

Richard's professional career has also been defined by his service to the community—in the halls of Connecticut's state government, where he worked with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for over 31 years. His talented work and leadership skills were rewarded over the years with a series of promotions. At the time of his retirement, he had risen to the position of Fleet Manager for the entire state of Connecticut, which is a huge responsibility, requiring tremendous logistical and organizational skills.

In November of 1973, when Richard joined the Muddy Brook Fire Department, one of three volunteer departments serving Woodstock and the surrounding community, he started on the training squad. He has since remained a dutiful protector of his neighbors, serving 50 years in fire safety through many different capacities. He has always been guided by a principle to contribute wherever he felt he was needed by the town. Richard spent 45 of those years as an EMT. Given his diligence, Richard was promoted several times within the Muddy Brook Fire Department. His valuable contributions to the community were recognized and he achieved the rank of Captain by the early 1980s. During his time as Captain, Richard committed himself to advancing fire safety in Woodstock and took on the role of Deputy Fire Marshal for the town in 1984.

In 1990, Richard was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Muddy Brook Fire Department. Only two years later he was promoted again to Chief of the Department, a position he would hold until 1995. It was not just his extensive experience and impressive ethic that prompted these promotions, but also his obvious leadership qualities. Richard has always been willing to share his abundance of knowledge by mentoring and recruiting new members of the fire department.

Richard was appointed Fire Marshal by the Town of Woodstock in 1996, the position from which, after nearly another 30 years, he retires this month. Richard has been essential in presenting fire safety and prevention techniques. As Fire Marshal, he has been responsible for assisting all three Woodstock Fire Departments with fire suppression and hazardous materials activities. Richard's impact has reached far beyond administering the basic duties of a Fire Marshal. He has used his plentiful experience to create poster contests for children, scholarships, and more to help publicize and educate the public on Woodstock's fire safety activities. During this time, Richard has also served as the Safety Officer for the Muddy Brook Fire Department, demonstrating how deeply he cares about protecting those within his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent such committed constituents like Richard Baron. Richard is an institution unto himself whose retirement leaves shoes that will not easily be filled. However, we can take solace in the knowledge that Richard's legacy lives on in the countless firefighters he mentored and, despite his retirement, that he will remain close to the Woodstock firefighting community. Having positioned the town of Woodstock for greater success, Richard has earned this retirement and will appreciate time with his wife of 30 years, Beth, and their family. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Richard Baron's community-oriented contributions to the town of Wood-

stock and congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING COBB PRE-
PARATORY ACADEMY'S HON-
ORING OF VETERANS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cobb Preparatory Academy's effort to honor its community veterans.

The school honored: Sergeant Jaclyn Berry. Mr. Eddy Brown. Mr. Chales R. Burton. Sr.. Mr. Kenneth Burton, Frazier Burrough. Mr. Tony Butler, Mr. Victor Byers, Ms. Nashonda Carter, Mr. Jimmy Catlett, Mr. Johnny Daniel, Mr. Donald Ray Dennison, Mr. Lonnie Elvin, Mr. Steven Folks, Mr. Adrian Fredricks, Mr. James Glover, Bishop Charles D. Gregory, Sr. Mr. Jason Granholm, Mr. Thomas Hall, Mr. Joe Harrington, Reverend Clyde Hill, Dr. D.R. Hill, SFC Daryl Ledford, Reverend Levi Lyles, Mrs. Wanda Lyles, Staff Sergeant Alyssa Louis, Lt. Retired Colonel Franklin McClain, Mr. Franklin McClain, Jr., Mr. Thaddues Moore, SFC Edward Mos, Jr., Reverend John H. Oliver, Mr. Antonio Phillips, Mr. Harold Ray, Reverend Ross Reed, Ms. Smoot, Mr. Stanley Shack, ILT, Brianna Sutton, Major Thomas, Mr. Antonio (Munford) Oliver, Commissioner Fred Wilson, Mr. James Woods, Mr. Fernaldo Wood, Mr. Danny Patterson and many others.

It is touching to see Alabamians go to such great lengths to honor our Nation's veterans, who have given so much to ensure the safety and well-being of America.

