

Iran-Iraq War, PO3 Oeste helped assert the strength and dominance of the United States around the world. Moreover, he helped provide extensive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the people of Agalega Island, which suffered immensely during the 1983–84 cyclone season in the Indian Ocean. After his Naval service, PO3 Oeste completed his college education and met his wife, Patricia. Together, they raised two very successful children.

In his free time, PO3 Oeste teaches in his local church's pre-school classes during Sunday services. He and Patricia also help fundraise for underprivileged families and victims of domestic violence. These efforts will help to ensure that those facing difficult circumstances will not be overlooked. As a veteran, PO3 Oeste proudly goes the extra mile to show his appreciation for those who served. One of his longtime personal projects is to conduct research and present awards, medals, and pictures of fallen veterans to their family members. His ultimate goal is to share the untold story of these veterans to ensure that they will never be forgotten.

I am honored to represent PO3 Oeste in Texas' 4th Congressional District. I am privileged to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING DR. W.N. REED'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF
NEW MOUNT MORIAH MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to congratulate Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his fifty years of service and dedication to his congregation and to the community of Gary, Reverend Reed will be honored at a Pastoral Anniversary Celebration that will take place at New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Reverend Reed grew up in Brownsville, Tennessee, where he attended Carver High School. He went on to graduate from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, and served in the United States Army before accepting the call to the ministry. Reverend Reed was ordained in 1963 at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Brownsville. While in Tennessee, he served as Pastor of Saint John Baptist Church in Dancyville, as well as Macedonia Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Brownsville. In 1973, Reverend Reed became Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. Throughout his fifty years of leadership, the church has become a beacon of light and hope for the community of Gary and beyond. In 1998, the church added an administrative/education wing and a fellowship hall. Reverend Reed and the parishioners are proud of the church's thriving and active Sunday school programs, numerous ministries, and growing congregation.

During his tenure, Reverend Reed has given of his time and efforts to various organi-

zations and endeavors including the Baptist Ministers Conference of Gary and Vicinity, Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Convention of Indiana, New Era District Association, One Church One School Initiative, and the NAACP, to name a few. For his unwavering devotion to providing spiritual guidance and support to so many in need, Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed is worthy of the highest praise.

Reverend Reed's remarkable commitment to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his admiration for his amazing family. He and his wonderful wife, Rosetta, have raised two beloved sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend Dr. W.N. Reed on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. For his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others, he is truly an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
ELLSWORTH "TONY" WILLIAMS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize veteran and hero, Major Tony Williams, who today will be inducted into the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame. Tony's exemplary service has made an unmistakable impact in the lives of countless Florida veterans.

Ellsworth 'Tony' Williams was born in Fort Hood, Texas as a dependent of a career Vietnam Army combat veteran before making the decision to join the U.S. Army himself, serving 24 years on active duty, eight as an enlisted soldier and sixteen as a commissioned officer.

Tony's service in the U.S. Army was marked by distinction. He was awarded a Bronze Star and three Meritorious Service Medals for his actions in Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Perhaps most remarkable, Mr. Speaker, is the care Tony displays to his community and fellow vets. After retiring in 2007, he returned to school to pursue graduate training in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Troy University.

After receiving his counseling degree, Tony made it his mission to help veterans struggling with their mental health, becoming a leading voice for veteran suicide prevention in his community. Tony established his nonprofit, Veterans Counseling Veterans, Inc., to provide counseling and emotional support to active duty, National Guardsmen, reservists, veterans and their families. Veterans Counseling Veterans also provides professional and career development support for those seeking a career in behavioral health.

Tony received several mental health counseling awards to include a 2014 National Award for Social Service from the American Mental Health Counseling Association. He sits on the Hillsborough Veterans Council, Florida Mental Health Counselor Association's Military Interest Committee, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's Regional Veterans Advisory Council and is the American Legion Post 5 Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee Chair.

Major Tony Williams says it's in his bones to help veterans and their families, and he believes his latest recognition from the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame is simply another 'assignment from God,' calling him to continue his good work.

I commend Major Williams for his sacrifices both in the U.S. Army and in his tireless efforts to help fellow Florida veterans. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR MAJOR JOHN
McDERMOTT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major John McDermott of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Major McDermott honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Cold War and the Global War on Terrorism.

Major McDermott was born in a military household, and his family's history of service dates back to the First World War. From a young age, he had a strong passion for aviation and military history. In 1986, Major McDermott enlisted in the Marine Corps and commissioned as an officer four years later. He served as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer and Plane Captain of an F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft. Major McDermott was responsible for flight safety protocols, aircraft readiness, and maintenance of numerous other aircraft such as the Harrier jump jet and KC-130 Hercules. His duties not only took him around the continental U.S., but also to Australia, Japan, and South Korea. During the Cold War, relations with the Soviet Union were highly contentious. Skilled officers like Major McDermott were tasked with supplying Hornets so they may patrol the skies over the Sea of Japan to counter Soviet and North Korean aggression in the region. For his service, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal among many others.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps in 2009, Major McDermott continued to make an impact on the community by working with the Civil Air Patrol. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the CW02 Randolph Marine Corps League Detachment, whose members volunteer in community service programs throughout Rockwall County. Major McDermott's lifelong knowledge of aerospace and defense issues has allowed him to continue his career with L3Harris in Greenville, Texas. Even in civilian service, he is steadfast in his commitment to safeguard our Nation. Major McDermott is married to his wife Karen, and they have three sons, two of whom are current cadets at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

I am honored to represent Major McDermott in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, each November, Americans commemorate Diabetes Awareness Month. This distinction comes after hundreds of medical advancements, thousands of tears, and millions of lives lost. Diabetes spares no one in its mission to disrupt lives. It feeds off our children as Type 1 diabetes and preys on adults and seniors as Type 2 diabetes, leaving one in ten Americans to contend with this condition.

