

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KENNETH WARREN LEE WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Kenneth Warren Lee, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His hard work and dedication epitomize the best of East Texas values.

Kenneth Lee enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 when only eighteen years old. His 6 years of honorable active duty set the stage for a lifetime of service. Ken completed Instructors Orientation School, Military Police School, and a Criminal Investigation course—and was deployed to Viet Nam. He was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (2 Stars), Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/device), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Ken left the Corps as a Staff Sergeant in 1969. He married Judy, the love of his life, and they began building the life they still share. Using his military training and experience, Ken immediately went to work for the Dallas Police Department. In 1975 he transitioned to the DEA, retiring in 1999. His “retirement” was short lived: Ken served with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Security Threat Groups from 1999 to 2005, where he conceived the Gang Renouncement and Disassociation program still utilized today.

Ken is a lifetime member and leader of the VFW and active in the American Legion. He is Board President of the H.E.A.R.T.S. (Helping Every American Remember Through Serving) Veterans Museum of Texas in Huntsville. Working with other volunteers, Ken helped the museum grow from its infancy to its current permanent home—and has done it all—from setting up displays to giving tours and cleaning up at the end of a long day. After hosting the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, and with personal inspiration and leadership, Ken led fundraising to build an 80 percent scale version of the Wall, in permanent tribute to our Texas Vietnam veteran heroes. Ken also leads H.E.A.R.T.S. outreach, assisting veterans with transportation, coordinating medical appointments, home modifications, groceries, and everything in between.

He has served as President of the Texas Narcotics Officer Association. Ken and Judy both assist with Vacation Bible School, and Ken serves on the church security team. This tireless couple often supports many other community organizations and clubs.

I proudly commend Kenneth Warren Lee of Huntsville to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his enduring service to the Corps and community with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the title of a Gold Star Family is an honor that no family wants. You see, Mr. Speaker, this title is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty, and it honors the service member's ultimate sacrifice while acknowledging their family's loss, grief, and continued healing.

Today, I rise to salute the 14 Gold Star Families that were honored in Jacksonville, Florida on Sunday, August 24, 2023.

The phrase “Gold Star Family,” dates back to World War I, when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The star's color would be changed to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war.

Today, and every day, we hold dear those who have answered the dreaded knock at the door, accepted Old Glory folded with crisp edges, and tearfully spoken their final farewell. Members of a Gold Star Family bear the absence of their fallen hero proudly. They deserve our respect and support for their determination to preserve the memories of those brave American warriors who sacrificed their lives in service to this great Nation.

Gold Star Families find the courage and conviction to press on, transforming their heartbreak into hope, service, and outreach to veteran groups and other military families coping with the same unimaginable loss. It is their ability to endure, overcome, and in turn enrich the lives of others that exemplifies the true American Spirit.

When service members serve, they don't do it alone. Their spouses, children, parents, siblings, and loved ones are a vital part of our country's military community and history.

On this solemn day, we recognize and honor the Gold Star Families of heroes who never made it back home.

We will remember them when we say our prayers, support them in our deeds, and today, we join them in honoring their hero's ultimate sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING BILL AND WENDY WUSTENBERG AND WINDSWEEP HILL FARM & STUDIO

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill and Wendy Wustenberg and Windswept Hill Farm & Studio as the 2023 Dakota County, Minnesota Family Farm of the Year.

Bill and Wendy Wustenberg spent the last 33 years restoring 12 acres of fallow pastures into a productive place to raise kids, invest in sustainable living, and grow Bill's medical device consulting business, Mycroft Medical, LLC. A key partnership with Northfield Wi-Fi solved rural internet access problems and allowed the business to stay home-based and expand internationally with flexibility for family and community involvement.

Their farm is designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and just ended a Minnesota Department of Agriculture Sustainable Ag Demonstration Farm grant. They are home to a flock of Leicester Longwool Sheep, produce USDA-processed chicken and lamb, have a hydroponic GroShed to produce vegetables, herbs, and microgreens year-round, and produce solar energy under a co-generation contract with Dakota Electric.

It is truly an honor to represent the Wustenberg family and I'm thankful for their advocacy for conservation and sustainable agriculture.

RECOGNIZING JASON L. BRADFORD WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present Jason L. Bradford of Nacogdoches, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to this Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

Jason enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1994 and was assigned to the Fourth Marine Division in Galveston, Texas. In 1996 Jason graduated from Sam Houston State University and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Reserve Officer. In December 1996, he accepted a regular commission into the USMC as an Active Duty Officer. When honorably discharged in 2004, Jason held the rank of Captain and served as a Light Armored Officer. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, the Rifle Expert Badge, the Pistol Sharpshooter Badge, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Letter of Appreciation (2), Meritorious Mast, and Recruiter Ribbon.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Jason became the owner of Nacogdoches Sheet Metal, Plumbing, and A/C, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He recruited and trained former U.S. service members who are now part of a cohesive, dedicated company team meeting the plumbing, air conditioning, and sheet metal needs in the Deep East Texas area.

Jason is a “True Patriot”—having honorably served his country in uniform, he now tirelessly supports his community. He is a lifetime member of the USMC League and has been

• 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.

a member of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club for the past 15 years. During the winter storm of 2021, Jason assisted the Veterans County Service officer of Nacogdoches in helping disabled veterans who had been without water and electricity for several days. Most recently, Jason established the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the families of veterans and first responders of Nacogdoches County, who have been killed or injured in the line of duty, by providing direct financial assistance with funds for school, training, or other unmet needs.

A dedicated husband and father of 2, Jason has been a sponsor and coach in the Nacogdoches Boys Youth Baseball Association for the past 6 years.

