

Specialist Valentine was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Fort Lewis, Washington. Specialist Valentine was killed along with two other soldiers on September 18, 2007, in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an IED, an improvised explosive device, detonated near him.

Mr. Speaker, you understand the use of an IED by America's enemy is a coward's way of fighting the war. These enemies rant and rave and preach hate in the name of religion, but they cover their faces with masks and hide in caves and dark, dusty ditches. They are afraid to come out in the open and face the American soldier. So our enemy detonates remote-controlled bombs.

Specialist Donald Valentine III's military roots run deep. His father, Donald II, is a Navy veteran. His brother Daniel, who was 19 at the time, wanted to enlist to be with his brother Donald in Iraq. America owes much to families like the Valentines. Being from a military family, he moved around a lot as a child. He lived in Florida most of his life and also in Idaho, but wanted to be buried in "Big H," as he called Houston, Texas, because of many reasons. One of those reasons was because he spent so much time growing up with his grandparents who live in Houston.

Donald was married for one year to Lucia, who said "Donald had all the qualities any girl would want." She had talked to Donald on their first anniversary, 3 days before his death in Iraq. Specialist Valentine told his family that, "if he did not survive the war, they should stay strong." He was the 91st fallen service member with ties to the Houston area to have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A statement has been credited to one of Rome's centurions when he told his troops, "How you yet live will echo throughout eternity." Specialist Valentine lived a short but faithful life to the things that were important to him: family and country. He was 21 when he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton was right about such warriors. We should thank God that such men as Specialist Donald Valentine III ever lived.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SALINAS CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salinas City Elementary School District on their 150th anniversary. SCESD has demonstrated great dedication to our community and invaluable service to children and families of the central coast of California.

Founded in 1868, the SCESD began with nine students and quickly expanded to accommodate the growing Salinas Valley. The district has provided a well-rounded education and a safe learning environment for generations of Central Coast families. Today, it provides free, high quality education to nearly nine thousand students at fourteen public schools.

The district's belief in public education as the foundation of democracy shapes their am-

bition to serve children of all backgrounds regardless of race, economic status, religion or ability. Further, it strives to engage parents and families to create a strong collaborative community to support the educational experiences of their children.

As a district, the SCESD has also made great strides in engaging students with twenty-first century technology. Students in grades third through sixth are assigned their own laptop to complete homework and class assignments, while kindergarten through second grade students use shared iPads to complement their learning experiences. Teachers are also empowered to use digital programs to accompany in-class instruction that has resulted in immense progress for their students.

Through steadfast effort and wise use of resources, the SCESD has facilitated upgrades to numerous school facilities. Seven school sites have recently expanded outdoor playgrounds, sustainability features, equipment and security systems to enhance the educational experiences of students. The SCESD has assuredly continued its tradition of pursuing projects that increase opportunity for the children of the Salinas Valley.

As the Salinas City Elementary School District celebrates its 150 years as a fundamental component of our community, I am proud to commend them on their continued service to the young scholars of the Central Coast. The schools and teachers within this district have undoubtedly created substantial impacts on the lives of our future leaders. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Salinas City Elementary School District on 150 years of excellence.

HONORING TATE RIGBY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tate Rigby. Tate is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tate has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tate has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tate has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tate partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a trail project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tate for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MELVIN "CORKY" GILLIAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Melvin Gilliam. Mr. Gilliam is a Korean War veteran who served the United States of America honorably.

In 1952, Melvin "Corky" Gilliam said goodbye to his classmates at Chowchilla High and traveled to Fort Ord for induction into the U.S. Army.

Gilliam was designated as a rifleman, and within a short time, he landed at Pusan, Korea. The young private was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division, participating in the Korean War's major battles at Heartbreak Ridge, the Punchbowl, and Sand Bag Castle.

In the following months, the 40th was sent into action along the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) above the 38th Parallel at a place called Sand Bag Castle. The division engaged in heavy fighting, and Private Melvin Gilliam was wounded by shell fragments. While recovering at an aid station, it was discovered that he was only seventeen years old. He was sent to Japan to Camp Drake where he remained until his eighteenth birthday on 4 December 1952. After his return to Korea, Gilliam served as rifleman, carrying the Browning Automatic Rifle and worked as a radio operator with line units.

In July 1953 Gilliam boarded the merchant ship General Miggs for return to the U.S. For the remainder of his three-year enlistment, Gilliam served with the 2nd Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. While at Fort Lewis, his regiment was selected to star in the film "To Hell and Back," the true story of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II. Gilliam was able to meet the soldier-actor, and was honored to be part of the film, acting as a German rifleman. Before leaving active duty, Gilliam would also serve with the 7th Armored and the 44th Infantry Divisions.

Melvin Gilliam was discharged as a corporal and served five more years in the Army Reserve. For his service he was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, United Nations Service Medal, ROK Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. To this day he is very proud to have served his country.

After release from active duty he returned to Chowchilla and worked as a dairyman and in trucking until his retirement. He and his late wife Loretta made their home in Chowchilla. He has four children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He has been active in the community for more than a half-century as a member of the First Baptist Church, Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896, Life Member of American Legion Post 148, a member of the Military Order of the Cooties of the U.S., Lions Club International, Free and Accepted Masons of Chowchilla, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry—32nd Degree, Tehran Shriners, the Noble Nobles Club of Tehran Temple, and E Clampus Vitus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the service of Melvin

Gilliam for his dedication to family and country.

