

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF OPERATION RED WINGS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory and sacrifice of the nineteen heroes who gave their lives thirteen years ago in Operation Red Wings.

On June 28, 2005, four members of Navy SEAL Team 10—Danny Dietz, Matthew Axelson, Marcus Luttrell, and Michael P. Murphy—were tasked with killing or capturing the high-ranking Taliban official, Ahmad Shah, in the Hindu-Kush Mountains of Afghanistan.

Shortly after encountering a small group of Afghani goat herders, hostile Taliban forces discovered the SEALs' presence and began converging on their position. An intense fire-fight ensued, in which three of the four SEALs tragically lost their lives.

Responding to the battle, an MH-47 Chinook helicopter and the 160th Special Operations Aviation's Regiment "Nightstalkers" were dispatched to rescue the team—only to be shot down by Taliban forces armed with an RPG. As a result, all sixteen men on board the Chinook—Chris J. Scherkenbach, Corey J. Goodnature, Daniel R. Healy, Erik S. Kristensen, Jacques J. Fontan, James E. Suh, James W. Ponder III, Jeffery A. Lucas, Jeffrey S. Taylor, Kip A. Jacoby, Marcus V. Muralles, Michael L. Russell, Michael M. McGreevy, Jr., Shamus O. Goare, Shane E. Patton, Stephen C. Reich—were killed. The lone survivor of the mission, Marcus Luttrell, lives on to share the amazing story of the mission and the heroic actions that took place.

Tragically, nineteen brave heroes made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country during Operation Red Wings. They selflessly fulfilled their duty and defended our Nation in a time of war, and it is our responsibility to preserve the memory of their sacrifice. Their steadfast service, dedication to country, and the honorable sacrifices they made will never be forgotten. They stood where duty required them to stand, and we are forever grateful for their selflessness.

These men continue to inspire their friends, families, loved ones, and the millions of people around the world who hear the story of their heroic actions. I am privileged to recognize and honor the service of these American heroes who laid down their lives for our great Nation.

CONGRATULATING KATIE MILLER ON BEING NAMED 2018 OUTSTANDING JUNIOR BY THE ILLINOIS BEEF ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katie Miller of Cambridge, Illinois, who was named the 2018 Outstanding Junior of the Year by the Illinois Beef Association.

Katie Miller has excelled on campus at Western Illinois University, where she recently completed her junior year. Her studies in agricultural sciences with an emphasis on animal science were inspired by the time she spent alongside her grandparents working with beef producers. Following the completion of her undergraduate work, she plans to pursue a graduate degree in ruminant nutrition or meat science, while partnering on the farm with her grandparents. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Miller is the Vice President of the Illinois Junior Beef Association Board and has held various other local and state leadership positions with the Illinois Beef Association further demonstrating her qualifications for this award.

It is because of dedicated citizens like Katie Miller that I proudly serve the people of the 17th District of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally congratulate Katie Miller on her outstanding achievement and journey into agricultural science.

HONORING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS FROM CORNING PAINTED POST EAST AND WEST HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vietnam War veterans from the Corning Painted Post East and West High School Class of 1968. Nine million Americans, approximately 7.2 million living today, served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the United States involvement in Vietnam between November 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975. When they returned home, our soldiers faced a hostile political climate and received less than a welcome home. These men and women deserve the recognition due for being among the 1.3% of veterans who have served their country honorably in time of war.

Between Painted Post East High School and Painted Post West High School, more than sixty brave men from the graduating class of 1968 served in our military during the Vietnam War. These men answered the call to duty and served their country honorably, yet when they returned home they received little for a welcome home. As the Corning Painted

Post East and West High School Class of 1968 gathers after more than forty-five years to officially welcome these men home, I would like to recognize them for their service to our nation.

Serving in the Army: Robert Brooder, Kent DeCamp, Bill Kane, Francis Killigrew, Michael Wilcox, Patrick Boland, Tom Bosket, Nicholas Cavallaro, Larry Cleveland, Herman DeMonstoy, Ron Faulisi, Joseph Ferratella, Mark Howell, Joseph Kosty, Joseph Maglioca, Fred Panyard, Philip Spart, Joseph Stamilio, Charles Stebbins, Lew Tyler, and Alan Van Etten.

Serving in the Navy: Donald Twist, Walter Delap, Robert Kent, Larry Ketchum, Alan Lambert, Gary Moshier, David Scott, and Preston Perry.

Serving in the Air Force: George Audinwood, Ford Butler, Craig Burrell, Ray Copp, Jessie Glosser, Daniel Henyan, and Bobby Preset.

Serving in the Marines: Dana Eckel, Michael Horvat, and Kent Rawcliffe.

Serving the Department of Defense: Douglas Taft.

Also serving in our military: Gerald Cleveland, Dale French, Michael Hoyt, Randy Little, David Pierce, Gary Rosa, Bobby Winslow, Mike Wray, Ken Byington, Melvin Calkins, Steven Duvall, Martin Geyer, Bill Hager, Steven Kenyon, Alan Mullikan, David Peris, James Pierson, John Poland, Lon Reid, Teny Snyder, and Donald Wead.

We thank you for your sacrifice and service. Welcome home.

Given the above, I ask that this legislative body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor these men who bravely served our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call vote 306. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306.

