

Who all along the way touched every woman,  
child, and man with your grace  
And became The Father of All Letter Writers  
through the decades at such a prolific  
pace  
With your photographic memory where nothing  
erased  
A real American hero who the accolades  
upon him would not let them place  
An a American sportsman of the highest  
order, as competition and fun as ever  
you chased  
As you and your buddy Arnold stressed, the  
importance of fitness to our children to  
embrace  
And being around and on the sea, your soul  
was so graced  
While, in your boat like a bat out of hell all  
around Kennebunkport you raced  
Jumping out of a helicopter at 90 as Father  
Time could not keep pace  
Born of wealth, privilege, and prestige you  
could have led a life of such ease paced  
Raised by a great Mother and Father who  
watched, their work of art to public  
service race  
And like the cowboy and pioneer you were  
and became, out to the West with your  
Bar to your new love TEXAS as oilman  
to stake your claim  
And after great success realizing that it was  
in public service your heart should remain  
Rising up to Congress, Vice President, to  
President to be the best not looking for  
fame  
With your life's creed of God, Family, and  
Country became your life's refrain  
As A Man For All Seasons, for so many reasons  
your lessons to all of our children  
we must train  
Part of the greatest generation as a warrior  
Saving The World as back home you  
came  
As you were always A Man On A Mission, to  
bless our Nation and World with your  
wise decisions, time and again  
And now George it is time  
Rise, rise up to heaven with tears in your  
eyes  
As the love of your life Barbara, and your  
precious little girl Robin you'll find  
"Daddy its been so long" and Bar says "now  
were all together where we belong"  
And don't worry George you don't have to  
eat broccoli in heaven all day long  
That's the other place where the bad ones belong  
As our Lord says,  
"George, and you never let me down",  
"I'm so glad I pulled you From The Sea  
where I found, on the wings of a dove"  
Rise, up to heaven my son  
At Ease your time on earth is done  
As a new Angel in The Army of Our Lord in  
heaven mission has just begun  
RISE, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED my son

#### HONORING JOHN HATTER

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, John Hatter, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

John has been on our team from the very beginning, serving as our Director of Constituent Services. In this role, John is responsible for managing our constituent services program, coordinating the 6th Congressional

District Veterans Advisory Committee, and leading the 6th Congressional District Military Service Academy Nomination Board, which nominates young Hoosiers to serve at the United States Military Service Academies.

On a personal note, I admire John's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. He has been a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt John's future is very bright. I want to thank John for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him, Katia, and the kids continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

#### COLORADO YOUNG FARMERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association (CYFEA). Since its founding, the organization has strongly supported Coloradans who are involved or interested in the agricultural industry.

CYFEA provides industry cooperation, educational programs, community service and recreational opportunities for all individuals. With upwards of 200 members, the organization provides resources for producers and consumers. A half-century after its inception CYFEA continues to honor Colorado's rich agricultural roots.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association. We look forward to their continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING DOWNTOWN AURORA VISUAL ARTS

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize Downtown Aurora Visual Arts. This non-profit organization located in my hometown of Aurora, Colorado provides art education courses for students of all ages. Originally founded in 1993, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts has become a place for children and young people to fuel their creativity and to develop character through an artistic avenue.

For the younger artists, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts' OASIS Studio program introduces them to pottery, sculpture, and a variety of other art projects. Doing so allows their imagination to grow. The development of imagination is incredibly important to the overall development of children. Such programs are especially important after school and during the summer months when children are not in school.

Another program, 'Job Training in the Arts' familiarizes middle and high school students with the critical workforce skills needed to succeed in a real job. It emphasizes teamwork, respect, personal responsibility, and the devel-

opment of problem-solving skills in the workplace. The programs that Downtown Aurora Visual Arts provides promote positive youth development and encourage students to address issues and concepts that personally impact them.

I am very proud to note that Downtown Aurora Visual Arts was awarded the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. This award serves as the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts and humanities programs focused on America's young people. Additionally, I would like to recognize the leadership of the Executive Director Susan Jensen who was awarded 2018 Arts and Society Award from the Bonfils Stanton Foundation.

Organizations like Downtown Aurora Visual Arts help make the city of Aurora, and our greater community the wonderful place it is today. I am honored to salute Downtown Aurora Visual Arts' achievements and look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING SEAN KOTARO O'NEILL

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to U.S. Foreign Service Officer Sean O'Neill for his service as a Department of State Fellow on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I commend Sean for his many years of faithful service to our nation and his work on our Committee during the 114th and 115th Congresses. Sean has strengthened America's national security, enhanced the relationship between the Congress and the Department of State, and reflected credit upon the United States Foreign Service.

