

J. Tominac on 12 September in Vesoul. Among the Distinguished Service Cross recipients was a young SSG in the 15th Infantry Regiment, Audie Murphy, whose action came near Ramatuelle on 15 August and who would go on to become the most-decorated soldier and best-known soldier of WWII. Other Medal of Honor recipients were 2LT Stephen R. Gregg from the 36th Infantry Division on 27 August near Montélimar and 2LT Almond E. Fisher of the 45th Infantry Division on 12–13 September near Grammont.

Unit awards included Presidential Unit Citations to the following 3rd Infantry Division units: 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment for its performance in Montélimar on 27 August embroidered Montélimar and the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment for Besançon 6–7 September embroidered Besançon; and to the 36th Infantry Division the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry 15–16 August embroidered Southern France and the 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment 26–29 August for fighting embroidered Montélimar; and Cannon Company, 442nd Infantry Regiment for the full campaign embroidered Southern France.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in congratulating and thanking the surviving veterans of Operation Dragoon and the Southern France Campaign on the occasion of the upcoming 75th anniversary of this highly successful operation which liberated Southern France and played a critical role in the Allied victory in Europe in WWII.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALPHAPOINTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kansas City's Alphapointe for their 108 years of service to the blind and visually impaired community. For the last century, Alphapointe has worked to empower those without sight to live independent and fulfilling lives. The organization stands out as our country's third largest single employer of individuals experiencing vision loss, providing meaningful jobs to over four-hundred people across their nine locations.

Alphapointe traces its roots to Labor Day of 1911, when thirty advocates for the blind gathered in Kansas City's Budd Park to "promote the social intercourse and general welfare of those without sight," leading to the establishment of the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City. Present at this gathering were Eugene E. Condon and his sister, Catherine Hale. Determined to overcome his own vision loss, Condon had enrolled at the Nebraska Institute for the Blind in 1900, a residential school that taught blind individuals the skills needed to lead independent lives. Inspired by the transformative impact that the institution had on her brother, Hale set out to prove that people without sight were fully capable of supporting themselves when presented with opportunity.

Indeed, it was this campaign that led Hale to accompany her brother to the rally in Budd Park, and when she helped the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City incorporate as the Kansas City Association for the Blind in

1916, Hale did so to create an organization centered around the concept of helping the blind help themselves. Now at the helm of what would later be renamed Alphapointe, Hale immediately took action to address the rampant unemployment and lack of opportunity available for those throughout the city experiencing vision loss. At the time, a mere sixteen industrial programs existed in the United States that trained and employed blind individuals, but Hale knew that those without sight need not rely only on charity. Hale's brother, for example, went on to attend the Palmer School of Chiropractic while Alphapointe's Vice President, Hayes Brooks, was the first blind student to graduate from the Kansas City School of Law.

Taking inspiration from these two trailblazers, Hale opened a workshop in 1918 where eight blind workers assembled brooms, mats, and cane chairs. Attached to the brooms were labels that proudly asserted "The Blind Man's Broom is the Best Broom," and the project that began in Hale's own living room soon began to turn a profit. Notably, this venture established Alphapointe's reputation not only as an employer of the blind, but as a manufacturer of high-quality products, thereby marking the beginning of a long tradition in the organization's history. A year later, following the conclusion of the First World War, young men from across the country who had lost their vision on battlefields overseas headed to Kansas City in search of jobs and the opportunity to lead dignified lives.

In addition to confronting the widespread unemployment that plagued the blind community, Hale was also determined to address the housing problems that blind individuals faced. In the early 1900s, life was quite dangerous for people without sight, and blind individuals were all too often institutionalized simply because they had nowhere else to live. In response to this somber reality, Alphapointe opened the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women in 1917, a place of refuge where women who lost their vision were able to peacefully spend the twilight of their lives. A far cry from the facilities that less fortunate blind senior citizens were forced into, the Hale Home was known for its warm atmosphere in which the forty residents cared for themselves, maintained their favorite hobbies, socialized amongst each other, and organized holiday fundraisers. In operation until the late 1980s, the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women symbolized Alphapointe's commitment to serving senior citizens experiencing vision loss.

Moreover, Alphapointe and their workers have repeatedly answered our nation's call during times of international conflict. In fact, Alphapointe's factory has supplied the United States military in every war since World War I. During the Second World War, for example, Alphapointe was churning out an impressive 4,480 feet of tent rope every day, afeat which earned the organization the prestigious Army-Navy Production Award for Excellence in War Production. Notably, Alphapointe was one of only three factories with a blind workforce to receive this honor. Later, as the United States entered the Cold War, Alphapointe began manufacturing sanitation kits for bomb shelters, and in 2012, the organization created a new Tactical Mechanical Tourniquet that will soon be included in the first aid kits worn by our men and women serving our country overseas. Additionally, Alphapointe now operates

base supply stores on Little Rock Air Force Base and at Fort Leonard Wood, and the partnership between Alphapointe and America's military bears testament to the profound value of blind workers and the quality of the products they can produce.

