

and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, among other organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of West Marin's residents and natural wonders.

Mr. Mery's passing leaves some very big shoes to fill, but thanks to his commitment to youth empowerment, a new generation of West Marin youth have come to the fore to bring his community message into the 21st Century. Michael is survived by Connie, his wife of 35 years, his sister Megan, and numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, the depth of Mr. Mery's service to his community has left a positive legacy across Marin County. He will be profoundly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GOYETTE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Goyette of Butte, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Goyette is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1967 to 1970 during the Vietnam War earning the National Defense Service Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Award and RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Serving his community as a volunteer for the American Legion, his local VFW and the United Veterans Council, Mr. Goyette has dedicated in his life to helping others. He's spent more than 20 years serving rural communities working as a registered nurse and volunteering with the local ambulance services. It's hard to find a rural community Mr. Goyette hasn't volunteered in. He's also provided many hours in continuing education services for ambulance crews around the state of Montana.

Mr. Goyette also has been the coordinator for his local Honor Guard for several years where he communicates with funeral directors and personnel to make sure fallen officers and retired officers are given the respect they deserve.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Thomas Goyette for his dedication and service.

IN HONOR OF ROGER PENSKE

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has achieved greatness in motorsports, business, and in his community. On October 24th, Roger Penske

was awarded the highest honor a civilian can receive, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award is not given lightly. According to the White House, to receive such an honor one must either contribute "to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or significant public or private endeavors." It is fair to say, that Mr. Penske has done much in his life to grow his community into a better place and his business into the global industry leader it is today.

Mr. Penske has had significant success in both auto racing and business for more than 50 years. After forming his own auto racing team in 1965, Team Penske has won over 500 races and 36 national championships. The team's most recent wins include the 2018 NASCAR championship and 2019 Indianapolis 500, which marks a record breaking 18 Indianapolis 500 victories for a team owner.

Since starting his own car dealership in 1969, Penske Corporation has expanded into a company that generates \$32 billion in revenues and employs approximately 64,000 people. However, Mr. Penske is not only a man with a mind for business, he is also a man with a generous heart. In 2005 he was named Michiganian of the Year after vowing to spend \$35 million, in order to revive and restore neighborhoods in Detroit. Just as Penske Corporation is an exceptional example of a great American business, so also is Roger Penske an outstanding example of an American citizen. Our country is fortunate to have Roger Penske as a role model for generations to come. I offer Mr. Penske my sincere congratulations on this prestigious honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on November 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 610 and Roll Call Vote 611. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 610 and Yea on Roll Call Vote 611.

CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS CATHOLIC CRUSADERS SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 MISSOURI CLASS III STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic Crusaders softball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Softball Championship.

This is Helias Catholic's third state championship in the history of their softball program. This team and Coach Chris Wyrick should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Helias Catholic Crusaders team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING DALE LONGFELLOW FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Longfellow of Hobson, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Longfellow is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1961 to 1964 with distinction on the USS Coral Sea CV 43 aircraft carrier. During his enlistment Dale earned nominations to the United States Naval Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy and attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

Mr. Longfellow has served his community in many ways. As a volunteer emergency medical technician, as mayor of Hobson, and as a dynamic businessman who for many years employed numerous people in the community.

Mr. Longfellow is known as the person you go to for advice and the one you call if you're in a crisis. Those who know Mr. Longfellow use words like upright, moral and compassionate to describe him. He is a role model to his children and everyone else in his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Dale Longfellow for his dedication and service.

VA OVERPAYMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Tennessee and my good friend from California for their leadership of our Veterans' Affairs Committee. They are a dynamic duo.

Their visits to Little Rock, Arkansas, both as Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, gave local Arkansans a direct voice to leaders in Congress to discuss many of the issues they deal with on a daily basis.

It was a pleasure to host them, and the accessibility they have shown to hear from people in Arkansas and across the Nation speaks to the type of leadership both provide atop the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

I appreciate their kind words about Arkansas and my veterans team in the district, which works tirelessly to ensure the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces receive the benefits and care they deserve.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor to be in support of this list of good bills tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly want to thank my friend from New Jersey, Mr. KIM, for his hard work and collaboration on this important bill for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 5 years I have served in this House, I have had over 3,200 cases completed and closed for veterans in my district.

As a former community banker, when I look at those cases and I listen to these stories, this too often is a challenge for our veterans. It is a crazy challenge. Mr. Speaker, that withholding a payment can have severe consequences for our brave veterans who are out there just doing their job, through no fault of their own and through a computer mess up or an IT problem, our veterans receive an overpayment and then suddenly get a letter a few weeks later saying, “Oh, hey, we made a mistake. You owe us \$5,000 back.”

