

He is also an amazing historian, especially knowledgeable about the minutiae of World War II. All of his friends, and I count myself lucky to be among those, revere our time that we spend with him. He is always entertaining, educational, and exceptional.

One of his daughters recently said to me: “Daddy is so social and he knows so many people that he could cause a traffic jam in Calhoun County.” That is a lot of personality.

I spoke with him on the phone last week, after he received his diagnosis of a rapidly progressing terminal illness. After sharing his terminal diagnosis with me, he lightheartedly promised that, come what may, he would vote for me by absentee ballot next year.

Mr. Speaker, as the curtain draws closed on the life of my friend, I ask that we cast our attention on a man who lived an extraordinary life; a man who changed my community for the better; a man who cared for and supported many, many friends and family; a man who is, quite literally, larger than life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, who made me a better person, made my community a better place, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover, we are praying for you, my friend, and for your family.

#### COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise in support of the 42,000 men and women of the United States Coast Guard, the vital public safety, humanitarian, and national defense missions they perform, and this House’s passage yesterday of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Coast Guard members are the first responders of America’s oceans, waterways, and coastlines, conducting varied missions, often at a moment’s notice, including search and rescue, securing our Nation’s ports and waterways, and conducting law enforcement operations.

In my district in New Hampshire, we have been home to the Coast Guard since its founding, and the Granite State has relied on its work to keep us safe and strong for generations.

Last month I had the privilege of meeting with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As I met officers and crew members and toured their vessel, I was struck by the critical nature of their missions and the challenges they encounter in executing them.

Cutters like *Tahoma* patrol international waters and interdict drugs coming to America’s shores. Their work saves lives and makes our communities safer. The Coast Guard has been doing this work despite being chronically underfunded and underresourced.

The Coast Guard faces cartels and smugglers with staggering resources and advanced technology, and studies show that only 20 to 30 percent of the illegal drugs coming to our shores are interdicted.

According to the leaders of the Coast Guard, the most significant factor in its inability to meet drug interdiction targets has been insufficient inventory of vessels and aircraft to support operations.

At a time when our Nation is facing a profound crisis of addiction, we can and must do more to ensure that the Coast Guard is fully funded and has the resources it needs to keep our country safe.

That is why yesterday’s action to pass the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019 in a bipartisan way was so critical. This act supports the Coast Guard for the next 2 years with more than \$11 billion in discretionary funding each fiscal year, allowing them to address a backlog created by previous cuts.

An important bill I introduced was also included, the Fair and Equal Treatment of Women in the Coast Guard Act. This seeks to increase the recruitment and retention of women in the U.S. Coast Guard and improve gender diversity in this branch of the Armed Forces.

This comes in response to a study commissioned by the Coast Guard that identified barriers to attracting, recruiting, and retaining women, and recommended ways to improve gender diversity in the service. It is one important step to assure that the Coast Guard can continue to attract our Nation’s best and brightest.

When we talk about keeping this Nation safe, let’s remember the incredible work performed by our Coast Guard close to home and around the globe.

Let’s show the Coast Guard Members that Congress has their backs, and let’s continue to work collaboratively to ensure the Coast Guard has the proper support and policies in place to carry out its missions.

#### THE PLAGUE OF ROBOCALLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great uncertainty. I am uncertain that I can make it through this speech without being interrupted by a robocall, which has become a daily or, rather, sometimes an hourly nuisance.

For far too long now robocalls and spoofing have become a hindering plague upon the phones of millions of Americans. I hear from constituents on a daily basis about how their lives are habitually interrupted by phony phone calls, and how their cell phones, once seen as necessities, are now sources of frustration.

In many cases, these calls are dangerous and disguised, seeking to steal valuable information by tricking the

unsuspecting. In other cases, these aggravating calls disrupt important business, intrude on leisure activities, disturb family dinners and, even worse, are not restricted by the time of day.

□ 1030

These calls have been distracting, irritating, and deceiving Americans for long enough, and that is why I have introduced a bill called the Double the Enforcement and Fines of Everyone Associated with Terrible Robocalls Act, or, in short, the DEFEAT Robocalls Act. This bill ensures the harshest penalties for the individuals who are caught making illegal robocalls and spoofing calls. Simply said, the bill takes all the fines and penalties that those making robocalls currently face and doubles them.

It is time that we hold those who continue scamming Americans all across the country liable for their actions in a manner as serious as their crime.

I am encouraged to see Congress’ recent legislative actions to prevent robocalls from being a daily hindrance, and I call on my colleagues to continue moving swiftly to send a bill to the President’s desk so that we can restore Americans’ trust when they answer their phones.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KRAFT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Christopher Columbus Kraft, who served as NASA’s first flight director and one of the agency’s preeminent leaders.

Kraft passed away on July 22, 2019, at the impressive age of 95 years old and only 2 days after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

It is impossible to overstate the vital role that Kraft played in the formative years of NASA.

After graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944 with a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering, Dr. Kraft started work at NASA’s precursor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; and toward the onset of the space race in 1958, President Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and tasked Project Mercury with getting America into space and putting a man into orbit.

During this time, Kraft essentially created the entire concept of mission control and successfully directed all six crewed Mercury missions, including those that made Alan Shepard the first American in space and John Glenn the first American in orbit.

In Project Gemini, Kraft was promoted to the head of mission operations. Now in charge of a team of flight directors, he served “on console” during many historic moments, including Ed White’s first spacewalk in Gemini 4.

Achieving all of this proved to the country and the rest of the world that America could succeed in space, and certainly set the stage for the Apollo missions to the Moon.

During Apollo, Chris Kraft soon rose to the position of deputy director of the Manned Spacecraft Center, now known as Johnson Space Center, which I proudly represent, and in 1972 was promoted to serve as the Center director.

