

do not want to talk about their experience, but their awards are important to their children and their grandchildren. One of these veterans was the uncle of my veterans affairs caseworker, Doug Bugger. Another is a veteran from Robinson, Illinois, who had been shot and taken prisoner by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge. After receiving the awards, he gave an interview to the Robinson Daily News and used a photograph of him with his medals, including his Purple Heart. Helping in the recovery of these military awards helps these veterans relay their experiences to family and friends.

Social Security disability is a long and frustrating process. One gentleman had been approved but had waited nearly a year for his backpay when he came to my Harrisburg office. It turned out it was coded incorrectly in the Social Security system. Within 2 weeks, my office got the situation corrected, and he received his backpay.

Some of our happiest casework is to help families with overseas adoptions, like the family that was in the process of adopting a child from Haiti just as the pandemic was shutting everything down. My office was able to work with the Embassy to get child humanitarian parole to come to the United States of America.

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Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on like most offices could talking about the work that their caseworkers do. I don't have time to do that, so I will include these additional stories in the RECORD.

A veteran came to one of my Traveling Help Desks. He had recently undergone a partial amputation of his foot. The VA doctor missed the diagnosis, so a private doctor performed the procedure. The VA was refusing to pay for the surgery, but after our inquiry, the VA agreed the surgery was necessary and it was their mistake in missing the diagnosis and paid the bill for \$1,712.76.

A veteran had fallen off a crane during his time in the military. This resulted in a 3-inch gash to the head and subsequent severe seizures. He had been trying to get disability from the VA for 10 years. After our inquiry, he was granted a 100% service-connected disability and approved retroactively for 10 years (estimated \$227,440) and now receives \$1,940 per month.

A veteran requested our assistance in obtaining his father's silver star from WWI. We were able to obtain this, as well as his other medals and I presented them to the family at a family reunion. The family made a box for the medals and gave them to the American Legion to display. The family was very happy.

A constituent contacted our office on behalf of her husband. Medicare was denying his claims because there was an error in the paperwork that showed her husband had employer-provided insurance, when in fact he had been retired since 1986. Her husband was terminally ill, and she was spending a lot of time trying to resolve this situation. She had called more than 50 places before she called our office. After contacting our office, we were able to have the problem fixed and have the claims reprocessed and paid.

A union contacted our office on the issue of wage differentiation concerning government employees in Illinois. After our inquiry, it was determined there was an error when the wage differentiation was made, and a salary adjustment was made.

The local FSA was not allowing some constituents to mow their property that was enrolled in the CRP program. Not mowing the land would result in trees growing on the property, which would defeat the purpose of having the land in CRP. After an inquiry from our office, the state revised their rules.

A constituent came to us because Social Security was showing him as deceased, when in fact it was his wife who had passed away on May 20 of this year. We were able to expedite a correction of his records and have his retirement benefits reinstated. This was a Social Security Administration error.

A constituent received a notice from the IRS that after paying her debt of \$2,400 from her quarterly taxes of 9/87 and 12/87 on her previous business, she now owed \$3,184 in interest and penalties. She was never aware of the interest and penalties as she had repeatedly asked for a statement from the IRS for her \$100.00 payments and federal tax returns they had also been keeping. Also, she had never received the original bills because her business closed in 1990, and they had been sending these notices to that address. We ended up going with her to an IRS problem solving day and staying with her through several hours of negotiations. Eventually, her balance was zeroed. She was very grateful and ended up testifying at our IRS hearings.

A constituent was applying for a teaching position at one of the local schools. He needed transcripts from his alma mater in Oklahoma to obtain his provisional teaching certificate. The school was telling him they could not provide this because they did not keep records prior to 1985. We were able to intervene with the school, and obtain a letter verifying his completion of a 72-hour course from a former instructor. This worked for the teaching certificate and he received the job.

A constituent contacted our office regarding his request to help him obtain an answer from AT&T Broadband Services concerning the free internet service for schools that they have advertised. He contacted AT&T several times but never felt he got a straight answer as to when the service was going to be available to the school. I met with AT&T representatives and told them of this situation. AT&T got in touch with him and the school was hooked up. I was able to visit the school and see the technology area. The kids all sent me a thank you note.

