

## HONORING COUNTESS BALOGUN

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Countess Balogun for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation. Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Countess Balogun's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Countess Balogun for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

INTRODUCING HOUSE RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF NATIONAL POPPY  
DAY

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2022*

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bipartisan resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day, with Congresswoman SPARTZ.

The importance of this day cannot be overstated. This bipartisan National Poppy Day Resolution recognizes the sacrifices of America's veterans and fallen service members.

In the last several decades, Memorial Day has become synonymous with the start of summer, and not as it was intended as a time to mourn and remember the U.S. military personnel who have fought and died while serving in the United States armed forces. While the United States has great respect for those who serve in the Armed Forces, we often focus on the living veterans. There are many parents, spouses, siblings, and children who still mourn their fallen service member.

Yes, there are ceremonies to remember those we have lost, such as the ones at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at the Pentagon, and small ones at National Cemeteries. However, as a Nation we no longer take the time to remember those who have shed blood in the name of freedom.

The red-flowered corn poppy has long been a marker of respect and a way to raise awareness and support for members of our nation's veteran communities, servicemembers and their families, and the families of those who died in service to their country. Poppy Day is widely recognized by America's allies, especially in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Great Britain, and Ukraine, but is less recognized here at home.

The red-flowered corn poppy became forever linked to soldiers who paid the ultimate

sacrifice on the battlefields of World War I, as result of the poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem, written by a Canadian soldier actively serving on the front-lines of WWI to honor his fellow soldiers killed in battle, reads:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,  
between the crosses, row on row

Around the world, the red-flowered corn poppy continues to serve as the living symbol of the blood shed by those who served and is worn as a gesture of gratitude and recognition of the sacrifices people have made in service to their country. Many nations incorporate the poppy into their Veterans or Remembrance Day ceremonies.

In the United States, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars first called attention in the 1920s to the importance of the poppy flower in honoring the fallen. They continue to distribute poppies and promote the importance of a National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day and Veterans Day, raising money for disabled veterans.

With wider recognition of National Poppy Day and wearing a red poppy, we honor every servicemember who has died in the name of liberty, freedom, and democracy. Additionally this provides us the opportunity to thank their families, veterans, and current service members for our freedom now and for generations to come. In the words of American Moina Michael:

And now the Torch and Poppy Red,  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

Our Resolution would begin on May 26, 2023. We should honor past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. We should encourage all citizens, residents, and visitors of the United States to join in observing "National Poppy Day." Wearing a red poppy the Friday before Memorial day—and through the weekend—is a simple declaration of our admiration for and thanks to those individuals who shed blood to preserve freedom.

In this body we have people who have served and those who have lost. At the very least we should honor them.

We invite all Members of Congress to wear their poppy red, support the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on May 26, 2023 and every year after, to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed for our country—both living and dead. I also invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this resolution.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
VIRGIL POE, ONE OF THE  
GREATEST GENERATION

**HON. DAN CRENSHAW**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2022*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, on Friday, July 1st this year, Sergeant Virgil Poe, age 96, passed away surrounded by family in Houston, Texas.

Virgil was born on June 28, 1926, near Mansfield, Arkansas. He lived the first ten years of his life in Hoberg, Missouri. At ten years old, Virgil's parents, Loyd and Elsie Poe, moved to Portsmouth, Iowa where his father worked as a banker. He graduated from high school in Harlan, Iowa in 1944.

Virgil was drafted in June 1944 and reported to the famed Fort Leavenworth in Kansas to serve his country in the United States Army. He would go on to take basic Infantry Training at Camp Wolters, Texas.

Virgil fought for the Allies with selflessness and nobility. He served in the 7th U.S. Army in France, Belgium, and Germany as a rifleman, truck driver and heavy artilleryman until Germany's surrender in 1945.

Following Germany's surrender, Virgil did not rest. Upon his return to America, he boarded a troop train to Seattle with other soldiers shipping to fight the Japanese in the Pacific Theater. While en route to the Pacific, Virgil and the other servicemen learned Japan had surrendered.

