

1973, including two tours of duty in Vietnam. In 2018, Mr. Talbott requested his service records from the National Archive and discovered in an evaluation from 1968 that his superior officer had recommended him for a Bronze Star Medal. No further action was taken at the time, and Sgt. Talbott was not informed. Upon discovering the recommendation, former Sgt. Talbott, now in his 80s, took immediate action and applied to have his service record changed to reflect the Medal. Unfortunately, the passage of over half a century between then and now means that Airmen and others who witnessed his actions and who could provide evidence of his valor have all died. His request to have his record amended was denied. Though he has appealed, the likelihood of a change is very small.

Nonetheless, Rene Talbott deserves to have his actions acknowledged. With this entry into the official proceedings of the Congress of the United States, I call attention to the strength and courage he displayed during his active duty service with this excerpt from Airman Talbott's evaluation:

During his training, he showed an outstanding ability to learn and to retain what he learned. This was demonstrated on 30 May 1968, when as assistant machine gunner during a fire fight with an enemy of unknown strength and size, he reacted in a professional manner. He assisted the machine gunner in spotting targets and directing his fire. His self-control under fire showed his good discipline and outstanding ability to react under adverse conditions. For his action in this incident Airman Talbott was recommended for the Bronze Star.

While I still hope that Mr. Talbott will succeed in having his service record reflect the awarding of the Bronze Star, with this entry into the official record of the Proceedings of the U.S. Congress, I call attention to his dedication, his courage, and his integrity. The heroic actions that originally inspired Airman Talbott's chain of command to recommend him for the Bronze Star are now on full display for public recognition.

HONORING DRAKE'S BBQ

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable establishment, Drake's BBQ.

It all started with one man and a vision. Mr. Kendrell Drake always loved cooking and grilling. His wife, Mrs. Shulundia Drake, recalls, "We would always have cookouts at our house every weekend and invite friends and family over." One day, Mr. Drake said, "I wonder would my friends buy my barbecue if I started selling it." Mrs. Drake remembers saying to him, "Sure they would."

About a year later, they began their barbecue journey. It started with their family; Mr. & Mrs. Drake and their three daughters; Sekayi, Khamya and Kendall. It was late summer 2014 when they started selling barbecue from a trailer Mr. Drake built. Mrs. Drake was right by his side on those hot days, standing next to a big grill waiting and serving customers.

They were both employed full time at the time of their venture. He was employed with Frito Lay and she was employed with Greenwood Leflore Hospital. On his off days, which were Wednesdays and Saturdays, he would pull the trailer on the side of Highway 82 and wait on customers to arrive. By the time Mrs. Drake would arrive, around 11:15, they would have a line of customers.

They worked in the heat, rain, and freezing cold weather. And you wouldn't believe how people would come out in that type of weather for Drake's barbecue. That made them realize that a physical location was needed.

Four years later, they are now located inside the Village Shopping Center at 1904 A Leflore Avenue in Greenwood, Mississippi. They've been at this location for about four years now. They have been nominated as one of the Top 10 Places to Work, Top 30 under 40 by the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and received the Greenwood Commonwealth People's Choice Best Barbecue Award 3 years in a row since 2018.

The Drake's credit to their success to the loyalty of their customers. Every year in September, Drake's BBQ holds a customer appreciation day. They give away around 400 to 500 plates to the customers to show how much they appreciate their continuous support. "After all, they're the ones who keep us going," states Mrs. Drake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Drake's BBQ for their service and commitment to the community.

SALUTING COAST GUARD SECTOR ST. PETERSBURG

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my gratitude to the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard stationed at Coast Guard Sector Saint Petersburg, and all the units within Pinellas County. They consistently perform with honor, respect, and devotion to duty throughout Florida, our nation, and among our international maritime community; even in times of crisis, uncertainty, and emerging threats.

Between fiscal years 2019 and 2020 alone, Sector St. Petersburg ran over 1400 Search and Rescue cases, the third highest across the nation. More importantly, they saved 320 and assisted 1858 lives. In addition, they helped keep our waterways beautiful and clean by conducting 726 Marine Environmental Protection cases. To keep the Marine Transportation System moving safely and efficiently, often described as the lifeblood of our economy, with \$5.4 trillion in annual impact, they expertly conducted 294 Marine Safety cases. And, among the many other accomplishments, Sector St. Pete helped maintain our security by leading 173 Security missions, and 761 Law enforcement missions.