CONGRATULATING GERHARDT PERRY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Agent Gerhardt Perry on his retirement from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

For the past 20 years, Agent Perry has served our country as an Air Interdiction Agent

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in the Plattsburgh Air Unit, where his duties included patrolling the northern border from above and supporting officers on the ground. He has participated in countless successful missions, including the manhunt for the Dannemora prison escapees in 2015. In addition to his patrol duties, Agent Perry gave back to his unit by serving as an instructor pilot, passing on his skills and expertise to the next generation of pilots. A true public servant, Agent Perry served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years before his career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He has given so much to this country, and his lifelong service is truly admirable.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank Agent Perry for his years of hard work. He has shown true dedication to his community and country, and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HALL ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, beloved and iconic member of the Hoosier community, John Hall, who is retiring as the Indianapolis Field Office Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Indiana (HUD). During his time at HUD, John worked tirelessly to improve the living conditions, neighborhoods, and quality of life for residents across the State of Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for John's contributions to our Hoosier community, and it is my privilege to honor him today.

A native Hoosier, John was raised in Indianapolis where he attended Shortridge High School and later graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor's of Social Science. After earning his undergraduate degree, John pursued graduate studies at both Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and DePauw University. He then began his career teaching history and government at Arsenal Technical High School. Passionate about community youth, John coached freshman track and was the trainer for the Arsenal Tech sports program. Dedicated to making a difference through education, John directed the Minority Engineering Advancement Program (MEAP) and later became an administrator at the Purdue University School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI.

In addition to his career in education, John served as a senior aide to Senator Richard Lugar for 15 years. Under Senator Lugar, he managed a vast portfolio of issues, including education, economic development, small business, and special projects. As Assistant State Director, John worked with key Indiana staff members on domestic and international issues, specifically focusing on African affairs. He later served as Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis for three years under Mayor Stephen

Goldsmith. Under his leadership, John helped facilitate the Mayor's education forums, the Front Porch Alliance, faith-based initiative, welfare-to-work initiative, small and minority business development, affordable housing, and inner city retail and race relations issues. During my time as Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis, I had the unique opportunity to work side by side with John to help lead our city. A true public servant, John then became the Director of Neighborhood Relations for the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County in 2000.

In 2002 John became the first African-American Indianapolis Field Office Director in the history of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As Field Office Director, John met with various mayors, housing authority executives, and community development professionals throughout the State of Indiana. His communication skills and deep experience were instrumental in gaining a better understanding of the strengths and challenges presented in communities across the state of Indiana. Personal knowledge of neighborhood issues allowed him to understand the importance of a safe, stable living environment, with available opportunities for home ownership. Responsible for leading the Indianapolis field office and offices in Gary, Indiana, John oversaw over 87 HUD employees. Under his leadership, the Indianapolis office encouraged homeownership, refinanced FHA mortgages for affordable housing, and doubled its homeownership outreach, especially among minorities. This led to administering more than 460 million in grant dollars across Indiana communities.

John's impact on his community goes far beyond his work at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as evidenced by his service on the boards of the Fund for Hoosier Excellence, the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, and the Greater Indianapolis Health Foundation. He also served as a chairman for the Greater Indy Neighborhoods Initiative, Co-Chair of the Civic Engagement segment of the Community Revitalization Summit, Trustee of the Indianapolis Building Authority, and member of the Marion County Sheriff's Merit Board and Indianapolis Human Rights Commission. A man of faith, John currently serves as the Staff Parish Team Leader at Barnes United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

In the public and private sector, John has been honored with numerous awards. He notably received the 2007 Outstanding Black Alumnus from Ball State University, the 2006 Award for Public Service from the Indiana Black Expo, the 2005 President's Award from Ball State University's Black Alumni Constituent Society, and the award for Excellence in Public Health from Indiana's State Health Commissioner in 2004. He was also honored with the Ball State Benny Award in 2004, Drum Major Award in Community Service by the Circle City Frontiers of Indianapolis in 2000, and the Achievement in Public Service Award by the Center for Leadership Development in 1997.

John has made a remarkable impression on his community and the lives of his friends, family, and colleagues. He has truly left a legacy of service at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and beyond

that will be built upon for years to come. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate John Hall on his extraordinary career and extend my gratitude for all the wonderful contributions he has made to our Hoosier community. While I know John will be missed at HUD, I wish the very best to him, his two sons and the rest of his family as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT BROWNING'S RETIREMENT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and trusted spiritual advisor, Dr. Robert "Bob" Browning, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Frankfort, Kentucky, upon his retirement after dedicating his life to nearly 50 years of faithful ministry.

My bride, Cynthia, and I were honored to have Dr. Browning officiate our wedding in 1999. He blessed the beginning of our marriage with an eloquent ceremony about the unmatched value of love, devotion and thanksgiving. We have held his words close to our hearts each day and uphold Dr. Browning with the highest esteem.

He was also my beloved Pastor at the Somerset First Baptist Church, where he served our community for 16 years. Dr. Browning shared the Word of God with great boldness, discipling young Christians and shepherding his flock with enduring wisdom. I have always been inspired by his passion to serve and share the Gospel of Jesus. Just as the Bible instructs us to do, Dr. Browning has cared for the widows and the poor, visited the sick, mourned with the broken-hearted, and rejoiced with those in times of celebration.

Dr. Browning was licensed and ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the First Baptist Church of Greenville after diligently studying at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. While most of his ministry was dedicated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, he also ministered in Atlanta, Georgia for 13 years. From 1994 to 1995, he served as President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

As noted in his biography, "Dr. Browning is proud of his Baptist heritage and works with other Baptists through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to spread the Gospel, build bridges of goodwill and understanding among all people, promote the cause of justice and meet the needs of those who are struggling."

He and his wife, Jackie, have been a tremendous blessing to families and individuals across Kentucky, and I extend my deepest gratitude for their friendship and counsel over the years. As they enter into retirement, Cynthia and I pray the years ahead are filled with exceeding peace and joy along with their three children and five grandchildren.