A constituent worked at a small local newspaper. She had contacted us for assistance with child support enforcement. Her ex was in the Navy and then became a pilot. According to the law, he could lose his passport for being over \$5,000 in arrears. He owed \$10,330 and we were able to work with the appropriate enforcement agencies and he ended up paying \$5,500 of his debt and his monthly payment increased from \$200 a month to \$1,000 a month. She was very grateful to our office.

The Edwards County Coroner informed my office that the remains of a Sgt. Kenneth Cunningham of Albion had been identified 45 years after his plane went down over the Kon Tum Province in Vietnam. The coroner and family were working to bring the remains

home for a burial and were having some difficulty with the bureaucracy. We were able to talk to the Defense Department and help with the arrangements the family wanted. The family was able to be at the airport in Louisville, Kentucky when he arrived, and the Patriot Guard accompanied Sgt. Cunningham back to Albion where citizens lined up along the route to pay their respects. The VFW distributed 500 flags along the route and more than 200 local volunteers lined the route from the town to the cemetery with over 2,400 flags.

A constituent sought my help in March of this year during the COVID-19 pandemic to bring his daughter and his grandson back to the United States on the repatriation flights the Department of State offered. Working with the father and the State Department they both made it back to the United States two and half weeks after contacting us.

Also, in March we assisted 5 constituents stranded in Honduras after the border had been closed. They had problems receiving their transit letters from the U.S. Embassy so they could travel to the airport. We were able to assist, and they were able to get seats on a plane chartered by a church out of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Sny Island Levee Drainage District protects 110,000 acres of prime farmland in west central Illinois. Due to the change in flow of the Mississippi, this privately owned and maintained levee was threatened with failing. We helped coordinate emergency repairs by the Corp of Engineers to protect the navigation channel at that location. This also protected the farmland.

"Lights On for Route 20" was a movement for a four-lane road between Springfield and Taylorville. Lobbied intensely by the local communities and concerned parents we were able to designate one million dollars for engineering. This was a small investment versus the total costs. This investment did get the attention of the state representative and the state senator who requested that this project be included in the governor's Build Illinois project list. We now have a four-lane road between Springfield and Taylorville.

Mr. Speaker, some cases resolve quickly. Many cases take months and even years to resolve. My caseworkers always show compassion and concern to my constituents. They answer their calls; they return their calls; and for that, I say thanks. I am very proud of the service that they have given to the people of southern Illinois.

#### CHANGE IS SWEEPING ACROSS AMERICA

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise in the name of liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, there is something happening in our country. It appears to me that the inescapable, irreversible winds of change are sweeping across our land. It seems to me that the people in this country have seen things that they did not anticipate they would see. They didn't expect to see what happened to George Floyd. They didn't expect to understand what has happened to

Breonna Taylor. And the people in this country seem to want to see change take place.

I am amazed at how one question by a moderator at an event has made a significant impact. The simple question was, and I am paraphrasing: Would you denounce white supremacy?

It was a simple question. It did not get the appropriate answer. As a result, people are starting to believe that we ought not allow an answer that is inappropriate to be acceptable.

I am just amazed at how persons across the aisle—and I am grateful to them—persons across the aisle have said that there should have been the appropriate answer given, which is: I condemn white supremacy; I condemn the supremacist.

That is the answer, simple, easy answer.

And persons across the aisle are sending a clear and perspicuous message to the Chief Executive Officer: He needs to change that response—walk it back; talk it back; crawl it back; just take it back.

I don't know that he will, but I do know this: When we have my friends across the aisle making it clear that this was wrong, something is happening here, and I am grateful to my friends. I thank you for taking the bold position that you are taking, not allowing this to be just another one of the many episodes wherein inappropriate statements have been made and not challenged. I thank you for what you have done, all of you, those who have said you need to condemn white supremacy.

Something strange is happening. There is a change taking place, and I am grateful to have lived long enough to see this change occur.

#### RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY MANAGER JEFF COLE

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Cole for his 30 years of distinguished service to the citizens of Florida, culminating this year with his retirement as the Lake County manager.

