

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR PETTY OFFICER CHARLES RUSSO

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer First Class Charles Russo of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PO1 Russo honorably served in the United States Navy during the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism.

PO1 Russo has always been drawn to a career in public service. He began his Navy career in 1990 onboard the USS *Wisconsin* battleship and the USS *Papago* ocean tug before advancing to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Here, PO1 Russo worked as an Intelligence Specialist and Special Security Officer with a focus in counterterrorism. Eventually, he was selected to serve as an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Officer. PO1 Russo's work helped to strengthen and expand our intelligence community's efforts to investigate terrorism. For his exceptional service, PO1 Russo was awarded multiple Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Service Medal with "M" device, and many others.

After his discharge in 2000, PO1 Russo was compelled to return to public service after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our Nation. As a Navy Reservist, he was mobilized to assist in constructing secure rooms capable of handling sensitive information. He also had the opportunity to brief the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters related to the Afghanistan War. For many years after being discharged, PO1 Russo has continued to serve our nation in various capacities. After some time in defense contracting, he became an FBI Intelligence Analyst. In this role, he investigates white-collar crime, researches terrorist explosive devices, and fills intelligence gaps where they are needed. I commend PO1 Russo's lifelong efforts to safeguard our national security and protect those who cannot defend themselves. His selfless service has been nothing short of outstanding.

I am honored to represent PO1 Russo 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.

HONORING MICHAEL D. COLE  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Cole upon his retirement from the United States Department of State after 22 years of service.

Mike embarked on his foreign service journey in 2001. Since then, his service has extended from Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. to U.S. Embassies and Consulates in Abuja, Bangkok, Budapest, Mumbai, San Salvador, and Vienna.

Mike assumed the role of Director of the Los Angeles Passport Agency in September 2020, facing head-on the arduous challenges and travel restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As international travel has resumed in the years since, Mike's leadership in Los Angeles was critical in the agency's return to pre-pandemic productivity, processing passports for nearly three-quarters of a million U.S. citizens during his time as Director. In this position, Mike was a reliable, affable, and professional partner to my District Office as caseworkers processed passport case-work brought to them by my constituents. Mike and his team provided prompt and satisfactory guidance in navigating these often tricky and changing requests.

Mike's dedication to public service is further exemplified by his service in the Consular Corps, where he has utilized his experience and expertise to mentor the next generation of Consular Officers. His work to assist U.S. citizens during crises, offer support in disaster relief, aid bereaved families, and protect vulnerable children stand as a testament to his commitment to the American people domestically and abroad.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mike for his service to our constituents of the 39th Congressional District and our country, and I wish him a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 599, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1607, I would have voted Yea. On Roll Call No. 600, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 359, I would have voted Yea. On November 9, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 641, agreeing to Tenney Amendment No. 100, I would have voted No. On Roll Call No. 642, agreeing to Tenney Amendment No. 101, I would have voted No.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SERGEANT  
BLAINE KLEIN

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Blaine Klein of Josephine, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Klein honorably served in the United States Army during the Iraq War.

At the age of 18, Sergeant Klein followed his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Army in defense of our nation. His duties took him across the continental U.S., and later to Iraq and Korea. In Iraq, Sergeant Klein served as a Human Intelligence Collector and managed teams of intelligence sources to strengthen the Army's informational capabilities throughout

the region. In one instance, he saved the lives of his teammates who were involved in a roll-over accident that put all of their lives at risk. Sergeant Klein prioritized others around him and helped bring them to safety at great personal risk. For his distinguished service, he was bestowed the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and many more awards.

After returning to civilian life, Sergeant Klein has continued to positively influence his community while overcoming his service-related disabilities. He is no stranger to helping others. On a number of occasions, Sergeant Klein has stopped to assist those involved in vehicle accidents or medical emergencies. I commend him for continuing to be an upstanding role model for his community and family.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Klein 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, 2023, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1105—Debbie Smith Act; H.R. 593—To rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic"; and the Motion to Refer the Resolution Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 643; YEA on Roll Call No. 644; and YEA on Roll Call No. 645.

RECOGNIZING RON SAPP'S 24  
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY  
OF FERNANDINA BEACH

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Ron Sapp for his decades of dedication and service to Fernandina Beach. Mayor Sapp's 24 years of civic service as Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioner spanned four decades and displayed an unwavering commitment to bettering our hometown of Fernandina Beach. I was proud to serve alongside him on the Commission, as did my father.

