

GREEN BERET SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS CALVIN B. HARRISON
COLDSRING, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Green Berets are a special type of soldier. You have to be the best of the best: smart, tough, and an almost supernatural strength of will. Their qualification and training process is the toughest in the business—not just anyone can be a Green Beret. Everything is tested, from your language ability to physical fitness to your most basic but most difficult task: survival. They push you to your max and when you are just about to break, they push you harder. The training is so hard because they know what you are going to face: impossible, top-secret missions that must be done. But when you get through it all you have a physical and mental toughness that can survive even the most extreme conditions. You are not just a soldier—you are a true warrior.

That's what Sergeant First Class Calvin B. Harrison was: a true warrior. Harrison's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral three, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Born in the small town of Coldspring, Texas, on March 11, 1979, Calvin had a big heart from a young age. He was always looking out for other people, trying to do what was right to the best of his ability. The son of Jack Washington and Betty Harrison, he was the 4th of 6 kids. His siblings are Demetric, Diane, Debra, Stephanie, and Zacchaeus.

He was also a relentlessly hard-worker. When he was a child, he helped his grandfather do yard work around town. His grandfather even taught him to drive. He was close to his family and loved them very much. One day, when Calvin was working at Country Groceries, a customer walked in, looked him right in the eye and said "You're never gonna be nothin." Calvin would remember that moment the rest of his life, even recalling to his dad the last time he was home.

In high school, Calvin turned his work ethic toward sports. He was an all-around athlete, playing basketball, football, and tennis. When he graduated in 1998, he followed in his grandfather's footsteps and signed up for the Army. He loved being a soldier, said his father, Jack Washington. He was a true patriot who wanted to serve his country.

In 2007, Sgt. Harrison became a Green Beret. His 7th Special Forces Group was very close. They had all gone through the same rigorous training and knew that when their lives depended on it, they could trust each other.

Each team member had a role. For Sgt. Harrison, this was Medical Sergeant. Special Forces Medical Sergeants are considered to

be the finest first-response medical technicians in the world. When his fellow soldier went down, it was Sgt. Harrison that jumped to his rescue. His comrades knew at a very practical level that their lives were in his hands.

The Green Beret motto is "De oppresso liber" which means to liberate the oppressed. That is exactly what Sgt. Harrison was doing as a part of the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Afghanistan. Sgt. Harrison couldn't talk too much about his top secret job, but he didn't mind. He was never one to talk about himself too much. He just did it. It wasn't special to him. He just did the best he could with everything he tried.

It was his second tour and mission that Sgt. Harrison would give his life for. He was killed by small arms fire on September 29, 2010 in Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

"He died what he loved doing," said his father. "I'm very proud of him, and I told him that all the time." Sgt. Harrison left behind two precious daughters, Azalia and Eleanna.

David Lloyd George, a former British Prime Minister, once said, "The stern hand of fate has scourged us to an elevation where we can see the great everlasting things that matter for a nation; the great peaks of honor we had forgotten—duty and patriotism, clad in glittering white; the great pinnacle of sacrifice pointing like a rugged finger to heaven." Sgt. Harrison climbed up both of those peaks—honor and duty—and now we can look up to heaven with gratitude and thanks for his eternal reminder that freedom is not free. Texas is proud to have called him a soldier, a son, and a hero.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE ARLAN MEEKHOF

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Arlan Meekhof and his admirable career in public service to the West Michigan Community.

A lifelong resident of West Michigan, Arlan has earned the admiration of his colleagues and the respect of Ottawa County residents by consistently acting with decency and integrity. An accomplished legislator, Senator Meekhof has cemented a legacy of public service and servant leadership throughout the state of Michigan.

First elected to the Olive Township Board of Trustees in 1996, Senator Meekhof has continued to serve the people of West Michigan for over two decades. In 2007, he began his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives and was elected assistant leader by his colleagues in January 2009. In November of 2010 he was elected to the State Senate in the 30th State Senate District, representing Ottawa County and the City of Grandville and Sparta Township in Kent County. Following his 2014 reelection to the State Senate, he was unanimously elected to be Senate Majority leader—displaying the respect Senator Meekhof has cultivated during his career.

In his eight years serving in the Michigan Senate, he has been a commendable leader

that ensured on-time and balanced budgets. His leadership contributed and played a key role to the elimination of a billion dollar state deficit. During his time in both the House and Senate, he promoted efficient and effective government reforms that played a significant role in transforming Michigan into a destination for families, businesses and the next generation of leaders.

Today, October 16, 2018, we honor and recognize Senator Arlan Meekhof for his two-decades long career. The efforts and success of Senator Arlan Meekhof in service to his community should be celebrated. I thank him for a lifetime of hard work and service.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN AND LLOYD WILSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marilyn and Lloyd Wilson of Atlantic, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 7, 1958 at the First Presbyterian Church in Griswold, Iowa.

Marilyn and Lloyd's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on the occasion of its 150th—or sesquicentennial—celebration. Located in the heart of Detroit, Wayne State University is ranked among our nation's best research institutions, educates over 27,000 students among 13 schools and colleges, and is the eighth-largest employer in the city of Detroit.

