

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING CARR & DUFF,  
INC.'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friend Mr. Norcross to honor Carr & Duff, Inc., a family-owned electrical construction company in my district that will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this month. Mr. Norcross worked as a journeyman, foreman, and lead splicer for Carr & Duff, one of his first jobs as an electrician. In fact, he was hired by the company's founders we honor today.

In 1958, Edward Duff and Harold (Hap) Carr were just two linemen who set out to fulfill the electrical construction needs of Philadelphia's burgeoning suburbs. More than half a century later, what started as a single line truck operation has evolved into one of the most prominent electrical contractors in the Greater Philadelphia and Tri-State Area, now employing roughly 200 people.

Though much has changed for Carr & Duff over the past sixty years, much has stayed the same. It's still a family-owned business, now in its second generation, and it's common to see parent and child working alongside one another. The Carr & Duff team is just as committed to giving back to the community as they were some six decades ago, having donated tens of thousands of hours and equipment. They continue to be a vital arm of natural disaster response along the Eastern seaboard, true pillars of the communities they serve. People have always looked to them personally and professionally during times of need. When power is knocked out, Carr and Duff are immediately on the scene. In fact, they carry such a wide array of transformers that even the utility companies turn to them during crunch time.

As leaders of the Blue Collar Caucus, we know that men and women like those employed by Carr & Duff are the backbone of American communities. We celebrate their achievements; their hard work and constant contributions to our districts. We rise today to thank Carr & Duff, Inc. for upholding its commitment to reliable and accessible service while keeping its employees safe—and for all it contributes to Huntingdon Valley, Greater Philadelphia, and New Jersey. We need more companies like Carr & Duff.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW  
HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL AS A  
2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018. Since

1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized public and private schools for academic excellence. Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School is an exceptional center for learning and preparing students for all stages of life. I'd like to congratulate the teachers and staff of Brecksville-Broadview Heights for creating an environment where students can excel. As a father of three children, I believe there is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. Most of all, I'd like to congratulate the hard-working students for a job well done. I am proud to have such an example of academic excellence in Northeast Ohio and I congratulate Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School on this well-deserved recognition.

2018 ANGELS IN ADOPTION

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary individuals from my district—James and Angie Sessions—who opened their hearts to foster care and adoption.

I was proud to nominate James and Angie as "Angels in Adoption," an award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. It recognizes individuals, couples, and organizations who improve the lives of children in need of families.

The Sessions family is more than deserving of this recognition. After learning about foster care at a local church camp for children in state custody, James and Angie were inspired to become foster parents. While they were providing foster care for four siblings—three young brothers and their baby sister—James and Angie were determined to keep the siblings together.

In August of 2017, the Sessions family grew from 2 to 6 when Ajay, Nathan, Kyler, and Layla found their forever home with James and Angie in Pasco, Washington.

Thank you, James and Angie, for your love and dedication to children in Central Washington.

HONORING JUSTIN MCHENRY

**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 Justin McHenry. Justin 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.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin 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, Justin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Justin painted hand rails around the First United Methodist Church in Kirksville, MO.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin 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  
RONALD E. LAWSON

**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 Ronald E. Lawson. Mr. Lawson honorably served in the United States Army for twenty years, touring in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

Ronald "Ron" E. Lawson was born in Los Angeles and, in 1959, at age seventeen, he enlisted in the Army, completing his basic training at Fort Ord. He was then sent to Korea as a member of the 1st Cavalry with duties in the DMZ. Upon completion of his tour, he was posted to Germany, serving five years with the First ARB 46th Infantry and the 24th Infantry Division.

After returning to the US as a weapons instructor, Ron was called up for his second tour in Korea, this time serving a year with the famed 7th Cavalry with the 2nd Infantry Division at the DMZ.

Ron was later selected to attend the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, earning the distinction of Honor Graduate. After graduation, Ron was deployed to Vietnam as part of Military Assistance Command. He worked with South Vietnamese Regional Forces in the Central Highlands of II Corps, providing instruction and tactical advice to regional soldiers, accompanying them on jungle operations.

