

Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING GEORGE PUKENAS, ON
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Pukenas, a U.S. Navy veteran who bravely served during World War II, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Petty Officer First Class, George Pukenas, proudly answered the call to protect his country on Landing Ship Tank (LST) 991 assigned to the Pacific Theater for over 3 years until his honorable discharge in 1946. George exemplified integrity and resilience even as his unit suffered heavy trials and losses. In grave circumstances they persevered, enduring numerous attacks and even surviving a typhoon in the South China Sea.

Earning 5 battle stars while aboard the LST 991, it was through their unwavering dedication that they successfully completed multiple operations. These efforts were later recognized as George earned honors for his commitment to our nation including the Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Not only through his service, but also through the life he built in Roebing, New Jersey, people know George for his commitment to family and community. Starting his career at the John A. Roebing & Sons steel mill, he worked, making submarine nets utilized in WWII amongst other vital materials. Additionally, George used his skills as an accomplished carpenter, to build a home he and his family. He accomplished a great deal through service and work and was still a supportive family man, father of 6 and husband to his beloved late wife of 45 years.

We are proud to have George call New Jersey's 3rd District home, and to have benefitted from his brave contributions to our country. It is undoubtedly true that George Pukenas is a distinguished member of our community whose actions at home and abroad have had a positive ripple effect that will continue to benefit generations to come. As George continues to enjoy hand-carving, and spending time with his family, we wish him many more years of good health and continued happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CAPTAIN THOMAS EDWARDS
DAVIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of service of Captain Thomas Edwards Davis. Born in Arkansas, he attended Mississippi College, Tulane University, and Southwestern at Memphis, and entered the United States Navy in July of 1945.

As an Aviation Midshipman, Captain Davis underwent flight training at the Naval Air Station, Ottawa, Iowa; Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola and Jacksonville, Florida; and was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1949. He served in Fighter Squadron 173 from August 1948 until released to inactive duty in January 1950.

He was recalled to active duty in June 1950 with Reserve Fighter Squadron 791 and deployed to Korea on the USS *Boxer*. He later served with the Fleet Gunner Unit at El Centro, California as a gunnery instructor from January 1953 to August 1954. He was also a gunnery instructor at the Naval Air Station Barin Field, Alabama, from August 1954 to March 1956.

Captain Davis attended the Air Launched Missile School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, FL, after which he served with Fighter Squadron 101 at the Naval Air Station Cecil Field and Key West, FL, until June 1960.

He was a student at the United State Naval Postgraduate School from August 1960 to August 1962. In September 1962, he was transferred to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operation. From September 1964 to August 1965, he was attached to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, as Armament Officer, after which he served as Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Training Squadron 9 at the Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi until January 1967.

He served as the Carrier Air Traffic Control and Strike Operations Officer while on the USS *Intrepid* deployed in the Tonkin Gulf.

Leaving the *Intrepid* in August 1968 to become a student at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Earning his Master of Science degree in International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He returned to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United State Atlantic Fleet in July 1969. Captain Davis reported to CF-1 in June 1972 as Commanding Officer and served there until transferred to Naval Air Maintenance Training Group, NAS Memphis, in August 1975.

Captain Davis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Air Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Navy Distinguished Service Order and the Navy Commendation Medal. He has also earned the Korean Service Medal, the China Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Our Nation is forever in the debt of Captain Davis and his family for his many years of service to our country. He leaves behind a legacy of service to others that has inspired future generations. May his memory be everlasting.

COMMEMORATING THE
RETIREMENT OF BETSY RUSSELL

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the retirement of Betsy Russell, 1 of

the most effective and respected reporters in Idaho, from 37 years of remarkable reporting and editing in Idaho politics.

As reported by Clark Corbin, of the Idaho Capital Sun,

Russell started her reporting career early, joining her high school paper and covering her own graduation.

She earned a political science degree from the University of California-Berkeley and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Russell moved to Idaho in 1986 to cover Boise City Hall for the Idaho Statesman. Over the next 36 years she covered the Idaho Legislature, government and politics for the Statesman, the Spokesman-Review and Idaho Press newspapers. Along the way, she was a part of a team of Spokesman-Review journalists that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for their coverage of Randy Weaver and the Ruby Ridge standoff in Boundary County, Idaho.

Her coverage exposed false claims made by Republican and Democratic elected officials from the campaign trail to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives. Russell's stories led to prison reform and changes in state policy, while her work with the Idaho Press Club and Idahoans for Openness in Government sought to increase transparency in halls of power across the state.

When Russell first arrived at the Idaho Statesman, she covered then-Mayor Dirk Kempthorne and the debate about downtown Boise's redevelopment and an ill-fated proposal to build an indoor shopping mall. Gov. John Evans was nearing the end of his last term in office and Russell got her first taste of covering the Idaho Legislature and the governor's office when Kempthorne would testify at the Statehouse. Russell went on to cover six other Idaho governors closely—Cecil Andrus, Phil Batt, Kempthorne, Jim Risch, Butch Otter and Brad Little.

Russell's career included several high-lights.

Russell created and wrote the Eye on Boise blog, first for the Spokesman-Review and later for the Idaho Press. that was a must-read for anyone interested in the Idaho Legislature and state government—including many of the most highest ranking and influential elected leaders in the Gem State.

In 2004, Russell and Dean Miller, a veteran Idaho and Washington newspaper editor, created Idahoans for Open Government, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to openness and compliance with the Idaho Public Records Act and Idaho Open Meetings Law.

Russell's 1997 series investigating Idaho prisons revealed the fact that nearly a quarter of Idaho's prison population was incarcerated for 4 crimes that are not even considered felonies—simple drug possession, drunk driving, driving without a license and writing bad checks—in a majority of states. The series led to a gubernatorial investigation launched by then-Gov. Phil Batt and led to several reforms. In a telephone interview, Russell called her prison series 'probably the most significant story I have covered in my career.'

