

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF U.S. ARMY SGT. ANTONIO "TONY" MULLEN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sgt Antonio "Tony" Mullen, of Rolla, Missouri, on his honorable service and sacrifice in the U.S. Army. Sergeant Mullen is being celebrated by Helping a Hero Organization for his distinguished valor and dedication to the security of our country.

Sgt. Mullen grew up in a family of veterans and decided to follow in their footsteps. After the tragic events of 9/11 he joined the US Army in 2003 Tony had a knack for mechanical things and became a heavy/light wheel mechanic. He performed his basic training in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and from there he was sent to Korea where he served for a year. After that he was sent back to Missouri for a few months before he was deployed to Iraq.

In the army, Sgt. Mullen found the sense of community that he had been searching for but had yet to experience. Sgt. Mullen was deployed to Iraq when his second child was born. He was not able to get home for her birth but was able to stay on the phone during the entire labor and delivery. He named her America; he wanted her to know that he risked his life for his country and would risk it for her forever.

In the line of duty, Mullen was deployed to Iraq, where his Forward Operating Base was attacked. He sustained several life-altering injuries while serving his country but never wavered in his love of his country and the brothers he fought beside him. Tony has recently completed work on a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and hopes to become a drug and alcohol counselor for military veterans.

Mullen and his wife, Lacy, are the proud parents of 4 children, Darian, America, Dalayla, and Israel.

The men and women who defend our Nation will always have my support. On behalf of the entire eighth congressional district, we thank Sgt Antonio "Tony" Mullen for his dedicated service to this great Nation.

CELEBRATING KPAN RADIO'S 75 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to help KPAN Radio celebrate 75 years of broadcasting in the Texas Panhandle. As 1 of the most historic radio stations in Texas, KPAN has touched the lives of countless listeners and is a beacon of reliable local, state, and national news for the Texas Panhandle.

KPAN has been a proud family owned and operated station since day 1. Marshall Formby was KPAN's original owner, and his wife, Sharleen, ensured the radio station represented the entire Texas Panhandle. Their nephew, Clint Formby, was KPAN's first voice

on the airwaves when KPAN was first broadcasted on August 4, 1948 at 6:15 a.m. Clint eventually became part owner of the station and raised his son, Chip Formby, to be part of the radio business as well. Chip became a manager at KPAN in 1993 and managed the station until his death in July of 2020. Both of Chip's sons took after their father and worked for KPAN during their high school and college years. Chip's son, Lane, returned in January of 2021 to become manager of the station. 75 years since that first broadcast, the Formby family is still broadcasting KPAN in Hereford, Texas in the heart of my district.

Hereford residents tune into KPAN for the news, latest weather reports, commodity reports, funeral listings, school and senior lunch menus, Dallas Cowboys football games, Texas Tech Red Raider sporting events, and so much more.

KPAN continues to demonstrate the value and spirit of the Texas Panhandle as is evident by KPAN's numerous accolades and "firsts." KPAN was the first Texas radio station to conceive "Distributive Education Day" which offers special training and financial resources for high school students who are dedicated to pursuing their dreams in broadcasting. The station was also one of the first West Texas stations to incorporate daily Spanish programming and music and one of the first area stations to build a companion FM station.

KPAN has been featured on the cover of Texas Highways, in the Dallas Morning news, AP releases, and several other area and national publications. In addition, KPAN has twice been named Texas' Outstanding Radio Station by The Texas Association of Broadcasters and named the State's Outstanding Radio Station in support of Education. There is no doubt that KPAN's dedication to broadcasting and education has inspired listeners and students across the State.

KPAN is committed to serving the community and dedicated to providing information and entertainment to their listeners. Again, I want to congratulate KPAN Radio and the Formby family on 75 fruitful years of broadcasting and service to the Texas Panhandle, and I look forward to 75 more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES GRAHAM CROCKETT

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Charles Graham Crockett, of Wytheville, Virginia, who passed on July 12, 2023.

