

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) JOHN MCCLELLAN SMITH

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) John McClellan Smith who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 12, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Smith was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy in Iskandariyah, Iraq. During his tour in Iraq, SGT Smith's assignment was to train members of the Iraqi National Guard.

SGT Smith was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, which was attached to the 155th BCT of Mississippi. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg before joining the California unit. SGT Smith was a JROTC cadet at New Hanover High School in Wilmington, North Carolina where he also played football, baseball, and lacrosse before graduating in 2000.

During SGT Smith's funeral, Brigadier General Mike Ferriter of the 82nd Airborne Division presented Smith's mother, Judy Smith, with the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Sergeant First Class Richard Mitchell of the 82nd Airborne Division presented Mrs. Smith with the American flag. He told the Associated Press that SGT Smith was committed to serving his country.

"Smitty was a great soldier," SFC Mitchell said. "He died doing what he wanted to do."

SGT Smith's devotion to his nation will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD W. STANKS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 WYOMING VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARD

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward W. Stanks, Jr., CPA who will be honored on May 13 by the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. Ed will receive the 2017 "Making a Difference Award" for his continued involvement in the Children's Association. Ed has served on the WVCA board as treasurer for over fifteen years. He has shared his knowledge, expertise, and countless hours of his time to help the children of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Ed has worked as a Certified Public Accountant for nearly four decades for companies like Coopers and Lybrand (now Price Waterhouse Coopers/PwC) and Baron, Strassmen & Co. (now Kronick, Kalada, Berdy, & Co., P.C.). Today, Ed owns and operates his own accounting office in Kingston, Pennsylvania. In addition to serving the Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Ed is a

member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs. He is the former president and treasurer of the Rotary Club of Kingston. He was also named a Paul Harris Fellow of the Kingston Rotary Club. Ed also serves as the treasurer of the Exodus Prison & Aftercare Ministry. He belongs to St. Therese's Parish in Shavertown, where he serves on the finance council and helps with the music ministry.

It is an honor to recognize Ed Stanks, Jr. for his service to the Wyoming Valley Children Association, an outstanding organization helping to provide the therapeutic support needed to give all of the children in northeastern Pennsylvania a quality early childhood education. I am truly grateful for his efforts.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEMINGWAY INTERNATIONAL YACHT CLUB, HAVANA, CUBA

### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, the Ocean Passages maritime educational program and the state of Maine, home port of the schooner *Harvey Gamage*, would like to congratulate Commodore Lic. José Miguel Diaz Escrich and the Hemingway International Yacht Club of Havana, Cuba, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, being celebrated this month.

For 25 years, the Hemingway International Yacht Club has welcomed scores of international visitors from around the world—and consistently promoted stronger ties between Cuba and the United States through cooperative sailing and maritime programs.

Drawing on the long history of shared Cuban-American nautical traditions, symbolized above all by Ernest Hemingway's love of the sea and his adoption of Cuba as his second country, the Hemingway International Yacht Club has sought to keep alive the importance of Cuba's rich marine heritage.

The schooner *Harvey Gamage* first sailed into Marina Hemingway in Havana in February 2016—and members of the Ocean Passages program have worked closely with Commodore Escrich in promoting the participation of American sport fishing boats in the annual Hemingway International Billfishing Tournament.

As Ocean Passages grows its educational and training programs in Cuban waters, we look forward to deepening that cooperation across the ocean we share. As the Maine poet Richard Blanco wrote in *Cosas del Mar* on the occasion of the restoration of bilateral diplomatic relations:

... Today, the sea still telling us,  
the end to all our doubts and fears  
is to gaze into the lucid blues of our shared horizon,

to breathe together, to heal together.

Ernest Hemingway donated his 1954 Nobel Literature prize medal to the people of Cuba, saying "this award belongs to the people of Cuba, because my works were created and conceived in Cuba, in my village of Cojimar, of which I am a citizen."

It is in that spirit that Ocean Passages and the state of Maine congratulate Commodore

Escrich and the Hemingway International Yacht Club and look forward to fruitful cooperation for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. DAILY'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

### HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Daily's 3rd grade class at Garfield Elementary in Livonia, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Mrs. Daily's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Mrs. Daily's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Daily's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Daily and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE ZIMMERMAN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Charlotte Zimmerman, who turned 90 years young today. Charlotte is an active member of Hadassah in South Florida and a beloved mother of four, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of four.

Throughout her life Charlotte is an example to us all, staying healthy and aging with grace. She is a patron of the arts, including ballet, drama, music, and opera. She grew up in Richmond Hill, New York and now lives in Boca Raton, Florida.

I join with Charlotte's friends and family in celebrating her birthday. I wish her good health and continued success in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRE CHIEF KEVIN D. SUTTON

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of

Fairfield, AL, Fire Chief Kevin D. Sutton. Chief Sutton was a native of Birmingham, AL, who tragically passed in an auto accident on April 30, 2017. His seasoned leadership, engaging personality, and heart for his community will certainly be missed.

