

RECOGNITION OF THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS' 2020 CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the five recipients of the 26th District of Texas' 2020 Congressional Veterans Commendation. These men have faithfully served this Nation in both their military and civilian lives, and it is my great privilege to publicly recognize their significant contributions.

Mr. Paul Bastiach of Oak Point served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-five years, first as a Precision Measurement Equipment Specialist and later as the Commandant of the Airman Leadership School. Mr. Bastiach was recognized as the School's Flight Chief of the Year in 2000, and was awarded four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, and the Air Force Achievement Medal over the course of his tenure in the armed forces. In 2004, the Air Force further honored Mr. Bastiach with the Air Force Productivity Award, denoting an individual who has made such substantial improvements in productivity that the Air Force saved over \$1 million. Following his military career, Mr. Bastiach professionally served his fellow veterans as the Denton County Veteran Service Officer, as President of the Veterans County Service Officer Association of Texas (VCSOAT), and as the North Texas Region Director of VSOAT. His work has led to significant improvements to the Denton County VA's facilities, an increase of over \$200 million in gross benefits to Denton County Veterans, and the foundation of both the Veterans Community Navigator Program and the Denton County Veterans Coalition (DCVC). He currently serves as DCVC's Vice President and as the co-planner for the County's annual Veteran's Day Event.

Mr. Richard Cook of Double Oak served in the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1971, in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. During the Korean War, Mr. Cook was assigned to the USS *Missouri*, the flagship of the Seventh Fleet, which played a pivotal role in multiple offensive maneuvers as part of the famed Task Force 77. Mr. Cook was promoted to the highest enlisted rank of Master Chief and was later commissioned as a Lieutenant. After 21 years on active duty, he transferred into the Naval Reserves, serving an additional ten years. Mr. Cook's service was recognized with the UN Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. After leaving his military career, Mr. Cook devoted his time and attention to serving his local community of Double Oak. He was first elected to the Town Council in 1994 and was then appointed Mayor in 1995. The citizens of Double Oak re-elected Mr. Cook as Mayor twice. In 2010, he was appointed as Mayor Emeritus. Sadly, Mr. Cook passed away on October 2, 2021. My condolences to his family and the community of Double Oak as we reflect upon his military service and recognize his civic accomplishments.

Mr. Jacob Schick of Frisco enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps one month after the 9/11

terrorist attacks, and fought as a member of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Corps Regiment, Bravo Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, Mr. Schick's Humvee struck an improvised explosive device, resulting in the loss of his left leg and severe damage to his left arm. The U.S. Marine Corps recognized his sacrifice with the awarding of the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal. Mr. Schick continued to serve as an active duty servicemember until he was medically discharged in 2011, having attained the rank of Corporal. Mr. Schick continued to serve his former comrades in arms at the Center for Brain Health and the Brain Performance Institute, where he conducted research into alleviating Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post Traumatic Stress. In addition, he was instrumental in founding the non-profit "22 Kill" to bring public awareness to the alarming rate of veteran suicides and he currently serves as CEO of the "One Tribe Foundation," which raises funds and provides support programs to assist veterans and first responders and their families.

Mr. Dennis Sheridan of Trophy Club was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1969. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Sheridan was first assigned to Bravo Company and then to 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company as platoon leader. His outstanding command of 2nd Platoon was noted and he was designated as the Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Alpha Company. The U.S. Army recognized his service with the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star with V Device, and the Bronze Star with One Oak Leaf. Mr. Sheridan rose to the rank of captain by the end of his active duty in 1972. Subsequent to his military career, Mr. Sheridan served as a Commissioner and Chair of the Trophy Club Planning and Zoning Commission, and he currently serves as a Town Councilman, and actively volunteers for numerous veterans' organizations in the DFW metroplex.