A lifelong resident of Wytheville, Mr. Crockett graduated from Wytheville High School, Class of 1949. He served in Korea during the Korean War from November 1952 until February 1954 with the 984th Engineer Field Maintenance Company, 45 Engineer Group, 8th Army.

Mr. Crockett was a reliability engineer who worked on the design and development of the B-2 Stealth Bomber. He was also a member of the Wytheville Town Council from 1996 to 2004. He served as an original member of the Board of Directors of the New River Regional

Water Authority, the Wytheville Training School and Culture Center, and the Crossroads Institute in Galax, Virginia. The Wytheville-Wythe Bland Chamber of Commerce named him Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 2013.

Mr. Crockett was a life member of, American Legion Wythe County Post 9, VFW Post 2179, Korean War Veterans Association, Wythe County Historical Society, Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Association and Past President of the Sons of American Revolution, Lt. David Cox Chapter.

Mr. Crockett joins his parents, two daughters, Angela Denise Crockett and Valerie Jeanne Crockett, and wife, Betty Hammack Crockett, in heaven. He is survived by his daughters, Renee Leigh Crockett of Max Meadows, Virginia, Michele Crockett Thompson and her husband, Ethan Tobie Thompson, of Double Oak, Texas; granddaughters, Emily Nicole Waclawczyk and husband, Aaron, of Austin, Texas, and Natalie Elise Thompson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; grandsons, Michael D Bell and his wife, Karyn, of Burbank, California, and Matthew D. Bell of Sulphur Springs, Texas. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Mr. Crockett lived a long and fruitful life in Southwest Virginia, passing at the age of 92. I know his friends and family members will greatly miss him, but I have no doubt his spirit will remain in their hearts for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MARTENS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Martens, a long-time member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who has more than 30 years of service working for all 3 branches of the Federal Government. His dedication to our Nation exemplifies the hard work and commitment of an admirable public servant.

John began his career at the Naval Sea Systems Command in 1991 as a budget analyst, rotating through various budget and program offices. Following his time at the Naval Sea Systems Command, in 1994, John became a budget analyst at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, where he performed budget formulation and execution activities for the Federal Judiciary and supported the Budget Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

In 2002, John became professional staff for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary, and Related Agencies. When the House of Representatives switched control in 2007 and the House Appropriations Committee was reorganized, setting the subcommittees to their current form, John moved to the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, where he served as Minority Clerk and Staff Director until 2010.

After House Republicans took the Majority in 2011, John led the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government as Majority Clerk and Staff Director. At the start of the 114th Congress, John returned to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,

and Related Agencies as the Majority Clerk and Staff Director until 2018. When I became Ranking Member of the Full Committee in 2019, I asked John to serve as Minority Clerk and Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Accumulated throughout his years of service, John's immense knowledge and experience earned him the position of Senior Advisor to the House Appropriations Committee at the beginning of the 118th Congress. This role presented a range of new challenges that I knew he would handle expertly, advising me as House Appropriations Chairwoman, the Subcommittee Chairs, and the staff—many of whom he intentionally trained and mentored.

John has been an exceptional member of the House Appropriations Committee staff for more than 20 years now, with nearly 5 of those years on my staff. During his time on the Committee, John has successfully developed and implemented strategies for advancing legislation through the Committee and the House of Representatives.

In his various roles, I asked John to work on some of the most complex issues, and he secured key legislative wins during periods of divided government and tense political disagreements by finding common ground with his colleagues. He has more than demonstrated his ability to handle any task put before him.

It is my distinct honor to recognize John as he leaves the halls of Congress and starts his next chapter. It is not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. After many early mornings and late nights as a public servant, I know John is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Gail, and 2 children, Julia and James. He will be greatly missed, and I thank him for his dedicated service to the United States and wish him the very best.

RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman has faithfully served as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States, tirelessly advocating for the mutual national security interests of the Kurdistan Region and the United States; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman has exhibited remarkable leadership during the fight against ISIS and the successful defeat of the caliphate, showcasing unwavering dedication, courage, and strategic acumen; and

Whereas, her role as the KRG Representative has been pivotal in strengthening ties between Kurdistan, and the United States, fostering enhanced cooperation, coordination, and partnership in the realms of political, security, humanitarian, economic, and cultural matters; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman has been a trusted friend and ally to the United States Congress, consistently providing invaluable insights, guidance, and perspectives on critical issues of mutual concern; and

Whereas, her unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy, human rights,

and freedom exemplifies the shared values and aspirations of the United States Congress and the Kurdistan Region; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman's illustrious career, which spans from her previous role as the High Representative to the United Kingdom to her current position as the KRG Representative to the United States, reflects her deep knowledge, expertise, and unwavering dedication to public service; and

Whereas, prior to her remarkable public service career, Ms. Abdul Rahman made significant contributions to journalism for 17 years, garnering accolades such as the Observer Newspaper's Farzad Bazoft Memorial Prize in 1993, highlighting her exceptional talent, commitment to truth, and tireless pursuit of journalistic excellence; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman's family legacy, marked by her late father Sami Abdul Rahman's heroic leadership in the Kurdish freedom movement and his critical role in the Kurdish and Iraqi opposition to Saddam Hussein's regime, serves as a testament to her deep-rooted commitment to the cause of freedom, justice, and the rights of the Kurdish people; and

Whereas, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman's personal journey, from being born in Baghdad to becoming an esteemed representative and advocate for the Kurdistan Region, exemplifies the strength, resilience, and determination that defines her character and her unwavering commitment to advancing the welfare and prosperity of the Kurdish people;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, that I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman for her outstanding leadership, tireless dedication, and invaluable contributions as the KRG Representative to the United States. I commend her for being a loyal and trusted friend, ally, and source of wisdom, and I recognize her instrumental role in promoting the shared national security interests of the Kurdistan Region and the United States.

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IM-
PROVE COMMUNICATIONS

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to improve communications between large VA Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Earlier this week, I had a bipartisan amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill pass on the floor that encouraged the VA to do just that.

CBOCs exist to make it easier for veterans to access the healthcare they need in their community and remove the inconvenience of visiting a major VA Medical Center, which is sometimes hours away. Our veterans should not have to jump through hoops to schedule routine appointments in their community.

Too often however, I hear from my constituents that when they call their local CBOC to schedule an appointment or ask a question their call is routed to a major VA Medical Center, or they leave a message and never receive a return call.

The VA healthcare system needs to work for our veterans and ensure they have easy access to the care they are entitled to I strongly encourage the VA to come up with a plan to improve communications between Community Based Outreach Clinics and their major medical centers.

IN APPRECIATION OF LIEUTENANT
GENERAL JOHN SHAW FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES SPACE FORCE

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant General John Edwin Shaw of the United States Space Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Lieutenant General Shaw is retiring from active service after serving for three years as the Deputy Commander of United States Space Command and 33 total years of service to the United States Air Force and the United States Space Force.

Lt. Gen. Shaw was born and raised in Norton, Massachusetts. He is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He received a B.S. degree in astronautical engineering and a minor in Russian language in 1990. After graduating from USAFA, Lt. Gen. Shaw attended the University of Washington, earning his M.S. in aeronautics and astronautics. He also earned an M.A. in organizational management from the George Washington University, an M.A. in military operational arts and sciences from the Air Command and Staff College, and an M.S. in national security strategy from the National War College. Additionally, General Shaw was a senior executive fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School in 2010.

Lt. Gen. Shaw has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of air and space units, highlighted by operations tours in the 50th Space Wing, the National Reconnaissance Office, the 32nd Air Operations Group, and the Space Warfare Center. His operational commands have included the 4th Space Operations Squadron, the 50th Operations Group, and the Space Wing. Prior to his current position, Lt. Gen. Shaw was dual hatted as the Commander, Combined Forces Space Component Command, U.S. Space Command, and Deputy Commander, Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. He also served as the Deputy Commander of Air Force Space Command, United States Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Gen. Shaw has honorably dedicated his life to the service of our Nation and to developing our country's vital space capabilities. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Lt. Gen. Shaw, his wife, Tonia, and their children, Rachel and Timothy. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in civilian life.