Before Dr. Kraft's retirement in 1982, he contributed to a myriad of other projects, including Skylab and the first space shuttle missions.

While our space program continues to grow by leaps and bounds and our hands and hearts reach outward for Mars, we should remember the man on whose shoulders we stand and the great debt owed not only by NASA and our Nation, but also by our entire planet, to this incredible individual. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Kraft for his service to our country, "flight."

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JAMES HUSTON MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and service of Mr. James Huston Murphy.

James is a 94-year-old decorated World War II veteran as well as a native of the 11th Congressional District in Georgia.

Jim graduated from Lanier High School for Boys in 1942 and was an officer in the school's ROTC program, where he was preparing for a career as an officer in the U.S. military. The ROTC program is where Jim learned valuable lessons that would serve him down the road during the war.

In the fall of 1942, Jim enrolled at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, with the hope of receiving an Army officer's commission through Tech's senior ROTC program. At that time, the United States was 4 years into World War II; and at the urging of Army recruiters, Jim and most of his fellow ROTC classmates enlisted in the Reserves because the military wanted them to complete college and officer training before going to Active Duty.

However, that idea was short-lived, because in March of 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Jim's ROTC class and others across the Nation into immediate Active Duty. They were needed as ground troop replacements, and at that time, Jim was barely 18 years old.

In the spring of 1943, Jim reported to Fort McPherson in Atlanta, where he faced many challenges, but nothing more daunting than passing the military standard eye exam. And I know you are thinking: How difficult is an eye exam? Well, for Jim it was nearly impossible because Jim was blind in his left eye from birth.

This disability would disqualify Jim from serving in the military, but Jim was not going to let that stop him from serving his country. He believed that

service was his duty, and after playing a few hand tricks during the exam, he passed.

In March of 1944, Jim was entered to Camp Howze near Gainesville, Texas, to join the 103rd Infantry Division. The division was embroiled in intensive combat training, and since Jim had already received some artillery training, he was assigned to Battery C of the 928th Field Artillery Battalion, a 105-millimeter howitzer unit.

They trained long and hard, knowing they were headed for war. They learned the mission of artillery to support advancing infantry ground forces in combat and how to bracket your target area by trial and error. Jim's job was to be the forward observer radio operator when they were in combat and a jeep driver when the battery was moving forward.

Only a few months had passed since Jim was assigned to the 103rd Infantry Division before he was aboard the USS *Monticello* heading for the war.

The trip across the Atlantic was anything but luxurious. The military had packed the ship like "a can of sardines," as Jim put it; and the 2-week voyage was full of severe storms and indescribable seasickness, and a fear of being torpedoed always loomed in the back of their minds.

After arriving in France, it would not take long for Jim's combat unit to see their first action, and it occurred while they approached the Vosges Mountains in northeastern France. One of Jim's forward observer team was killed by rifle fire in the small town of Barr, which meant that Jim and the other member had to carry on the job a man short. For this, they were later awarded the Bronze Star.

Jim survived the record winter that enveloped northern France, Belgium, and Germany during the war, but he did not leave unscathed. On Christmas night 1944, after finishing a warm meal, Jim became very sick while single-handedly manning a forward outpost only 200 yards from German soldiers. The pain became so intense that he had to be transported to a field hospital, and doctors determined he had a bad case of appendicitis.

While Jim was lying in the hospital bed after appendix surgery, the Battle of the Bulge was just getting underway, and Jim realized his battery desperately need him. Going against doctors' orders, Jim put on his uniform, left the hospital, and hitched a ride back to his battery. The rest of Jim's unit was amazed he came back, and in the meantime, his battery commander had learned he was blind in one eye. Jim was nominated for the Silver Star, but Jim refused, as he felt any citation earned should go to the entire battery, not just him.

Germany surrendered in May of 1945, marking the end of the war effort in Europe, but the war was still raging in the Pacific, and that is where Jim was sent. However, before Jim got there, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and World War II was soon over.

In Jim's own words: "My contributions to World War II, from enlistment to discharge, was 2 years, 11 months, and 14 days of my youth, including 9 months in combat. For this I am proud and have no regrets. I did not have to go to the war, but I believed it was my duty, and I wanted to go."

Jim will be the first to tell you his story is like so many others who fought in Europe during World War II, but in reading his memoirs, his selflessness, his duty to his country and fellow soldiers was quite exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives thanks Jim. We thank him for his service to our Nation and his sacrifice for our freedoms.

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WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the first person born in Guatemala to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

I know the Guatemalan people have lived through many difficult times, and I know this because I was born there during the civil war. My parents made the heartbreaking decision to send me to live with my uncle in the United States when I was a little girl.

But through it all, the people of Guatemala have not given up. They have continued to work to make a better life for their children and for their children's children. They have worked for justice, for democracy, and they have won important victories.

In 1996, the efforts of the Guatemalan people ended the civil war; and in 2007, their search for justice led to the creation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, an innovative institution whose mission was to help rid the country of corruption and organized crime. Working with brave Guatemalan judges and prosecutors, CICIG made real progress in improving Guatemala's justice system.

Then, in 2015, Guatemalans of all ages and political stripes took to the streets to call for the resignation of massively corrupt President Otto Perez Molina, and they won.

The long struggle of the Guatemalan people has led to a country that is safer and more just. The country's problems are far from resolved, but progress has been made.

Today Guatemala is at a crossroads. CICIG has, unfortunately, been forced out, and the country is in the middle of an election season, but many Guatemalans fear that the current government will be replaced by a new government that is just as corrupt as the current and the previous ones.

So many Guatemalans feel like they are alone, and some are losing hope,