

ZAC KERNS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zac Kerns upon his promotion from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel in the United States Army. Zac is a peerless example for hard work, dedication and excellence not only for the United States Military, but also to his home town of St. Joseph, Missouri.

After graduating from Missouri Western State University and being commissioned as an officer through their ROTC program, Zac was selected for the demanding Special Forces Qualification Course. This led to a sixteen year career as a Green Beret. During that time, he led an element of Special Operations forces from four NATO nations. Zac then spent three years as Deputy Chief of Special Operations for the Middle East Operation Command Central. When Zac returned to the states, he did so as an instructor at the Command and General Staff College, where he began passing his real world knowledge to the next generation of officers. Since 2018, Zac has commanded the Assessment Squadron of the Asymmetric Warfare Group where in addition to training future experts in asymmetric warfare, also advised the army on establishing the Battalion and Brigade Commanders Assessment Program. Currently, Zac is a Fellow at the School for Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During his career, Zac has also earned three Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Senior Parachutist and Air Assault Badge.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Zac Kerns for his promotion to Colonel in the United States Army. I would also like to recognize Colonel Kern's family for a moment. His lovely wife, Rosemary, and sons, Kaiden, Kale and Liam, for their support of Zac as he's served the United States of America. I want to thank Zac and his family, on behalf of the Sixth Congressional District, the State of Missouri and the United States of America for their ongoing service to each of us. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MATTHEW BROWN OF TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Brown for his distinguished service to this nation.

Chief Brown served honorably in the United States Army for over three decades, demonstrating exceptional skill and unparalleled valor in crucial combat operations. Early in his career, he served five years in the 82nd Airborne Division, deploying with the 17th Cav-

alry to Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He then joined the 101st Airborne Division before eventually being assigned to the nation's elite 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) in 1998.

As a helicopter pilot with the Night Stalkers, Chief Brown deployed in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, and subsequently completed over 34 deployments with our nation's tier one special operators in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

On one such mission, while under intense enemy fire, Chief Warrant Officer Brown successfully destroyed multiple enemy positions, enabling ground forces to organize defensive positions. For his gallantry, which saved many lives that day, he was awarded the Silver Star. Chief Brown was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for the successful destruction of numerous enemy combatants during a classified mission in 2005.

Chief Warrant Officer Brown will forever be an example to countless soldiers and Army aviators. His service is historic. He exemplifies the virtues of courage and patriotism and it is fitting that we honor him as he concludes a long and faithful career. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to commend Chief Brown for his service, and I congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING ERIC MILLER OF JORDAN

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Miller of Jordan for his 20-plus years of service to Garfield County as an extension agent and a mentor to the community's young people.

For more than two decades, Eric has served as a Montana State University extension agent in Garfield County. He's a proud Bobcat who earned his master's degree in animal science with an emphasis in genetics at MSU. His connection with MSU and his love of agriculture brought him to Jordan as the county's extension agent.

Eric loves his job. He enjoys helping people, and he'll tell you no one day is like another. He wears many hats. Some days, he teaches adult education classes. Others, he solves problems. Still others, he advises the county and local farmers. Eric helps farmers increase production and profitability throughout the county, but he acknowledges these are challenging times for our agricultural community.

Eric also focuses his efforts and energies on supporting the area's youth. For more than 20 years, Eric has been the Garfield County 4-H director. While agriculture is a big focus of 4-H, the group's main priority is to empower young people with skills and through experiences. Focused on their interests, the young people undertake hands-on projects, whether it's raising and breeding livestock, farming, wood working, welding, cooking, shooting sports, or another activity. Through continuing education and mentorship, 4-H provides them the opportunity to grow and develop.

Eric's favorite part is watching kids learn. He says there's nothing like seeing a kid's light go

on when working on a project. He says it's a powerful moment when a participant comes to fully understand his or her project, and you get a lot of those moments a kid is involved in 4-H for years.

For Garfield County, 4-H is more than a club. It's part of their community. It's a way for kids to interact and build relationships beyond school. One of the biggest events in the area is the Garfield County Fair where 4-H members showcase their projects for everyone to see. It's the culmination of all their hard work and dedication.