Black Americans are 60 percent more likely to suffer this illness and its devastating complications, including heart, kidney, liver, eye, and neurological diseases. Healthcare accessibility, genetics, and food insecurity are strong determinants of health outcomes, and diabetes is no different. A community unable to access healthy food or preventative health care is severely disadvantaged.

All Americans with diabetes know the financial strain this disease brings. One dollar out of every \$4 in US healthcare costs goes towards diabetes care, leaving the average American with diabetes incurring \$12,022 in annual medical expenditures. Thankfully, Congressional Democrats recognize this crisis and passed the Inflation Reduction Act last year. The IRA took unprecedented steps to lower prescription drug costs and capped insulin prices at \$35 for seniors on Medicare. Now, millions of Americans can rest easy knowing they have reliable access to their lifesaving medication.

We all live within one degree of separation from this illness. My grandmother had it, a member of my staff has it, and this year 38,000 Missourians will receive a diabetes diagnosis. While Diabetes Awareness Month educates millions across the globe, we must take further action and cure this disease. I'm proud of the work President Biden and House Democrats continue taking to bring this reality closer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote on November 13, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643 and NAY on Roll Call No. 645.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT JAMES LARAMORE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant James "Jim" Laramore of

Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Laramore served in the United States Army Security Agency (ASA), in which he diligently worked day and night to defend our Nation.

Ever since he was a young man, Sergeant Laramore had a desire to serve his country and contribute to a greater cause. In 1966, he was one of two candidates in a large group that qualified for the ASA. It was up to individuals like Sergeant Laramore to secure intelligence and help our military agencies maintain an informational advantage over the Soviet Union. During that time, ASA personnel operated under strict, covert circumstances, and I am sure that Sergeant Laramore's contributions have made a real impact on our country.

Following his time in the Army, Sergeant Laramore returned home and served as a detective in several police departments. The investigative skills that he refined while serving abroad allowed him to work his way up the ladder until he was appointed Chief of Police for the Pampa Police Department in 1989. Afterwards, he became a criminal investigator for the Texas Railroad Commission and Parker Police Department, where he continues to serve today. When he can, Sergeant Laramore takes the opportunity to mentor junior officers and share a wealth of knowledge.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Laramore in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

IN MEMORY OF JUDY TAYLOR

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special woman, Judy Taylor, of Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Taylor passed away on October 12, 2023.

Judy Taylor was born in Louisville, Kentucky and grew up in New Mexico. She began a lobbying career in 1976 as a volunteer for the Kentucky Association of Older Persons. She also worked as a substitute teacher. As her career grew, she became Kentucky's first female contract lobbyist. She blazed a trail for other women in her profession and mentored many young women as well as men over the years. Judy was quite well known and well respected in Frankfort. The renown for Judy was so great that her Celebration of Life services were held in the House Chambers of the Kentucky Capitol.

Judy served as the Director of Government Affairs for Keeneland for over 30 years. She represented Keeneland and the equine industry, one of Kentucky's signature industries, quite well in Frankfort. She was well-loved by everyone at Keeneland, and she was known to many as simply "Judy from Keeneland". Judy had a great respect for law enforcement and served for many years as a board member for the Kentucky State Police Foundation. An excellent baker, she baked and shared thousands of cookies with those she encountered.

Judy Taylor was highly respected throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She was

a spirited woman of faith, kindness, and generosity. She enriched the lives of many Kentuckians, and she will be greatly missed. I am honored to call her my friend and to lift up her memory before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII VETERAN CHARLES "CHUCK" SHUMATE

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Charles Shumate who celebrated his 100th birthday this past weekend on November 11th and commend his outstanding service to our community and country. Mr. Shumate achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant during his time in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 and is also a very proud father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Charles enjoyed a long and illustrious career, working numerous jobs across the country. After his time in the Army, he spent time in the Air Force Reserves during which he also began working as a heavy equipment driver in Ohio and then as a factory worker. Charles later worked in data processing where he worked for both the government and in the private sector which took him to Sacramento County, where he eventually retired in 1982. He has resided there ever since.

Charles' life of service and dedication is commendable and worthy of recognition. I want to extend both my gratitude and my best wishes to Mr. Shumate for his lifelong commitment to our communities and our country. His commitment to the safety and betterment of our nation is remarkable. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Mr. Shumate for his outstanding work and wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT JAMES CLINE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant James "Jim" Cline of Plano, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Cline honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

At the onset of the Korean War, Sergeant Cline joined the Marines and was tasked with construction projects and refueling aircraft at Marine Corps Base Quantico. When he was assigned to Japan, he served as a truck driver and a rifle coach to ensure that Marines under his command were proficient in marksmanship. Eventually, Sergeant Cline was deployed to South Korea and specialized in Motor Transport. Here, he oversaw the maintenance and operation of military vehicles to ensure they were combat-ready at all times. For his service, Sergeant Cline was bestowed the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.