footing for long-term expansion. With new resources secured, one of the focuses of his tenure has been the construction of new campus buildings, including a new student center, a performing arts center, and a new \$107 million facility for the study and practice of Science, Mathematics, and Nursing. Recognizing how important it is to connect graduates with career opportunities and to foster young entrepreneurs, Dr. Burnim worked with the City of Bowie to launch the Bowie Business Innovation Center on campus. Under his leadership, Bowie State has continued to expand the programs it offers and to conduct groundbreaking research across a number of disciplines. I am very proud to represent Bowie State University in Congress.

Since its founding as the Baltimore Normal School after the Civil War, Bowie State University has served as an important nexus of education and opportunity for African Americans, and after 152 years it has grown to become one of our country’s great universities and educates students from all backgrounds. Bowie State joined the University System of Maryland in 1988 and, along with the other institutions of higher education across our state, helps make Maryland one of the best places to pursue study in the country and, indeed, the world. Within the University System of Maryland, Bowie State has earned a reputation for leading in the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics—or ‘STEAM’—and creating innovative interdisciplinary programs that bring them all together to prepare students for success in emerging industries of the twenty-first century economy. It was Dr. Burnim who led Bowie State’s effort to adopt the Education Innovation Initiative (EI²), a STEAM-enrichment program that makes early career pathway exposure accessible to under-represented students throughout Prince George’s County.

Dr. Mickey Burnim has been instrumental to the University’s achievements and its strong trajectory for growth in the years ahead. I have been honored to work with him to ensure that Bowie State has had a partner in the federal government, and I thank him for all his hard work over the past eleven years as President and throughout his four decades in higher education. I wish him all the best, and I join in celebrating his very successful tenure that has made a real difference in the lives of tens of thousands of students across Maryland and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 232.

HONORING JENNIFER “JENNY” ALPERS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer “Jenny” Alpers, a dedicated public servant to the citizens of Missouri. Jenny tirelessly worked alongside me as a legislative aide during my time as a Missouri State Representative to serve the good people of the 124th District. My appreciation to her cannot be understated. She helped constituents navigate the state bureaucracy, greeted visitors who came into my office, and advised me on important legislation facing Missouri at that time. Her service as a one-woman office staff was no easy task, but she worked with poise and efficiency.

Like many hardworking Missourians, Jenny and her late husband, Gary, worked on their family farm and raised two wonderful daughters, Jennifer and Ashley. Both daughters married great guys, Scott and Billy, and she has been blessed with three incredible grandchildren: Jordyn, Brady, and Wil. Continuing her love of serving others, she is active in her local church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of an individual more deserving of this special recognition than Jenny herself. She never sought the limelight but instead did what all good Missourians do by pulling up her sleeves and working to help her family, her friends, and even complete strangers. A retirement celebration for Jenny will be held on May 8, 2017 in the Missouri State Capitol, where many of her current and former colleagues and friends will be present to thank her for all she has done to better our great state. I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the years of service and commitment of Jenny. We are blessed to have such dedicated citizens like her serving us, and I wish her the best in the years to come. I thank Jenny, and God’s blessings to her.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY CAPTAIN (CPT) STEPHEN W. FRANK

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Army Captain (CPT) Stephen W. Frank who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 29, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. CPT Frank was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated as he was conducting a traffic-control

point inspection in Diyarah, Iraq. Also killed was Captain Ralph J. Harting, III. They were among an estimated 50 people to die that day in bombings carried out by insurgents trying to disrupt Iraq's newly formed government.

CPT Frank was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, which was attached to the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from Mississippi. CPT Frank was born in Lyndhurst, Ohio and then raised in Lansing, Michigan. He graduated from Haslett High School. CPT Frank earned a geography degree from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY. CPT Frank and CPT Harting, a Michigan native, were college classmates.

Shortly after learning of their son's death, CPT Frank's parents, Bill and Sue Frank, invited the Hartings to their home to trade stories and photos of their sons.

"We talked about how we wished it was us to go first," Sue Frank told the Detroit Free Press. "We were glad that the boys were not alone when they died. It was a comforting conversation, and we had an immediate bonding over the most tragic thing that could happen in your life. It's good to know that the Hartings are only two miles away."

A memorial service was held at Fort Irwin, California, where both men were based. CPT Frank and CPT Harting were buried in a May 14 ceremony at West Point.

CPT Frank's survivors included his wife, Laurel, a 2-year-old son, and his parents, Bill and Sue Frank.

The sacrifice of these brave soldiers will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARK J. CRAWFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Mark J. Crawford for his service to Western New York as an educator and public servant. He will be retiring from his position as Superintendent of the West Seneca Central School District, and I want to commemorate his hard work, dedication, and impact on our community.

