

HONORING 3RD ARMORED DIVISION'S COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SECTION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work that 3rd Armored Division's Gregory Hagen, Gerald Euchler, Craig Carlson, David Evans, Donald Wood, Thomas Lykens, Denis McMahon, Jesse Weiss, Joan Mercier, and Sharon Mack did to protect our strategic naval assets during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

In March of 1991 these soldiers, who belonged to 3rd Armored Division's Counterintelligence section, identified three Iraqi naval sites that had yet to be exploited. In coordination with U.S. Naval Intelligence, the sites were investigated properly, and revealed the official Iraqi naval minefield locations, which were unknown to U.S. forces. These plans led to the demining and safe passage of both civilian and military ships in Iraqi waters.

Due to the decisive action of these soldiers, untold lives were saved as well as the prevention of loss of naval assets. Their actions exemplify the honor and courage of our service members. We should applaud their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2022, I missed four roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

YES—Roll Call Vote 414—Continental Divide Trail Completion Act;

YES—Roll Call Vote 415—Big Cat Public Safety Act;

YES—Roll Call Vote 416—STREAM Act; and

NAY—Roll Call Vote 417—To include certain computer-related projects in the Federal permitting program under title XLI of the FAST Act, and for other purposes.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESPONSIVENESS TO RECORDS REQUESTS AND TRICARE COVERAGE OF COVID TESTS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend remarks I made earlier this session during debate of this year's National Defense Authorization Act. During that floor debate, and many times previously, I spoke about the lack of accountability at the Department of Defense and the need for enhanced oversight. In keeping with this lack of accountability not only to the American taxpayer, but Congress itself, I wish to publicly request information from the Department that my staff has solicited since July of 2018. Namely, I seek information on behalf of Wisconsin-based PFC

Lawrence Gordon Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that works to locate and identify servicemembers who remain missing as a result of armed conflicts. This request for information on behalf of a constituent is now entering its fifth year of processing—the time has come for the Department to be responsive to this records request.

Additionally, I also wish to mention another concern relayed to me by a separate constituent—TRICARE's inability to reimburse beneficiaries for personally purchased COVID tests from local drugstores. I encourage the Secretary to examine this matter and consider amending TRICARE reimbursement practices, and I look forward to working with him to address the concern (particularly during the current increases in positivity rates across the country).

HONORING ERNEST MARVEL—WORLD WAR TWO VETERAN AND RECIPIENT OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Ernest B. Marvel, proud World War Two Veteran and recent recipient of France's highest distinction, the Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur, also known as the Legion of Honor.

On July 13, 2022, Mr. Marvel was presented the Legion of Honor by the French Ambassador to the United States, Philippe Etienne. The Legion of Honor was first created over two centuries ago to reward eminent military and civil merits in service or defense of France. Created as an order of merit, foreign citizens may be awarded this recognition for their actions in support of France. For a World War Two Veteran like Mr. Marvel to be awarded the Legion of Honor, they must prove they were involved in combat operations within France.

As a Private First Class with the 45th Infantry Division of the United States Army, Mr. Marvel's service demonstrated exceptional bravery, character, and valor. Arriving in France shortly after the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Marvel was soon given a vital mission to clear mines and booby traps. That mission brought Mr. Marvel and another soldier into direct contact with enemy troops. For his successful actions that day, Mr. Marvel was awarded the Bronze Star. After this action, Mr. Marvel participated in several dangerous combat missions to help liberate France from Nazi Germany, including missions as a bazookaman and in notable amphibious operations across the Rhine River.

Despite the significant combat Mr. Marvel and his unit saw in Europe, perhaps the most harrowing experience was their actions to liberate the victims in the Dachau Concentration Camp. As Mr. Marvel and the 45th Infantry Division moved toward Dachau, they were engaged in fierce combat with German troops still defending the camp. Mr. Marvel would help liberate 32,000 captives of Dachau. But, as Mr. Marvel recalls, the "sights in this camp I will never ever forget."

Mr. Marvel was awarded numerous awards for his service, including the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and several campaign medals. With the latest award of the Legion of Honor, Mr. Marvel joins a distinguished group of Americans, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Audie Murphy, Chuck Yeager, and many others.

Finally, on behalf of the State of Delaware and a grateful Nation, I thank Mr. Marvel for his service to our country. He sacrificed greatly to safeguard freedom and democracy. He is a testament to our Nation and his actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. I congratulate Mr. Marvel once again on this honor—he brings great pride to Delaware and the United States.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF KARRIE WILSON WEATHERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Karrie Wilson Weathers, 91, of Eggville. Mr. Weathers took his final flight Friday, July 29, 2022. He was born at home in Eggville on February 1, 1931, to the late Denver and Louie Weathers. He graduated from Mooreville High School in 1951 where he was a basketball all-star. Karrie joined the U.S. Air Force serving in the Korean war. He retired after 25 years of service as a Master Sergeant.