Well, the normal American, Mr. Speaker, doesn't have that kind of financial planning expertise, and relies on the quality of our VA services to not make mistakes like that.

So, it is a pleasure to work with Mr. KIM on this measure to try to improve that situation and answer the IG's own report at the VA that this is a serious problem affecting over 1.5 million veterans.

This bill tries to tackle this issue by improving Veterans Administration IT systems, which are often the cause of this challenge, and offers veterans that unknowingly are forced to go without their earned benefits for extended periods of time some recourse on being a victim of an overpayment and have their credit impaired.

I am proud to represent veterans from Camp Robinson and Little Rock Air Force Base in our central Arkansas area. I am proud to work on something that rectifies a common problem across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New Jersey for his work and for the leadership of the committee for bringing this bill to the House floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes. On Roll Call No. 610 on the passage of H.R. 4162, the “GI Planning Bill Act of 2019,” had I been present, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call No. 611 on the passage of H.R. 3224, “To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans,” had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

RECOGNIZING McMILLAN ELEMENTARY AS AN AWARDEE OF THE NATIONAL BLUE-RIBBON

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, parents, teachers and students in the Murray City School District are celebrating the 2019 National Blue-Ribbon Schools award to McMillan

Elementary School. This award brings public attention to the best schools in America. Fit-tingly, it was the brainchild of a former Utah Commissioner of Higher Education—Terrel H. Bell—who served as Education Secretary under President Ronald Reagan. Dr. Bell believed that through the real action of teaching and learning, families and educators could work together to articulate a vision of excellence. He believed that by holding everyone to high standards, local schools could become the best at preparing their students for academic success.

The 498 students of McMillan Elementary, their teachers, Principal Joy Sanford, and parents, have risen to the challenge. The school is named for a family who formerly owned the property around the school. It is the only school in the Murray School District to be named after a local family. Education is vitally important to this community. Home to the Murray District Gifted and Talented Program, McMillan Elementary held its first Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Night, featuring local business professionals who spoke about rewarding careers in those fields.

Public schools nominated for the National Blue-Ribbon Schools award must be top-performers in the state on English and math assessments and must meet their state's performance targets such as attendance and graduation rates for all student groups. The National Blue-Ribbon School award acknowledges and validates the hard work of students, educators, families and communities. McMillan Elementary now serves as a model of effective school practices. Others will look to them for how to achieve academic success. Dr. Bell would be very proud. Principal Sanford should be very proud. Everyone associated with education in Utah salutes McMillan Elementary School's success and congratulates them on receiving this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MADILL FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Madill of Great Falls, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Dr. Madill served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2013 as a member of the medical corps attaining the rank of Major. He is a veteran of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade for Operation Enduring Freedom where he earned the Air Medal with Valor Device, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

While serving in Afghanistan during the Battle of Want, Dr. Madill extracted the wounded Staff Sergeant General Ryan Pitts on July 13, 2008. Staff Sergeant General Pitts was later the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions. Dr. Madill was a guest of the President of the United States at the Medal of Honor ceremony.

Since returning to Montana, Dr. Madill works as an emergency physician in Great Falls

where he's delivered care to thousands of Montanans. He continues to create special bonds with his patients both veteran and non-veteran where he receives numerous thank you cards for his care and compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commanding Justin Madill for his dedication and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act, which would authorize the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia commemorating the efforts of the 18 million American women who kept the home front running during World War II. Women are dramatically underrepresented in our memorials.

A 17-year-old constituent, Raya Kenney, the founder of the non-profit Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation, came up with the idea to honor the women on the home front who supported the World War II effort. Raya wondered why the women on the home front, whose efforts were so instrumental in maintaining the stability of the country during World War II, have not received much recognition for their contributions, compared to the men who fought bravely in World War II. This bill would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish the memorial to honor these women. The memorial is designed to be interactive and to educate visitors on the important roles women played during World War II.

Between 1940 and 1945, the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 one in four married women worked outside of the home. The work done by women on the home front opened doors for women in the workplace generally and had a profound effect on the job market going forward. As a result of their efforts, women on the home front redefined many occupations that were previously considered “men's work.”

Just as women were working on the home front, many played critical roles in support of the war effort. More than 10,000 women served behind the scenes of World War II as codebreakers. Due to the classified nature of their work, they did not receive recognition for their tireless efforts until recently. Women were also trained to fly military aircraft so male pilots could leave for combat duty overseas. More than 1,100 female civilian volunteers flew nearly every type of military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. WASP flew planes from factories to bases, transported cargo and participated in simulation strafing and target missions. These women were not given full military status until 1977, and it was not until 2010 that they were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Women have largely been ignored in the memorials on federal land in the nation's capital, even though they played a key role in