If that body of work was not impressive enough, I am particularly proud of how they've managed to step up to the plate in the face of adversity. From our ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and hurricanes, or an uncertain budgetary environ-

ment—they continue to live up to their motto of "Semper Paratus"—Always Ready.

HONORING SHERIFF RUSSELL GIBSON AS A DEDICATED LEADER

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Sheriff Russell Gibson began his law enforcement career in 1985, at the Brookfield Township Police Department in Ohio. He worked for two years as a Reserve Deputy before moving to Osceola County, dedicating 28 years to public service.

On January 12, 1987, Russell began his career with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office in the Corrections Department becoming a Field Training Officer and Sergeant supervising booking, classifications, security and release of inmates. Russell later transferred to Divisions in Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Judicial Services, and Community Services.

Within the Criminal Investigations Division, Russell was a member of the Violent Crimes Unit as a homicide detective, investigating murders, suspicious deaths, and suicides. He solved every investigation assigned as lead detective, including cold cases.

Russell also gained investigative expertise in persons and sex crimes, solving sensitive cases involving elderly abuse, sex crimes, crimes against children, and cyber-crimes. Before retiring to seek the Office of Sheriff, Russell was the Sergeant over the School Resource Officer Program (SRO), supervising SROs designated to the west and south sides of Osceola County's unincorporated schools and all 55 crossing-guards.

Russell has been married to his wife, Scarlet, for over 20 years and has a son, two daughters, and two granddaughters. Weekly, Russell participates in delivering Meals on Wheels to Osceola's local senior citizens. Russell is committed to keeping citizens safe by demonstrating a sense of compassion and fairness to all of our diverse communities and has been a transformational leader for Osceola County.

Sheriff Gibson is a board member of the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX) and the Board of Trustees of the Criminal Justice Academy at Osceola Technical College. He is also a board member of the Osceola Council on Aging, Osceola County Investigative Bureau, Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation and is a member of the Florida Sheriff's Association.

CONGRATULATING JIMMY RAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jimmy Ray of Chatham County for being recognized as Veteran of the Year by the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Georgia's First Congressional District is home to many of our nation's veterans, so being recognized as veteran of the year is an incredible honor.

With this title, Jimmy will represent the Veterans Council at various events throughout the year.

Jimmy is a past commander of the American Legion Chatham Post 36, which is an organization dedicated to advocating for patriotism across the United States.

Among his many lifetime achievements, he helped spearhead the fundraising and construction of the World War II Memorial on River Street in Savannah.

He has also been an active member of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 35 years, and was even the 2013 parade Grand Marshal.

I can't thank Jimmy enough for his outstanding service to our nation throughout his life, and I congratulate him again on this wonderful accomplishment.

CELEBRATING NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today for myself and Members of the Illinois delegation to speak about Northern Illinois University, my alma mater and a major contributor to the life, health and future of the Midwest and beyond.

This year, NIU celebrates its 125th anniversary. Like so many state universities across our great country, NIU began as a "normal school," or teachers college. In the late 1800s, 11 million people had moved from farms to cities, and our country had welcomed 25 million new immigrants. The need for better access to education was exceeded only by the need for more teachers—and schools like NIU were created to meet those needs.

From the beginning, NIU has been an institution committed to providing opportunity for underserved students—students who are the first in their families to attend college, students of color and students with high financial need. Today nearly 75 percent of NIU students fall into one or more of those categories, with about 45 percent Pell grant-eligible, 50 percent students of color and 50 percent first generation college students. At the same time, NIU excels in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. In 2017, the Brookings Institution gave NIU high rankings for excellence at the intersection of research accomplishments and the creation of social mobility for students exposed to hands-on research and other opportunities they might not otherwise experience.

