

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 338.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT WILLIAM "BILL" HENRY, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Sergeant William "Bill" Henry of Wylie, Texas.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952, Bill Henry was trained as a Combat Radio Relay Operator. While stationed in Korea, Sergeant Henry controlled an Artillery Battery, radioing coordinates for artillery shells to be discharged at enemy targets. Bill ended his active duty service in 1954, but would complete eight years in the Army Reserves prior to his final discharge. Sergeant Henry credits his time on the front lines with preparing him for a successful career in electronics and computers following the war.

For his service, Sergeant Henry was awarded the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sharpshooter Badge, and Good Conduct Medal.

Following his time in service, Bill returned home and married the love of his life, the late Jane Donovan Henry. Together they raised six children. Bill's commitment to his community is evidenced by his 72-year tenure in the Knights of Columbus where he has held almost every single office including that of Grand Knight. Bill maintains a deep passion for supporting our veterans and he has done so through the Wheelchair Mission which supplies wheelchairs to our veterans at the VA Medical Centers in Bonham and Dallas, Texas. Additionally, Sergeant Henry was instrumental in establishing the American Legion Hale-Combest Post 315 in Wylie where he held the position of Judge Advocate.

Even at 91 years old, Mr. Henry has not slowed his efforts to serve his community. Love of God, family, and country, and a life dedicated to service sum up the character of

Sergeant Henry whom we applaud for his longtime commitment to America and our community.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Sergeant Henry, for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS AIRLIFT COMMAND

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of the Veteran Airlift Command, an organization which I've volunteered with for many years that has a dedicated network of volunteers working to support our nation's wounded warriors across the country.

The Veteran Airlift Command, founded by Vietnam War veteran Walter Fricke, has impacted the lives of countless wounded veterans by providing them and their families air transportation when they desperately need it. After being wounded while serving as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, Walter, like countless other wounded veterans, had to face the challenges presented by everyday civilian life. He realized that despite commercial air travel constituting one of the most essential aspects of modern life, it was among the most inaccessible, especially for our wounded veterans.

As a military trained pilot with over 800 hours of combat flying, Walter was well equipped to remedy this issue. He had an idea for a national organization of volunteer pilots and aircraft that would fly wounded warriors and their families with dignity, respect, and gratitude, and so in 2006 he founded the Veteran Airlift Command.

Walter started the Veterans Airlift Command with his own personal finances, flying expertise, and aircraft, but today the Veterans Airlift Command has grown into substantial program that boasts a volunteer core of over 2,600 volunteer pilots and aircraft with over 18,000 passengers successfully flown.

The VAC has been and will continue to be an incredible and essential lifeline for wounded veterans and their families. Thanks to their work and that of thousands of volunteer pilots across the country, we can give back to our nation's wounded warriors and provide the dignity, respect, and comfort that our heroes deserve. I am honored to recognize the VAC today and proud to have the opportunity to volunteer with this organization and give back to those who have sacrificed part of themselves in the defense of this Nation.

FIT THEOREM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fit Theorem of Northglenn,

Colorado for earning the City of Northglenn's People's Choice Award.

The People's Choice Award recognizes a Northglenn business for their customer service and customer satisfaction within the community. Fit Theorem is known for being one of Colorado's premier kickboxing studios. Their mission is to improve the lives of clients by making them healthier in both mind and body. With several locations across the state and country, Northglenn is lucky to have one of their studios in our community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the team at Fit Theorem moved many of their classes on line and continue to bring fitness and fun to people during a difficult time.

Congratulations again to Fit Theorem for this accomplishment, and I wish them all the best in the future. I thank them for their contribution to our community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PASTOR JEREMY DAVID SMITH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pastor Jeremy David Smith. Jeremy spent over 20 years as a leader and minister in local churches. He strove to create a family environment that shared both the challenging and celebratory times with the members of the church.

Pastor Jeremy was devout to his congregation and he was dedicated to continue Sunday Worship throughout the pandemic. He held outside services and worked to ensure the safe and comfortable experience for all members of the church, especially caring for the older members so they would be able to attend, experience, and hear the Word of God, no matter what.

David is survived by his wife, Audra Smith; children, Nicholas, Logan, Katiana, Kalista, and Korinna Smith. Madam Speaker, I ask that you extend your thoughts and prayers to Jeremy's family and friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one. I pray that God is with Jeremy's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARKIN V. "PETE" BOWEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a member of our Greatest Generation and Florida's Second Congressional District, Larkin V. "Pete" Bowen of Marianna, Florida.

Born October 24, 1921, Mr. Bowen moved to Wewahatchka, Florida with his family in 1941 to build a new life.

Like so many in the Panhandle during that time, he found work anywhere he could.

In 1943, Mr. Bowen started working for the State Road Department, now the Florida Department of Transportation, in Jackson County as a road crew guard.

He later moved to Marianna in the 1950s with his beloved wife Orianna and three children.