After twelve months in Vietnam, Ron assumed duties as a drill sergeant for new recruits at Fort Ord, later returning to Germany as operations sergeant with the 1st Armored Division. He deployed in 1961 and 1964 for the Berlin Crisis and to Greece and Cyprus in 1962. He once more returned to Fort Ord to serve with the 7th Light Infantry Division.

After twenty years of service, Ron retired with the rank of First Sergeant. For his service, Ron Lawson was awarded the Bronze Star, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Army of Occupation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. Additionally, Ron received six letters of commendation and was selected Drill Sergeant of the Year.

After retirement from the Army, Ron and his family settled in Chowchilla, California. Working as a maintenance supervisor, Ron served on the City of Chowchilla Planning Commission for twenty-one years. He is a Life Member and past commander of VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148. Ron attends St. Columba Catholic Church and is a member of the Young Men's Institute. Ron and his wife, Mathilde, have two children and two grandchildren.

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

Lawson for his dedication to his family and his country.

COME AND TAKE IT: GONZALES,  
TEXAS, 1835

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the phrase “Come and Take It” is known and cherished by all Texans. You’ll see it emblazoned on t-shirts, bumper stickers, and glassware, and some businesses and organizations have adapted it to fit into their mottos and slogans.

But these four words were not the creation of an advertising firm or a campaign communications shop. No, this phrase comes from a critical chapter in the history of Texas.

The year was 1835. Independence from Mexico was on the mind of Texans, and discussions had already begun to create a new nation free from the tyrannical government of Santa Anna in Mexico City. Santa Anna’s government had begun to trample on the rights of Texans, who then became resolved to stand up to him.

An opportunity presented itself in October 1835 when a band of Mexican soldiers under

the command of Fernando Castaneda were dispatched to Gonzales. The Mexican government had been informed that the settlers there were refusing to give up a cannon given to the town to defend the settlers from Indian attacks. The settlers responded to requests to return the cannon to the Mexican army with strong words that only a Texian would utter: “come and take it.” So Domingo de Ugartechea, military commander of Texas, believing the settlers words were bluster, ordered Castaneda and his men to retrieve it.

Well, Santa Anna never did learn the lessons of history. If he had, he might have remembered that things did not go well for King George when he tried to disarm the colonists in Massachusetts and he maybe would have thought twice about marching his henchman up to Texas.

When Castaneda arrived at Gonzales, he found his path blocked by a ford and eighteen determined militiamen. Attempting to trick his way past the guards, he declared that he had a message for Andrew Ponton, the local alcalde. The militiamen informed him that Ponton was not in Gonzales and would have to wait on the other side of the river until he returned. As the Mexican troops set up camp, the Texans scrambled to alert the surrounding area and bring more volunteers into the town to defend it from an impending Mexican attack.

The militiamen, who came to be known as the Old Eighteen, bought valuable time for the town and for Texas. Indeed, the presence of incoming volunteers forced Castaneda to abandon his campsite at the river and move seven miles to the west. Bolstered with reinforcements and a growing confidence, the Texans under the command of John Moore found the Mexican camp and attacked. Stunned and outgunned, Castaneda ordered a withdrawal to Bexar, thus marking the first victory won against Mexico in the fight for independence.

It was during this battle that the phrase “Come and Take It” took on its significance. During the battle, the Texans marched under a new flag that featured the Lone Star, a cannon representing the one under guard in Gonzales, and the words “Come and Take It.” Today, Texans take pride in this enduring symbol of the Texan spirit, and if you happen to walk past my office window in Washington, you will see this flag proudly displayed next to the Lone Star flag.

Mr. Speaker, in Texas, we have a long tradition of fighting against oppression and tyranny. So when our enemies come knocking on our doors again threatening our freedom, let them remember these words: Come and Take It.

And that is just the way it is.