

Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner of Melissa, Texas.

Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner's history of service began in 1979 when he entered into the United States Air Force, quickly earning the title of Security Police Military Working Dog Handler after completing the rigorous patrol and drug dog handler training. He would spend the next seven years in the role of dog handler, investigator, and SWAT team operator in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and New Mexico. For his dedicated efforts in defense of our nation, Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner would receive the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and Outstanding Small Unit Award.

While Skinner would leave the military in 1987, his desire to protect the innocent would continue, leading him to pursue a Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center in 2001. Upon graduation he would work as a civil rights lawyer, representing child victims of sexual abuse. In 2007, he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney and Special Prosecutor of the Collin County Criminal District Attorney's Office and later served as the Second Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division.

Jim further developed his passion for serving the public when he was elected as the 39th Sheriff of Collin County in January 2017. His drive to protect the most innocent led to the creation of the Child Exploitation Unit. Additionally, Sheriff Skinner was responsible for bringing together the Sheriffs of seven counties to form the North Texas Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Unit, which targets criminals who are illegally transporting narcotics, weapons, cash or persons involved in human trafficking on our highways.

Sheriff Skinner has found countless ways to serve our community including his role as a board member for the Child Advocacy Center of Collin County, as a Trustee for Collin County Meals on Wheels, as a former board member for the North Texas Crime Commission, and as the Judge Advocate for the Bill Bryant Post 110 of the American Legion. Jim Skinner is a devoted public servant who has spent his entire life giving back to the community and working towards ensuring the values that we hold dear as Americans are maintained and he is to be commended for work to improve our nation.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Staff Sergeant Skinner for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES FOR ITS 50TH FLIGHT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honor Flight of the Quad Cities for its 50th flight.

The Quad Cities formed a local chapter of the Honor Flight Network, called Honor Flight of the Quad Cities (HFQC) in 2008. The mission of HFQC is to fly America's veterans to Washington, D.C. in order to honor their sacrifices by allowing them visit memorials dedicated to their service. I especially extend my gratitude to Robert "Bob" Morrison, the founder of Honor Flight of the Quad Cities, for his dedication to serving local veterans and ensuring they can travel to visit the memorials. Mr. Morrison passed away October 7, 2019. He was the first Hub Director and took more than 3,000 veterans on 33 flights to see the memorials in our nation's capital. His memory and impact on our community will be well regarded for generations to come. Thank you again to this organization for its commitment to our veterans over the course of the 50 flights they have organized.

It is because of organizations such as the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities on its 50th flight.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 581 on the Lesko Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 4617. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 582 on the Republican Motion to Recommit H.R. 4617 with Instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 583 on the Final Passage of H.R. 4617, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 584 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 777. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE OPENING OF ITS NEW FACILITY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Galway Public Library on the opening of its new facility.

Over the past decade, the entire community of Galway has been contributing to the effort

to construct the new library. This new facility is more than three times the size of the old one, which was founded in 1997, and will act as a holistic community center. It will offer venue space and technology resources for all the residents of Galway to use and benefit from in addition to the collection of books and other media. The library has been supported not only by tax dollars but also by private donations, grants and bonds approved by the voters. Further, the move from the old library was supported by over one hundred volunteers who worked hundreds of hours ensure that the transition was successful. This level of civic involvement highlights everything that makes the North Country so vibrant and makes me proud to be its representative in Congress.

On Behalf on New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the residents of the Town of Galway on this amazing accomplishment. I look forward to the success of the new Galway Public Library as a centerpiece of the community long into the future.

CONGRATULATING THE MATER DEI GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Mater Dei Knights golf team, which recently brought home the Illinois Class 1A State Golf Championship.

It was a very tense tournament. At the end of the first round the Knights found themselves tied for first with the Althoff Crusaders. However, with a great deal of grit and determination the Knights eventually pulled out a hard-fought one stroke victory over rival Althoff to claim the state title.

My hearty congratulations go to team members Grant Goebel, Carter Goebel, Nathan Rivera, Blake Kloeckner, Ian Benderson, Tanner Gerdes, head coach Dennis Trame, athletic director Ron Schadeegg, and school principal Dennis Litteken.

Madam Speaker, these student-athletes and their coaches have represented themselves, their school, and their community in the best tradition of high school athletics. I am pleased to join with the other Members of this House in congratulating them on their victory and wishing them all the best in their future academic and athletic careers.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BARNETT WALKER, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their

Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Senior Master Sergeant Barnett Walker of Prosper, Texas.

For twenty-two years, retired Master Sergeant Barnett Walker proudly served our nation with distinction in the United States Air Force. During his military career, Walker was awarded 25 different military decorations, most notably three Meritorious Service Medals, four Joint Service Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Recognition Ribbon following his selection as Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year at every level including the United States Air Force Headquarters.

