

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MSGT. LARRY A.
LEDFORD

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Master Sergeant (MSGT.) Larry A. Ledford of Kingsport, Tennessee for his military service during the Vietnam era.

MSGt. Ledford joined our U.S. Air Force almost immediately after he graduated from high school in 1968. He was first stationed at Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) in Guam. Later, he was sent to HQ Intelligence where he was tasked with providing administrative support to his fellow service members who were responsible for interpreting bomb assessment targets in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos while they were also identifying additional targets. Notably, he took part in both Bullet Shot and Linebacker II Operations. Some of his additional station assignments were Bergstrom Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas, Air Force HQ Southern Europe, and Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

His final assignment was the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Upon active-duty retirement, he served another 18 years with our Department of Defense (DoD).

A family man through and through, he wishes to personally thank and recognize his devoted wife, Mrs. Jane Ledford, as they celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary later this year. Like MSGt. Ledford, Mrs. Ledford faithfully served DoD with a career spanning nearly 40 years of civil service. He also proudly mentions his two very accomplished sons Steven and Bryan, who followed in their footsteps in service to DoD as government contractors.

Please join me in honoring MSGt. Ledford for his long career of service to our Nation in both military and civilian sectors.

HONORING ROBERT BRICK ON RECEIVING THE 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ON BEHALF OF TRAVERSE CONNECT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert Brick for receiving the 2022 Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Traverse Connect.

Bob is a tenured real estate broker with 50 years of experience, as well as the owner of RE/MAX Bayshore Properties, a nationally recognized real estate firm in the greater Traverse City area. Since starting his career in 1973, Bob has continually displayed professionalism and a desire to help his local community through his business.

Upon graduating from St. John's University of Minnesota, Bob began his time in real estate and cemented himself as one of the Nation's top brokers. Working with his children, Bob has facilitated positive change throughout the area by partnering with organizations such as Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and by creating his own relief fund for those impacted or displaced by natural disasters.

Bob has continually strived to be the best community member he can be and has used his platform to extend a helping hand to his fellow residents. His commitment to the people of Traverse City is undeniable and his work will have a lasting impact on the area's most vulnerable residents for years to come. Traverse City, the surrounding communities, and all of Michigan's First District owe Bob our support and gratitude as he accepts this well-deserved award. His dedication to the betterment of others' lives highlights the character of both Bob and his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert Brick for his steadfast service to the Traverse City region. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Bob and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the East Bay Municipal Utility District, upon celebrating its 100th anniversary serving the East Bay community. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the critical work the District has accomplished to ensure the health and prosperity of the East Bay environment and community.

Originally founded in 1923, under the State of California Municipal Utility District Act, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has provided access to water for generations of Californians. Today, the company continues its commitment to preserving the environment and faithfully serving the people of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District plays a vital role in building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure that protects and strengthens California's water supply. Through the East Bay Municipal Utility District's critical leadership in developing the Freepport Regional Water Project, it is helping meet the daily water needs of both Sacramento and the East Bay.

Since its founding, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has worked tirelessly as a trailblazer in environmental stewardship, consistently leading efforts to promote environmental sustainability. The East Bay Municipal Utility District was the first wastewater agency in

North America to produce more renewable energy than it uses, by capturing methane gas from the water treatment process. This groundbreaking development served as a national model of renewable energy, inspiring other public and private agencies across the country.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the East Bay Municipal Utility District upon its 100th anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for its generations of service to the East Bay community.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
MICHAEL KILGORE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Staff Sergeant Michael Dwayne Kilgore of Johnson City, Tennessee who served during the Vietnam War era from March 1968 to February 1970.

During Vietnam, he served in a Recon Platoon which was attached to Echo Company 2nd Battalion, 8th Air Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division. As part of the Recon Platoon, he surveyed the area of operation ahead of the main force, however, he was usually the first person to receive contact from the enemy.

During his service, SSGT. Kilgore was awarded two Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, 3 Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. He also was stationed in numerous locations around the East Coast and graduated from the War College at Fort Benning, Georgia.

ENCOURAGING THE EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS TO URGE OTHER NATIONS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ENSURE THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS REAP TANGIBLE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLES IN THE REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 311.

All people deserve safety, justice, equality, human rights, and the right to self-determination. No child anywhere should go to bed at night fearing ongoing violence.

Israel is an important and strategic ally in the Middle East region, and our national security interests are intertwined. The United

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

States provides \$3.8 billion in security assistance to Israel's government each year, and I support the use of these funds for security purposes such as Iron Dome. These dollars should be used to keep the Israeli people safe, but unfortunately the American people do not know how billions of this annual security assistance is being spent. That is why I have worked for years to account for the use of these funds.