NIU faculty are not only great teachers, but many are world-renowned scientists, authors, and policy experts. They study climate change, look for ways to improve physical and mental health, create fuel-saving vehicles, expand the boundaries of visual and performance art, explore ancient and modern cultures and much more. A host of federal agencies have expressed confidence in NIU through grant awards for study of such diverse areas as Southeast Asian languages and cultures, assistive technologies for people who are blind or visually impaired, and new devices for the Department of Homeland Security to keep air travel safe.

Nearly 250,000 alumni in the northern Illinois region and around the world are making a difference in their chosen fields. The impact of this outstanding institution has earned the respect and attention of a grateful state and nation. As a proud alumna, I am honored to join my colleagues to congratulate Northern Illinois University on this, its 125th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 97TH TURKISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Turkish-American Cultural Association of Michigan on the celebration of the 97th Turkish Independence Day on October 29, 2020.

The Turkish-American Cultural Association is a valued member of Michigan. The group serves as a bridge that unifies our communities to promote, plan, and execute programs that improve humanitarian and cultural welfare of the Turkish community in Michigan and abroad. The organization has been a strong voice for the Turkish people, and its efforts have been paramount in fostering a meaningful relationship between Turkey and the United States. Its leadership has made a true difference in Michigan and in communities across the nation.

As we celebrate the 97th Turkish Independence Day, I am proud to recognize the many Americans of Turkish descent who have contributed significantly to our state, especially Michigan's 12th Congressional District. Turkish-Americans enrich our communities and continue to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to making Michigan a more inclusive, vibrant, and prosperous place for all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 97th Turkish Independence Day. We thank the Turkish-American Cultural Association for its commitment to Michigan and look forward to celebrating this special anniversary for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANK TONEY, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 30, 2020

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Retired Brigadier General Frank Toney, Jr., United States Army Special Forces, who passed away on August 6, 2020, at the age of 70.

Frank Toney was born in Tampa, Florida, on March 1, 1950, where he was raised until he graduated from Henry B. Plant High School in 1968. He attended Arkansas State University on an athletic scholarship and was a part of Arkansas State's championship football team that went undefeated in 1970. He graduated in 1972 as a Distinguished Military Graduate with the Red Wolf Battalion ROTC program and received an active duty commis-

sion as an infantry officer with the United States Army.

As a Lieutenant, Toney served with the 7th Psychological Operations Group, 1st Special Forces Group, and the 51st Infantry Regiment. After graduating the Advanced Infantry Officer Course, Captain Toney assumed his first company command with the highly esteemed 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington. Following this command, Toney became a Special Forces officer after earning his green beret. Toney was then promoted to Major in 1981 and served four years with the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1986 and was assigned to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School where his incredible leadership shaped the intensive Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course responsible for evaluating and selecting the best candidates to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Toney was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1989, and his leadership would shape special operations in the Middle East and Africa throughout the 1990s. He led 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group in combat during Operation Desert Storm. He was promoted to Colonel after attending the National War College and commanded the 10th Special Forces Group between 1992 and 1994. Toney then served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and then as Deputy Commander of Army Special Operations Command before he was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded all Special Operations Forces under Special Operations Command Central during Operation Desert Fox.

Toney is best known as the Commander of the United States Special Forces Command during the initial push into Afghanistan where he radically shifted the Special Forces mission towards unconventional warfare to effectively fight the Taliban. Under his command, Special Forces were able to rally together and lead the Northern Alliance of tribes to liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban.

Toney retired from the United States Army in January 2002, but even in retirement he continued to serve as an advisor upholding United States interests throughout Africa and the Middle East. In fact, in February 2012, the United States Army Special Forces Regiment recognized Toney as a Distinguished Member in the Regimental Honors, Awards, and Affiliation Program. This was an honor that had been given to less than 80 men before him.

Even after he retired to Medford, Oregon, he continued to serve his country and the military he loved. Over the last decade, Toney assisted me in the assessment and recommendations of the best potential candidates for our nation's military service academies. His pointed and expert guidance in his role as Chairman for my annual Service Academy Nomination Boards was invaluable. He will be missed.

Toney is survived by his wife Sally and his son, Frank Toney, also a United States Army Veteran. Toney's decorations and awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Master and Military Free Fall Parachute Badges, among other distinguished awards. Overall, Toney dedicated more than 40 years of service to our country.