

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST MATT FOSTER, 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 Specialist Matt Foster of Allen, Texas.

Born into a military family, Matt Foster, moved around his first five years of life prior to settling down in New Braunfels, Texas. Like many Americans, Matt answered the call to serve our nation following the horrific attacks of 9/11. Upon graduation from high school, Matt enlisted in the United States Army leading to his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Foster served as a squad leader in the 101st Airborne Division, leading team members in over 180 missions and combat patrols.

Among Specialist Foster's awards are the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Specialist Foster earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was later recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Public policy and government are passion points for Foster, and he uses his experiences to serve in the role of Regional Director of Legislative and External Affairs for A&T.

Matt has chosen to give back to his community in a multitude of ways including through his work as the Past Chairman of the DFW USO Advisory Board, as Vice Chairman of the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veteran Assistance Advisory Board, Past Public Information Officer of Team Rubicon-DFW, Co-Chairman of the North Texas Crime Commission Legislative Committee, Director of the Collin College Foundation, the YMCA Board of Directors in Plano, and as Past Chairman of the Plano Young Professionals. In addition to his many civic activities, Matt serves as the Director of Communications for the Warrior's Keep, a non-profit organization geared towards enhancing the quality of life for veterans through the use of outdoor therapy as they reintegrate back to civilian life.

Matt and his wife, Vanessa, are raising their young son, Jackson, in Allen, Texas. For his many efforts to support our defenders of free-

dom, Specialist Foster has earned the respect and admiration of our community as he now works to mentor a new generation of military leaders.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Specialist Foster 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.

SCL HEALTH AND HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the SCL Health Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn for receiving the Northglenn Mid-Size Business of the Year Award.

The Northglenn Mid-Sized Business of the Year Award is given to a mid-sized business that has made outstanding contributions for the betterment of the community. This year, the award goes to the SCL Health and Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn. This SCL Institute is a leader in cardiovascular health treatment and is committed to wide accessibility to medical treatment on the front range. The SCL Institute at Northglenn combines kindness, compassion, excellent medical care, and state-of-the-art technology to help community members enter upcoming stages of their lives.

I personally thank the SCL Health and Heart and Vascular Institute at Northglenn for its dedication to providing outstanding care. I am eager to see this Institute continue delivering top-of-the-line care to our community.

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY IS AN OASIS OF LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND KNOWHOW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, a hundred years ago, two independent library associations merged into one amazing library—the Middletown Township Public Library.

Congratulations to Library Director Heather Andolsen and Board President Bill Bucco—and library staff and board members past and present—for this remarkable achievement.

A hundred years ago: Warren Harding was in the White House; New Jerseyans Joseph Frelinghuysen and Walter Evans Edge were in the U.S. Senate; Theodore Appleby was Monmouth County's Member of Congress; and the Freeholder Director was Bryant Newcomb.

America and the world in 1921 were still reeling and recovering from WWI and from the 1918 H1N1 Flu Pandemic that infected a third of the world's population and killed 50 million people.

That same year—1921—my favorite baseball team bought land to build Yankee Stadium (I was there in the stands in 1969 for Mickey Mantle Day); the treatment of diabetes was significantly advanced with the isolation of insulin and Albert Einstein got the Nobel Prize for Physics for his many contributions to theoretical physics including his 1905 theory of relativity.

And it was Albert Einstein who famously said "the only thing you absolutely need to know is the location of the library" which in the early years of MTPL perhaps begged the question, where is Dorothy Norton and her Ford Model T library on wheels?

Today, the Library is an important cultural and meeting center and a venue for assistance when disasters hit like Superstorm Sandy.

MTPL is an oasis of learning, knowledge, wisdom, and knowhow.

As food nurtures the body, the availability and accessibility of books and other literary works feeds the mind and soul.

A few weeks ago, I introduced an anti-human trafficking bill named after the great abolitionist, author, orator, and former slave Frederick Douglass.

I was joined at the press conference by Frederick Douglass' great, great, great grandson Ken Morris, who quoted his famous ancestor who said, "knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave" and "Once you learn to read you will be forever free."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize State Theatre New Jersey on its 100th anniversary and join its leadership, staff, and Board of Trustees in celebrating its reopening ribbon cutting and marquee lighting.

Opened in 1921 by Walter Reade, State Theatre New Jersey, then known as Reade's State Theatre, continues to bring exceptional arts-programming, culture, and vitality to the greater New Brunswick community. State Theatre New Jersey is a premier regional venue, providing an outstanding educational and entertainment resource for Central Jersey and beyond, attracting visitors as far as Canada and England. Its efforts to introduce the theatrical arts to the general public, including underserved populations, enriches the lives of the diverse local community and provides a valuable impact on cultural and economic landscape of the area.

Begun as a silent film and vaudeville theater, the theater was a popular entertainment destination for residents of central New Jersey throughout the 1920s. As films with sound evolved, Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO) took over operation of the facility and transformed the theater to accommodate and enhance the movie experience, including soundproofing and measures to darken the interior. For about 30 years, RKO State Theatre remained well-attended by residents until many began migrating into the suburbs and television became

mainstream. Efforts by Johnson & Johnson, the New Brunswick Development Corporation and the New Brunswick Cultural Center revitalized the theater in the 1980s and in 1988 it reopened as State Theatre New Jersey. Under the direction of its current President and CEO, Sarah Chaplin, State Theatre New Jersey continues to honor and preserve its history while improving safety, accessibility, and efficiency to bring the theater into the next century.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating State Theatre New Jersey on its 100th anniversary. State Theatre New Jersey's commitment to promoting the arts has contributed to the thriving cultural landscape of the community and is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT PAT NUGENT, RECIPIENT
OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

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ents 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 Senior Master Sergeant Patrick Nugent of Allen, Texas.

Upon joining the U.S. Air Force, Pat Nugent, trained as a parachute rigger and was stationed at England Air Force Base prior to being transferred to RAF Mildenhall, England where he was assigned to an Aerial Port squadron supporting aerial delivery parachute systems throughout the European Theater. During this time, Nugent developed a lifelong passion for photography and was eventually assigned to cover the world-renowned Air Force Thunderbirds. Due to his training as a photojournalist at Syracuse University, Pat would have the opportunity to cover a variety of historical events including the Rhein-Mein Air Base bombing and the return of hostages, Father Martin Jenco and David Jacobson, as well as those kidnapped from the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. Pat also covered Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Provide Hope, and the Panama invasion, and was involved in efforts to introduce digital photography to the Department of Defense.

During his 23 years of military service, Sergeant Nugent earned a multitude of awards including the National Defense Service Medal

with 1 device, the Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with 4 devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 6 devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 3 devices, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal to name just a few.

Following his retirement from the military, Nugent held government account management positions with Eastman Kodak and Nikon. As an active and lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, the Seidel Dallas Chapter of the Air Force Association, the USAF Combat Camera Association, and the Collin County Veterans Coalition, Pat can often be seen behind the lens capturing our veterans and military which earned him the Air Force Association's "Medal of Freedom."

Mr. Nugent is a tremendous example of using one's gift in service to their nation. Pat and his wife, Carol, look forward to celebrating fifty years of marriage this year and are the proud parents to two adult children, and five grandchildren.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Senior Master Sergeant Nugent 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.