After the war, Virgil was sent back to Ft. Hood, where he would meet his wife, Dorrace, at an evening service at the Church of Christ in her nearby hometown of Temple, Texas. His battalion eventually moved to Camp Polk in Louisiana, where Virgil served as the Administrative NCO in the newly organized Rocket FA Battalion Headquarters. He also served as Supply Sergeant in the same battalion.

Virgil was honorably discharged from the service in August 1946. He and Dorrace married shortly thereafter in October of 1946.

Virgil went on to Abilene Christian College, where he graduated in 1952. Upon graduation, he worked faithfully for 42 years at Southwestern Bell Telephone Co./AT&T as an engineer across the Midwest, including in Dallas, Houston, and St. Louis.

In 2020, the President of the Republic of France authorized the National French Legion of Honour Medal, the highest military medal in France, to Virgil Poe. 75 years after the landing at Normandy the French consulate in Houston awarded the medal to Mr. Poe to honor him for his service in France during World War II. Indeed, Mr. Poe was an exemplary member of the Greatest Generation.

Virgil and Dorrace remained happily married for 72 years before her passing in April 2019. He is survived by his daughter, Jayne Poe Massey, of Jersey Village, Texas; son, former Congressman Ted Poe and wife, Carol; eight grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Please join us in honoring a true American hero and patriot.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER  
SHERRI R. ZIMMERMAN

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2022*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of retired Navy Commander Sherri R. Zimmerman, a distinguished military leader who graciously served on my 2018 Military Service Academy Nominations Board.

Commander Zimmerman enlisted in the Navy in 1993 and quickly distinguished herself as a talented leader. In 1994, she enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy, and graduated four years later with a Bachelor of Science degree in English and a commission as a Cryptologic Officer.

Commander Zimmerman attended the Navy Cryptologic Division Officer training in Pensacola, Florida. Subsequently, she reported to

Naval Security Group Activity Menwith Hill in Harrogate, UK, as Division Officer and an Operation Watch Officer.

In 2002, Commander Zimmerman graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, with a Master of Science in Space Systems Operations. She also completed Joint Professional Military Education Phase I through the Naval War College. Her payback tour was at SPAWAR Space Field Activity in Chantilly, Virginia, as Chief of the SIGINT Director's Action Group, then on the staff of the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

For Commander Zimmerman's department head tour, she was assigned to the Navy Cyber Defense Operation Command in Norfolk, Virginia. While there, she led as Deputy of Operations in the Training and Exercise Department. During this tour, she was also assigned as an Individual Augmentee to Multi-National Corps Iraq as an Information Operations Planner. She served in this role for 12 months in Baghdad, Iraq, and helped support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In May 2009, Commander Zimmerman became the Officer in Charge of the Navy Information Operations Detachment Chesapeake until the unit's disestablishment in December 2011. She also earned a Master of Science in Management and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland. Commander Zimmerman completed her O5 milestone tour at U.S. Fleet Forces Command as N24 Fleet Intelligence, Information Operations, and Electronic Warfare Readiness.

From 2013 to 2014, Commander Zimmerman was assigned to Navy Cyber Forces in Suffolk, Virginia. She served as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness and Modernization (N4) and then as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness (N3).

Commander Zimmerman served as Executive Officer of the Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Texas from May 2014 to June 2015. One month later, she reported to NIOC San Diego to assume Command in July 2015.

Commander Zimmerman retired from Active Duty on November 1, 2017. Her military decorations include the Information Dominance Warfare Officer pin, the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various other service medals and ribbons.

In 2017, Commander Zimmerman joined USAA in San Antonio, Texas, as the Military Affairs Service Academy Relationship Director. She lives in San Antonio with her family and is a proud mother to three children: sons Orion and Declan and daughter Eala.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Commander Zimmerman for her extraordinary commitment to public service. As a member of my Military Service Academy Nominations Board for the 20th District of Texas, she has played an invaluable role in ushering in the next generation of military leaders, and my office has benefited from her wisdom and expertise. I am grateful for Commander Zimmerman's service to the United States, and I wish her and her family the best.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT SCOTT THOMAS

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Robert Scott Thomas, who passed away on October 23, 2022.

Descending from a storied line of Marin pioneers and California cowboys, Robert spent his childhood learning about the value of hard work and business ethic. This was evident from the age of 12, when he managed the ranch and family business while his adult family members were away fighting in the Second World War. Following their legacy of service, he would go on to join the United States Army in 1951, serving at Fort Ord, California.