Chief Sutton attended Birmingham public schools and was a 1981 graduate of Phillips High School. Upon graduation, he pursued higher education at Mississippi Valley State University on an academic and football scholarship. Chief Sutton would later receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration from Athens State University.

Chief Sutton served with the City of Fairfield, AL, for 23 years, the previous 13 years as Fire Chief. Prior to serving as Fire Chief, he served the city as a firefighter then as the city's Fire Marshal. Under his leadership, Fairfield Fire Department became an integral partner with the Fairfield community. Chief Sutton coordinated several programs in the city for seniors and children, including the annual "Safety is Fun Day," which involves all city and private elementary schools in Fairfield. Chief Sutton also led the department's involvement in charitable works such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association's "Boot Drive," which collects money for Jerry's Kids.

Previously, Chief Sutton served on the Executive Committee of the State Fire Marshal's Association and was the past President of the Central Alabama Fire Chief's Association. He also served on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Fire Chief's Association, and was the immediate past president of the Board of Directors for Better Basics, a nonprofit that provides literacy intervention, enrichment programs, and educational opportunities for elementary and middle-school students throughout Alabama. Chief Sutton was also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Chief Sutton is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and daughters, Tabathia Norman, Karmen Patterson, and Taylor Sutton.

On a personal note, I will also remember Chief Sutton's warm smile, generous heart and servant leadership. Although he left us too soon, his family should find comfort in the exemplary life he led. Chief Sutton made a tremendous impact on our community that will have a lasting significance. Chief Sutton will live on in the hearts and minds of the many people he touched.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fire Chief Kevin D. Sutton—an outstanding servant leader who faithfully served the Fairfield, AL community.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continued and troubling pattern of repression committed by the Government of Ethiopia against its own citizens, and to express our support to the people of that country in their efforts to bring about peaceful reform to ensure their basic human rights as guaranteed by the Ethiopian constitu-

tion. To that end, my colleagues and I have introduced a bi-partisan resolution expressing support for the people of Ethiopia and asking the Ethiopian government to take solid steps to address these many violations.

On March 9th, the House Foreign Relations Subcommittee held hearings to discuss this important issue and what the United States can do to bring about positive change in Ethiopia. Among those who testified is a man from my own district, Deacon Yoseph Tafari of the St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church located in Aurora, Colorado, who grew up in Ethiopia and has seen first-hand the daily struggle of those living in abject poverty and under government oppression. Deacon Yoseph was forced to flee Ethiopia in 1976 and came to the U.S. as a refugee. Since then, both he and all of the courageous members of the Ethiopian community in my district, including the Oromo and Amharas, have worked tirelessly to organize and help those still suffering from repression in their home country, and to bring crucial international awareness to their plight.

Every day, Ethiopian-Americans bring important contributions and valuable diversity not only to my district, but all across America. I want to make clear that we support them and stand by them in these times of hardship. I represent the largest Ethiopian community in Colorado, and I will continue to monitor the situation in Ethiopia closely as well as continue working with local community leaders to raise awareness of this important issue and bring relief to the Ethiopian people.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE LANCE CORPORAL (LCPL) CASEY LYNNE CASANOVA

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl) Casey Lynne Casanova who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 2, 2008, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. LCpl Casanova was killed along with three other Marines when a roadside bomb was detonated while they were on patrol in Karmah, Iraq. Also killed were Sergeant Glen E. Martinez of Boulder, Colorado; Corporal James Kimple of Amanda, Ohio; and Corporal Miguel A. Guzman of Norwalk, California.

LCpl Casanova was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. LCpl Casanova served as a field radio operator. This was her first deployment to Iraq.

LCpl Casanova grew up in McComb, Mississippi, where she sang in the chorus at Bass Memorial Academy in Purvis and played multiple musical instruments in the high school band.

LCpl Casanova's mother, Paula Carruth, shared that Casey decided to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps while she was attending Southwest Community College in Summit, Mississippi.

"Casey had a servant's heart," Paula said. "She wanted to serve, and the military allowed her to do that."

Paula says her daughter's death was a tragedy, but triumph rose out of tragedy during a memorial service attended by more than 1,000 people. The service was held at New Heights Baptist Church in McComb.

"It became so huge and overwhelming," Paula said. "My community was and still is so amazing."

This summer, a portion of Highway 98 in Pike County will be named in LCpl Casanova's honor.

LCpl Casanova is survived by her mother, Paula Carruth, and grandparents, John Paul and Kitty Carruth.

LCpl Casanova devoted her life to military service. Her determination to serve will not be forgotten.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ROLLINS'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

#### HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Rollins's 3rd grade class at Garfield Elementary in Livonia, Michigan.

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In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

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It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional District office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Rollins and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH S. MILLER

#### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of a Capitol Hill icon, Joseph S. Miller, described by The Oregonian in 1987 as the dean of lobbyists in the nation's capital who specialized in Pacific Northwest issues. Joe was a seminal figure in Northwest politics and became well-known in Washington, D.C. His career spanned over 70