Finally, Mr. Danny Weakley of Little Elm served in the armed forces for over two decades as a member of the U.S. Army's 89th Military Police Brigade. Mr. Weakley's service included tours in Somalia, Qatar, and Iraq, and merited him two Bronze Star Medals, three counts of the Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, a GWOT Service Medal, a GWOT Expeditionary Medal, three Iraq Campaign Medals, and the Combat Action Badge. Mr. Weakley retired in 2008, having attained the rank of Master Sergeant. A graduate of Little Elm's Fire, Police and Government Academy, he volunteers with multiple Little Elm events and he spearheaded new civic programs including Little Elm's Veteran's Ruck March and the Honor Park Cleanup.

I am truly privileged to thank all five of our recipients for their honorable service in the Armed Forces and their whole-hearted dedication to their communities following their military careers. Their leadership, devotion, and sacrifice truly exemplify the finest traditions of the United States Military. I join the friends, families, and communities of these recipients in expressing sincere appreciation and congratulating them on their commendation.

NATALE CONSTANTINO—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Nate Costantino with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Nate had noticed the Gilda's Club organization in Northfield lacked a recreational area for the youth who utilized the building. For his Eagle Scout Project, Nate addressed this issue and constructed a playground area in the back of the Gilda's Club building. This playground will be enjoyed by Northfield residents for years to come. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Nate and God Bless America.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE ARTHUR ZINK

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Charlie Arthur Zink, who passed away on June 20, 2021.

On March 3, 2006, Charlie was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Eric and Alyssa Zink. Charlie was a vibrant young child with so many passions in life. Playing the video game Planet Coaster, he pursued his dream of becoming a world-renowned roller-coaster designer. As part of his summer RV travel plans, he planned to visit Cedar Point and other amusement parks along the way to ride the steepest, fastest and craziest coasters in the world.

Charlie was a rising 10th grader at Bedford High School. Inspired by many Bedford educators, Charlie was looking forward to his new classes in the fall. He was proud to work at his family's restaurant, the Puritan Backroom, and he represented the fifth generation to bus tables and work in the kitchen.

Charlie was a great athlete but loved basketball more than anything. He loved to play pickup with his siblings in the backyard under the lights, and he played as part of many teams over his short career.

Charlie is survived by his parents, three siblings, and two pets whom he loved dearly: 13-year-old Annie, 11-year-old Eva, 8-year-old Oliver, Wilson the dog, and Hazel the cat. Charlie's uncle, Mr. Chris Pappas, represents New Hampshire's first district and loved his first nephew with all his heart. Alongside Mr. Pappas and his family, we join them in honoring the wonderful and inspiring life of Charles Zink.

Charlie will also be remembered for being a fiercely loyal companion, a son, sibling, and friend. We will never forget his curiosity and love for adventure, memories that will continue to inspire everyone who knew him.

CELEBRATING THE ASIA PACIFIC
CULTURAL CENTER'S 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma, Washington.

E Pluribus Unum. Out of many, one.

That motto, the motto of our Nation, reflects a truth embodied by the Asia Pacific Cultural Center for the last 25 years—that our region's amazing diversity is a blessing. That the people and cultures that have come from so many places should be celebrated. And, importantly, that the celebration of that diversity can be a force for uniting us.

Since 1996 the Asia Pacific Cultural Center has served as that unifying force in our region—a center of cultural exchange. It has provided programs to support, celebrate, and honor the Asian and Pacific Islander people. It has given us all an opportunity to celebrate art, education, culture, and cuisine—some of the core elements of everyday lives that have been challenged over the course of the last couple of years. It has brought us together.

Through it all, over the last quarter of a century, the APCC has not only endured—it has thrived. Over the years, so many of us have learned so much from APCC programs. Personally, I have participated in traditional ceremonies at Samoan Cultural Days and at the Korean Chuseok Festival. I got to join with my youngest daughter in making dumplings (I was terrible at it, but my kiddo was terrific). I've joined the APCC in prayer and healing after tragic moments in our country. And I've joined them in great joy and celebration. And I know I'm not alone. Indeed, by hosting cultural events and activities, sponsoring youth programs, and conducting outstanding outreach, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center has become a pillar of our community.

