

have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable.

Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are freedom's foundation.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guardsmen and women and their families, our country would not live so freely.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 here in the 18th Congressional District.

21.6 million brave men and women are veterans of our nation's military service.

This includes more than 2 million women, 2.7 million African American men and women, 1.5 million Hispanic men and women, 342,000 Asian American Pacific Islanders, and 178,000 American Indians.

Nine in ten military families believe the public does not understand or appreciate their sacrifices.

We use Veterans Day to show our veterans and military families how important they are to us and how grateful we are for them each and everyday.

November is National Caregivers Month to show our caregivers how grateful we are for them.

It is only fitting that we thank those caregivers who serve our military today.

5.5 million spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones care for our wounded warriors and 15 percent of caregivers spend 40+ hours a week providing care for our military families.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I care deeply about our veterans.

I Congress, I have sponsored many legislative proposals and co-sponsored more than 50 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families."

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind.

As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

This day and every day let us honor their service with actions that fulfill our commitment to our troops, their families, and our veterans—and that are worthy of our grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAMING OF THE DON H. BARDEN SEC- ONDARY STREET

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don H. Barden and celebrate his legacy through the naming of the Don H. Barden Secondary Street. Don Barden was an influential leader in Detroit and his contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Don Barden was a trailblazer in politics, business, and philanthropy. In the 1960s, Mr. Barden served as the first black city councilman in Lorain, Ohio, where he learned about the intersection of business and politics. Admired by many in Congress, Mr. Barden also

developed life-long friendship with countless mayors, state representatives, and city council members, among a variety of other political leaders nationwide.

Don Barden was also an astute businessman who successfully developed, owned, and operated several businesses in multiple industries. Mr. Barden was renowned for his work in real estate, broadcasting, international trade, and casinos, and received widespread acclaim for his efforts. In the 1980s, Mr. Barden became a leader in Michigan's cable industry, establishing and operating cable systems throughout Metro Detroit. Under Mr. Barden's guidance and expertise, Barden Cablevision was designated as one of the nation's largest urban cable systems. Later, Mr. Barden became the first black owner of a Las Vegas casino after his purchase of Fitzgeralds in 2001. In addition to a host of other positions, Mr. Barden also served as President and CEO of Barden Companies, Inc.

Throughout his professional endeavors, Mr. Barden was devoted to community involvement and volunteerism. He embedded a mission within his businesses to make a difference in the communities where they operated and conducted business and encouraged others to follow in stride. Mr. Barden was also committed to personal philanthropy, supporting countless organizations, people, and entities throughout the Metro Detroit region. Mr. Barden will always be remembered for his generous and thoughtful heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the legacy of Don H. Barden. Mr. Barden was a pillar of Detroit, and the naming of the secondary street in honor of Mr. Barden is a touching tribute to his life's work. Mr. Barden was cherished by so many within our community, and I am glad the street will bear his name for generations to come.

HONORING THE USS "INDIANAPOLIS," THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S NEWEST LITTORAL COM- BAT SHIP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the U.S. Navy's newest addition to its fleet, the Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ship, USS *Indianapolis*.

On October 26, before a crowd of thousands, the USS *Indianapolis* (LCS-17) was commissioned in Burns Harbor, Indiana, on the shore of Lake Michigan. I thank the Navy, particularly former Secretary Ray Mabus, for having the foresight to name a ship being constructed on the Great Lakes after Indiana's capital city and the decision by the current Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, to host the commissioning ceremony in Burns Harbor.

LCS-17 was constructed in Marinette, Wisconsin, utilizing steel produced by hard-working steelworkers in Northwest Indiana. She will soon transit to her new homeport, Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, where she will begin her service to our country. As the fourth USS *Indianapolis* in U.S. naval history, this ship will carry on the proud legacy of representing Indiana's capital city around the globe.

Today, it is also fitting to honor the prior ships that bore the name USS *Indianapolis*. The first (ID 3865) was a cargo ship that served at the end of World War I. The second (CA 35) was the heavy cruiser that was lost while completing a mission that would directly contribute to the end of World War II. Of the 1,195 crewmen aboard, only 316 survived. It was an honor to have four of those survivors—Fire Controlman Third Class Robert Witzig, Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class James Jarvis, Seaman Richard Thelen, and Sergeant Edgar Harrell—present at the commissioning ceremony. The third (SSN 697) was a *Los Angeles*-class fast attack submarine that was a valuable Cold War asset from 1980 through 1998.

I am grateful for the Commanding Officer, CDR Colin Kane, as well as the entire crew of the USS *Indianapolis*. I am also thankful for the unsung heroes—the families and loved ones—whose sacrifices and support ashore allow the crew to stand the watch that the U.S. Navy has stood for 244 years.