Fernandina is proud of Ron Sapp not only because of his dedication to his community, but also for his military service as an Air Force veteran. But no true biography of Ron would be complete without a chapter on Mr. Sapp—the teacher. Mr. Sapp didn't just teach students what to think, he taught them how to think, and that is something special. Generations of Pirates developed an interest in—and love for—public service—and for that inspiration, we are grateful.

Mayor Ron Sapp sought to preserve the spirit of Fernandina Beach as a small island town and is a better place because of his accomplishments. Ron, of course, has done all these things with his wife Kasey by his side, and with the support of his daughters Sherri and Lori, and the love of his grandchildren.

On November 14, one of Mayor Sapp's greatest achievements is being named after him: The Ron Sapp Egans Creek Greenway. Mayor Sapp's introduction of the Open Space Bond issue secured the funding for this greenway, which will leave this land untouched by development to be enjoyed by all.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mayor Ron Sapp for his significant role in shaping Fernandina Beach into the beautiful town it is today.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR LIEUTENANT AMY BURTON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Amy Burton of Paris, Texas, and award her a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Burton honorably served in the United States Navy during the Afghanistan War.

Lieutenant Burton heeded the call of duty to serve her nation after narrowly avoiding a terrorist attack in Spain that claimed the lives of several American servicemembers. Shortly after this tragedy, she enlisted in the Navy. From 1988 to 2012, Lieutenant Burton provided dental services and training to troops. Her duties took her around the world, including Sheppard Air Force Base, Camp Stone, Afghanistan, and Yokosuka, Japan. In 2007, Lieutenant Burton served onboard the USS *Bonhomme Richard* assault ship as the Medical Administration Officer. Her efforts helped ensure the troops under her supervision received adequate dental and medical care. For her outstanding service, Lieutenant Burton was bestowed several Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, multiple Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and many more awards.

Following her retirement in 2012, Lieutenant Burton has continued to make a tremendous

impact in her community in numerous ways. She worked with her local Department of Veteran Affairs to aid homeless veterans, assist in benefits claims, and provide important workforce training. Lieutenant Burton also volunteers with Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial to uplift and support those who made sacrifices in defense of our Nation.

Through her remarkable leadership and compassion for those in need, I am confident that Lieutenant Burton has improved the lives of many veterans. I commend her for going the extra mile so that our men and women in uniform will never be overlooked.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, caused by a fall in front of the Capitol steps which required emergency medical care, I missed several votes on October 26, 2023. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 558; YEA on Roll Call No. 557; NAY on Roll Call No. 556; NAY on Roll Call No. 555; NAY on Roll Call No. 554; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 551; NAY on Roll Call No. 550; NAY on Roll Call No. 549; NAY on Roll Call No. 548; and NAY on Roll Call No. 547.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643; YEA on Roll Call No. 644; and NAY on Roll Call No. 645.

OPPOSING AMENDMENT 109 TO H.R. 5894

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to Amendment 109 which imposes a cap of 30 percent of the total grant on all facilities and administrative, or F&A, costs for research awards made by the National Institutes of Health.

F&A costs help keep the lights on at research facilities across the country. These costs are essential reimbursements for operational expenses incurred by universities and other research institutions for conducting research on behalf of the government. This amendment would greatly affect the ability of research institutions to operate cutting-edge laboratories and maintain utilities such as heating or hazardous waste disposal.

This amendment would reduce critical scientific research that directly contributes to our ability to save lives and reducing suffering for the communities we serve. Most medical breakthroughs were federally supported and took place at medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other research institutions across the country. Without the federal government's reimbursement of F&A costs, institutions would be forced to scale back research that may help develop the next vaccine or cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other health threats, or the next technological innovation that will create new businesses or medical devices.

As a result of these cuts, Americans will have to wait longer for cures and our country will cede scientific breakthroughs to foreign competitors such as China, which is heavily investing in this space. This would undermine our nation's economic competitiveness and erode the United States' longstanding commitment to medical research that has yielded countless benefits to society and our well-being.

In summary, cutting essential F&A costs for scientific research would result in slower scientific progress, longer waits for cures, fewer jobs, and a threat to our nation's economic competitiveness. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.