It is my honor to award Jason L. Bradford of Nacogdoches, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WICHITA
STATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR
MELVIN KAHN

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wichita State Emeritus Professor Melvin Kahn, who sadly passed away this month at the age of 92.

For over 5 decades, Professor Kahn served as one of Wichita State's most highly acclaimed political science professors. Along with authoring 2 books on complex case studies in political science, Professor Kahn received many accolades and honors throughout his academic career. He received the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, the WSU Mortar Board Teaching Recognition Award in 2012, the WSU Academy of Excellence Teaching Award in 2007, Carnegie Foundation Kansas Professor of the Year in 1989, and the Regents' Award for Excellence in Teaching, WSU, in 1982. Further, Professor Kahn and his wife Joan also founded the Joan & Melvin Kahn Native American Indian Scholarship, which is given to a Native American student who exhibits a successful high school performance, college potential, leadership qualities, and financial need.

Beyond the awards and recognition he received, Professor Kahn's legacy is also the hundreds of students he inspired to pursue careers in public service. Through the Robert J. Dole Internship Program, Professor Kahn assisted students in finding meaningful internships and enhancing their education by serving their community at the federal, state, and local levels. I am proud to have had the privilege of employing several of these bright young Kansans in my office.

Professor Kahn firmly believed that, in the words of Aristotle, "the mind is a fire to be lit and not a vessel to be filled," and the true measure of a teacher is challenging students' minds and encouraging them to go out and see the world on their own. He will be missed by all who knew him, and his memory will go on in those he inspired.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "COACH"
DOUGLAS WILLIAM SHANKS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Douglas William Shanks. "Coach" Shanks passed away on September 4, 2023. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Doug was born in Soso, Mississippi, to Fred and Frances Shanks of Taylorsville. He grew up in Gulfport and Jackson, graduating from Provine High School. He attended Mississippi State University and later graduated from Liberty University.

Beginning in his twenties, Doug was involved in politics in Jackson, becoming the first Republican Commissioner for the city of Jackson in 1973. He was instrumental in the rise of the Mississippi Republican Party in the 1970s and helped to lead Republican causes throughout Jackson.

As City Commissioner he oversaw the fire department, police department, and sanitation. Doug also was an important figure for the continuation of racial reconciliation in Jackson and across Mississippi through his work as Commissioner by bringing on many African Americans to work in different City departments.

Shanks was also instrumental in bringing the Mets to Jackson and helped to establish Smith-Wills Stadium. Even greater than Doug's love of politics was his love and passion for baseball. Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame baseball coach Hill Denson said of Shanks, "Doug loved baseball and he lived it. Mississippi baseball is a whole lot better because of Doug Shanks." Doug coached baseball at every level, coaching high school, Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and American Legion ball. As the head coach of Hartfield Academy, Doug won 3 MAIS baseball championships. Doug was also the first white head baseball coach in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Doug coached Mississippi Valley State University for 15 years and won 5 SWAC championships.

Doug will be missed by his family, friends and players whose lives he touched during his time with us. The state of Mississippi and the lives of many athletes, family members, and loved ones whom Doug impacted are forever changed. I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of Doug Shanks. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Doug Shanks' tremendous contributions to his community, state, and Nation.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT MARK ANTHONY LEE,
USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee, of Pflugerville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is

a privilege to salute an exemplary soldier and citizen.

Born at Harlingen Air Force Base, Texas, retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Lee literally grew up in the Air Force. Enlisting in 1979, nineteen-year-old Mark Lee began his own journey, serving in multiple roles and special assignments in Electronic Security Command, including Air Force Cryptologic Support Center, Space Systems, U2 Black Cat Reconnaissance, Space Shuttle, Minuteman missile, and other electronic warfare programs. His numerous awards included NCO of the Year. Transferred to 36th Fighter Air Base, Germany, as Wing Materials Management Officer, supporting four squadrons of F-15 Eagle Fighter Aircraft and 10,000 base personnel, Mark led all Europe with aircraft highest mission readiness, and was selected to represent USAF Europe in developing and implementing new Air Force Supply Management directives and training.

Transferred to Lackland Air Force Base as Materials Management Officer, Mark's expertise saved millions of dollars and thousands of labor hours. His final transfer was to Randolph Air Force Base as Chief, Regional Aircraft Logistics, functionally managing over thirteen Logistics Groups, and coordinating with Engine Repair facilities to ensure requisition, repair, and delivery to production—resulting in 100 percent mission readiness. Mark deployed with Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, and Northern Watch. He earned the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal-3, Air Force Commendation Medal-4, Air Force Achievement Medal, Armed Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal-2, and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Retiring in 1998, Mark is a mainstay of community support—especially for young people and those in need. He helped local FFA students with funding, transportation, and animal maintenance. For eight years he has worked establishing a meals account for children at a local elementary school. Mark regularly collects and distributes food to low-income families and organizes annual Food Pantry drives. Mark raises and donates funds for children with cancer and people in need and helps maintain the local cemetery. Recognized by the Pflugerville Police Department for Outstanding Service to the Community, he is the 2nd Vice Commander of Kerlin-Lyerly American Legion Post 154, and a recipient of its Certification of Appreciation (2016-2022) and 2023 Legionnaire of the Year.

I am honored to award retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING CONSERVATION
BEYOND BORDERS

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Conservation Beyond Borders and support their mission to combat illegal poaching. Their work helps to also combat other illicit activities including the trafficking of humans, arms, and narcotics across the globe.

I am proud that this important organization is led by an outstanding Minnesotan, Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink. I'm especially grateful for