I thank Betsy for her outstanding service to the citizens of Idaho. All of Idaho is better because of her premier skills and relentless commitment to accuracy. Her remarkable impact in Idaho journalism and politics will never be forgotten. I hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLAUD “ROB”
WHEATLY, III

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Claud “Rob” Wheatly, III of Wheatly Law Group, to honor his long and illustrious career.

Rob graduated from The Citadel in 1969 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1972. He also served in the United States Army, where he obtained the rank of Captain. Rob specializes in property, estate planning, business, corporate, environmental law, and civil trial practice in all State and Federal Courts. During his very successful career, Rob has been the county attorney for Carteret County and is also a member of the Carteret County and North Carolina Bar Associations.

Rob recently reached his 50-year milestone as an attorney in private practice and has served over 30 years as the Carteret County Attorney. Rob began practicing law in 1972 with his father, Claud R. Wheatly Jr., making Rob the third generation of his family to practice law in Carteret County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible and noble servant and congratulating Mr. Claud “Rob” Wheatly, III on a life of outstanding service to his community.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF DON KELLAHER, SENIOR AD-
VISOR TO THE SERGEANT AT
ARMS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a constituent from Maryland’s Fifth District who has served this institution faithfully for decades: Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms Don Kellaheh. He recently retired after spending 45 years in service to the House of Representatives and deserves recognition for all that he has contributed and accomplished in that time.

Don began his long career in 1976 as a staff assistant in the former Office of the Doorkeeper before moving to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms three years later. Throughout his decades in that office, he worked in every division and held important positions, such as Director of Special Events, Director of Police Services, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms.

Don played a key role in ensuring that this institution could continue to carry out its work For the People. During his tenure in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, he helped organize 12 presidential inaugurations, ranging from President Carter’s in 1977 to President Biden’s in 2021. Additionally, Don has participated in the planning of dozens of State of the Union Addresses.

Crucially, he has worked to keep visitors, staff, and Members of the People’s House safe. That includes historic figures who have visited our Capitol, such as the Dalai Lama,

Pope Francis, Mother Teresa, and Queen Elizabeth II. From anthrax and ricin attacks to murders of U.S. Capitol Police officers and bombings of the Capitol Building, Don has also helped our brave Capitol Police navigate many challenges over the years. Recently, he supported them during the deadly insurrection that gripped our Capitol on January 6, 2021. Everyone who was here that infamous day owes a debt to Don and the others who worked to reestablish order and security on Capitol Hill, as do the American people whose democracy came under attack that day.

Mr. Speaker, Don is truly a guardian of the House of Representatives. We could not fulfill our duty to the American people without Don and numerous other staffers like him who work behind the scenes to make this institution function. He ought to be proud of all he’s done for Congress and the country, and I hope he knows how much we appreciate him and his work.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing Don, his wife Antoinette, his children Amanda Walker and Anthony Kellaheh, and his grandchildren Rhett Walker and Rosalie and Ainsley Kellaheh happiness as he begins his well-earned retirement

HONORING MATTHEW DAVID
ANDERSEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office, Mr. Matthew David Andersen.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Andersen spent 37 years committed to developing U.S. commerce on the world stage. Mr. Andersen served as the Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office for 25 years before recently announcing his well-deserved retirement.

Those who had the pleasure to work with Mr. Andersen say that he touched the lives and careers of many and will be dearly missed. A testament to his hard work, Mr. Andersen received the Department of Commerce’s Bronze Award for Superior Federal Service in 2015.

Mr. Andersen was an avid sports fan, loved animals, and enjoyed listening to The Beatles. He is survived by his partner, Brooke Palmer, his sister, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

On behalf of the residents of California’s 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Matthew David Andersen. Furthermore, I would like to formally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Andersen and his unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of service throughout his decades-long career with the Department of Commerce. He is greatly missed.

TO NAME THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-
PATIENT CLINIC IN VALLEJO,
CALIFORNIA, AS THE “DELPHINE
METCALF-FOSTER VA CLINIC”

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation to rename the Mare Island Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Vallejo, California as the “Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic,” in recognition of her lifetime of service to others. A life-long resident of Vallejo, Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, longtime leader with numerous veterans service organizations, and a pillar of the community. I thank my colleague Congressman Mike Thompson (CA–4) for being the bill’s original cosponsor.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is a disabled U.S. Army Reserve veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. Military service runs in her family. Her father served during the Spanish-American War and was in the U.S. Army’s 9th Cavalry Regiment, whose members were known as “Buffalo Soldiers.” After retiring as a First Sergeant (E–8) in 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster began her lifelong work to advocate for and assist fellow veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served the VA Northern California Health Care System for over 25 years. She began volunteering to drive veterans to medical appointments. In 2004, she became the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans’ Ozie Boler Chapter 21 in Vallejo, DAV Department of California until 2005. Later, she served as the DAV National Commander from 2017 to 2018. This made her the first woman to become the Disabled American Veterans’ National Commander, as well as a distinguished leader of this major veterans service organization.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is also a life-member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the “Mighty 25: Influencers Supporting the Military Community.” In 2019, she was selected as the Grand Marshall for the 166th Vallejo 4th of July Parade. Her expertise was sought after for testimony at hearings before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees advocating to improve outreach to and services for American veterans and those with service-connected disabilities.

It is truly an honor to reintroduce this legislation. I stand with my constituents in Vallejo and California’s 8th Congressional District to honor Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster and her service to veterans in our community and across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WAYNE
KIRBY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wayne Kirby, who passed away on April 3, 2022, at the age of 69.