Madam Speaker, for his decades of helping people in his community, from farmers to young people, I recognize Eric Miller of Jordan for his Spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MARTHA RUTH SANSON WHITE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Martha Ruth Sansom White, who passed away on June 24, surrounded by her family.

Born on April 18, 1940, Martha was the first-born of three girls to the loving parents of Russell Tilden and Idelle Gray Sansom. Following in her parents' footsteps, she received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Mississippi. While at Ole Miss, she not only earned her degree but met and fell in love with Bill White. They were married on May 12, 1962, and were happily married for 58 years.

Martha continued her passion for education by earning her Masters in Education from Mississippi State University. Like her parents, she went on to teach at Itawamba Community College and would later teach the vocational program at Northeast Community College, only retiring after 37 years.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband William "Bill" Dyke White; her daughter, Kristy Moore Gibson; her son, John Russell White; as well as many other friends and extended family members.

Martha's life was one of grace and love for her family and community. She will be greatly missed by all whom she encountered.

REMEMBERING FLORENCE "PEGGY" ANDERSON

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the special life of Florence "Peggy" Anderson, a notable leader in Michigan's 11th District who passed away on June 6, 2020, at the age of 93.

Peggy was born on June 25, 1926, in Sturgis, Michigan to Arthur and Margaret (Hetherington) Carls. Peggy was a graduate of Sturgis High School, from where she went on to work as a secretary with the War Department in 1943 and later with the Pontiac School District and Clinton Valley Center. She was a long-time member of the Waterford

Democrats, the DAR Waterford Chapter and the Michigan Mayflower Society, as well as a member of the Central United Methodist Church and the State Employees Retirees Association. She enjoyed flower gardening and making arrangements for her friends and acquaintances.

Peggy lived a life filled with purpose and community, and she will be remembered by all who had the good fortune to know her as someone who showed up for what she believed in. She is survived by her children Thomas (Pat) Anderson of Petoskey and Robert (Marci) Anderson of White Lake; her grandchildren Christy Anderson, Ryan (Nikkia) Anderson, Russell (Theresa) Andersonning and Bradley (Hannah) Anderson; great-grandchildren Noah, Claire, Emrik and Myrna; and many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life of someone very dear to our Waterford, Michigan community, and to our greater Michigan family.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF POLICE OFFICER DESTIN LEGIEZA OF TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Officer Destin Legieza for his distinguished career in

service of his beloved community of Brentwood, Tennessee.

Officer Legieza honorably served with the Brentwood Police Department for five years, demonstrating a commitment to excellence and selflessness. In 2016, he was selected as Officer of the Year by the Brentwood Morning Rotary Club and in 2017, he received the Chiefs Sheep Dog Award for outstanding police work and cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

His life defined service to others. In his free time, he was involved in Special Olympics and a community flag football team. Most recently, he was selected to serve on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training for de-escalation.

However, before starting his training for CIT, on June 18th, 2020, Officer Legieza was killed in the line of duty, being hit by a suspected drunk driver head-on. Only 30 years old, Officer Legieza was, in the words of Brentwood Mayor Rhea Little, "the apex of those who serve."

Officer Legieza came from a long line of police officers, with his father being a lieutenant in the Franklin Police Department and his grandfather serving in the CSX Railroad Police. Officer Legieza no longer patrols the streets of Brentwood, but his memory lives on in the family whom he loved and the community in which he served.

Officer Legieza's life of selfless dedication to protect and serve our community is an inspiration to all Americans. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to honor Officer

Legieza for his service and express our deepest sympathies to his friends and family.

MELANIE ARLENE

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand today to remember the brilliant life of Melanie Arlene Thwing-Eastman.

Melanie and I met while serving in the American Bar Association's Law Student Division. With Melanie's easy-going charm and sarcastic humor, it just made sense we would become friends. Her zest for life, personal integrity, and her genuine passion for the practice of law made her a natural leader.

Melanie knew how to brighten a room. She knew that kindness went a long way. And she knew that she could not stand idly by when injustice occurred, and she was a fearless truth-teller who always strove to do what was right. She made a real difference in the courtroom and the classroom and has left the world a better and brighter place.

My deepest sympathies and prayers are with her husband Justin and her family, friends, and the many lives she touched. I join them in mourning this tragic loss.