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**A HERO AMONG US—A TRIBUTE
TO FIRST SERGEANT DAVID H.
MCNERNEY**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Veteran's Day, like every year, I started the morning early and headed out to the first of many ceremonies across our district to honor the men and women who have proudly worn the military uniform of the United States. I just love it. I love seeing our veterans, especially the older heroes who seem to exude a kind of pride in their country and their service that only those of that great generation possess. But I found myself looking for a certain face, a certain hero of mine that I look forward to seeing at these events every year. While I kept reminding myself I wouldn't find him this year, I saw everything he represented in the eyes of every veteran I met.

Longtime Crosby resident, David H. McNerney, was a hero among us. First Sergeant McNerney received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in the Vietnam War. While this is enough to impress most anyone, it's only part of the story. McNerney served not one tour of duty, not even two or three tours of duty—he served four combat tours of duty.

Like some of my other favorite war heroes, McNerney wasn't born in Texas, but got here as fast as he could. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1931, he moved to Houston with his family in high school. After graduating from St. Thomas High School, McNerney enlisted in the Navy. After serving two tours in the Korean War, he was discharged in 1952.

McNerney gave college a try, enrolling at the University of Houston, but quickly realized his education would come from the battlefield rather than the classroom. In 1953, McNerney enlisted in the United States Army. Shortly after arriving at Fort Bliss, he was stationed in Korea and Okinawa. In 1962 he was sent to Vietnam as one of the first 500 military advisors deployed.

In 1966, during his third combat tour of duty, he was stationed in the Central Highlands near the Cambodian border as a first sergeant with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. On the afternoon of March 21, 1967, he and his company were dropped in Polei Doc to recover a missing reconnaissance team. The next morning, they came under heavy attack by the North Vietnamese and were easily outnumbered three-to-one. McNerney quickly took the front line and was wounded by a grenade.

The company commander was killed and without hesitation, and despite being wounded, McNerney took command of the unit. Under intense fire, McNerney took out an enemy machine gun position, but the unit took heavy casualties. In the midst of the chaos, he climbed a tree in plain sight of the North Vietnamese to mark his unit's location before calling in an airstrike within 65 feet of their own position.

He continued to move throughout the battlefield, pulling the wounded to safety and securing demolition material to clear the area for the medical evacuation helicopters. Despite his own injuries, McNerney refused evacuation and stayed with his men until the new company commander arrived the next day. His actions not only stopped the enemy from advancing and saved the lives of his men, his valor on the battlefield earned him the Medal of Honor.

Now, this is where I usually say: "And that's just the way it is." But, the story is not over. David McNerney volunteered for a fourth tour in Vietnam before retiring as a first sergeant in December 1969. Let me say that again: David McNerney volunteered for a fourth tour in Vietnam.

The men that served with him have praised his leadership and bravery. They don't mince words when it comes to what he has meant to them: There's a bunch of guys walking around today who wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him.

Dennis Thompson Sr., who served in Vietnam with McNerney, said: "If, in fact, he were not there, everyone would have gotten massacred that day. People have to know that the man was a genuine hero."

First Sergeant David McNerney died October 12, 2010 at the age of 79. His obituary said that he humbly summarized his prestigious military career by saying, "I was a professional soldier."

This Veteran's Day was not the same for me. His absence was noticed, but his service is never forgotten. My friend, First Sergeant David McNerney, was a hero among us.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING CAYETANO CABRIELES

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 10, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Cayetano Cabrieles who celebrated his 100th birthday and received the Champion of Life Award on August 7, 2018.

Cayetano Cabrieles was born in Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico in 1918. He worked on a ranch for much of his childhood, enduring adversity and overcoming many challenges. At the age of 23, Mr. Cabrieles married Juana Maria Mendoza, and together the couple raised four children. Mr. Cabrieles now lives in San Juan, Texas where he continues to work tirelessly to provide for his family.

Though Mr. Cabrieles suffered many injuries while working, he nevertheless persevered. After a lifetime of strenuous work, Mr. Cabrieles retired at the age of 80 and now resides at the Palmas Health Care Center.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to share Mr. Cayetano Cabrieles's life story and recognize this true pioneer on his 100th birthday. Congratulations again to Mr. Cabrieles on this major milestone.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH MEDINA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 10, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Medina of Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico for her role in the Pueblo Pottery Mug project and her success as a Native artist.

The Pueblo Pottery Mug project started as a collaboration between five Pueblo artists and the first Pueblo-owned Starbucks in New Mexico. The mugs were first sold in 2016 at the Starbucks store in Albuquerque. Each mug was hand-crafted by a different Pueblo artist to celebrate the opening of the new store and to symbolize the collaboration between New Mexico Pueblos and Starbucks. After quickly selling out of the unique mugs—selling over 6,000 mugs—the Shumakolowa gift shop collaborated with the artists to sell mugs at their location in the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

Elizabeth is originally from Jemez Pueblo and married into Zia Pueblo where she now lives with her husband, fellow artist Marcellus. She learned how to make traditional Zia pottery from her mother-in-law, renowned potter Sofia Medina, using the teachings of the past and the resources of the land to create and shape her pottery. Her work is celebrated for its craftsmanship, exquisitely painted designs, and elegance of form.

Elizabeth's work typically combines traditional Zia symbols such as rainbows, birds, and flowers. Using kaolin clay that is often featured in Zia pottery, she tempers it with basaltic rock to achieve a traditional finish. Her work displays a true appreciation for the teachings of the past and influences many of today's artists.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Elizabeth Medina for being a part of the Pueblo Pottery Mug project. This project has given the community, as well as visitors to New Mexico, an opportunity to appreciate usable pieces of art that are inspired by Native culture and traditions. I look forward to seeing this project continue to flourish and support talented Native artists from Pueblos throughout New Mexico.

CAVHS NURSES

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 10, 2018

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 19 Central Arkansas Veterans Affairs Healthcare System nurses who have been named to the Great 100 Nurses Celebration of Arkansas 2018 honoree list.

The selected nurses are chosen based on their concern for humanity, their contributions to the profession of Nursing, and their mentoring of others.

Each of the Great 100 nurses will receive a certificate and custom pin in honor of their accomplishment.

This is a record number of honorees from the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and I greatly applaud their work and their caring nature towards our veterans.

I am proud to represent these and all of our central Arkansas nurses who are making a difference in the lives of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the name of each selected nurse.

The 19 CAVHS nurses are: Jackie Archer, RN; Jill Avery, APRN; Shelly Berry, RN; Matthew Bishop, RN; Lana Brown, RN; Pamela

Cochran, RN; Kimberly Crutchfield, RN; Brandi Gause, RN; David Hathcock, II, RN; Shauna Haynes, RN; Pamela Horton, APN; Connie Jordan, RN; Meredith Morton, RN; Dara Penn,

RN; Danielle Shelby, RN; Courtney Steele, RN; Amada White, RN; Sarah Wilson, RN; Salena Wright-Brown, Ph.D., MNSc, APRN, RN.