

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 Re-commit 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 benefitted 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 unequalled 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.

and his brother Dave took the helm of the company. Over the next 74 years, P.E. led the company as it grew to cover two states with over 2,500 employees. Starting in 1986, he began to co-publish and write the lead articles for 170 issues of the company's newsletter, "Mac Today". Outside of the office, P.E. maintained strong ties with his faith as a devoted member of Northminster Presbyterian Church. As a leader in the church's governing body, P.E. served two terms as its moderator. In 1972, he was the moderator of the Synod of Indiana, and in 1975 he was named the moderator of the Synod of Lincoln Trials. P.E. also served on the board of trustees at the Christian Theological Seminary, where along with friend Dick Petticrew, he created "The MacAllister-Petticrew Chair" of the Old Testament Studies. At his alma mater of Carroll College, P.E. endowed a "Chair in Old Testament Studies".

Later in his career, P.E. began his entrance into the Indiana political arena. Along with close friends Harold Ransburg, John Burkhardt and Keith Bulen, P.E. helped to bring about a political revolution within Indiana. He helped to foster the early careers of many Republican candidates such as former Mayor William Hudnut, former Governor Mitch Daniels, former Senator Richard Lugar, and former Governor and Vice-President MICHAEL PENCE. P.E. was also an integral part of the creation of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation and served as the chairman of the Foundation for many years, helping to transform many of the city's various parks and public lands. His time as a member and then chairman of the Capital Improvements Board helped to see the city commit to the building of the RCA Dome and Convention Center which were important steps to eventually enticing the Colts of the National Football League to relocate to Indianapolis. These partnerships helped change Indianapolis from a sleepy stop on the highways of middle America to a premiere emerging city in the heartland of America.

P.E. leaves behind a larger than life legacy that is fitting for the impact he had on the city of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. During his life, he was one of the most impactful local leaders in the city's public and private sectors, leaving a legacy unmatched by his peers. He dedicated his life to the service of his clients, employees, and fellow Hoosiers, fundamentally changing the lives of those he served for the better. His unparalleled love for Indiana and the city of Indianapolis led to massive changes that impacted not only the lives of Hoosiers, but also the skyline of Indianapolis. P.E. will be remembered for his amazing compassion, charismatic and warm personality, as well civic involvement. Awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana's highest public honor, by three separate Governors is a testament the influence P.E. had on our state. I feel fortunate to have known him, and I know that his legacy lives on through the great contributions he made to Indianapolis, to Indiana, and to the country. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth District, I offer my condolences to the entire MacAllister family and all who mourn his loss and cherish his memory.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITAL CORPSMAN KENNETH YELLE, 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 Hospital Corpsman Kenneth Yelle of McKinney, Texas.

Kenneth Louis Yelle began his service to our nation in 1945 during World War II as an integral member of the United States Navy in Washington, D.C. During the Korean War, he served with the 1st Marine Division as a Hospital Corpsman. For his efforts he would be awarded with the WWII Victory Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

In the years following his military service, Mr. Yelle has found multiple ways to serve his community including his active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lone Star Post No. 2150 in McKinney. At the age of 92 years old, he still provides transportation to the Veterans Administration health facilities in Bonham and Dallas for friends and neighbors. At the community where he has resided for many years, he has been an exercise leader and a model of physical fitness for his fellow residents. Mr. Yelle is continuously called upon to assist others with various projects and transportation to appointments. It is because of his continuous fellowship and encouragement to those in need that he was nominated for the Congressional Veteran Commendation. Mr. Yelle is a compassionate and generous patriot who has served our nation both in and out of uniform and who consistently lends a hand to those in need.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Hospital Corpsman Yelle 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.

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 241 MARINES LOST IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

SPEECH OF HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 241 American service members who died in Beirut, Lebanon 36 years ago.

The vast majority of the Marines and sailors who tragically lost their lives in the attack were from the 1st Battalion 8th Marines stationed at Camp Lejeune, which I have the honor of representing in the Third District of North Carolina.

In addition, we keep the families who lost their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers. Their immense sacrifices should never be overlooked.

In remembering this anniversary today, we reaffirm our commitment to not only never forget these heroes, but also to ensure that they did not die in vain.

The United States of America will never cower to evil and abandon our values. We will always stand against enemies of liberty and justice.

Thank you to the members of our armed services, especially to the men and women who serve at Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Stations Cherry Point and New River, who help guarantee we do just that.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN LEGION POST 946

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize American Legion Post 946, located in Ursina Borough in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion is one of nation's oldest veterans service organization. For a century, the American Legion has served American communities with services ranging from offering youth mentoring and educational programs to promoting patriotism and our national security.

Most importantly, the American Legion serves as a resource for veterans, oftentimes helping veterans and service members in need of support and assistance.

It is a privilege to represent American Legion Post 946 in the House of Representatives, and I thank its members for their work to serve the Ursina Borough community and Americans around the country.

CONDEMNING VLADIMIR PUTIN'S HUMAN RIGHT ABUSES

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the plight of political prisoners in the Russian Federation, and to commemorate an important anniversary.