

KELTON KEHL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelton Kehl for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kelton has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kelton, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kelton's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kelton Kehl on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEAL ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Incentivizing Dual-Eligible Alignment (IDEAL) Act.

This legislation seeks to better coordinate and improve care for dual beneficiaries enrolled in integrated special needs plans (D-SNPs). Highly integrated D-SNPs (HIDE SNPs) and Fully Integrated D-SNPs (FIDE SNPs) already manage dual beneficiaries' Medicare and Medicaid benefits, and this legislation will improve their ability to deliver needed services.

First, this legislation creates a pilot program to give Safety Net Health Plan HIDE and FIDE SNPs a rebate to provide services related to social determinants of health. We all know that a person's health is affected by far more than what happens in a doctor's office. If plans can deliver services like meals for people with chronic conditions, rental assistance, and pest eradication, they can address all the factors that contribute to the health of their beneficiaries. This five-year pilot can help inform future policy decisions as Congress weighs how to better improve outcomes. Second, this legislation provides regulatory flexibility to states to align administrative processes between Medicare Advantage and a state's Medicaid plan, allowing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and states to determine better ways to coordinate care for HIDE and FIDE SNP enrollees.

Fundamentally, the way we approach our health care system needs to change. The United States spends nearly one-fifth of GDP on health care and more per person than other economically comparable countries yet has lower life expectancy. I'm grateful for organizations like Care Oregon that provide care to my constituents and try to challenge the status quo. The federal government must be a partner in delivering care in better, innovative ways, and I believe the policies proposed here can be a part of that.

HONORING MR. HOUSTON SALTER

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible American, Mr. Houston Salter, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who turned 103 last month on November 10th. Mr. Salter has sacrificed greatly for his Nation and community. He enlisted into the Coast Guard in 1942 during World War II, serving important and dangerous roles until 1945, such as unloading bombs from ships on Ellis Island and working port security at the Hellgate Bridge in New York City. After serving in the Armed Forces, Mr. Salter returned to his hometown of Harkers Island, North Carolina. He served his Nation and community honorably for another 28 years at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Mr. Salter is among the highly dedicated individuals who continue serving their country after they depart from the Armed Forces. This year, Mr. Salter was presented a Proclamation of Honor by the Carteret County Board of Commissioners and recognized as the oldest living member of the Coast Guard at the branch's 233rd birthday celebration this summer. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in extending this chamber's tribute to this National Hero.

JOSE SOTO CATANO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose Soto Catano for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jose has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jose, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jose's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jose Soto Catano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM EDWARD MONFORT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Mr. William Edward Monfort, on his 107th birthday. Mr. Monfort, a Floridian and a revered member of our greatest generation, has led a life marked by exceptional service and resilience.

As a young man, he enlisted in the Navy and served with valor and distinction during

World War II. Aboard the USS Claxton and in the Destroyer Squadron 23, Mr. Monfort played a crucial role as a Chief Radioman, ensuring critical communications during some of the most pivotal battles of the Pacific Theater, including Pearl Harbor, Midway, and Okinawa.

After the war, Mr. Monfort continued to serve his community in profound ways. He co-founded Angels Unaware, a pioneering organization in Tampa Bay that provides care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We thank Mr. Monfort for his exemplary contribution to our country, and wish him a happy 107th birthday. May his story continue to inspire us all.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES, THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, the Fort Worth Police Department.

For several years, Fort Worth Police officers have rallied together to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to community members in need. Continuing the tradition, this year, Fort Worth police officers provided more than 600 turkeys to families in need. The officers organize turkey giveaways across Fort Worth where they also provide services such as entertainment for children or hot meals to go.

Fort Worth's Chief of Police, Neil Noakes, took an active role in distributing turkeys with the help of other officers and volunteers. Chief Noakes made note of his officers' dedication to their community and also highlighted that their roles do not end at law enforcement. By the end of the turkey giveaway, they had distributed three and a half tons of turkey to members of the Fort Worth community.

I want to thank the Fort Worth Police Department for all they do to take care of our North Texas community while also keeping us safe.

GABE PETERS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gabe Peters for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Gabe has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Gabe, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gabe's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Gabe Peters on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF CHRISTOPHER BURNETT

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and retirement of Christopher Burnett, Chief of the Mount Laurel Fire Department who selflessly served his community for over thirty years.

A lifelong Burlington County resident, Chief Burnett first started with the Mount Laurel Fire Department in 1992 when he joined as a volunteer firefighter in high school and later became an Emergency Medical Technician. In 1997, Chief Burnett began his tenure as a career firefighter. During this time he climbed through the ranks, always focused on protecting his community and neighbors. After 10 years as Deputy Chief, Chief Burnett was appointed as Chief of Department in 2021 and Chief of Emergency Medical Services in 2022.