In addition to educating and training leaders in research, the arts, law, and medicine, Wayne State University has for over 150 years, consistently served the people of Detroit, the great state of Michigan and our nation. Wayne State University began, and has remained, in Detroit—a city that has seen the highest heights and the deepest depths, and is now reinventing the very definition of the great American city.

Through the tireless work and effort of its first university president, Dr. Edward W.

Jenks, to the current president Dr. M. Roy Wilson, Wayne State University is the embodiment of public service and access to education. Under the direction of Dr. Wilson, Wayne State University has dramatically increased its overall six-year graduation rate, with African American graduation rates double what they were just a few years ago. Today, Wayne State University attracts, and is composed of, many of the best and brightest students and researchers, with an excellent team of administration, faculty, and staff professionals. They remain firmly rooted in the community while preparing their diverse student body to impact locally and globally making the university a thriving hub of innovation and academia.

Wayne State University has also cemented its status as a leading research institution and a champion for women and children in our nation. In fact, Wayne State University is the only site outside of Bethesda, Maryland, that houses a branch of the National Institutes of Health. Thanks to the Perinatology Research Branch, over 20,000 women, children, and families have received access to world-class prenatal health care that they might not have otherwise been able to access.

Through the Integrative Biosciences Center (IBio), the University is reimagining the way science approaches urban health issues. IBio was named the 2017 Renovated Laboratory of the Year by R&D Magazine and Laboratory Design. This 127,000-square-foot, \$90 million facility is dedicated to studying and eliminating the many health disparities that plague residents of Detroit and communities across the country. IBio includes faculty with expertise in environmental sciences, bio and systems engineering, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and bio-behavioral health. Opened this fall, the Mike Ilitch School of Business, further expands the Wayne State campus into The District Detroit while adding academic programs in the business of sports and entertainment.

The mission of Wayne State University is to create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities. I congratulate and thank Wayne State University's student body, Board of Governors, President M. Roy Wilson, faculty and administrators for living out the passion and principle of their mission statement. Reaching their 150th anniversary is a milestone, and I eagerly look forward to what the University accomplishes in its next 150 years.

Wayne State University has been, is and will always be Warrior Strong.

HONORING BRAD BYLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brad Byler. Brad 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 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brad has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Brad 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, Brad has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brad 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 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Groundwater Authority on celebrating their 20th anniversary and their continued commitment to managing water resources in the Sacramento region.

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) was formed in 1998 to manage the groundwater basin located north of the American River and is made up of the major water agencies and water users in the region. One of the first groundwater management agencies of its kind, SGA's work has been instrumental to implementing the Water Forum Agreement of 2000 which aims to provide a reliable and safe water supply for Sacramento through 2030. SGA is committed to balancing the use of groundwater and surface water to meet regional needs, while reducing water diversions from the American River to protect the natural resources of the Sacramento community during times of dry water years.

Over the last 20 years, SGA has coordinated with other authorities in the region to protect groundwater quality. Their achievements include developing and implementing a Groundwater Management Plan, and creating the Water Accounting Framework, which developed conjunctive use and groundwater banking programs that enhance the sustainability of the basin.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Sacramento Groundwater Authority for the great service it provides to Sacramento County and the State of California as they celebrate 20 years of operation. I wish them well in their continued efforts to provide quality water resource management for our region.

RECOGNIZING JAMES MALONEY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania who recently became a finalist in a national education grant contest.

James Maloney, a teacher at Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, becomes one step closer to the \$100,000 education grant that is sponsored to fund meaningful projects in local schools and communities. If selected, James plans on creating a "living classroom" that en-

ables students to grow plants and cultivate produce. This is particularly beneficial for food pantries, which will benefit from the vegetables grown. It will also serve as a hands-on learning experience for students with special needs to gain valuable life skills.

I applaud James for his dedication to his students and our community. I wish him all the best in his quest for this important grant.

HONORING SALINA EDWARDS WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Salina Edwards as a woman of the year. She is an unflinchingly energetic and optimistic advocate for her community. A reliable source of determination and persistence, Ms. Edwards has always made it a priority to better the lives of those around her by asking the tough questions and delving into the minutia of an issue before determining the best possible course for the citizens she serves. After a distinguished fourteen-year career with the Glenn County Superior Court, she still had a desire to serve and decided to run for office. In addition to her role as Councilwoman, her wide range of duties and responsibilities for the city include the Waste Management Board, the Glenn County Local Agency Formation Commission, the Orland Library Commission, the Glenn County Transportation Committee, and the Glenn County Regional Transportation Committee. Ms. Edwards is a caring and mindful public servant devoted to every aspect of her community, when she isn't focused on fulfilling her duties as a Councilwoman, she can be found pitching in for the Orland Bee City Committee and the Orland Queen Bee City of North America. Her unfailing enthusiasm and dedicated spirit make her a highly visible presence in the community, whether volunteering for local Kiwanis club events or pitching in at the Orland Food Pantry. Ms. Edwards is devoted community servant whose positive impact cannot be overstated.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN AND GENE MULKINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marilyn and Gene Mulkins of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 14, 2018.

Marilyn and Gene's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them