

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION
SQUADRON, THE BLUE ANGELS

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation.

Whereas: The Blue Angels were formed by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Chester Nimitz, on April 24, 1946, to raise the public's interest in naval aviation and boost Navy Morale.

Whereas: The Blue Angels are recognized as the second-oldest formal aerobatic team in the world.

Whereas: The 2023 season marks the 77th anniversary of this impressive outfit.

Whereas: The United States Navy Blue Angels have called Pensacola home since 1955, practicing daring and awe-inspiring maneuvers from the cockpits of F/A-18 Super Hornets in the skies above the city.

Whereas: The mission of the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to the country through flight demonstrations and community outreach.

Whereas: An estimated 11 million spectators view the squadron during air shows each year.

Whereas: The 2023 season marks the first in which the Blue Angels welcome their first female demonstration pilot, Lieutenant Amanda Lee, to the left-wing Number 3 position. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: On this occasion of their 77th, birthday, the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, are recognized for their contribution to Northwest Florida, as they have distinguished themselves as ambassadors for the Cradle of Naval Aviation by inspiring and entertaining millions of Americans each year. It is an honor to have them call Florida's First District home. Bravo Zulu and Happy Birthday, Blue Angels.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week, founded in 1989, to salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for the extraordinary progress over the last four decades to destigmatize infertility and bring awareness to the many barriers people face when trying to start and build their families.

Most Americans are not aware that approximately one in five Americans are impacted by the disease of infertility. The disease affects both men and women of all races, religious backgrounds, and economic status; it knows no barriers and impacts millions of individuals.

Through the revolutionary contributions of research scientists and considerable medical advancements, fertility treatments have vastly

improved since the first successful IVF pregnancy and live birth occurred in 1978. Such advancements include early infertility detection through detailed and data-driven testing, advanced egg-freezing technology, and progressive procedures that allow young cancer patients to preserve their fertility prior to undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments. Organizations like RESOLVE: the National Infertility Association, advocate for millions of individuals and couples in this country who need medical assistance to have a family. Other groups, such as the Military Family Building Coalition (MFBC), have focused on raising awareness for active-duty service members and their spouses facing unique challenges with family building. They are actively working to bring awareness to these unique challenges and advance laws and policies that will help our servicemembers sacrificing for our country achieve their dream of building or expanding their own family. There are also organizations such as the Alliance for Fertility Preservation, who stand up to voice on the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. In fact, in the absence of comprehensive and reliable fertility preservation and family building healthcare coverage, the option of having children may not otherwise be available for millions of Americans without the financial assistance of organizations like RESOLVE, AFP, and MFBC, and countless other worthwhile organizations.

Since 1978, and because of extraordinary medical advancements and steadfast advocacy organizations, millions of Americans have been able to receive life affirming treatments that have resulted in the delivery of babies. And while advancements have been a substantial step forward for family building, significant medical, financial, and health equity barriers still exist for others who require medical assistance to combat infertility.

During this National Infertility Awareness Week, I am calling on my colleagues in Congress to do more to remove many of the barriers that currently exist for those experiencing infertility challenges in their pursuit of having a child. The ability to have children and the timing of building a family is a basic human right, and thus we must work together to pass legislation to create a path for these American families. I also applaud my colleagues including Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congresswoman BROWNLEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congresswoman STRICKLAND, and Congressman RICK LARSEN for introducing legislation devoted to eliminating obstacles to building families. I salute the millions of infertility warriors throughout the country and the world, who advocate on behalf of that most precious of gifts, that of family.

HONORING VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN THE INAUGURAL
LONE EAGLE HONOR FLIGHT
FROM PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize 21 veterans from my District who from April 12th to April 14th vis-

ited our Nation's Capital as part of the inaugural Lone Eagle Honor Flight from Puerto Rico.

The Lone Eagle Honor Flight honors American veterans all over the Nation for their courage, and outstanding achievements in defense of the ideals of the United States of America by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the veterans memorials, paying tribute to bold servicemen and women who have served our Nation. This recognition is well-deserved and a testament of our gratitude for their sacrifices.