During his tenure at the Mount Laurel Fire Department, Chief Burnett received several notable recognitions from various universities and from the State of New Jersey. These include the Certified Public Management designation from Rutgers University and the Class 6 Merit Award Citation for his bravery during an apartment fire in 1992 in which he rescued a trapped elderly female. Chief Burnett's dedication to his community knew no bounds, as throughout his tenure he served in various roles on the Burlington County Fire Chiefs Association, Eastern Division of the international Association of Fire Chiefs, and the New Jersey Fire and EMS Institute.

In addition to his tireless commitment to the Fire Department, Chief Burnett is a friendly face in our community who dedicates his time to the betterment of his neighbors. He is the creator of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in Mount Laurel, in addition to the 'Get Fired Up for Literacy' program in the Mount Laurel School District and Library. Through these programs, Chief Burnett connected and uplifted his community, dedicating every aspect of his life to public service.

A father, husband, and neighbor, Chief Christopher Burnett believes in servant leadership and organization above oneself. His work ethic and dedication to the Fire Department will leave a lasting legacy of service and leadership for decades to come. Outside of his family, he believes his service to the Fire Department and community is his greatest achievement.

Chief Burnett embodies the spirit of service that makes me proud to represent people like him in New Jersey's Third Congressional District. We are lucky to have him as a member of our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JOE FRICKS

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph Eugene Fricks, a resident of Marion County, Florida.

Joseph Eugene Fricks was born in St. Petersburg, Florida on July 7, 1939. Joe's father was a true aviation pioneer having served in both World Wars and working in commercial aviation. Following in his father's footsteps, Joe took his first flight in Marathon, Florida, piloting a DC-3 at the age of 16.

Joe's military service began as a tank driver in the Army National Guard of Florida where he was honorably discharged from the 211th Infantry on April 11, 1957. Unable to recover from the aviation bug, Joe pursued his Commercial Pilot's License and began flying 727 passenger jets for National Airlines—"Florida's own airline"—on September 17, 1969. His aviation career continued with Pan-Am Airways where he graduated to international routes piloting 747s around the world.

During his career, Joe had the true patriotic honor of serving on the flight-deck and transporting the Presidential Press Corps during the presidencies of Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton. Joe also volunteered to transport equipment and supplies to the Middle East during the Iraq campaigns. He proudly transported countless American troops home from the Middle East during this period.

In the summer of 1975, he moved his wife and four children to Marion County, Florida and eventually retired in Ocala as a flight instructor for Fed-Ex on January 3, 2005.

Joseph never stopped giving back to his community and country. Whether it was fundraising by piloting airplane rides at local airshows, contributing his aviation skills to safely transport the Presidential Press Corps, or volunteering to clean the bathrooms every Sunday after Mass at Ocala's Blessed Trinity Church, he continued giving until the end.

Considered an expert and authority among his peers, a smiling face with his neighbors, a "Daddy" to his children, and loving "Pa" to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Joe will be missed dearly.

BRIANNY NAVA VAZQUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brianny Nava Vazquez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Brianny has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Brianny, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Brianny's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Brianny Nava Vazquez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR AARON REEP

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major Aaron Reep and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Aaron earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Northwestern—St. Paul. After graduating from Northwestern, he commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. While in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked his way up from Student Officer to Infantry Platoon Commander to Company Commander, eventually earning the rank of Major.

A graduate of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School, Aaron has served in the II Marine Expeditionary Force and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Aaron was deployed in Afghanistan twice, where he conducted himself valiantly during the 2021 evacuation of American personnel from the Kabul International Airport.

Aaron joined my office as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in January 2023. As a Defense Fellow, he served our Nation both as a Marine and a public servant. He contributed enthusiastically to my House Armed Services Committee work, including my role as the Chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee. On my staff, he distinguished himself in his tireless work supporting our veterans.

I would like to thank Aaron for his contributions and dedicated service this year. He has been a key member of my defense team and staff, and I wish him all the best as he continues his journey here on Capitol Hill as a Marine Corps Legislative Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Major Aaron Reep for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Aaron and his family as he continues his career in public service and the U.S. Marine Corps.

RECOGNIZING JERRY L. FOWLES' 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry L. Fowles as he retires after 42 years of service.

Jerry Fowles has served the United States of America for the past 42 years. His story began as a student at Saks High School. Upon graduation, he made the decision to enlist in the United States Army.

Jerry is the youngest son born to John Fowles, Sr. and Lona Bell Fowles. Two days after his graduation, he boarded a bus to Texas and began his career as an Army soldier. After completing a four-year enlistment, he returned home to Anniston only to realize that his passion was the military, so he reenlisted. His love for the military encouraged him to continue re-enlisting until he had served a total of 21 years.

While in the military, Jerry furthered his education and attended City Colleges of Chicago