

Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

After several years in the private sector, Terry accepted an opportunity to serve our Veterans in the capacity of Department Service Officer for the Pennsylvania American Legion, wherein he assisted Veterans all over central Pennsylvania. In 2016, he continued his service to our Nation and Veterans by earning the position of Director of Veterans Affairs in York County, where—amongst various other missions—he maximized benefits for Veterans and Family members to improve their quality of life. He tirelessly worked to ensure that every Veteran in York County (or surviving spouse) had a conversation with an accredited service officer to ensure any earned military/medical/health benefits were realized ASAP. His dedication to our Veterans continued via positions on several boards and memberships, to include York County Veterans Outreach, Veterans Memorial Gold Star Health and Peace Garden, Four Chaplains Memorial of York County, and Pennsylvania American Legion Post 945.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Terry dedicated himself to education. He's earned a Bachelor's degree in Resource Management from Troy University, a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to commend Terry Gendron (LTC, USA Ret.) on his well-earned retirement. His vast record of nearly 50 years of faithful, tireless, and selfless service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him Godspeed on his pending cycle trek across our beautiful Nation, and for many more years of great adventure, health, happiness, and prosperity.

THANKING JOHN CAUPERT FOR HIS 17-YEAR CAREER AS DIRECTOR OF NCERC AT SIUE

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Caupert, the outgoing Director of NCERC (National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center) at SIUE. John's 17-year journey has been marked by extraordinary achievements for SIUE and the agricultural research field.

John has presided over several significant accomplishments and advances during his 17 years at NCERC. Some of the most notable achievements include transitioning NCERC into a self-sustained center funded by research grants, serving as a pathway for more than 80 technologies, which have generated billions of dollars in revenue, and helping to lead the fight against COVID-19 by producing the first WHO sanitizer from corn-based ethanol. All of these accomplishments, along with many that NCERC has produced during his tenure, are a testament to John's dedication to his work.

I want to thank John for all of his contributions to the field of agricultural research. I wish John and his family all the best as he finds new ways to contribute to the field of agriculture research and communities across Central and Southern Illinois.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JASON HOWARD, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason Howard, U.S. Army, Retired, has always been there to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and his efforts to make his beloved community a better place has made a lasting, positive impact on the region. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SGT Howard has extensive military experience including serving at Fort Cavazos and deployments in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked closely with our Kurdish allies and even met with future Iraqi President Jamal Talabani. His great work didn't go unnoticed as he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and among others.

After retiring from the Army, SGT Howard found his way back to Central Texas. Fueled by his passion for wanting to serve and lead others. SGT Howard serves as the Alderman for the Village of Salado while giving back to his community through numerous volunteer opportunities. He pours himself into making Salado a great place to work and call home, all while ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in the halls of government. His actions reflect the commitment of a devoted public servant.

I commend SGT Howard's incredible contributions. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

CELEBRATING THE HMONG COMMUNITY'S 2024 NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Hmong community's upcoming 2024 New Year festivities in Merced County.

The story of the Hmong people in the United States begins with the tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers who stood side-by-side the United States in steadfast courage against communism in Indochina.

As the Vietnam War spread, the CIA recruited and trained thousands of Hmong men to fight, with over 30,000 engaging enemy troops both on the ground and in the skies. Hmong soldiers regularly conducted raids and

sabotage operations on the Ho-Cho-Minh supply trail and went deep behind enemy lines to gather intelligence and rescued American soldiers. As a result of the fighting, Hmong soldiers suffered immense casualties—ten times higher than their American counterparts.

After the United States withdrew its forces at the conclusion of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Hmong fled as refugees to the United States. Those who were unable to escape faced brutal oppression and massacres.

Today, over 360,000 Hmong-Americans call the United States their home, and California's 13th Congressional District is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. Hmong-Americans continue to serve our nation whether in law enforcement, the armed forces, non-profit programs, or in elected office. They play pivotal roles in our schools, our hospitals, and our businesses, and through it all, the community has continued to preserve their vibrant language, culture, and traditions.

As they have done for decades, the Hmong community of the Central Valley will gather at the Merced County Fairgrounds from December 15–17 to celebrate the 2024 Hmong New Year, which will include traditional Hmong attire and cuisine, cultural dance competitions, traditional sports tournaments, and an exhibit of Hmong art and entertainment.

I am honored to represent the Hmong-American community of the Central Valley, and I wish every Hmong-American a very Happy New Year.

RECOGNIZING SHERRI SAGER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, for her more than 30 years of advocacy for children and their families.

Sherri was born in Los Angeles and has a younger brother and sister, three nieces, and a nephew. With a passion for political advocacy at a young age, Sherri earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University.

Prior to joining the Packard Children's Hospital in 1994, Sherri worked as a legislative assistant to a member of Congress and later as a consultant to several political candidates and elected officials. She also served as the Assistant Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation.

During her tenure at Packard, Sherri organized and managed the government relations program, monitored proposed laws and public policy that may impact the hospital, and oversaw various departments. Sherri prioritized three health needs for patients through her advocacy: improving access to primary health care services, prevention of pediatric obesity, and improving youth social, emotional, and mental health.

Sherri serves on many nonprofit and regional business association boards. She is

recognized for her political acumen, leadership, advocacy, ability to organize, and knowledge of public policy, particularly in health care. Sherri is also a past chair of the government relations committee of the California Children's Hospital Association, has served on numerous statewide task forces and volunteered extensively for the Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission, and the Junior League of San Jose.