Sean made substantial contributions to our efforts to address the most significant foreign policy issues facing our nation. From combating transnational crime and terrorism to defending democracy and human rights around the world, Sean's experience and judgment have been invaluable in helping craft sound policies to promote our national security and economic prosperity.

Sean has also been an effective advocate for the brave men and women of the Department of State who serve our country honorably around the world. Since the founding of our country, our diplomats have served America in some of the most difficult and dangerous places on earth. Sean has heightened the Committee's understanding of the important and difficult work our diplomats do and enhanced our oversight of the Department and its critical national security mission.

Sean combines a keen eye for strategic policy and practitioner's understanding of how to effectively implement that policy. He has earned the respect of Members of Congress and staff and developed enduring working relationships across Capitol Hill. It has been a pleasure to have Sean serve on my staff and I wish him well as he continues his service to our nation.

2007 DEPLOYMENT OF MARINE  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK  
FORCE**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that on March 4, 2007 the first deployment of a Marine Special Operations Task Force to combat in Afghanistan was conducting a combat reconnaissance patrol in the village of Bati Kot, Afghanistan near the Afghan-Pakistan border when they were attacked by enemy forces who used a car bomb and a complex ambush consisting of groups of fighters on both sides of the road and a sniper element. The Marines courageously counter-attacked the enemy with accurate firepower and immediately reported the situation from the ambush site using satellite radio and data transmissions to their special operations command center as was factually proven through eye-witness testimony during legal proceedings.

The most significant element of this engagement was the fact that the Marine unit did not choose the battlefield. As so often has happened, the terrorist element who attacked the Marines intentionally chose to launch their ambush while in an area where many non-combatants would be put in grave danger. The terrorists were hiding behind innocent residents knowing many would be caught in the crossfire.

The Marines smartly departed the ambush site after five minutes and continued to receive enemy gunfire and sniper fire from multiple enemy positions. Twenty minutes following the attack the Marines returned to their patrol base and were informed that reports of Ma-

rines murdering Afghan civilians including women and children had already been announced in the international media. These reports of Marines committing civilian atrocities swiftly grew in the international media and a command investigation was ordered by the Commanding General of the Special Operations Command Central in Tampa, Florida. Only one day following the arrival of the command investigator who had heard testimony from only ten Marines who were on the patrol the entire Marine Special Operations Task Force consisting of 120 personnel were ordered out of Afghanistan and faced a criminal investigation led by Naval Criminal Investigation Services into accusations of negligent homicide.

The Marines returned home in disgrace, several were relieved of their duties prior to the investigation being completed and were subject to greater slander by the international media of a war crime that alleged killing 19 Afghan civilians and wounding 50 Afghan civilians without ever having any prima facie evidence of a bullet, a body or even a photograph of a murdered Afghan.

NCIS' investigation lasted over one year and utilized techniques that centered on strong arm tactics against two Marine witnesses of Latino ethnicity to include repeated coercion and false threats made against their families and careers if they did not comply with their unlawful requests for taking an "ordered" polygraphs and signing NCIS' prepared witness statements.

Seven of these Marines who were falsely accused of war crimes were continually vilified in the press, families and careers were ruined from countless statements in the press for over one year after the alleged massacre took place. Over four months following a 3.5 week courtroom trial the Marine Corps Central Command released a short statement that, "the

Marines 'acted appropriately' according to the rules of engagement and tactics, techniques and procedures for a complex ambush." This statement enraged many Afghans and led to rioting in Afghanistan meanwhile the press continued to print libelous statements for eight more years accusing the Marines of having committed these crimes and not being punished. However, the Marines continued to serve their Corps and faithfully deployed to combat in Afghanistan and other locations overseas, with these repeated libelous statements being written and believed as facts in the media, books and many military senior commands.

The effects were devastating to the seven Marines health (including fighting cancer and diabetes), destroying marriages and the careers of these Marines who continued to faithfully serve.

It is time that the record be clearly be told that the Marines from the first Marine Special Operations Task Force were proven in court to have been attacked by enemy forces and the Marines fought with courage as they killed enemy forces, immediately and accurately reported the events to their command and were subsequently unethically interrogated by NCIS and in the media using methods that caused permanent destruction to their health, families and careers.

These reports of war crimes were unsubstantiated, and these Marines deserve to be recognized for their courage as they encountered the enemy who inflicted the first casualty on a U.S. Marine from the Marine Special Operations Command and these Marines all deserve their God given rights to pursue happiness and not suffer the professional embarrassment of these false accusations of war crimes.