Today, Alphapointe offers a wide range of services and opportunities to the blind and visually impaired community of the Greater Kansas City area. Since its creation in 1952, the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired has served thousands of blind youth. Through the center, children learn life skills needed to overcome the obstacles that come with vision loss, including how to socialize with sighted children and navigate unfamiliar locations. Furthermore, the Student Transitional Employment Program has worked to address the high unemployment rate that continues to hinder the blind community. Additionally, Alphapointe's College Preparatory Program has ensured that many blind students were able to successfully adapt to their college campuses.

Alphapointe's services, however, extend far beyond one's college years. At Alphapointe's Center for Blindness and Low Vision, a one-of-a-kind facility in the state of Missouri, the organization offers Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services that address the challenges faced by blind individuals throughout daily life. Reflecting the Hale Home's mission to keep elderly blind individuals within their own homes, the Senior Adult Services offered at Alphapointe ensure that blind seniors can live comfortably and independently for as long as possible.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the work that Alphapointe has done for the blind and visually impaired community since 1911. For over a century, Alphapointe has offered hope to individuals who often felt hopeless, and their services have brought great meaning, fulfillment, and dignity to the lives of countless people facing vision loss. Let us recognize this occasion by rejecting any prejudices towards visually impaired Americans which may still linger within our country and by reflecting on the inherent value of all people in the same spirit as founder Catherine Hale.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 25, 2019, I missed roll call vote 510.

Had I been present for roll call 510, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 693, the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2019, I would have voted "Yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF DIXON'S FAMOUS CHILI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dixon's Famous Chili

and their one hundredth year serving the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Since their opening, Dixon's has served as a beloved pillar of the Kansas City and Independence communities, and it brings me pride to have such an institution serving the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

As one of the oldest family owned businesses in the city, Dixon's Famous Chili originally began as a street vendor in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Due to the success of the street cart, the Dixon family opened their first parlor at 15th and Olive in 1919. In the early days, the founder, Vergne Dixon, used his entrepreneurial power to provide jobs for the community. He hired only men who were down on their luck to work at his parlor, giving many a much-needed opportunity to better themselves and support their families. Dixon aspired to give back to his city and embodied a spirit of public service that should inspire us all.

In the 1940s, Dixon's Chili Parlor acquired a new and special meaning for the community as it became a frequent stop for President Harry Truman and became what he called one of his favorite restaurants in America. President Truman said he loved to eat there as the food reminded him of the days when he had been serving in World War I. When President Truman visited Dixon's for his favorite dish of chili on tamales, usually accompanied by several Secret Service agents, the notoriety of the event landed Dixon's Chili Parlor in LIFE magazine. Thus, Dixon's came to be known as Dixon's Famous Chili.

Dixon's Famous Chili continues today, as the legacy has been kept alive by Vergne Dixon's nephew Leonard Totta, his daughter Terri Totta Smith, and will continue with his grandson Stephan Steffes. As the restaurant's business expanded, it grew to house numerous locations across the Kansas City metro area and beyond. However, the main restaurant in Independence, which President Truman frequented, remains a cherished landmark in the area. Long time guests share stories of gravitating back to Dixon's for a warm, familial atmosphere. Today, visitors to Missouri are drawn to the authentic ambience at Dixon's, as well as the special "Kansas City style chili" served the same way it was one hundred years ago, as a distinct way to experience our local history.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring this legacy as Vergne Dixon's family celebrates one hundred years of remarkable and noteworthy service in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I welcome my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulations and recognition of such an inspiration. Together, we look to better serve those around us in the same spirit as Mr. Dixon originally did and in the same way his family continues to serve us today.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
ROLAND HAYES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, in advance of Purple Heart Day 2019, we

are taking the time to honor those who have earned the Purple Heart for sacrifices in service to this Country. Today, we recognize Roland Hayes, who received not one or two, but three Purple Hearts while serving in the Vietnam War.

As a young man, Roland Hayes admired the work of the military. He first learned about radio waves as a student at Lackawanna High School and was fascinated by the idea of wartime communication. He was also inspired by the bravery and skill of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, a specialized infantry division trained in air assault operations and the first troops that dropped into action during World War Two's Invasion of Normandy. In 1966, Hayes, just 18 years old, answered the internal tug to serve, voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division known as the "Screaming Eagles." The 101st Airborne Division fought in 45 different operations over almost 7 years and was the last Army division to leave Vietnam. During this time, the 101st made the important transition from utilizing planes and parachutes to landing helicopters.