JOHN E. BALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Golden Fire Chief John E. Bales for his many years of service to the City of Golden and surrounding communities.

For almost two decades, Chief Bales has been active within the Golden community and fire department. Chief Bales became Golden Fire Chief in 2001, but his personal passion and a commitment to his community started long before then. For more than 50 years, Chief Bales contributed to several Colorado communities and other communities across the country with positions at the Rocky Flats Fire Department, Genesee Fire Protection District, Cunningham Fire Protection District, City of Thornton Fire Department, and the Wichita Fire Department. His hard work and dedication has helped make our community—and so many others—a great place to live and work.

I extend my deepest thanks to Chief Bales for his service to our community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the people of Colorado.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JACK J. PENDLETON

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton of Yakima, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his service during World War II.

In Germany in 1944, Sergeant Pendleton lost his life while drawing enemy gunfire away from his squad, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor one year later. He is the sole Medal of Honor recipient from Yakima.

I would like to thank U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Ramon Dang. Two years ago, Sergeant Major Dang was touring our state to care for the graves of Medal of Honor recipients when he discovered that Sergeant Pendleton's grave did not include an appropriate memorial. A memorial statue, a 6-foot granite sculpture, was subsequently dedicated at Tahoma Cemetery on September 26th of this year.

Sergeant Pendleton's Medal of Honor citation reads, "[His] sacrifice enabled the entire company to continue the advance and complete their mission at a critical phase of the action." He made the ultimate sacrifice for his brothers-in-arms and our nation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE
GIRL

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize October 11th as the International Day of the Girl, a day to promote girls' empowerment and examine the challenges and barriers girls face around the world. According to the UN High Commission on Refugees, there are approximately 65 million forcibly displaced people worldwide and half are under the age of 18. Prolonged periods away from home result in low school enrollment rates for displaced children, which leaves girls vulnerable to early marriage, human trafficking, and child labor. The Protecting Girl's Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which myself and Congressman CHABOT introduced, aims to ensure educational needs of displaced girls are considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of U.S. foreign assistance. Girls perform better in school when they have access to quality education and a safe space to learn. International Day of the Girl, is a day to reflect on the importance of ensuring all children, especially girls, have access to safe, quality education.

HONORING SAMUEL THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Thomas. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel completed a natural area for the Missouri Department of Conservation outdoor classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to raising awareness and educating folks about breast cancer and

honoring the thousands of women across our nation who have been diagnosed, fighting, or have survived breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. It is the second deadliest cancer among American women. 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer over the course of her lifetime, and it is estimated that this year more than 252,000 cases of invasive breast cancer is expected to be reported. In Texas, 17,566 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018.

In the Second District of Texas, I am proud of our local hospitals, school districts, and non-profits who promote breast cancer awareness and prevention during this month. Many are showing their support by replacing their outdoor light bulb with a pink bulb. I have noticed many front porch lights shining pink around our town. These pink bulbs help support a local nonprofit called Project Mammogram. Project Mammogram offers mammograms and other services free to patients in the Lake Houston area. Remember, not every woman can afford a mammogram. By providing free mammograms this organization has saved thousands of women.

Almost everyone we know has been touched by this disease. Unfortunately, this disease has hit close to home for one of our very own community leaders, Leslie Raffa. Leslie and her husband, Tony, own two restaurants in the Lake Houston area. They are well-loved and respected in the community. Leslie battled breast cancer for over two and a half years, her final treatment was in February 2017. During the course of her treatments, she underwent a bilateral mastectomy, breast reconstruction and chemotherapy. During her battle, Leslie lost her sister to breast cancer in the summer of 2016. Leslie continued to fight while mourning the death of her sister.

Leslie rang the monumental bell at MD Anderson in April of 2016. The bell signifies the end to treatment. Ringing the bell is a celebration. But Leslie soon realized that the end of treatment is not necessarily the end. She thought if she would just get to the end and cross the finish line it would all be over. But she soon discovered an emotional fall out occurs. Cancer is hard mentally. It takes months, years, to recover. She shares this piece of advice for those going through what she went through, "it's ok to have a pity party, but don't unpack and stay there." Leslie exudes positive energy and happiness, even during the lowest moments. She beat the odds that come along with this disease and tries her best to educate those around her to get annual breast exams.

Now this is where I usually say: "And that's just the way it is." But Leslie's story is not over. The same year she completed her last treatment, Hurricane Harvey devastated our area. Raffa's Waterfront Grill was destroyed. Friends and family gathered quickly around them to help rebuild the restaurant that took on 5 feet of water. Leslie didn't flounder in pity and give up; she put on her water boots and gloves (I am sure they are pink) and began the cleanup process. Raffa's will open this year, and our community cannot be any happier for Tony and Leslie. This month Leslie will speak in front of hundreds of folks at the annual In the Pink Luncheon to share her survival story. Stories like Leslie's are an inspiration and a reminder that we must keep up the fight until there is a cure.