Additionally, I'd like to recognize the efforts of so many in Northwest Indiana who have been supportive of the work of the USS *Indianapolis* Commissioning Committee. Thanks in part to these efforts, I know the USS *Indianapolis* will serve our community and country with pride. The crew will have many days of deployment ahead of them. I know that they have the unwavering support of the nearly 6.7 million residents of Indiana.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the following women and men of the USS *Indianapolis* fair winds and following seas:

Blue Crew: CDR Colin Kane, CDR Joseph Mitzen, CMDCS Iris Velez, LCDR Erik Gardner, LCDR Kyle Gleghorn, LT Julian Turner, LT Andrew McLean, LT Christopher Huizinga, LTJG Eric Wilkerson, LTJG Monique Jefferson, LTJG Kevin Holdren, FCCS Marlon Glass, MNCS Ryan Cook, QMC David Dantone, LSC Karim Bullock, ENC Mark Nicholas, OSC David Simmons, ITC Kamesha McCarthy, DCC Matthew Moreno, BMC Melvin Austin, MNC Stephen Bates, EM1 Antawan Daniel, GSM1 Brandon Portell, CS1 Cesar Torres, EN1 Christian Alston, FC1 Christian Argonza, ET1 Dale Robinson, GM1 Daniel Thomas, MN1 Ebony Channey, GM1 Eric Stabenow, CS1 George White, EN1 Jerome Jacob, ET1 John Lake, ET1 Joshua Drum, AG1 Joshua Gaskill, EN1 Justin Cheman, MN1 Justin Crabtree, MN1 Katherine Floding, IT1 Kiaya Tootle, OS1 Marcos Lucero, EM1 Michael Jeffus, EN1 Michael Roka, GSE1 Victor Doroy, MN2 Adrian Villanueva, MN2 Alejandro Garciaquiles, ET2 Ashley Newman, IT2 Bea Vang, BM2 Carlos Medina, FC2 Christopher Wong, IT2 Nathan Rodriguez, HT2 Erman Jefferson, EN2 Gregory Jones, GM2 Jordan Simmons, MN2 Joshua Pryor, OS2 Justin Vasquez, FC2 Stephen Truszczewski, MN2 Zakkary Fulton, MN3 Brady Thorpe, MN3 Dominique Fraser-Jones, MN3 Jeremy Woods, SN Jacquard McDuffey, MNSN John Cortes, SN Michael Antolak, LSSN Rebecca Elie, MNSN Ryan Marcotte, CSSN Tyrann Bowlin, DCFR Bianca Silva.

Gold Crew: CDR Jamie Diaz, CMDCS James Halleran, MNCS Daniel Gwilt, MNC Raymond Barrett, BMC Michael Duran, ITC Delila Edwards, FCC Dennis Fairbanks, MNC Daniel O'Connell, QMC Eric Williams, IT1 Tyler Averett, EN1 Gregory Besiryan, GM1

Terrell Bridges, EN1 Anier Carrillo, EN1 Joseph Chase, HM1 John Crockett, OS1 Zachary Coffman, HT1 Gary Greenwood, MN1 Daniel Gregware, FC1 Haneef Manboard, EM1 Paul McBean, OS1 Devin Morris, OSE1 Scott Phillips, CS1 Gregory Simmons, GSM1 Marc Solomon, CS1 Eugene Ward, ET1 Johnathan Sanders, IT1 Allison Shorter, MN2 Kyle Marting, EM2 Erika Dallmeyer, MN2 Andrew Harse, GM2 Chester Gray, FC2 Caylin Lang, MN2 John McCoy, ET2 Jonathan McDaniel, BM2 Terrance Owens, FC2 Jonathan Vallett, MN3 Hunter Childers, MN3 Michael Clark, MN3 Mathew Evans, LS3 Colby Foster, MN3 David Gordon, MN3 Scott Scherer, MNSN Natalie Bermudez, CSSN Cynthia Salas, BMSA Lane Francis, CSSA Chaijazyjhaneia Stone-Jackson.

HONORING ALEX GRAHAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 8, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of the District of Columbia 2018 Firefighter of the Year, Alex Graham, a 17-year veteran of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, who died in the line of duty.

Alex Graham suffered a heart attack while on duty, and later died on October 27, 2019, surrounded by family at George Washington University Hospital.

Graham was raised in Annapolis, Maryland, and attended Bowie High School. He was a humble and dedicated public servant and technician. As a firefighter with Engine 21 in Adams Morgan, known as the Alley Rats, he worked to protect the lives of D.C. residents. Graham was known to go above and beyond, ensuring that fire station equipment was top grade. He meticulously worked behind the scenes, researching equipment issues and fixing them, which at times meant traveling from firehouse to firehouse restringing 500 ladders.

For his efforts repairing fire trucks, maintaining ladders and managing water flow, Graham was named Firefighter of the Year in 2018. While the limelight did not come naturally, the award was undeniably well-deserved.