Mr. Cole began his public service career in 1990, supporting the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. In 1994, he embarked on a 21-year journey with the St. Johns River Water Management District, overseeing intergovernmental affairs and public and media outreach.

His long record of accomplishments brought him to Lake County in 2016, where he took on heightened responsibilities and focused on enhancing government efficiencies and accountability, while improving the quality of life in Lake County.

Through challenges ranging from Hurricane Irma to COVID-19, Mr. Cole remained accessible and demonstrated unwavering leadership and dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Jeff and his wife, Audrey, the very best in the next chapter of their lives together. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Jeff for his commitment to our citizens and the legacy that he is leaving behind. He will be missed.

#### REMEMBERING SPECIALIST ALEXANDER J. MILLER

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Specialist Alexander J. Miller, a young soldier who served our Nation in the Armed Forces and was, sadly, killed in combat in Nuristan province, Afghanistan, on July 31, 2009.

Alex attended East Ridge High School in Clermont, Florida and, soon after graduation, enlisted in the U.S. Army, being assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, based in Fort Drum, New York.

Alex hoped to attend the University of Central Florida after completing his tour of duty, but that dream vanished when insurgents attacked his unit.

Miller was awarded two medals posthumously: the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

May his memory and sacrifices be a reminder to all of us of his service and love of country.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entirety of the Miller family and his community these many years later.

#### REMEMBERING FIRST LIEUTENANT IVAN D. LECHOWICH

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the legacy of a local resident and hero of Florida's 15th District, First Lieutenant Ivan Lechowich.

Lieutenant Lechowich was a devoted husband and loving father who served his country in uniform and was, sadly, killed in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, on September 28, 2011.

Lieutenant Lechowich graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program at King High School, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 2007, and, after joining the U.S. Army in 2009, deployed to Afghanistan 2 years later.

Ivan was serving as a Sapper Platoon leader for the 515th Sapper Company out of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, when an improvised explosive device took his life.

Ivan was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and NATO Medal.

To his beloved wife, Jenn; daughter, Natalie Marie; and the rest of the Lechowich family, our district and community still mourns the loss of Ivan these many years later. May his memory and many sacrifices be a reminder of his love for his family and his Nation.

#### REMEMBERING SERGEANT DANIEL MCKINNON ANGUS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sergeant Daniel McKinnon Angus, a local hero in Flor-

ida's 15th District, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on January 24, 2010.

Daniel graduated from Armwood High School in 2000 and, in 2003, joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he knew he belonged and hoped to make a career of serving his community and country.

Daniel stood out among his peers and received the Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a number of service decorations.

Daniel loved spending time with his wife, Bonnie, and his 1-year-old daughter. Now 11 years old, may she always know and treasure the knowledge of her father's heroism.

Men and women like Daniel who are willing to lay down their lives in defense of our country and in support of others many miles away are what make our Nation the greatest on Earth. Let us never take their sacrifice or that of their surviving families in vain.

#### HONORING DR. GOVINDAPPA VENKATASWAMY

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 102nd anniversary of his birth, I rise to honor Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, an Indian ophthalmologist who devoted his life to preventing blindness in India and across the world.

Dr. Venkataswamy's work preserved the vision of millions of men, women, and children, allowing them the blessing of sight and the opportunity to enjoy independent, productive lives.

Though Dr. V suffered from a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis that left his hands permanently disfigured, he defied all odds to become an expert ophthalmologist and mastered the art of cataract surgery.

Having witnessed the terrible impact of blindness on those without the means to pay for their own care, Dr. V pursued an extraordinarily ambitious program to end preventable blindness in India.

In 1976, Dr. V and members of his family founded the first of what would later become a network of Aravind Eye Hospitals in Madurai, India.

The Aravind Eye Care System has been acclaimed by Harvard Business School and is the focus of an HBS case study. It has also been recognized for excellence in publications, including *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and it has inspired healthcare organizations throughout the developing world.

From its humble beginning in Madurai, the Aravind Eye Care System now provides care to over 4 million patients and performs over 500,000 surgeries each year in hospitals and clinics throughout south India.