

These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 10th answered our nation's call to service during several of its greatest times of need. Across the world, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

John G. Aister, Victor J. Alvarez, Brownie J. Andrews, Jr., Joseph J. Arcara, William J. Arndt, Gordon W. Atkins, George E. Batson, Charles Bennett, John C. Bierman, James Terry Blue, Sr., John J. Borg, Walter L. Brooks, Robert A. Bryant, Patrick Butler, John W. Cannon, James M. Clemons, Leroy Cobb, Matthew W. Connor, William J. Dierks, Jack H. Doyle.

William Thomas Dzingel, Duane Arthur Foss, Charles W. Fruehe, Dennis W. Gallo-way, Richard Gardner, Philip L. Givens, Robert Wesley Godfrey, John P. Greaney, Robert L. Gurley, James A. Haegele, Sr., Ernest R. Hanna, Edwin W. Hendry, James John Hennessy, Thomas J. Henry, Superman J. Horn, Archie Hubbard, Jr., Michael M. Hughes, Holman B. Ingram, Angelo Irizarry, Nello D. Isabelli.

Ronald J. Janiak, Robert E. Jensen, Theodore B. Knapp, Harold B. Koenen, Ronald J. Konetsky, James J. Kosinski, Richard Kowalski, Joseph Kwak, Earl M. Laib, Andrew Leverenz, James O. Lewis, William R. Lindberg, Robert B. Locknar, Stanley R. Lokaj, Bernard LoMonaco, David L. Lowe, Stewart G. Margolis, Joseph Martinek, Dwight C. McConnell, Stuart W. McDowell.

Edward W. McQuiston, Robert J. Misevich, Fernando E. Montilla, Leonard W. Morris, Jerry I. Mosenon, Charles E. Nichols, Earl A. Nordmeyer, Harlan W. O'Cull, William O'Neill, Paul M. Obinger, Stanley J. Penczak, Steven L. Penczak, George L. Peso, Dennis R. Rokita, Kent Romanus, Ralph H. Schmalfeld, Terrence Lee Schmidt, James Schwartz, Robin P. Schwartz, Auberay L. Smith, Lynwood Smith, Gerald S. Snarski, Joseph J. Stachon.

Leroy E. Stahr, Willard Stockfisch, Myron I. Strepka, Albert F. Struska, Alexander C. Styrzula, Edward Sulita, Robert Sweeney, James J. Sykucki, Donald G. Tollefsen, Gregory B. Tweedy, Sr., John J. Valverde, Hector H. Villarreal, Robert W. Vogelanz, Leonard A. Wantroba, Lawrence Weiss, Edward K. Weyna, Edward S. Weyna, James C. Wightman, Clyde Wilson, Samuel Wilson, Leo W. Wysocki, Ascher Daniel Yates, Daniel R. Yatsko.

HONORING LT. COLONEL SAMUEL LOMBARDO

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 100th birthday of Lt. Col.

Samuel Lombardo in honor of his service to our country. Mr. Lombardo and his family legally immigrated to the United States of America from Italy when he was just 10 years old. He grew up in Pennsylvania, where he enlisted to serve in the Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division just one month following the start of World War II.

After training, he was deployed to Europe, where served as platoon leader and executive officer of I Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division. He served in the "Battle of the Bulge," and he continued his service to America in the Korean conflict and in the Vietnam War.