During his 42 years working for the state, Pete paved most of the roads across north Florida and maintained a small farm to provide for his family.

From shucking oysters to delivering the "Pensacola News Journal" on Sundays, Mr. Bowen made sure there was enough money to see his children succeed.

In his community, Pete is known for his generosity and unwavering faith.

He has been a pillar among both the New Hope Baptist and Trinity Baptist and has selflessly helped with repairs and upkeep at both churches.

Mr. Bowen is also known for sharing his crops with neighbors and lending a helping hand to any fellow farmer who needs one.

Today, Pete Bowen has eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Bowen has turned his two acres into thirty and has built a long-lasting legacy.

Stories like his are what truly makes Florida's Second District so great.

Please join me in wishing Mr. Bowen a happy 100th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FLOOD PREVENTION ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2021. The bill would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) to include the nation's capital in the definition of "coastal state." Senator TOM CARPER, the Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, has introduced the companion bill in the Senate. Our bill would correct an apparent oversight in the omission of the District of Columbia from the CZMA by making the District eligible to receive federal funding and oversight for federally issued permits, facilities and actions that affect our coastal waters. The District urgently needs the protection of the CZMA because of serious flood risks that currently affect federal assets, residents and businesses, including the National Mall and the cluster of downtown federal agencies.

Congress has authorized a number of programs to help states and territories respond to floods and mitigate risk through resiliency projects. An effort to reduce coastal flood risk, the CZMA provides planning and technical services to assist states in protecting, restoring and developing coastal communities and resources. Once the federal government approves a state's coastal management plan, the state becomes eligible for grants. Federal actions must be consistent with the state plans and vice versa.

Even though the District, including the federal complex, is located on two rivers, and has suffered substantial coastal floods in the past, it was omitted from the list of eligible states and territories in the CZMA. It is notable that

under Section 304 of the CZMA, "coastal state[s]" include the states and U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands and American Samoa). Because territories are included in the definition of "coastal states" while D.C. is absent, it appears that D.C.'s omission is a mistake, which only Congress can correct. This oversight likely occurred because the CZMA was passed in 1972, which was before the District achieved home rule.

Scientists have predicted that the tides on the Atlantic Coast could rise two to four feet by the year 2100, causing property worth as much as \$7 billion in the District to be routinely under threat by floodwaters. This damage includes private homes and businesses and the National Mall, federal buildings and three military bases located in the District. The Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, which surround the District, are tidally influenced, part of an "intertidal zone" between high and low maritime tides. In addition, the Maryland and Virginia coastal zones each include the tidal Potomac River, with Maryland's zone ending at the District line.

I initially offered the D.C. Flood Prevention Act in a previous Congress. The bill passed the House as part of the Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act. And again, last month, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed this bill as part of the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021, Chairman RAUL M. GRIJALVA's effort to modernize federal ocean management policy to account for climate change.

The District should be eligible under the CZMA just like the states and territories already listed in the CZMA. I urge support for this bill.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN MICHAEL CARATHERS, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Captain Michael Carathers of Lucas, Texas.

Originally from Amarillo, Texas, Captain Michael Carathers enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1967, after which time he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University. Along the

way he would serve as a division petty officer at NAVCOMSTA Lululei Hawaii providing communications from the U.S. mainland to Vietnam and recovery communications for the Apollo program for NASA. Following a direct commission as an Engineering Duty Officer, he would perform a variety of duties on the USS *Bataan* and USS *Blue Ridge*. Captain Carathers would go on to command two reserve units and serve as the Executive Officer for two additional units.

Due to his dedicated service, Captain Carathers earned the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy Reserve Meritorious Medal, National Defense Services Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Medal, as well as various unit awards.

Following his military career, Mike was employed as a Principal Systems Engineer on military programs for Raytheon from which he retired in 2011. Captain Carathers would go on to serve on the Reserve Officers Association Board of Directors for the local chapter and was selected as Texas Department President and Vice President. His commitment to our military and veterans is strongly evidenced by his role as Committee Chairman for the North Texas Military Foundation Ball where his advocacy efforts have generated tremendous support for our active duty, reserve, and retired military members and veterans.

Captain Carathers and his wife, Cheryl, have three children and six grandchildren with whom they have instilled a sense of service before self. His deep passion for serving our military community with a patriotic and unwavering heart is to be commended as he continues to display servant leadership.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Captain Carathers for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to share our collective recommitment to end domestic violence.

Each October, we remember all those lost to and scarred by domestic violence, a tragic continuing scourge that cuts across all boundaries. Long after we have said goodbyes, long after physical wounds have healed, the psychological and social consequences continue and magnify. Domestic violence truly touches each and all of us.

Tragically, COVID-19 has magnified this challenge. In my home state of Hawaii, the Domestic Violence Action Center saw hotline calls increase by 188 percent from February 2020 to 2021. Survivors are further cut off from activities that allow them to escape an abusive environment, such as work or school, and domestic violence organizations face challenges in reaching survivors or providing services.