Throughout his career, Walker volunteered for the most hazardous military operations in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was stationed at United States Central Command under General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and was part of the first wave of U.S. military forces that arrived in Saudi Arabia in August 1990. Then-Technical Sergeant Walker was in charge of the Joint Communication Center that processed real-time classified communications and intelligence to the President of the United States, the Joint Commanders-in-Chiefs, and other U.S.-led coalition countries. From 1993–1994, Master Sergeant Walker volunteered for assignment in support of Operation Provide Comfort, where he served as First Sergeant and Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge of the Communications and Intelligence facility which provided classified cryptographic material to our armed forces. From 1995 to 1996, Walker volunteered to implement and monitor military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement throughout war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina while searching for war criminals. For his contributions to our nation, Master Sergeant Walker was often recognized by military leadership.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Walker earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University and was later appointed as a Judge for Collin County Court at Law 2. Judge Walker would be awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, reserved for those who have demonstrated the highest commitment of time and effort for community and charitable organizations. Today, Judge Walker selflessly devotes his time to organizations including the Collin County Veteran's Court, the DWI Drug Court, Collin County Bar Association Mentorship Program, Girl Scouts, Special Olympics, the Samaritan Inn, and Feed the Homeless where he helps prepare and deliver meals to those in need. Judge Walker is the epitome of a leader who has served America through both his military and civil servant roles and we are honored to recognize him for his countless efforts.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Senior Master Sergeant Walker for his exceptional service

and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent for votes on H.R. 4617, the SHIELD Act, and H.R. 777, reauthorizing the Debbie Smith Act, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 581; YEA on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; and YEA on Roll Call No. 584.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, due to a family obligation I missed one vote on October 22. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 576 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 2513): NO.

RECOGNIZING THE BUCKS COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP FOR THEIR 68TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Bucks County Branch of the NAACP on their 68th Freedom Fund Banquet. It is an honor to recognize an organization that has always been at the forefront in the fight for civil rights. I particularly want to applaud the tremendous impact the NAACP has had locally and across this great nation in fighting to make our communities better. The theme for this year's banquet, "When We Fight, We Win!" invokes this constant fight for progress and inspires each of us to work harder for justice.

Our congressional district, the place we call home, is another place where progress can continue. It begins with each of us in the community. The NAACP is an integral part of that. While our nation has made tremendous strides with respect to civil rights, there is still much to be done. We can do better, we must do better. The NAACP in Bucks County is working each and every day to bring people together to stand up for justice. When hateful language was found at the Carl Sandburg Middle School, the NAACP was instrumental in uniting our community against the hateful rhetoric by helping to organize a candlelight vigil. The work of our local NAACP is indis-

pensable for our community and our country, and we must continue to support its efforts.

Our community, our nation, is stronger when we stand together. Change begins with each one of us here at home. Whether we are elected officials, moms or dads or neighbors or community leaders or students or anyone—we must remember that there is more that unites us than divides us. As a Bucks County resident, I want to thank our local NAACP for all that they do to make Bucks County a better place. I look forward to continuing working together with the NAACP to make our district safer and prosperous for all.

HONORING PERSHING EDWIN (P.E.) MACALLISTER

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor of the life of a beloved and iconic member of the Hoosier state, Pershing Edwin (P.E.) MacAllister. A pillar of the Indianapolis community, P.E. passed away at the age of 101 on October 23, 2019. P.E. was an industrious, enthusiastic and generous individual whose life's work touched and benefited so many Hoosiers. A longtime leader in Indiana politics, P.E. was a guiding force in not only my career but also the political careers of legendary Republican Hoosier lawmakers, the late Senator Richard Lugar and the late Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut, among others. In 1945, P.E. co-founded the MacAllister Machinery Company with his father. His 74 years at the helm of the company are a telling reminder of his unequaled business acumen and leadership capabilities. Throughout his life he helped lead and develop both the public and private sector successes of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for P.E.'s contributions to our Hoosier community, and it is my privilege to honor him today.

P.E. was born August 30, 1918, in Oconto, Wisconsin to Edwin W. (E.W.) and Hilda MacAllister. As a recent veteran of World War I, Edwin named his son Pershing after General John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing. Growing up during the Great Depression, P.E. was taught the frugality and self-sufficient nature required to survive and flourish in the America of the time. With a strong Scottish Presbyterian upbringing and close familial bond, P.E. advanced in his academic career, graduating high school and then enrolling at Carroll College. After graduation from Carroll College in 1940, P.E. joined the United States Army Air Force. On October 25, 1941, he was shipped off to basic training, and his service to his country began. As an armament officer, P.E. was stationed initially in the United States, but also served in England, North Africa, and finally in Italy where he earned the rank of Captain. After 5 years in the Army Air Force, P.E. finished his service having earned four Overseas Service Bars and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Upon returning from service overseas, P.E. and his father E.W. co-founded the MacAllister Machinery Company in June of 1945. After his father's medical complications in 1951, P.E.