

John's other uncle Joseph Pieracci also served in the Army during the Korean War. John's grandfather, Anthony Grasso, also served as a medic in WWII. John's cousin Wilmer Olivencia received a Purple Heart, which I had the honor of presenting him with in 2015 at the Grease Pole festival, for wounds sustained while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, a war in which John's uncle, Tony Grasso, also served with the 1st Calvary. John's cousin Louis Rodriguez, Rafael's son, served in Vietnam and is currently retired from the U.S. Army and is now living outside of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. John's nephew Michael Kerr is currently a member of the Reserves after serving in the U.S. Air force.

After joining the Army, John was assigned as a medic with the 299th Engineer Battalion upon completion of his basic training at Fort Knox Kentucky and his medical training in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. John Acevedo rose through the ranks and eventually became a Sergeant First Class and earned the nickname "Doc" because he oversaw 120 other medics. Sergeant First Class John Acevedo served nearly 5½ years overseas in a combat zone. He served 5 tours of duty in Egypt, Afghanistan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

During his lengthy military career, John served in the same Task Force as Medal of Honor recipient David Bellavia, while in the 2nd Brigade Combat, 2nd Infantry Division. They were part of the Fall of Fallujah, a critical turning point in the war in Iraq. He also was selected by Command Sergeant Major of the 10th Mountain Division to be an escort for former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his Commander picked him to escort Oliver North. John also escorted several entertainers such as those from World Wrestling Entertainment owned by Vincent McMahon.

Today we recognize John Acevedo for his 26 years of military service earning him a total of 28 medals and ribbons including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2nd Award), and the prestigious Combat Medical Badge. His highest award, the Bronze Star Medal, was for actions he took as a medic in Iraqi Freedom. While he was assigned as the Brigade Sergeants NCO they came under fire. When he heard a blast in the distance, he grabbed his gear and medic bag and ran toward the explosion. He simultaneously searched for casualties and participated in the counter attack. In doing so, he put his own life in jeopardy to prevent further casualties, while saving as many of his fellow soldiers as possible who were injured while fighting off the enemy. These awards embody the Staff Sergeant's unparalleled talent, unwavering courage, and insurmountable willpower in advancing American interests in places of violent conflict.

After serving our country for over 26 years, Sergeant First Class John Acevedo officially retired from the Army on March 31, 2015. John's father once told him that when he was on the battlefield, he is an American, but he should never forget his roots as a Hispanic American. John returned to his family and friends in Buffalo and went on to further serve his community, this time much closer to home. He is currently employed on a nursing team at the VA Hospital in Buffalo. He is also very active with veteran organizations throughout our community. He is an Alumni of the Wounded

Warrior Project. He is also a member of the Ft. Drum Retiree Council and a life member of the Association of the United States Army. John Anthony Acevedo has 4 children John Jr., Jorge, Deborah and Ana Maria and two grandchildren Arayna and Lyric. Several of John's family members are currently serving, continuing his family's proud legacy of military service. John's daughter Deborah is joining the US Air Force and his nephew Michael Kerr served in the Air Force and is currently in the Reserves. John's cousin Pedro Pabon currently serves in the Army Reserves.

Today we recognize John Acevedo, as a true patriot who dedicated his life to serving our country, serving our community. John is a great example of the dedication that Hispanic Americans have for their country and their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a conflict that caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 555.

CONGRATULATING AND WELCOMING AMERICA'S NEWEST CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on October 4, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On October 4, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Shania Shamar Perry, Johan Jacques Taljaard, Cirilo Favela, Claude Mihai Butnaru, Qays Jinan Matti Karo, Gabriela Hernandez, Steven Esat Karagoz, Armando Wu, Ravindra Babu Bhogadula, Maria Mhango, Argelia Cristina Fagre-Rivas, Ljube Shurdoski, Indiana Jankowski, Fernando Hernandez, Juan Nieto, Irma Ruiz, Jessica Tirado Ochoa, Sirak Kifle Negash, Sarah Hughes, Urmil Raj Kashyap, Guoyun Liu, Mihaela Roxana Layman, Ana G. Dunnett, Santiago Loera, Sonia Menchaca, Julieta Grino Pingol, Lucy Wambui Kiruki, Margaret