Robert returned to Marin County after serving in the military and went on to play an instrumental role at John Oglesby Engineering, designing Marinwood, Sausalito, Tiburon, Mill Valley, and other subdivisions across Marin County. Robert would eventually become President of McNear Block Company, the historic firm that was crucial in rebuilding San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake.

Throughout his life, Robert carried on the legacy of a family steeped in California history. In 1868, his great-great-grandfather, Captain John August McNear, purchased 2,500 acres of land at Point San Pedro in San Rafael, where he ran successful dairy and brick manufacturing operations. After seeing the poor treatment of Chinese workers in San Francisco, Captain McNear offered the Chinese community employment and safe refuge on his land. Robert upheld these family values in his professional career, notably as Senior Advisor for Roots of Peace, a humanitarian organization dedicated to removing landmines and reviving sustainable agriculture in war-torn regions.

Robert exemplified humility, positivity, resilience, and love for family. He met the love of his life, Barbara, while at San Rafael High School; they would go on to spend over half a century together until she passed in 2006. He leaves behind his daughter Heidi, son Robert, Jr., 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. While he will be greatly missed, Robert's legacy will live on through the positive impact he had on his family, Marin County, and beyond.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Robert Scott Thomas was a community figure who will be missed and whose many contributions to the region and nation are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his many contributions and express our deep condolences to his family and friends.

## RECOGNIZING JOE SANTARLASCI

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE to recognize the life of Joseph "Joe" Howard

Santarlaschi, Jr., a decorated Vietnam veteran, investment banker, professor, and thought leader who passed away on October 29, 2022 in Brooklyn, NY.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Joe graduated from Malvern Prep in 1963, Brown University in 1967, and the University of Virginia Darden School of Business in 1973. Joe was in ROTC at Brown and served his country as a Navy Lieutenant from 1967 to 1971 with two tours of active duty in Vietnam. He was part of the "brown water navy" and got his jump wings. Joe was also awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor. He was the duty officer during the recovery of the Apollo 11 astronauts when they splashed down in the Pacific on July 24, 1969 and carried "the football" during the mission. Joe followed in the footsteps of his father Joseph Howard Santarlaschi, a fighter pilot who was shot down numerous times during World War II.

After graduation from UVA, Joe started his first job as an investment banker at First Chicago. On the weekends, he was a fly half for the USA Eagles rugby team. He then moved to New York City, where he specialized in M&A at several leading investment banks.

Joe moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985 to co-found the turnaround management firm Whitby, Santarlaschi & Co., Inc. with Von Whitby of Salt Lake City, Utah. He took great pride in restructuring companies with the goal of saving as many jobs as possible.

From 2013 to 2019, Joe taught Entrepreneurial Finance at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. After he stopped teaching, he stayed in touch with his students and continued to help them along their journeys. He then co-founded the Brown University Veterans Alumni Council. Under his leadership, Brown extended need-blind admission to veterans and eliminated the estimated family contribution, replacing it with scholarship, enabling Brown to meet the total cost of attendance for qualified veterans.

In 2021, Joe moved to Brooklyn, NY to be closer to his sons Nicolas and Marco. Seeing how bereft Joe was feeling without his students, Marco showed Joe how to use Twitter, where he became a leading voice for tolerance, kindness and justice. News of his death trended as #RIPJoe, was liked by over 50,000 people and commented upon by more than 7,000. Everyone who knew him treasured his heart, intellect, and quick wit.

In addition to his father and son, Joe was predeceased by his mother Rosemary Theresa Donovan Santarlaschi. He is missed by his wife of 34 years, Elizabeth Ann Stanton (Betsy Santarlaschi); their sons Nicolas Donovan Santarlaschi (Rachel "Rai" Manning) and Marco Foster Santarlaschi of Brooklyn, NY; brother Stephen Michael Santarlaschi (Eileen Taubman) of Paoli, PA; and Stephen's daughter Michelle Santarlaschi Carini (John) and their children Cecelia and Anthony of Malvern, PA.

## HONORING JOHN CHAMBERS

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Apostle John Chambers for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of