

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.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia, due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., is home to a significant number of federal employees and retirees and I am honored to represent these dedicated and honorable public servants in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary and in thanking the members for their unwavering support and dedication to federal employees, retirees, and their families.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT BOBBY EHRLIG, 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, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Master Sergeant Bobby Ehrig, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred values.

During MSG Ehrig's service in the U.S. Army, he was a master of many assignments and responsibilities, ranging from a Team Leader to being a Supervisory Customs Border Clearance Agent. While serving for over 15 years, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Army Commendation medals, among others. His most significant memory while serving was narrowly surviving a blast that severely injured him and 57 U.S. and Iraqi policemen under his charge.

His retirement from the military marked not the end of his career, but the beginning of a new adventure. His commitment to serve and help his fellow veterans remains undiminished as he has held numerous positions committed to ensuring veterans receive the treatment and services they've earned. At every opportunity, he makes his mark while working collaboratively with others for the benefit of our nation's heroes.

MSG Ehrig's testimony is a testament to a citizen who puts others before himself, who works toward solutions that benefit all, and who isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves to do the hard work to make lasting, impactful, and positive change. He brings to life Gandhi's words "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I applaud his work and wish him success as he continues to be a champion for the veterans and families.

HONORING THE VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION REACHING 20,000 MEMBERS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Veteran Golfers Association on reaching a membership of 20,000 people.

The Veteran Golfers Association originated as an idea amongst wounded veterans at Wal-

ter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. Several friends routinely got together to play golf courses around the area to encourage each other to improve their game and heal through camaraderie and competition.

After recovering from their injuries, these friends relocated around the country and missed the opportunity to compete against one another regularly. Realizing that other Veterans might be in this same situation, these friends got together in 2014 to create the Veteran Golfers Association, which is currently based out of Pinehurst, North Carolina. The VGA is the first golfing organization dedicated to promoting the game to all veterans and their family members and annually hosts more than 450 local tournaments across the country.

The VGA develops programs that allow members to compete, socialize, and remain physically active through the game of golf. Through league play, regional tournaments, and national qualifiers, the VGA helps reinforce values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the Veteran Golfers Association on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, renowned television producer and screenwriter, Norman Lear, who passed away on December 5, 2023.

Norman Milton Lear was born on July 27, 1922 in New Haven, Connecticut. After attending Emerson College in Boston, he dropped out of college to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Force. During World War II, he served as a gunner and radio operator, and flew 52 combat missions over Europe, earning the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

Following his extraordinary military service, Mr. Lear worked in public relations before beginning a career as a freelance comedy writer, and eventually a television and film producer. Norman would go on to captivate over one hundred twenty million viewers weekly with his ground-breaking television show's of the 1970's and 1980's that dealt with consequential and critical issues such as race, social inequality, and sexuality. These iconic shows include All in the Family—which won many Emmy Awards—The Jeffersons, Good Times, and Maude.

As a kid, his show's were a staple in our household, the kind of shows families across the country would watch together, laugh, and debate. As an adult, I was proud to get to know Norman as a constituent and as a friend. When I last spoke with him, on his 101st birthday, he still wanted to know what he could do, even then, to address the challenges facing the nation he was so proud to serve.

Norman was always politically active, inspired by his uncle Jack and grandfather Shya's political involvement and view, "that a citizen can matter." In 1980, he wanted a

more direct effect on social change, so he put his television career on hold to focus on political activism. In 1981, Norman co-founded People for the American Way which sought to build a democratic society and defend constitutional values such as religious liberty, free expression and equal justice. In 1997, Norman and his wife, Lyn Davis Lear created the Lear Family Foundation, which supports a wide range of nonprofit organizations such as the Rainforest Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, Ballet Hispánico and Planned Parenthood. In 2000, Mr. Lear provided an endowment for a public policy center that explored the intersection of commerce, entertainment, and society at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism—the center was later dedicated as the Norman Lear Center. A few years later Norman founded a nonpartisan youth voter registration initiative called Declare Yourself. Additionally, in 2001, Norman and Lyn purchased one of the few surviving original copies of the Declaration of Independence and shared the nation's birth certificate with their fellow Americans by touring it in all 50 states during their Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

Norman received professional awards and acknowledgement for his humanitarian achievements, far too many to list all here. These include the National Medal for Arts from President Clinton, several Emmy Awards, two Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe Award, the Humanist Arts Award, Kennedy Center Honors, the Women in Film Lucy Award, and the National Hispanic Media Coalition's "Media Icon" Award. In addition, he was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

My heart goes out to Lyn and the rest of Norman's beautiful family. His legacy is without equal, and I ask all Members to join me in celebration of his life. America has lost a giant.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CROUCH, 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, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Crouch, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred ideals.

Serving in the Army from 1990 until 2011, LTC Crouch served in various locations and operations however, the most significant being during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2006 through 2008 and 2009 through 2011. He is a decorated veteran with awards including the Iraq Campaign Medal (4 Campaign Stars), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and others. His most significant memory during his military service is his gratitude for his family and friends when he was coming home after his first deployment from serving in a combat zone for 12 months.

After retiring after 20+ years of military service, LTC Crouch still had more to give to his