I would like to thank Mrs. Tersia J. Moore Hall. Principal of Cobb Preparatory Academy, faculty, staff, parents, and students for their efforts in this initiative that honors and expresses deep appreciation for their community members that have served their country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Cobb Preparatory Academy for its efforts to honor our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. DeSAULNIER. I regret that I was unable to vote on Thursday, November 2, 2023, during the second vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

NAY on Roll Call No. 567, on agreeing to Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 568, on agreeing to Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 569, on agreeing to Amendment No. 59 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 570, on agreeing to Amendment No. 60 to H.R. 4821, the Depart-

ment of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 571, on agreeing to Amendment No. 61 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 572, on agreeing to Amendment No. 66 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 573, on agreeing to Amendment No. 70 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 574, on agreeing to Amendment No. 73 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 575, on agreeing to Amendment No. 74 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 576, on agreeing to Amendment No. 75 to H.R. 4821, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024;

NAY on Roll Call No. 577, H.R. 6126, Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 578, H. Res. 798, Condemning the support of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations at institutions of higher education, which may lead to the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff, as amended.

HONORING MEL SHELDON, JR.

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I rise today to acknowledge that November is Native American Heritage Month. My district includes sovereign tribes whose people and culture contribute greatly to our region and nation: the Tulalip Tribes, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe and the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

November is also a time to honor the women and men for their service in the United States Armed Forces. This Veterans Day, I honor the women and men from Native communities in northwest Washington who have fought for freedom, their homeland and their culture. More than 140,000 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans live in the United States today, including approximately 5,000 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans in Washington. Historically, Native peoples have answered the call to serve at the highest per capita rate of any population, embodying the values of bravery and sacrifice.

The Tulalip Tribes' proud history in the U.S. Armed Forces exemplifies the tradition of Tribal service. During the Vietnam War, approximately 42,000 American Indians—one out of every four eligible Native people—served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including 39 members of the Tulalip Tribes. My friend, Mel Sheldon, Jr., was one of these servicemembers. In August 1969, soon after graduating high school.

Mel enlisted in the U.S. Army. Thanks to his high aptitude, Mel advanced to Warrant Officer Flight School where he learned to fly helicopters. Arriving in Vietnam in October 1970. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sheldon volunteered to fly dangerous scouting missions as a member of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. CWO2 Sheldon routinely exhibited bravery in combat alongside his fellow soldiers, accruing more than 900 hours of flying time, including 600 hours flying scouting missions, before returning home in fall 1971.

Not yet 21 years old and after more than two years in the Army, Mel had a difficult time transitioning home. As he put it, "I wanted to feel proud of serving our country," but, like many Vietnam veterans, he did not feel welcomed or acknowledged upon returning home from an unpopular war. To Mel and the many veterans who felt this way—including Tribal veterans, let me say how proud we are of their service and how grateful we are they returned home to serve their community for all these years.

After his Army service, Mel put his G.I. Bill benefits to use and furthered his education, attending Skagit College and then the University of Washington, where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science. His military service and education prepared him for a career as a commercial fisherman and, later, as a member of the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors. Mel served for six years as Board Chairman, during which time he focused on protecting Tribal sovereignty and diversifying the Tribes' economy.

Today, the examples of Mel Sheldon, Jr. and proud Tribal veterans from my district and our country are an inspiration to current and future generations. Mr. Speaker, I raise my hands to Mel Sheldon, Jr., to the Tulalip veterans and to all Native women and men who served in the United States Armed Forces and who continue to serve their communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SPENCER LANCASTER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a local civic champion and trailblazer, Spencer Lancaster, also known as "Uncle Buddy," of New London, Connecticut. Spencer was a true leader for the New London community. A role model and a mentor, Spencer always wanted to make a difference and he did, playing an active role in the civil rights movement throughout his life. Aged 95, Mr. Lancaster sadly but peacefully passed away on October 24th lovingly surrounded by his family.

Born in March 1928 to Richard and Dorothy Conover Lancaster in New London, Connecticut, Spencer purposed his life toward strengthening his community. While still in high school, Spencer was recruited to build submarines by Electric Boat during World War II. After graduation, Spencer heeded our nation's call to action and served in the United States Army 98th Battalion Field Artillery, 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, NC. Spencer's time in the army served as a catalyst for his advocacy

in civil rights as he found himself disconcerted when soldiers in identical uniform were separated into groups based on race.