Dr. Crawford began his educational career in Western New York, earning a bachelor's and a master's degree from Canisius College, and a doctorate from the University of Buffalo. In 1974, he began his career teaching at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. Throughout his 43-year career in education, Dr. Crawford took on many different roles. He taught Regents Social Studies, served as the Dean of Discipline, Headmaster, and Principal at a number of our local schools including, Nardin Academy, Casey Middle School, and Northwood Elementary. In addition, Dr. Crawford served as an adjunct professor of graduate education at D'Youville College, helping to educate the future teachers of Western New York. For the past 13 years, he was Superintendent at Dryden Central School District, Hamburg Central Schools, and most recently, West Seneca Central School District.

In addition to his dedication to education, Mark is actively involved in the local commu-

nity and serves as a member of the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, member emeritus of the West Seneca Rotary Club, and Trustee Emeritus of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation Board of Trustees.

Furthermore, Dr. Crawford has expanded his community involvement beyond Western New York to Rwanda. Eight years ago, he traveled with the directors of the Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies, and ever since has actively supported the organization.

Dr. Crawford has been serving the youth of Western New York for over four decades, and his commitment and dedication as an educator and public servant has had an immeasurable impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Dr. Mark J. Crawford and recognize all that he has done for the City of West Seneca and the entire Western New York community. I know that you'll join me, and all of our colleagues, in wishing Mark, his wife, and their entire family the very best of good health and happiness in the months and years to come.

APPOINTMENT OF MS. JEANETTE S. JAMES TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 553(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Pub. L. 114-328), on March 31, 2017, I appointed Ms. Jeanette S. James to serve as a member of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. Ms. James served 12 years as part of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee, leading the Subcommittee on Military Personnel for three years until her retirement in 2017. Prior to joining the committee staff, James served in the Army Nurses Corps for 31 years, rising to the rank of Colonel and commanding the medical department activity at Fort Drum. Ms. James was recently awarded the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, which is the highest honorary award that the Secretary of the Army may grant to a private citizen.

As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have come to trust Jeanette's advice on matters that affect our troops and their families. For nearly a decade and a half, Jeanette has approached some of the Department of Defense's most difficult and controversial issues with the same precision, compassion, and dedication she showed to her patients during her 31 years as an Army nurse.

Jeanette has spent 43 years in public service, in which time she has made a real difference for our country and our military. Our troops are healthier and better cared for, their families are more secure, and our policies are better informed because of her service. I can think of few people more qualified to serve on this National Commission to review and reform the Selective Service process than someone who has dedicated her life to serving her nation with the utmost dedication and distinction for more than four decades.

HONORING TRIS & SAM BERGER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor two individuals who through their dedication and commitment have become synonymous with the Beth El Synagogue Center in Scarsdale, Tris and Sam Berger.

In 1994, Tris and Sam Berger moved to Scarsdale from New York City and immediately joined Beth El Synagogue Center. Their daughter Yael (Yali) was born in 1996 and their son Kenny arrived in 2000.

Tris, a San Diego native, became a bat mitzvah and was confirmed at Temple Beth Israel, the largest and oldest Reform Temple in San Diego. Sam was raised outside Philadelphia, where his parents were founding members of Temple Israel of Upper Darby and subsequently members of Temple Beth Shalom, in Elkins Park, PA. Both have had extremely successful careers at Price Waterhouse, among other institutions, and both have maintained an active community focused schedule outside of work. Tris has been involved in Beth El's Centennial Celebration Committees and co-chaired the Intergenerational Kallah. She was an area chair and divisional chair for UJA Scarsdale Woman's Philanthropy and currently chairs the Employment and Self Sufficiency Task Committee as part of the Caring Commission at UJA. She is also a member of the UJA Board of Directors. Sam has remained actively involved with the HR Committee, various search committees and on the Board of Trustees. He eventually became a Vice President and then Executive Vice President of Beth El. He assumed the position of President of 2014 and hasn't look back since. As President, Sam and his officers and other volunteers led the shul through the emotional retirement of our beloved rabbi of 43 years, Rabbi Melvin Sirner, to the exciting hiring of new senior rabbi, Rabbi David Schuck.

Tris and Sam have become part of the very fabric of Beth El and their contributions have been many. This year, Beth El is honoring Tris and Sam at their 63rd Annual Gala on March 19th. They could not have honored two more deserving individuals. Congratulations to Tris and Sam on this wonderful occasion.

HONORING DR. MARY PAPAZIAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleagues, Representative ANNA ESHOO and Representative RO KHANNA, rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Papazian on her inauguration as the 30th President of San Jose State University (SJSU). Dr. Papazian is the first person of Armenian-American descent and the third female to serve as SJSU's president in its 160-year history.

Dr. Papazian was born, raised and attended schools in Southern California. She eventually followed in her parent's footsteps by matriculating at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she earned a Bachelor's,