

House staff, Mr. Hood served at the Pentagon as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs where he was responsible for promoting the policies, strategies, and budget of the Department of Defense to the United States Congress. Mr. Hood also served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) for Budget and Appropriations Affairs, working closely with the Appropriations Committees of the Congress.

For the past three years as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Mr. Hood deftly managed and guided the Department's congressional relations, ensuring the preparation of key senior leaders for Senate confirmations, Congressional hearings and briefings, while simultaneously developing and leading a highly skilled and focused legislative affairs team. His leadership, knowledge, and personal efforts greatly contributed to one of the most successful legislative years in DoD history, culminating with the establishment of the U.S. Space Force, signed into law on December 20, 2019 as part of the FY 2020 NDAA.

Mr. Hood provided significant contributions and leadership during the development and execution of the Secretary of Defense (SD)'s Congressional Engagement Strategy, ensuring an integrated legislative program directly aligned with the National Defense Strategy. This comprehensive plan supported the department's priorities, aligned tangible legislative objectives to the congressional calendar, and guided the execution of over 4,000 congressional engagements within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and oversight and alignment of over 10,000 congressional engagements across the Department during his three-year tenure. The strategic execution of these engagements directly led to the attainment of DoD legislative priorities in the Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization and Appropriations Acts (NDAAs).

On behalf of the House, we thank Robert R. Hood, his wife Jennifer, and children Evan, Caroline, Megan, Emma for their contributions and dedication to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future success as he leaves the Department of Defense.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate this year's recipients of the Congressional Medal of Merit, which I am proud to present to 23 outstanding high school seniors of Florida's 8th District for their leadership and dedication, inside and outside of the classroom.

Each year, the most distinguished high school seniors are nominated by their schools to receive this honor in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, commitment to the betterment of their communities, civic works, and leadership in the classroom. This year's recipients are no exception and I am glad that their hard work and dedication can be celebrated and recognized in this way.

This year's recipients for Brevard County are Jenna Reed, Astronaut High School, Donald Burkhardt, Bayside High School, Amber Moore, Cocoa High School, Trevor Evetts, Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School, Thomas Foland, Eau Gallie High School, Haleigh Woloszak, Edgewood Jr/Sr High School, Michaela Chua, Heritage High School, Heather Motro, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Edward Brunger, Melbourne Central Catholic School, Carmel Alshaibi, Melbourne High School, Olivia Mehalic, Merritt Island High School, Kristi Howell, Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School, Anthony Cardoza, Palm Bay Magnet High School, Corey Pecot, Rockledge High School, Nathaniel Basford, Satellite High School, Danielle Marie, Space Coast Jr/Sr High School, Elijah Viera, Titusville High School, Gavin Keith, Viera High School, and Alyssa Holmquist, West Shore Jr/Sr High School.

From Indian River County, I am proud to honor Hailey Pedreira, Indian River Charter High School, Kylei Oakes, Saint Edward's School, Christopher Cordner, Sebastian River High School, and Benny Rackard from Vero Beach High School.

This year has presented many challenges for students, most of who were unexpectedly forced to transition to online learning and unfortunately didn't get to experience in person graduation ceremonies. I am proud that these distinguished individuals braved through and continued to promote and practice excellence during this trying time.

Let me say to these fine students that while we are unable to congratulate you this year with an in-person ceremony, please know how proud I am of each of your accomplishments and it is an honor to bestow the Congressional Medal of Merit to you this year. I know that you will take what you have learned and go on to serve our community in myriad ways. I look forward to seeing what you will achieve in the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these outstanding students for their dedication to excellence.

REMEMBERING JOHN CAMPBELL

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of John Campbell from Goodyear, Arizona.

John married his wife, Wally, on June 17, 1967, and they spent 53 wonderful years together. He was a loving father to Suzanne Winger, Steve Brown, Stuart Brown, and John Campbell II, a grandfather to seven, and a great-grandfather to seven.

