

HONORING SERGEANT PETER KOEPP, SERGEANT MARK LAINO, OFFICER CHRISTOPHER WATKINS, AND OFFICER BOBBY MEIS UPON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF BRAVERY

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Peter Koepp, Sergeant Mark Laino, Officer Christopher Watkins, and Officer Bobby Meis of the Virginia Beach Police Department upon receiving the Congressional Medal of Bravery for their heroic actions on May 31, 2019.

Like many in our community and around the nation, I was shocked and horrified to hear about the active shooter situation in Virginia Beach's municipal building that day. The four officers arrived separately at the hectic scene before converging toward the sound of gunfire. Together, they approached the assailant and bravely exchanged gunfire, during which Sergeant Koepp was struck by a bullet, receiving blunt trauma to his abdomen. The officers' positioning allowed city employees and citizens to evacuate the premises until SWAT officers arrived. Sadly, 12 individuals in the building lost their lives that day. Still, the heroism that Officers Koepp, Laino, Watkins, and Meis exhibited may have saved countless more.

Knowing that they would enter a high-risk situation, each of these officers swiftly responded to the call to action. Our community is eternally grateful for their courage, and it is my privilege to celebrate these heroes as they receive this well-deserved honor.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
HOWARD H. MILES

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a longstanding stalwart from Fort Worth, Texas, Howard Henry Miles. It's his birthday today, and I'd like to share how Howard's contributions to our community have helped shape us for the better.

Howard Henry Miles committed much of his life to his family and his community, when the family of seven were forced to relocate to the city after an unfortunate event by an angry White mob. The family went on to become influential pillars in the African-American community as they opened various businesses in which Howard took ample pride.

Howard is a graduate of the historic I.M. Terrell High School. As a student, Howard ran track, and played the clarinet in multiple bands at the school before graduating in 1951. Howard then earned a science degree in chemistry in 1958 from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he was also a cherished member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Amidst his educational journey, Howard served as a supply clerk for the U.S. Army in the United Kingdom from 1954 to 1956 due to the Korean War.

Howard Henry Miles returned to his high school, I.M. Terrell, as a Science teacher and beloved coach while he simultaneously earned a master of science degree in biochemistry from Syracuse University. Howard continued his teaching and coaching career at Amon Carter-Riverside High School in 1970 and Polytechnic High School in 1975 where he spent more than 20 years doing what he loved most: teaching AP science courses and coaching sports teams. He is respectfully remembered and admired by many students as "Coach Miles," one who helped break down racial barriers for them between the 60's and 70's.

Howard is also recognized for his tough love teaching style and "painstaking drills" which resulted in his girls track team winning two state championships for which he was recognized by the Texas State House representatives. Howard was given many opportunities to move up in his career, however his heart belonged to the city of Fort Worth where he retired in 1999.

Howard's long and varied service to Fort Worth also includes playing in the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra and Arlington Band, religiously attending St. Andrews United Methodist Church serving as a youth leader, Sunday school teacher, male chorus member and youth choir director. Therefore, I am honored to have had Howard Henry Miles as my constituent in Texas' 33rd District.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED ROGERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary life of Fred Rogers, the outgoing commander of American Legion Peter J. Courcy Post 178 in Frisco, Texas. Mr. Rogers has conducted his life with distinguished service to his community and nation through his service in the U.S. Armed Forces and his subsequent volunteer efforts.

Mr. Rogers served honorably as an Air Policeman in the U.S. Air Force from 1960 to 1964. After retiring from his decades-long civilian career as a pilot, Mr. Rogers joined the American Legion in 2008. Mr. Rogers' leadership roles at Holley-Riddle Post 21—Frisco and Bill Bryan Post 110—McKinney led to him receiving Pioneer Awards for the organization of those two posts. In 2013, he was named the Texas 4th District Adjutant.

Being a founding post member, Mr. Rogers has served as Post 178's commander since its inception in December 2013. His tireless efforts to bolster the new post's community involvement and promote its membership led to Post 178 earning the Texas Post Excellence Award from 2015 through 2019. Only three posts in Texas receive this honor yearly, and Mr. Rogers' dedicated leadership as commander merited the award for four consecutive years. From 2016 to 2018, Post 178 was also awarded the National Post Excellence award. Despite the post's recent founding, it is one of the most recognized and fastest growing in the state of Texas.

During his time as Post 178 Commander, Mr. Rogers has organized Memorial Day events, sponsored dozens of high school jun-

iors for American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, promoted the annual American Legion High School Oratorical contest, and worked alongside the Wreaths Across America organization at the Dallas-Fort Worth national cemetery. Mr. Rogers served as the Texas State Vice Commander in 2014 through 2015. In 2019, he received a third Pioneer Award for the organization of Post 268—Sanger.

I join Post 178 and the Frisco community in thanking Mr. Rogers for his devoted service to our veterans and his fellow citizens. He is truly an outstanding model of selfless civic service.