Through its work, the APCC helps us live up to a vision laid out by Gandhi when he said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed." He said, "I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." The Asia Pacific Cultural Center has brought the cultures of 47 countries into our home. The APCC has made our community stronger.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the organization's tremendous leadership, including Executive Director Lua Pritchard, President and Founder Patsy Surh O'Connell, the board, and every person in our community that has supported their extraordinary work. It matters.

As a representative for our region in our Nation's capital, I want to thank the APCC for its partnership and congratulate the organization for 25 years of service and dedication to our community. I look forward to working with the Asia Pacific Cultural Center for years to come.

It is an honor to represent them and our region.

BOX-IT FITNESS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, our small business community in South Jersey was heavily impacted by the global pandemic, just as many other small businesses were across the nation. However, one local business serving Cape May County made it through the pandemic and has recently expanded with a second location. Jeff and Courtney Wallace, owners of Box-It Fitness, continue to spread health and wellness across Cape May County. Box-It Fitness offers a diverse selection of boxing and fitness classes every day. Congratulations to Jeff and Courtney on the grand opening of the second Box-It Fitness location. God bless Jeff and Courtney and God bless America.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN
VETERANS COLIN POWELL POST
910

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 910, named for Colin Powell, in the City of Detroit in Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

The members of the Colin Powell Post came together with a purpose, to help the veterans and their families in creating a better quality of life and to make a positive change in the community. Post 910 has focused its mission on assisting homeless veterans across Detroit and Wayne County. They have hosted countless events in support of those who have served our country in the military. They have regularly offered a listening ear and fellowship to veteran patients at John Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit.

In addition to its charitable work, Post 910 has worked to strengthen its ties to local high school Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs. They have recognized ROTC students' achievements at schools across Detroit. Still, the Post 910 members devote countless hours to community events, participating in local parades and events honoring the service of our veterans. They dedicate their time all year round to giving back to the community by hosting holiday toy drives for local children, Thanksgiving meals for those in need, and so much more.

Please join me in recognizing Detroit's Colin Powell AMVETS Post 910 for their many outstanding contributions to the communities of Detroit and 13th District Strong.

RETIREMENT OF ANA B. HINO-
JOSA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TRADE REMEDY AND LAW EN-
FORCEMENT, OFFICE OF
TRADE—CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I rise along with my colleagues, Rep. BILL PASCRELL and Rep. DAN KILDEE, to commemorate the successful federal career of Ana Hinojosa, Executive Director for Trade Remedy and Law Enforcement at Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Trade. Ms. Hinojosa retires after more than 33 years of service at CBP.

As Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, we would like to commend Ms. Hinojosa on her efforts to support and lead CBP's trade functions. She has served in many trade-related roles in her time at CBP, including at the World Customs Organization (WCO), where she led the directorate that is responsible for assisting WCO Members in implementing effective and efficient controls, ensuring fair and accurate revenue collection, and protecting society by intercepting and suppressing illicit and criminal activities.

Ms. Hinojosa has also played an instrumental role in CBP's enforcement of the prohibition on the importation of goods made with forced labor. As Members who worked hard to close the "consumptive demand" loophole in the import ban in 2016, we recognize that the key to the effectiveness of the improved law would be strong enforcement.

Ms. Hinojosa has been critical in leading CBP's efforts in this regard. During numerous congressional briefings, Ms. Hinojosa demonstrated her work ethic and passion for this issue, supporting enforcement on a wide array of products from a diverse group of countries. While much more remains to be done on forced labor, we applaud Ms. Hinojosa's work to dramatically expand and improve CBP's enforcement efforts on this critically important issue.

Ms. Hinojosa was also a Past President of Executive Women in Government, which is an organization that focuses on helping women in middle- to upper-level management positions reach Executive level positions in the U.S. Government.

We wish to congratulate Ms. Hinojosa on her retirement and express of gratitude for her many years of public service, particularly her commitment to enforcing the prohibition of forced labor imports. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

ZACHARY WHITELEY—EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Zachary Whiteley with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. One day, Zachary noticed that the