This inaugural Lone Eagle Honor Flight from Puerto Rico is special, because on April 13th we celebrate National Borinqueneers Day and honor the bravery and valor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, better known as Borinqueneers. This unit composed of Puerto Rican soldiers, led by their motto of Honor and Fidelity, served throughout the liberation of Europe in World War II and the Korean War. The history of Puerto Rico is rich with the example of individuals whose accomplishments inspire us today. They are men and women from all walks of life whose shining example attract the attention of the world to our small island. The Puerto Rican veterans recognized by the Honor Flight Network who served in the U.S. Army in World War II, in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, belong to a long line of American Citizens who did not hesitate to step into cauldron of war when duty called.

Please join me in honoring Ángel Acevedo-Bernard, Juan Acevedo-Carrión, José Adorno-Román, Francisco Berrios-Jovet, Fred Buendía-Izquierdo, Rafael A. Cajigas-Morales, Wilfredo Cardec-Ramos, Andrés Dávila, Jesús Dávila-Colón, Luis G. Padilla-Gautier, Cielo Guerrero, José I. Irizarry, Víctor M. Labarca Lugo, Santos Martínez-Larriuz, Wilfredo Menéndez-Quintana, Rubén Ortiz, Heriberto Ortiz-Ruiz, Salvador Rosado, Walter Santoni-Acevedo, José Torres and Ramón Torres-González for courageously protecting our freedom and democracy.

I am beyond proud of these heroes who have so selflessly served our Nation.

HONORING CSM. (RET.) MARCUS B.
WHITT, II

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Command Sergeant Major Marcus B. Whitt, II of Morristown, Tennessee who has dedicated his entire life in service to or in support of our Armed Forces.

As a Special Forces Green Beret radio operator, CSM. (Ret.) Whitt and his unit gathered intelligence for highly classified operations during the Vietnam War in Cambodia, Laos and North Vietnam. In 2001, all prior members of MACV SOG were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, great combat achievement regularly conducting guerrilla warfare, and unwavering fidelity while executing missions deep behind enemy lines.

After Vietnam, he furthered his academia earning multiple degrees in Education and Masters in Criminal Justice. He also continued his calling by joining the Reserves in service to many Army Special Forces units. Later, he

was promoted to Command Sergeant Major and stationed at Camp Butmir, Bosnia until a retirement that didn't last long as he continued his career in Iraq supporting our military as a civilian contractor. Presently he is a volunteer for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in the State of Tennessee and serves as the Ombudsman Director. TN ESGR develops supportive work environments for Service Members in Reserve Components through outreach and education to increase awareness of applicable laws. He also serves with Chapter 18-12 of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association which promotes Vets Helping Vets and the Special Operations Association (former MACVSO members) as a member of its Board of Directors.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. "MUZ"
MURRAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of a dedicated and exceptional American patriot, Robert A. "Muz" Murray.

Born on September 2, 1935, Robert was a beloved native of South Boston and a resident of Quincy and Hull.

As a middle-school student at St. Brigid School, 12-year-old Robert entered a congressional essay contest entitled, "America, What it means to me,"—sponsored by Speaker John McCormack of Boston. Fittingly, Robert's impassioned and patriotic entry on the ideals and struggles embodied by our Nation earned the honor of first place—along with a special invitation for Robert to join President Harry Truman for lunch at the White House.

In the enduring spirit of his essay, Robert dedicated each day of his 87 years to personifying the principles and values that he held dear as an American. Inspired by our shared commitment to liberty, democracy, and humanity, Robert devoted his life in service to his country, his community, and his family. As a veteran of the United States Army and a devoted husband, father of three, and grandfather of five, Robert also instilled service and dedication in all that knew him.

Robert Murray passed away peacefully on December 23, 2022. It was at his funeral mass that his 1947 essay was read publicly for the first time, as the closing words offered by his youngest daughter, Erin. Include in the RECORD Mr. Murray's essay.

AMERICA, WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

To me, America means homeland. It means my country blessed beyond all countries with the beauty and natural resources, with its inland seas and coursing rivers, teeming with food; its towering mountains, piled high with the riches of the earth; its fertile fields yielding harvest that might feed the world; its cities and towns all throbbing with human life and industry. America means all this but it means much more, much more than the country's materials wealth and power.