IN HONOR OF GEREK MEINHARDT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a special Kentuckian and a member of the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team, Gerek Meinhardt, from Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. Meinhardt began the sport of fencing when he was 9 years old. In 2007, he qualified for the cadet, junior, and senior world teams all in the same year, becoming the first U.S. men's fencer ever to do so. In 2008, he was the youngest athlete ever to compete on a U.S. Fencing Team and was the youngest member of the 2008 Olympic Team in any sport. Mr. Meinhardt was a four-time NCAA All-American and was a two-time individual NCAA Champion in 2011 and 2014. Mr. Meinhardt was a member of the first U.S. Men's Foil Team to win a Senior World Championship title in 2019. He competed in the Pan-American Games in 2011, earning a gold team medal, and in 2015, earning another gold team medal and silver individual medal.

Representing the United States of America, Mr. Meinhardt competed in the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, the London Olympic Games in 2012, the Rio Olympic Games in 2016, and is currently on the team that will compete in the Tokyo Olympic Games. He earned a bronze medal in 2016.

Mr. Meinhardt is the son of Kurt and Jane Meinhardt. His wife is also a member of Team USA, fellow fencer Lee Kiefer. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and is currently a student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

I wish all the best to this accomplished Kentucky athlete as he competes in Tokyo representing the United States. It is my honor to recognize Gerek Meinhardt before the United States Congress.

THANKING THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE FOLLOWING THE JANUARY 6, 2021 CAPITOL ATTACK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the immediate and extended staff of the Office of Employee Assistance (OEA) at the United States

House of Representatives for their tireless service to the House, the United States Capitol Police, and Congressional Budget Office following the violent attack on our Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Through exemplary dedication, passion, and commitment to their profession, the team has developed the OEA into a preeminent employee assistance program over three decades, delivering comprehensive confidential services covering an array of personal and work-related issues to positively impact employee performance, productivity, and well-being.

The team's commitment and care has offered comfort and coping tools to those experiencing profound grief and distress after the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. These services included one-to-one crisis consultation, confidential counseling, debriefings on trauma and resilience, discussion group facilitation, and the development and dissemination of self-help material containing practical strategies to promote recovery.

Additionally, the OEA promptly secured and coordinated additional counseling assets for their appointment-based services as well as for the ongoing, around-the-clock crisis support efforts that would remain available to Capitol Police personnel in the weeks and months that followed.

Through in-person, telephonic, and video meetings and seminars, the OEA interacted with thousands of employees and family members in the first half of 2021 alone, far surpassing past utilization trends. Employee engagement in all their services has been unprecedented—as have been the needs—yet the staff of the OEA has never flinched.

The dedicated team provided impactful work not only through an extraordinary volume of interactions with individuals, but through regular training and briefing facilitation across the House, on-call responses after-hours, and ongoing efforts to promote the services throughout the House and the Capitol Police communities. All the while, the team maintained the resolve and perspective to effectively help others while processing their own attack-and-pandemic-related concerns as employees of this institution.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge the entire Office of Employee Assistance

and Well-Being teams who served throughout this tremendous support effort: Tiara Anderson, Breanna Becker, Briana Cragwell, Georgeanna Goldstein, Margot Hawkins-Green, Rhonda Kaalund, Malia Klee, Liz McBride, Jon Murphy, Emily Swartz, Paul Tewksbury, and Brian Weiss. Also worthy of our thanks are the contracted counseling partners. These special groups of professionals should all be commended for their commitment, dedication, and professionalism during a time of great need.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize and thank the Office of Employee Assistance for their extraordinary and unwavering service to this institution.

INTRODUCTIONS OF THE GRANT RESIDENCY FOR ADDITIONAL DOCTORS ACT OF 2021

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Grant Residency for Additional Doctors, or GRAD, Act of 2021 which would address the lengthy processing delays for J-1 visas, which is the temporary nonimmigrant visa that international medical students and physicians use to work in U.S. based residency programs.

The United States is anticipated to face a shortage of physicians that ranges from between 54,100 and 139,000 in the next 12 years. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to magnify these shortages as primary care physicians and specialists experience burnout related to the pandemic. Foreign medical students frequently fill critical positions in hospitals that service underserved and rural communities.

Madam Speaker, my GRAD Act of 2021 would direct the Department of State to establish a position from March through June, the busiest months for school applications, whose sole purpose is to address J-1 visa applications with the intention of receiving graduate medical education or training.

Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how crucial it is that our med-

ical infrastructure has the personnel necessary to handle a public health crisis. Our healthcare system cannot operate if it is facing a physician shortage.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCCOMB PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the One Hundredth Anniversary of the McComb Public Library. The McComb Public Library is a staple in the local community where people of all ages are able to gather to read and learn about an array of topics.

The library has a deep-rooted history of serving the people of McComb and the surrounding area, and this anniversary highlights its commitment to the area. Its continued dedication speaks volumes about the library's value to the community and is evidence of an unwavering devotion to public service amongst its staff, past and present.

A century ago, Reverend W.D. Trumbull, the Church of Christ pastor in McComb, decided that it was time for the community to have a library. With the help from Mrs. C.V. Griswolf, Mrs. Joe Wasson, and Mrs. Sam Light, the McComb Public Library was created. Throughout its history, the library has changed locations, grown, and continued to be a beacon of education for McComb and Hancock County. The generosity of community members like Mrs. Blanche Fletcher, who left her entire estate to help construct the current building, and Jane Rader, who was library director for forty-four years, has continued to help the library become what it is today.

Congratulations to the McComb Public Library on its One Hundredth Anniversary. The people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio are grateful for the contributions of the library and its staff to the community and wish them all the best in the future.