Upon the conclusion of the War, Spencer went back to school and attended Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina where he met his wife and the love of his life, Pearlestone Williams. After marrying Pearlestone in September 1952, Spencer and his wife returned to his home in eastern Connecticut, starting a legacy which would mold generations to come.

Once returned to New London after the war, Spencer wasted no time in picking up where he left off pursuing his passion to make an impact in the city, successfully championing conversations for the integration of formerly all-white public housing in New London. Spencer became active in local politics and, in 1960, became the first Black elected official in the city of New London where he served on the Board of Selectmen. Here, Spencer's devotion to bringing about positive change flourished. He served as an example for others in his community and continued to combat housing discrimination and create an atmosphere where New Londoners could function as equal citizens regardless of their race, ethnicity, or economic standing.

In New London, a Black Heritage Trail plaque stands on Rodgers Street to mark where Spencer and Pearlestone bought their house in 1963, becoming the first Black homeowners on their street. Although a neighborhood petition was created to force them off the street, the Chief of Police, a neighbor to Spencer and Pearlestone, immediately rejected the petition. Spencer was rightfully recognized by the city of New London as a living legend on the city's Black Heritage Trail for his persistent advocacy on behalf of New London residents.

As if his impressive works in local government were not enough, Spencer also served as the first Black Deputy Sheriff of New London and devoted his time to helping secure appointments for other Black men and women. Spencer's impressive dedication to public service was further reflected in his organization of protests to combat racial discrimination throughout Eastern Connecticut as Vice President of the New London Chapter of the NAACP. Spencer's wisdom was not limited to his advocacy work. He also had legendary sales skills that he showcased in his 60 years of work for Linder Dodge and Jeep where he became the top-ranked Dodge seller in New England and the fifth nationwide.

Spencer was also a devout member of the Walls Clarke AME Zion Church in New London, the second oldest historically Black church in the city. Here, he served as Chairman of the Trustee Board and enjoyed singing in the Senior Choir.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Spencer leaves a deep void in Connecticut. Spencer was simply awe inspiring and will be an inspiring addition to eastern Connecticut's pantheon of revolutionally change-makers. An advocate for making a difference where you can, Spencer's work has positively impacted and will continue to benefit members of our community and their families. Though we mourn this incredible loss, we can appreciate that Spencer's legacy and memory will live on through his family and the countless individuals who were influenced by him. Spencer is survived by his brother, Albert Lancaster, his sons Spencer Lancaster, Jr. and Robert Lancaster, his daughters Gilda

Butler, Margaret Lancaster, and Tricia Lee, nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and a large extended family. As we memorialize his service to our region, I ask my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Spencer Lancaster's work and life.

HONORING FORMER ARMY RANGER AND KOREAN WAR VETERAN JAMES ARTHUR PARKHURST

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Arthur Parkhurst, a former U.S. Army Ranger and proud veteran of the Korean War.

Since before 1968, Jim has been a committed and selfless member of the Oxford American Legion. In 1990, he began its Veterans' Museum. In its early beginnings, older veterans donated their uniforms for display—but as time passed, its collection was built into a full-blown museum with a plethora of military memorabilia.

For many years, Jim has helped his community with parades, always making sure to include his fellow veterans. Year after year, Jim ensures that families are aware of both Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. From placing flags to cleaning headstones, Jim is well known throughout eastern Michigan for his support and commitment to veterans' causes.

Jim also helps many families throughout the community throw birthday parties for children, delivering toys, food, and other gifts. Even through the personal tragedies in his life, Jim is always there to serve others.

Jim gave his youth in service to our country: he has served with honor, distinction, and pride. To many, Jim is a profound inspiration.

Above all else, Jim has selflessly donated his time to make sure others are safe, our veterans are taken care of, and everyone can get the help they need. In the words of the Legion's Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman Darlene Jones, "Jim just keeps going—he has no quit."

On November 11th, as part of their Veteran's Day observation, the American Legion will dedicate the Veterans' Museum in his honor. On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I am proud to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to recognize James Arthur Parkhurst for his lifetime of service, both in and out of uniform. It is my sincere hope that the James Arthur Parkhurst Veterans' Museum of Oxford, Michigan, will prosper for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 ARTSFAIRFAX ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the