Graham is an irreplaceable member of Engine 21. He will be remembered for his skills, dedication and humility. His death sheds light on the tireless work of the department's men and women to protect D.C. residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the life of Alex Graham and his dedication to the safety of District of Columbia residents. We remember him with tremendous gratitude for his service.

HONORING MRS. ERIN TIDERMAN-GROSS AND MRS. DEIRDRE ABRAMS

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful teachers from

Idaho: Mrs. Erin Tideman-Gross of Meridian, Idaho, and Mrs. Deirdre Abrams of Donnelly, Idaho who have been awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government for teachers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer studies. I am proud today to recognize the hard work of Mrs. Abrams and Mrs. Tideman-Gross and their dedication, commitment, and passion for our students' success in the sciences.

At Rocky Mountain High School in Meridian, Idaho—my hometown—Mrs. Tideman-Gross teaches advanced placement biology and has acted as a mentor to hundreds of students in the National Honor Society. Mrs. Tideman-Gross is an adviser in one of the largest, most-active National Honor Society Chapters in Idaho. She has impacted countless families, students, and community members through her work, and after 24 years, continues to share her passion for biology with her students. At Donnelly Elementary School, Mrs. Abrams has taken the world to her students through place-based learning. Mrs. Abrams has given her students hands-on educational trips to study rainbow trout populations, pollinator gardens, and cattle data to improve water quality. Her students even share their water quality data with local government agencies. Mrs. Abrams has been an educator for 23 years and continues to be a shining example of innovative teaching in the sciences. I thank Mrs. Erin Tideman-Gross and Mrs. Deirdre Abrams for their passion and commitment to their students. This honor bestowed upon them is a testament to their dedication and I am so proud of their representation of the great State of Idaho.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION BRAXTON-PERKINS POST 25

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American Legion Braxton-Perkins Post 25 in Newport News, Virginia. Since its inception, the American Legion has advocated for benefits for veterans and helped create many important programs for families, children and communities. While the American Legion has posts all over the nation, I want to highlight the history and work of Braxton-Perkins Post 25.

In 1918, when the Armistice was signed and World War I ended, the process of demobilization began. This brought many Army and Navy veterans back to the city of Newport News. Many ex-service members were war-weary but looking for ways to keep the spirit of comradeship alive with the men and women with whom they served overseas. In August 1919, Fred H. Skinner, a young lawyer who served as a captain in the 119th Infantry, tapped his local social circle of former servicemembers and gathered the required number of signatures to apply for a charter from the Legion. The charter was approved on August 25 of that year.

The first meeting of Braxton-Perkins was held in Newport News City Hall in September

of 1919. After that, the Post contacted the War Camp Community Service to use their building for meetings and office space. Later, this building was purchased by the Post from the War Camp Community Service after they had stopped utilizing the facility.

Post 25 is named after two local Newport News men who died overseas during World War I. Elliott Muse Braxton was killed in action in the Meuse-Argonne fighting and Lieutenant Pryor Richard Perkins, a member of the Air Service, died in a plane crash on the Argonne front.

The Post began its activity in earnest in 1920 with a variety of social activities and civic endeavors. Since then, it has come to be one of the most respected organizations in Newport News because it has constantly given back to our community. The Post set up a kindergarten and free health clinics for children, they aid the sick and wounded and have helped many veterans financially. The Post has provided many veterans with food, clothing and access to employment. They also help arrange hospitalization and military funerals for veterans regardless of whether or not they were members of the Legion.

Madam Speaker, as our nation observes Veterans Day this Monday, Newport News is fortunate to have an organization like Braxton-Perkins Post 25 serving and supporting our veterans and their families for the last 100 years. I look forward to seeing all the good they will continue to do in the years ahead as a pillar of our community.

HONORING THE EVANS MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL 1ST AND 2ND GRADE VETERANS DAY CONCERT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 8, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Evans Mills Primary School 1st and 2nd Grade Veterans Day Concert.

For the past five years, the Evans Mills Primary School Veterans Day Committee and its chair, Mrs. Lewis, have organized this wonderful concert in honor of our veterans. Beyond the concert itself, the committee has led a food drive for veterans with all donations going to "Feed Our Vets," a local program in Watertown. In addition, the committee arranged for veterans to come to the school and speak directly with students about their experiences. Students have created art projects around the theme of honoring our veterans and those pieces will be displayed during the concert alongside real uniforms and gear. The committee has partnered with Fort Drum's 1st Brigade Combat Team, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald, to organize this and other veteran's events at the school.

Events like this highlight the community spirit in the North Country. Veterans and active duty service members make up a large part of our community and it is important for individuals of all ages to recognize and celebrate their service to our nation. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank the Evans Mills Primary School Veterans Day Committee and everyone who donated or helped organize this event for their work honoring our veterans.