Sherri is a dedicated advocate and community leader who has worked every day over the last 30 years to put patients and their families first. She remains an integral part of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and I am certain her positivity and passion will be missed. I congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement, and hope she spends her time filled with happiness surrounded by loved ones.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR JACQUELINE COLE, U.S.
AIR FORCE, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the extraordinary career of Major Jacqueline Cole, L.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her superb service to both the Air Force and her Nation speaks to the best of our Nation's altruistic spirit.

During Maj. Cole's 13 years of service, she served in multiple countries around the world including Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, including stints as a critical care nurse in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Throughout her service, she used her extraordinary skillset to support her fellow warriors as well as educate and mentor her fellow health care professionals.

Renowned for her exemplary work ethic, exceptional patient care, and critical care expertise, Maj. Cole has continued her track record of stellar service in her civilian life. She remains active in her church, supports her local schools, and contributes her energies and resources to numerous civic organizations that work tirelessly to ensure the no one is left behind. When a service member or veteran is challenged by a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder episode, she is unafraid to reach out and guide the individual to safer shores.

Her actions speak to a public servant unafraid to put the interests of others before herself.

I am honored to join Maj. Cole's friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements. Her commitment to investing her talents to improve her community makes her a deeply respectable and honorable recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAVEN HOUSE NWI

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Haven House

Northwest Indiana (NWI) on its 40th anniversary and to commend its leadership team, board of directors, and dedicated staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of survivors of domestic violence throughout the Northwest Indiana region.

Haven House NWI began after a small group of concerned citizens gathered at Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Indiana. Founded in 1983, Haven House, located in Hammond, Indiana, has remained steadfast in its mission to provide emergency crisis intervention and shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. For those in need of an immediate place to stay, Haven House offers 25 beds for women, as well as additional accommodations for those with children. The organization also operates an invaluable transitional house, a million-dollar facility that came to be through the hard work of its members, generosity of community donors, and the unwavering support of former Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow, Jr. and current Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

In addition to housing, residents are provided basic necessities, food, and supplies while offering them a home atmosphere where they are responsible for cooking and household chores. The residents, as well as former residents, also have access to individual and group counseling sessions and other activities related to life skills, empowerment, and the arts. Additionally, with a focus on long-term stability for its residents, Haven House provides individualized service plans that assess their needs, while also assisting with safety planning, referral services, court advocacy and protective order applications.

The operation of this extraordinary community resource would not be possible without its amazing staff and its exceptional leadership team which consists of Executive Director Carrie Greer, Residential Manager Ebony Jackson, Fiscal Manager Candace Jordan, and House Manager Luz Gonzalez. Haven House is also led by its dedicated board of directors: Board President David Gearman, Board Secretary Bernie Zemen, Terence Fife, Andrea Graciano, Michelle Resendez, Ashley Ward, Jenny Winker, and Bobbi Costa, whose lifetime of service on the board has spanned the organization's entire 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Haven House NWI on its 40th anniversary. Through the years, the committed staff and leaders of Haven House have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to ensure that survivors of domestic violence have a safe place to stay and the resources needed to take back their lives, and for this, these outstanding individuals are to be admired.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER 893 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Chapter 893 of the National Association of Active and

Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), based in Springfield, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Springfield Chapter 893 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 893 was issued December 31, 1963. At that time, there were 14 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to become the largest of the 37 chapters in Virginia. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large.

While Chapter 893 has always emphasized fulfilling the primary NARFE mission, its members have also made invaluable contributions to our Northern Virginia community. Chapter 893 members have volunteered countless hours at hospitals and libraries, and they have worked with local non-profit organizations to support blood drives and Meals on Wheels programs. Since 1987, members have contributed generously to Alzheimer's Research, the charity of choice for NARFE nationwide. In 1992, members first participated in the local area Alzheimer's Memory Walk, which has raised approximately \$1,000 annually for several years. In 2009, members began participating in the collection of warm clothing items for homeless veterans for the Washington, D.C., Veterans Administration Medical Center. That same year, the Chapter began supporting the National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" program. This year, with the needs of the community increasing and to support the community during the holidays, Chapter 893 is conducting a food drive to support Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO).

Over the course of its successful history, the Springfield Chapter has benefited from many dynamic, accomplished leaders. Several past presidents have been elected as officers or appointed committee chairs of the NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters. Others have served in civic, professional, or fraternal organizations locally. Particularly noteworthy are the accomplishments of past presidents Milton Kramer, Vincent Agnelli, David Sullivan, Charles Delaplane, and Ann M. Collins. Past President Kramer played a major role in organizing the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters in 1993. Past President Agnelli served on an ad hoc committee influential in the 1993 Virginia Supreme Court federal retiree tax refund issue. Past President Sullivan served on the Board of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for several years and subsequently was elected NARFE National Secretary in 2000 and again in 2002. Past President Charles Delaplane served on the Board of the VFC for several years and chaired the National Legislation Committee at the 2008 and 2010 NARFE National Conventions. Past President Collins served on the Board of the VFC and subsequently was elected VFC President for 2 terms (2005 through 2007). In 2006, as VFC President she established NARFE VFC Congressional District Liaisons for the 11 congressional districts in Virginia as well as a Senatorial Liaison. Also, Past President Collins was appointed as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging to represent the 11th Congressional District of Virginia.