Matilda Brewster, Idalia Patricia Ramirez, and Mehlkumar Soni.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on October 4, 2019. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

DEDICATING FAIRFIELD- VACAVILLE HANNIGAN TRAIN STATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, we rise today to celebrate the naming of the Fairfield-Vacaville train station after our dear friend, Assemblyman Tom Hannigan.

Tom was elected to the Assembly in 1978 to represent his home town of Fairfield. Recognizing the importance of connecting our state capitol with the economic engine of the San Francisco Bay Area, Hannigan authored and passed legislation that created a plan for the development of an intercity commuter train system to connect the cities. In just four years, Hannigan was able to turn this plan into reality with the establishment of the Capitol Corridor train service that we know today.

Today more than 1.7 million passengers use the Capitol Corridor annually to commute along the 168-mile long route, which connects an entire region between San Jose and Auburn. Publicly managed by Amtrak, the train route maintains some of the highest ridership rates in our country.

Commissioned in 2008 by the city of Fairfield, the Fairfield-Vacaville Hannigan Train Station opened to its first passengers in November 2017. Over the past two years, the station has established itself as a model of the Capitol Corridor's community-oriented transportation system, with more than 3,600 passengers who originate their trips from the station every month.

By the time of his passing in 2018, Tom Hannigan had faithfully served his country in the United States Marine Corps and his community at the city, county, and state government levels for more than a quarter of a century. The dedication of the Fairfield-Vacaville Hannigan Train Station is a fitting memorialization of the legacy he has left behind for his hometown and all of those who continue to benefit from the Capitol Corridor train service.

RECOGNIZING JOHNNIE RUTH
HUBER BOYD

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Johnnie Ruth Huber Boyd. My constituent, Mrs. Boyd recently visited Washington, DC, as an Honor Flight Network participant to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of other American veterans like her.

Johnnie, as she is known to her family and friends, was born September 28, 1924, in Brownfield, Texas, where cotton farming is still the backbone of the region. From an early age, Johnnie worked on her family's farm and attended school when she wasn't needed in the fields.

At 14 years old, Johnnie moved hundreds of miles from home to serve as a caretaker for a family in Lueders, Texas. There, she attended and graduated high school. Thanks to her tenacity and determination, Ms. Boyd earned a scholarship to Texas State College for Women but was unable to submit her application in person because she could not afford bus fare.

At 17 years old, while America was embroiled in World War II, Johnnie answered the nation's call to service by lying about her age to enlist in the U.S. Navy WAVES or "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service." These women held the same status as naval reservists. Johnnie was among 350,000 women who joined the Armed Services during WWII, serving at home and abroad.

Upon enlisting in the U.S. Navy, she was stationed at Hunter's College in New York where she received her initial Navy training. After training, she was transferred to a base in San Francisco and lived in Berkeley. She took the ferry into San Francisco each day to board the ship, on which she served as Store Keeper 1st class alongside the paymaster and other soldiers. During this time, she also continued her education.

She served from 1941 to 1945, and later married Raymond Huber, a Master Sargent in the United States Marine Corps. She went on to attend Santa Ana College and received her Associate's Degree in Business Finance in 1978.

Johnnie, now 94 years old, currently resides in the City of Orange, where she continues her service to our great country as an active community member. She is the proud mother of 8, grandmother of 17, and great grandmother of 10.

Please join me in saluting this WWII veteran who continues to contribute her wisdom, tenacity, and life-long American work ethic toward making America the greatest country in the world.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
WALTER E. GOOD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Walter E. Good of Boardman,

Ohio, who passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at the age of 80.