Not \$1 of U.S. aid should be used to commit human rights violations, demolish families' homes, or permanently annex Palestinian lands. Peace can only be achieved when everyone's human rights are respected, and Congress has a responsibility to not ignore the well-documented mistreatment of Palestinian children and families living under Israeli military occupation.

The resolution also fails to mention a two-state solution, for the first time ever. I echo the concerns of many of my House colleagues about this missing commitment for all parties to work together toward a peaceful future.

I join Jewish Voice for Peace, the Institute for Middle East Understanding, and many other civil society groups in opposition to this poorly written resolution.

There is a path to peace and security in the Middle East, and it requires leading with our U.S. values of democracy and equal justice for all.

RECOGNIZING PASCO COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF SCOTT CASSIN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire Chief of Pasco County Fire Rescue, Scott Cassin. Chief Cassin has served Pasco County since 2010 and became Chief on August 26, 2012. For nearly 37 years, Chief Cassin has served in fire service, serving communities in Indiana and Florida. He has worked nearly every job available in the service and has exemplified his commitment and passion to all he has interacted with.

Overseeing Pasco County Fire Rescue which responds to 80,000 calls annually and operates a fleet of 175+ vehicles with 700+ personnel, Chief Cassin's strong leadership has allowed the department to innovate and continually push the limits of modern fire service.

I thank Chief Cassin for his years of service to our community. It is my hope that he enjoys the retirement he has earned.

HONORING NICOLE BRADDOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicole Braddock, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Solano County because of the important work she has done to promote conservation and address the impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Nicole Braddock was born in Cedarville, California. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Davis in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, and she holds an MBA from Capella University. In addition to these impressive educational achievements, Ms. Braddock has a strong commitment to bringing communities together and building common ground in conversations around climate change.

Through her role as the Executive Director of Solano Land Trust, Ms. Braddock has championed the protection of more than 8,000 acres of working farms and natural areas as well as the restoration of miles of creeks and streams. Solano Land Trust goes beyond land conservation to ensure the establishment of strong relationships between community members and the land.

Ms. Braddock has also advocated for the development of accessible trails and picnic areas to promote public resources available to all members of our community. Ms. Braddock's strong desire to give back to the community is exemplified through her development of partnerships, which allow for every individual in Solano County to benefit from protected natural areas. Additionally, Ms. Braddock supports land conservation efforts through her work on the National Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council. The Land Trust Alliance works with local land trusts to expand land conservation locally and nationally.

Outside of her participation with the Land Trust, Ms. Braddock volunteers with numerous nonprofit organizations and provides pro bono coaching to local leaders working in land conservation. Ms. Braddock also serves on the board of the Solano Economic Development Corporation, an organization dedicated to growing Solano County's economy through the creation of new jobs and competition among businesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Nicole Braddock is a leader dedicated to land conservation and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Solano County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT
DENNIS GONZALEZ-FURMAN
UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman of the 437th Air Mobility Wing for earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman joined the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing in meeting a challenge of colossal scale, when they helped execute the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman and the 349th Air Mobility Wing played a critical role in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in history, Operation

Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. They directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated in the United States Air Force.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed during Operation Allies Refuge. These valiant servicemembers, like Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman, put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many and epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman of the 437th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING SERGEANT HAROLD
WAYNE LEONARD

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Sergeant Harold Wayne Leonard of Bluff City, Tennessee for his heroic service. Sgt. Leonard saw multiple deployments, including serving in Germany during the Berlin Crisis, in South Korea, at Ft. Bragg during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam.

Assigned to the 8th Artillery 25th Infantry Division, Sgt. Leonard and his comrades fought 60 continuous days and nights in Cu Chi where North Vietnamese rigged explosives, booby traps, and punji sticks. In grueling conditions, he served bravely in what his fellow soldiers coined as, "Hell's Half Acre". Along with his division, his service in the Battle of Cu Chi proved invaluable to the discovery of the Viet Cong's district headquarters with over half a million military and intelligence documents.

He and his division were awarded the second highest unit decoration bestowed upon a U.S. Army unit, the Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. A family man, he insists all recognition and commendations for his service are given to Mrs. Leonard, his devoted wife of 62 years, for her many sacrifices in providing him great love and care.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
FIRST SERGEANT RYAN DUBUQUE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize First Sergeant Ryan Dubuque on his retirement from the U.S. Army after 21 years of service to our Nation. After more than two decades of military service, including working to recruit the next generation