Hayes quickly experienced the same risky operations that inspired his military career, plunging him and his unit into the depths of enemy territory. He was consistently part of the first landing unit, an incredibly dangerous position reserved for a group of highly-skilled soldiers. These men constantly faced the possibility of death or injury given the uncertain nature of their job. His division was the Army's most highly decorated airborne unit and Captain Paul Bucha from his battalion was awarded with the prestigious Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War.

Hayes' tour in Vietnam had an action-packed start. He arrived right before the Tet Offensive, a major attack by the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong on five cities in South Vietnam. The coordinated attack took place at the end of January, 1968 during the Tet, a Vietnamese New Year celebration that was traditionally a time of decreased fighting. The Offensive was a huge surprise to the U.S. military and South Vietnamese troops. During the Viet Cong attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the 101st Airborne made up the assault force of paratroopers that landed on the roof of the embassy and successfully removed the Viet Cong from the premises. While this battle was a technical victory for the United States, the Viet Cong succeeded in inflicting psychological damage on the American people and military alike. The public had believed that the Vietnam War would be an easy victory, but the attack on the embassy foreshadowed a military endeavor that was longer and more complicated than anyone could have predicted.

On March 14th, 1968, Sgt. Hayes was injured in action for the first time. While working as an assistant machine gunner, a bullet ricocheted off the barrel of a machine gun and went completely through his right leg. During his hospital stay after the injury, he insisted on receiving various combat reports from his unit to stay up-to-date on the progress of the war. He recalls feeling an incredible guilt for being away from his unit when they needed him most. Hayes told the doctor that if he did not clear him to return to combat, he would go AWOL in order to go back to his men. After just four weeks of recovery, he returned to the rough terrain of the Vietnamese jungle with a partially healed leg, ready to continue fighting.

In August of the same year, Sergeant First Class Hayes was shot a second time, now in his left leg. His battalion had landed directly in an enemy-controlled territory. Hayes 'pulled point,' or stood at the front of the formation, despite his high rank and the dangerous nature of the position, because he was well-versed in recognizing traps and other signs of enemy presence. It was then that a bullet from an enemy machine gun hit him, slicing away a large piece of his left leg. Even with his own injury, Hayes helped to save another wounded soldier before returning to combat the same day.

One month later, though his platoon believed that they had successfully taken over a key North Vietnamese Army position, enemy troops unexpectedly returned. Hayes stood up to fire when a grenade landed directly next to him. He recalls experiencing this moment in slow motion: the grenade sluggishly rolling down a slope away from him before it mercifully imploded. A piece of it hit him in the face, knocking him over. Fueled by pain and rage, Hayes continued to fight only minutes after his injury. The scar remains a visible reminder of that moment.

Like other African American veterans who served, Sergeant First Class Hayes courageously fought two battles: the war overseas and the fight at home for equal rights. Hayes comes from a long line of military trailblazers. His father, aunt, and uncle all served during WWII, defending our democracy while facing unequal treatment both in segregated military units and at home. Their participation in the military during World War II helped plant the seeds for the American Civil Rights Movement. Another uncle, Sergeant Donald Rolls, lost his life in the Korean War. Through the Korean War, segregated African-American units served in every war waged by the United States, performing in both combat and support capacities. The Vietnam War, which took place at the height of the domestic Civil Rights Movement, marked the first integrated U.S. military. However, SFC Hayes was not free from racial discrimination during his military career. It was the first time that soldiers of all races had worked together so closely, and he recalls the rough integration process of his battalion as well as the blatant discrimination he experienced when he left his southern training base. In 1967, he was deployed to work as a cook on the military base in Vietnam. But his stint as a cook only lasted three short weeks. After a racially-charged argument with a highly-ranked officer, Hayes was ordered to the front line of combat. He believes that he was given this difficult and dangerous assignment as a punishment for perceived insubordination. Notwithstanding the unforeseen change in assignment, Hayes entered his company in Vietnam as a cook and left as a Sergeant. Despite early racial tensions, animosity quickly drifted away as battles with the enemy brought the men together. Hayes' unit soon realized that, with death and defeat on the line, color and race meant nothing. Most importantly, in order to leave together, the men needed to fight together. In Hayes' words, "the battlefield knows no colors." This mentality created a brotherly bond amongst Vietnam War soldiers which had yet to be seen in the U.S. The men's selfless service and sacrifice allowed them to abandon the social norms of the time and to recognize one another as individuals.