John proudly served our great nation in the United States Air Force for twenty-four years. He retired as an accomplished aviator, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his time in service, John acquired a long list of achievements and awards including spending over 6,000 hours flying the Air Force KC-135 as a Master Navigator, the meritorious service medal with one leaf cluster, the Air Medal with four leaf clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After retirement, he continued to serve his community as a deputy registrar of contractors

for the California Contractors State Licensing Board. He also served as a member of Ben Ali Shrine, the Union Kit Carson Lodge No. 58, the National Sojourners, and New Hope OES. He was a proud life member of both the American Legion AWO and the Military Officers Association of America.

On this day, we as a community would like to thank Mr. Campbell for his service to his country, and pray for his family and loved ones during this time of mourning.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SILVESTRE DURAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Silvestre Duran, an outstanding member of our Toledo community.

Silvestre worked at the Jeep plant before settling into a long career at the Catholic Diocese of Toledo as its Hispanic Outreach Coordinator. He was one of Ohio's pioneers of Tejano music, hosting his own Saturday radio program, Radio Fiesta, from 1955 to 2008. He saw it as an opportunity to bring joy into the lives of many migrant families who were working the fields and those, like his family, that had settled in the area.

During these busy years, Silvestre also owned and operated a Mexican restaurant in South Toledo called Don Ysidro's. Many churchgoers and late-night revelers would go to Don Ysidro's for all the Mexican favorites. He engaged his entire family in working at the restaurant.

Silvestre was an advocate for the Latino community in the Toledo area during its formative years. He served on countless committees, boards and organizations advocating on behalf of Latino community. He received numerous awards and accolades for his hard work. He taught GED classes early on and worked to get people from the community hired into good paying jobs at the Jeep plant.

He was a founder and served as board President for La Raza Unida de Ohio, and founder and commissioner for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Silvestre was a lifetime member of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) of the AFL-CIO, attending rallies and demonstrations in support of Baldemar Velasquez. Last year, prior to his 90th birthday, he traveled with FLOC to North Carolina to protest the treatment of migrant farmworkers in the tobacco fields.

Silvestre dedicated his last decades of life to music and singing. He could be seen at many Latino social events singing and playing his guitar with the trio Los Distinguidos alongside Francisco Ibarra and Jesse Ponce. His musical influence was passed on to his grandchildren Steve Longoria; Silvestre Roberto and Jose Duran; and Ricky May who all sing and play the guitar and piano.

Silvestre also enjoyed traveling with his family, whether it was visiting Texas or traveling to Spain and Mexico. You could find him at SS Peter & Paul Church attending Sunday Mass every week. He was a man of integrity, inspiration, and kindness.

Whether serving his community, entertaining a crowd, or bringing joy to countless people,

Silvestre will not be forgotten. We offer his family and friends our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of what Silvestre Duran had meant to each of the people who shared in his life.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community . . . Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."—Cesar Chavez

RENEE NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Renee Nelson for receiving the Arvada Chamber's Woman of the Year Award. The recipient of this award is selected by a committee and is awarded to a local community leader who has gone above and beyond to selflessly serve their community.

Renee's endless compassion and passion for her community has helped ensure the City of Arvada continues to be a vibrant and healthy community, from grass roots up. Renee frequently works around the clock on community projects and helping individuals in their hour of need, as well as helping injured animals. She often spends her vacation days to make Arvada a better place, and on occasion, has even worked without rest or sleep to ensure the completion of community projects. Those that have the privilege of working with Renee describe her as someone who is genuine, hardworking, respectful, and honest.

Renee's passion for volunteerism started early when she became the youngest chair of the Arvada Harvest Festival Committee at just nine years old. Since then, she has never stopped giving back. She has a passion for helping the homeless, reading at schools, and spends much of her time volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, the Jaycees, and the Arvada Historical Society, among others.