Throughout his service to our country, Lt. Colonel Lombardo earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V Device" for valor, as well as an oak leaf cluster for meritorious achievement, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, United Nations Medal, Vietnam Expeditionary Forces Medal, French Legion of Honor, the Belgian Fourragere, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in support of the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners in Florida Congressional District One, as they declare this day, July 12, 2019, to be "Samuel Lombardo Day."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. GILLILAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert J. Gilliland, the first man to fly the world's fastest supersonic manned aircraft—the SR-71 Blackbird—who died on Independence Day last week at the age of 93. Mr. Gilliland, a native of Memphis, attended what is now the Campus School at the University of Memphis and the Webb School at Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He was a 1949 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he took his commission in the newly created U.S. Air Force. After patrolling the skies over post-war Germany, he won his air wing's "top gun" competition. In the Korean War, he flew F-84s from the Taegu Air Base with the call sign "Dutch 51." Returning to the United States, Mr. Gilliland got a plum assignment to the Air Force's research and development group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, but soon left that post to help his father run the family's Memphis commercial real estate business. After his father died, Mr. Gilliland joined Lockheed as a test pilot for the F-104 Starfighter in California, then as chief pilot for the European production of the F-104 at Turin, Italy. In 1962, he got a call from Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson, the chief of Lockheed's advanced research and development team at what is called the Skunk Works outside Burbank, California. There, he worked on the secretive SR-71 Blackbird, the first manned stealth aircraft and the fastest of its day, sometimes at the super-secret Area 51 in

the Nevada desert. On December 22, 1964, he piloted the hypersonic SR-71 for the first time and continued testing an aircraft that could attain speeds in excess of Mach 3.2 and climb to the edge of outer space at 85,000 feet. Mr. Gilliland logged more test flight hours at or above Mach 3 than any other pilot. His life is the subject of a book due for release next year with a forward by Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who landed a U.S. Airways flight on the Hudson River in 2009. I want to extend my condolences to Mr. Gilliland's daughter Anne Gilliland Hayes and her husband Richard; to his son Robert J. Gilliland Jr. and his wife Kim; to his grandchildren Laura, Nathaniel, Stuart, Scott and Heather; and to his brother, my friend James S. Gilliland and his wife Lucia. Service was a family quality that was instilled in Mr. Gilliland and he was a true hero whose bravery was repeatedly demonstrated in the harshest possible circumstances. He was the embodiment of the Air Force motto, "Aim High, Fly-Fight-Win." The nation owes him a debt of gratitude for an American life well lived.

HONORING ALEXANDER V. MITRENKO

HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize and congratulate Alexander V. Mitrenko of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, who will take his oath of citizenship today in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 19 years ago, Alex arrived in Selinsgrove for the first time as a 16-year-old high school exchange student from the Ukraine. Upon his arrival, Alexander knew no one, had no family to accompany him but in spirit, and spoke very little English. But as Alex stood at the beginning of a journey that would eventually bring him to raising his right hand today in allegiance to our nation, he held with him what our nation's earliest settlers had established and would take him toward a brighter and better future: the promise of America.

Alexander readily adapted to American life by forging new friendships in Central Pennsylvania and joining several groups in his school: the soccer and baseball teams, chess club, and the school band, to name a few. He worked tirelessly to improve his English, studied hard, frequently offered a unique perspective on world events to his classmates, and was always willing to offer a helping hand to a friend in need. To this day, he continues his close friendship with his host father in the United States, George Kinney.

Upon his graduation from high school, Alexander attended Susquehanna University and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Finance and Information Systems in 2005. He worked full-time after college and attended Drexel University's LeBow College of Business at night. In 2011, he received a Master's of Business Administration in Investment Management and International Business. In July 2015, Alex obtained his green card and married his wife, Erin, later that same year in October. They currently reside in Selinsgrove with their three adopted cats and are currently

restoring one of the town's historic properties on Market Street.

Today, Alexander remains a selfless member of his community. He previously served as a volunteer firefighter, takes part in 5k races and soccer games to raise money for charitable causes, and frequently participates in

volunteer opportunities through his employer, Prudential Financial. He is also an avid fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, Flyers, and Phillies.

Madam Speaker, if today we were tasked with finding some living proof that demonstrates how alive and well the promise of America is today, I would respectfully ref-

erence this invitation to congratulate Alexander V. Mitrenko on becoming a citizen of the United States of America. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate and welcome him, as he is officially guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.