After active duty, he became a partner with his brother, Dudley Weathers at Weathers Auto Supply. He started Capital Auto Glass in 1966. Karrie also served as Lee County Tax Assessor, retiring after 16 years. Dedicated to serving others, Karrie was a member of the Lee County Shrine Club and a founding member of The Flying Fez. He enjoyed flying children to the Shriner's Hospital in Galveston, Texas. He was also a 50 year member of the Tupelo Masonic Lodge 318, a founding member of the Tupelo Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), a 33rd-degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a founding member of the Tupelo Veterans Memorial Park.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a private pilot for over 30 years. In Karrie's own words, he enjoyed flying out of "Eggville International Grass Airfield!" He was a member of Auburn Baptist Church. Karrie leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Barbara Finley Weathers; three children, Steve Weathers, Julie Weathers Watson (Woody), Mark "Winky" Weathers (Roxy); eight grandchildren, LeAnna Hill (Todd), Brittany Weathers (Daniel), Luke Weathers (Wendy), Erin Tullos (Adam), Hannah Treece (Nick), Emily Weathers, Tyler Weathers (Meagan), and Katie Weathers Gazaway (Mason); seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Juanita Weathers Franks Knight (John). He was preceded in death by his parents, Denver and Louie Weathers; his brother, Dudley Weathers, and a great-granddaughter, Sophie Gazaway.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVID
SUMAYA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanford Fire Department Captain David Sumaya for his 33 years of service to the Central Valley community.

Captain Sumaya was born and raised in Hanford, California. As a young man, he knew he wanted to serve the community he had lived in all his life and found the best way for him to do so was to become a firefighter. In 1989, he began his work in the fire service and joined Hanford Volunteer Firefighters. As a volunteer firefighter, he ran calls out of the old Lacey Boulevard Fire Station, even working on fire engines from the 1940s.

In 1991, Captain Sumaya was hired as a full-time firefighter with the Hanford Fire Department. Throughout his decorated career, he held every position in the Department, eventually rising to the rank of Captain. Additionally, he served as one of the original members of the Hanford Fire Department Investigation team, helping the Department understand the causes of fires throughout the community.

Over his three decades of service, Captain Sumaya served as a role model for all members of the Hanford Fire Department. He has been a source of inspiration for young firefighters in the Department, and a great resource for veteran members. His dedication to his community is an inspiration to us all, and his legacy within the Hanford Fire Department will live on forever.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Captain David Sumaya for his 33 years of service and dedication to the City of Hanford.

HONORING SHERIFF DEVON BELL

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize my good friend, Placer County

Sheriff Devon Bell. We celebrate his retirement and job well done regarding his service and legacy to the people of Placer County and the State of California.

Working with Sheriff Bell for over 12 years has been a pleasure. I have enjoyed the friendship that has developed as we have partnered on many critical issues. He has proven to be someone I can always depend on, and his deep devotion to public safety made it easy for me to support him.

Since 1992 Sheriff Bell has been committed to protecting the citizens of Placer County. I am not surprised how he rose through the ranks. Devon is a man of integrity, humor, dedicated work ethic, and a friend to many. He is a man of great character who can be trusted to do the right thing.

Sheriff Bell holds bachelor of arts in criminal justice management from Union Institute and University, a master of arts in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 222nd Session. This education, coupled with his decades of experience, provided him the background needed to be elected 28th Sheriff-Coroner-Marshall of Placer County.

Sheriff Bell has been active in the California State Sheriffs Association for nearly 20 years. He began as a legislative committee member, where his voice was essential in passing and rallying against legislation affecting law enforcement throughout California. Devon has served in many capacities on the California State Sheriffs Association Board of Directors and was the Second Vice President at retirement.

I have observed Sheriff Bell's devotion to those in the law enforcement community and our community in the time he spent on the KidsFirst Board and the Placer Sheriffs Activity League. His service to our community was indispensable and appreciated.

I wish the best to Devon, Sue, and their children and grandchildren in his retirement. Wherever their path takes them and for all the adventures yet to come, I am grateful for the time he and his family sacrificed for our community.

God bless my friend Devon on this next chapter in his life. I thank him for all he has done for us here in the North State. Best wishes in retirement.

WELCOMING PAUL DILLARD TO
NEW JERSEY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Paul E. Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion, as he visits American Legion posts in New Jersey's Third Congressional District. The Commander has a busy schedule across New Jersey, but I am proud that he will be visiting posts in Toms River, Brick, and Seaside Heights.

Commander Dillard honorably served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam through four campaigns, including the Tet Offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second-class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

As we hope for all of our veterans, Commander Dillard was able to resettle back in his home State of Texas and started a family with his wife, Donna, and a successful insurance business practice focused on employee benefits.

As a paid-up-for-life member of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant, and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman. Commander Dillard was elected in 2021 and has set a theme of "No Veteran Left Behind."

Representing a district that has one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the country, serving them and honoring their sacrifice is one of my highest priorities in Congress. The simple promise we make is that if someone steps up to protect us, our families, and our Nation's security, we will have their backs for the rest of their lives. Our country has not always kept this promise, but I look forward to working with Commander Dillard and The American Legion to work for a better future for our veterans and their families so they receive the benefits they have earned. I have no doubt Commander Dillard will enjoy his time visiting with his American Legion family in New Jersey and wish him continued success in his term as National Commander.