To me, America means the land of liberty—a land whose democracy, whose ideals of religion, freedom and equality make it pre-eminent among the nations of the earth. In this land, my homeland, the land of liberty, every man has the ownership of himself. He is free to enjoy the results of his labors,

to declare the convictions of his mind, to share in the making of its laws, and in selecting the rulers of the nation.

America is the land of the free, where every man, no matter how lowly, is a free man in the free country, free to enjoy all its rights and liberties.

To me, America means the struggles, the sufferings, and the sacrifices, which paid the price of these liberties I enjoy.

It is symbolized by the flag I love—the red, white and blue flag; its rich red for American patriots' blood; the white for America's high ideals and purposes; its blue for the boundless hopes America awakes in humanity. That is what American means to me.

Mr. Speaker, may Robert Murray's words serve as a great reminder of who we are as a Nation.

HONORING SUSANNAH SCARONI'S
WIN AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Susannah Scaroni, a graduate from the University of Illinois, for winning the 127th Boston Marathon and a successful World Marathon Majors season.

Susannah was born on May 16, 1991, in Burns, Oregon. Growing up Tekoa, Washington, a car crash would leave her paralyzed at the age of five. Susannah would persevere with the support of her community, eventually graduating from Tekoa High School in 2009 and coming to the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Susannah would graduate from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) with a bachelors degree in food science and human Nutrition in 2014 and earn a master's degree in Nutritional Sciences in 2022.

Throughout her education, Susannah would represent the United States in international competition and race in major marathons. Susannah has competed in the last three Paralympic games, earning a gold medal in the 5,000-meter race and a bronze in the 800-meter race in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Susannah would win the Los Angeles Marathon early in her career, however, coming short of winning a world major until recently.

After battling through a career-threatening back injury six months prior, Susannah would win the 2022 Chicago Marathon in October and the New York City Marathon in November. Her streak of wins would only end in Tokyo due to missing the marathon after contracting strep throat, but she would bounce back in April. After competing in the Boston Marathon eight times, with several bronzes being her best accomplishment in years prior, favor would shine her light on Susannah. She would win with a time of 1 hour 45 minutes 45 seconds, holding a lead of five minutes on the previous winner.

With the six recent World Marathon Majors now passed, Susannah has won three out of the six, and medaled in four. I am both proud and honored to recognize my fellow Fighting Illini graduate on today.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND RECOGNIZING MR. DANIEL "DANNY" HERNANDEZ, OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Ray Daniel "Danny" Hernandez, an outstanding Chicano advocate in the 52nd Congressional District.

Mr. Hernandez was a committed and respected community leader who believed in the power of community to invoke equitable and long-term change. He worked tirelessly to uplift, empower, and serve our Latino/Chicano, multicultural and other diverse communities. Mr. Hernandez was one of the founding members of the Chicano Federation's Latino Leadership Institute in 1985, whose mission is to establish the next generation of Latino civic leaders.

Mr. Hernandez made valuable contributions to organizations including San Ysidro Health, the National City Chamber of Commerce, La Maestra Community Health Centers, MANA de San Diego, and Project New Village. He was the Director of Community Relations for San Ysidro Health and, over the years, provided extensive contributions in developing a wide array of outreach, community awareness, and promotional programs to provide access to high quality and affordable healthcare. Mr. Hernandez also supported the advancement of Latinas and assisted MANA de San Diego to increase membership, create awareness of their programs, and connecting the organization with donors.

On behalf of the residents of California's 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Ray Daniel "Danny" Hernandez. He is survived by his wife, Leticia Ibarra, and his sister, Christine Rosa Maestas. Furthermore, I would like to formally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Hernandez for his unwavering commitment to providing equitable and accessible resources to our region throughout his nearly 45-year long career as an advocate and leader. His legacy will continue, as he inspired many.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week, founded in 1989, to salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for the extraordinary progress over the last four decades to destigmatize infertility and bring awareness to the many barriers people face when trying to start and build their families.

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