Walter will always be remembered as a caring, loyal and faithful man that stood by the principles of duty, honor and country. He was born October 9, 1938, in Youngstown, the son of Walter P. and Marguerite (Clark) Good and was a lifelong area resident.

Walter was proud to have grown up on the east side, where he graduated from East High School. He then continued his education at Youngstown State University, where he earned his two bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Engineering, and his master's degree in Business Administration. With his love for education, Walter taught part-time at Youngstown State University.

He was a proud United States Army veteran, who served during the Vietnam Era. For his service to our country, Walter received the Good Conduct Medal, the Marksman Badge and received an Honorable Discharge on June 6, 1963. Walter celebrated his career as an industrial engineer in the steel industry, ultimately retiring from the United States Postal Service.

He was a member of the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, its Vestibule Club, and was a lector for Sunday mass. He also belonged to the Penguin Club, the Theta Chi Fraternity and the Smoky Hollow Golden Eagle Club. Upon his retirement, Walter took great pride in maintaining the Smoky Hollow Memorial.

Walter had many passions in his life. He enjoyed reading history books and tailgating prior to the YSU football games. He had a true passion for sporting events, especially for Ursuline High School and Youngstown State University. Walter was so proud of his family, especially his grandchildren, and always put them at the center of his life.

Walter leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife of over 57 years, the former Dolores Lariccia, whom he married June 9, 1962; two children, Walter Michael (Tracy) Good of Boardman and Nannette (Terry) Jacobs of Youngstown; five grandchildren, whom he adored, Christine, Michael and Riley Good, and Caila and Alexis Jacobs; and a sister, Sr. Brigid (Jeraldine Good) of the Poor Clares Monastery, Rockford, Illinois. All of whom will continue Walter's legacy of kindness, generosity, and unconditional love.

I am honored to be a long-time friend of Mr. Good's son, Walt, who undoubtedly inherited his passion for our community from his father. Our Valley certainly owes both father and son a great debt for their service to the community. My condolences go out to anyone whose life was touched by Walter.

COLLIER-LEE HONOR FLIGHT

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Collier-Lee Honor Flight for their above and beyond service to the veterans of our district. Every year, Collier-Lee Honor Flight works to take hundreds of veterans from Southwest Florida to our nation's capital to visit the memorials that honor their bravery and sacrifice in service to our

country. These moments are cherished by those who served, and many of our veterans would never have the opportunity to see them without the help of the honor flight.

This past weekend, when one veteran, Paul Jordan, needed to remain in D.C. due to medical reasons and missed the hero's welcome home ceremony event at our airport, Collier-Lee Honor Flight took it upon themselves to organize a second patriotic ceremony for Paul—leaving no man behind. Collier-Lee Honor Flight members, members of our community, airport staff, and fellow veterans, all came together to give him an unforgettable welcome home.

This above and beyond spirit shines through in all the efforts of Collier-Lee Honor Flight. Thank you to Collier-Lee Honor Flight and all who make these trips possible, those who welcome home our veterans, and most importantly to the veterans who served our country so bravely.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, while the SAFE Banking Act focuses on harmonizing federal and state banking laws regarding serving legitimate cannabis businesses and their service providers, there are still several issues where the federal government could provide more clarity. The Department of Treasury and its regulatory agencies should issue guidance on behalf of all federally licensed businesses engaging in, or considering engaging in, the legal cannabis trade, or Hemp and CBD trade, with respect to their engagement in a legal business.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LARRY SLY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time community activist and leader, Larry Sly.

Larry Sly graduated from UC Berkeley and quickly became an advocate and leader in Contra Costa County. Starting his career with the Food Bank as a truck driver, Larry became a prominent volunteer for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties and in 1976 was elevated to Executive Director. During his decades of leadership, the Food Bank grew exponentially, distributing 36,000 pounds of food in his first year to over 20 million pounds of food in 2018.

A food security advocate, Larry has been actively involved in organizations such as the Concord Rotary Club and has served on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Food Banks. Larry has served on state advisory committees on hunger and food security and has helped many California cities develop successful food banks.