Renee is a shining example of an individual with great integrity who selflessly and continuously devotes her time, energy and resources to help her community and those in need. I extend my deepest congratulations to Renee Nelson for this well-deserved award and appreciate her many contributions to our community.

HONORING MARGARET SILVEIRA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Silveira and to celebrate her retirement after ten years of public service to the city of Lakeport.

Ms. Silveira earned an Associate of Arts degree from Modesto Junior College and graduated magna cum laude from Chapman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Since then, she has dedicated her career to supporting California's

rural cities, serving as the Housing and Economic Development Manager for Riverbank and the City Manager for Gustine before being appointed as the City Manager for Lakeport in 2010.

Ms. Silveira has drawn upon her almost thirty years of leadership experience to guide the city of Lakeport through several crises. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, she led the economic revitalization efforts by stabilizing the city's budget, establishing the Lakeport Economic Development Advisory Committee, and creating multiple downtown improvement projects. As Director of Emergency Services, she has helped the city navigate through several winter storms, wildfires, and, more recently, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Her passion for the city is evident by her efforts to improve the cultural scene in Lakeport through the promotion of public art projects and the construction of a new community center.

Ms. Silveira's success as City Manager can be attributed to her ability to lead staff members and inspire them with her positivity and tenacity. However, her dedication to Lakeport extends beyond her official role as City Manager. She is an active member of both the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club and serves as a leader in multiple professional organizations, including the Lake County Friends of Medicine College, the Sutter Lakeside Hospital Community Advisory Council, and the California Association for Local Economic Development.

Madam Speaker, Margaret Silveira is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. The community of Lakeport is certainly better, as a result of her dedicated service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 167. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, due to the birth of a grand child, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of July 27, 2020. I am a proud cosponsor of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act and had I been present for this roll call vote, I would have cast the following: Roll Call 167: Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to correct my vote on Amendment

No. 62 to H.R. 7608 offered by Mr. TONKO and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. This amendment blocks the EPA from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing its proposed rule on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which does nothing to strengthen existing air quality regulations. On Friday, July 24, I recorded a vote of Nay. However, I wish to clarify that I support the amendment and continue to strongly support efforts to improve air quality in California's Central Valley and across our nation.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
CLINTON RIDDLE

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Clinton Elmer Riddle of Sweetwater, Tennessee and recognize his lifetime of service in his community and to our nation. Reverend Riddle passed on December 3, 2019.

Born on February 24, 1921 in Sweetwater, Reverend Riddle is a hometown hero. He graduated from Sweetwater High School in May of 1941. At the age of 21, Clinton Riddle joined the U.S. Army and during World War II he served in Company B—325th Glider Infantry of the 82nd Airborne Division. During his more than 30 months of service in Europe and Africa during the war, Reverend Riddle served with honor and distinction. On June 6, 1944 he survived a crash landing of his "canvass coffin" troop-carrying glider behind enemy lines in Normandy during the D-Day invasion and fought with his unit in the Battle of the Bulge. In all, his unit sustained over 400 days under fire during his time with the B 325th.

Reverend Riddle wedded Blanch Bernice Montooth in 1949 and they would remain married for more than 60 years until her passing in 2010, having reared three children. He pastored four churches including the New Bethany Baptist Church, Murray's Baptist Church, Cedar Valley Baptist Church, and Union McMinn Baptist Church. He also served as the interim pastor for several other area churches.

Beyond his service in the ministry, Reverend Riddle was an active member of his beloved community. He was a member of Sweetwater Valley Odd Fellows Lodge 280, Monroe County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5156, American Legion Post 106, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Reverend Riddle often shared his experiences and memories speaking with classrooms of children in local schools.

Before his passing the City of Sweetwater honored Reverend Riddle, proclaiming February 24, 2019 as Clinton Riddle Day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CIVIL
RIGHTS LEGACY OF THE HON.
JOHN LEWIS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I will always remember my last conversation with a