

States Transportation Command to fly the KC-46 Pegasus at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey as Chief of Safety, 305th Air Mobility Wing.

Lt Col Pitliangas is the first member of his family to serve in our U.S. Air Force. Mark attended the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2008 before attending pilot training. From there, he went on to fly the mighty C-130 Hercules, otherwise known as the "Four Fans of Freedom" and honorably served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat pilot over 3 deployments. Lt Col Pitliangas has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of units, highlighted by serving as the Director of Operations for the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron in Kuwait. During that time, he enabled 29,000 airlift and air refueling missions directly supporting Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL flown from our busiest airfield in United States Central Command.

In the winter of 2020, Mark was selected to serve as Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs under the United States Transportation Command. As the primary liaison between Members of Congress, congressional staff, committees, and USTRANSCOM, he provided valuable insight and understanding of transportation policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been a tremendous benefit to our Congressional offices. His dogged determination and exceptional coordination enabled the USTRANSCOM Commander to accomplish over 40 office calls with Members and Staff in preparation for her annual posture testimony.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Lieutenant Colonel Pitliangas during his time representing the United States Transportation Command on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Mark, his wife, Eleni, and their children, Stephanos, George, and Nicholas. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our United States Air Force. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

Aim High . . . Fly, Fight, and Win.

#### HONORING BICOL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to each and every member of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville on this momentous occasion of their 40th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, unity, and tireless dedication of the association in fostering camaraderie and enriching the cultural fabric of our community.

Founded 4 decades ago, the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville has demonstrated an exemplary devotion to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Bicol region.

Their collective efforts in organizing cultural festivals, educational workshops, and chari-

table endeavors have left an indelible mark on the Jacksonville community. The cultural exchange and mutual understanding facilitated by their association have created bridges of friendship and cooperation that transcend borders and enrich the lives of all who call this great city home.

As a representative of Florida's 4th Congressional District, I am inspired by the dedication and passion exhibited by the members of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville. Their tireless work in preserving their heritage while actively contributing to the progress and prosperity of our community serves as a shining example for us all.

I encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating 40 years of invaluable contributions of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville to the cultural tapestry of our city.

#### RECOGNIZING BRIAN LEE CREWS 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 to present Brian Lee Crews of Lufkin, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to his Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

A Lufkin native, Brian enlisted in the Marine Corps delayed entry program in 1980 when only a high school junior, drilling monthly with a Marine Reserve Unit in Shreveport, Louisiana throughout his last two years in high school. In 1981, Brian reported for "boot camp" at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California; he then underwent infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. He served as a First Platoon Radio Operator, then transferred to Marine Reserve Unit Fox Company, 2D Battalion, 23D Marine Regiment, Salt Lake City, Utah as the Commanding Officers Radio Operator. Transferred to the 4th Tank TOW Co., LT 4th MARDIV in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Brian served as a squad leader, section leader, and TOW Trainer. While in the TOW Unit, he was chosen to lead the detail charged with performing funerals/honors for Marines killed in the Beirut barracks bombing. Brian served with the Toys for Tots campaign at all duty stations. He attained the rank of Sergeant, receiving his honorable discharge in 1991. He earned the Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, Rifle Expert (3), and Pistol Expert (3).

A Lufkin ISD "Teacher of the Year," Brian has taught Graphic Design/Printing Technologies at Lufkin High School for more than 30 years. The founding member of the Lufkin Detachment of the Marine Corps League, chartered in 2010, he was instrumental in starting the local Toys for Tots campaign in 2011 and serves as the Campaign Coordinator. He founded the Military Association Resources Disaster Emergency Team in 2017 during Hurricane Harvey, using surplus military vehicles and equipment to provide search, rescue, and recovery during national disasters. Brian founded and produced the Angelina County AirFest, a local aviation event with proceeds benefitting the local Toys for Tots. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club, and a LOVE INC. Volunteer of the Year recipient.

It is my honor to award Brian L. Crews with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FINDLAY CAMPUS

##### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2023*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Owens Community College's Findlay Campus in Findlay, Ohio. Throughout the years, Owens has been a comprehensive community college providing educational opportunities and training to the residents of our communities. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of students and faculty have made Owens an outstanding educational institution.

Originally, Owens Community College was founded in 1965 in Wood County. The college was named after Michael J. Owens, a Toledo-based inventor of automated glass bottle-making technology. In 1983 Owens opened their Findlay Campus which occupies more than 60 acres. With their new campus, Owens was able to expand its coverage and continue to provide education to students from all walks of life. Currently, Owens's service district includes Lucas, Wood, Hancock, and parts of Ottawa counties.

Owens Community College offers more than 160 programs and certificates to its students who are preparing for a career, retraining for a new career, seeking professional development, or obtaining credits to transfer to a 4-year college or university. Their dedicated faculty members bring industry knowledge, information, and ideas into the classroom to provide students with a better understanding, how studies will translate into careers. Outside the classroom, students can experience an enriching campus life through student activities, clubs and organizations, athletics, and volunteer activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Owens Community College and its students, faculty, and administration on this remarkable occasion. By celebrating the 40th anniversary, community members and Ohio residents recognize Owens's contribution to its students and the surrounding communities. Congratulations to Owens Community College on this significant milestone.

#### RECOGNIZING DORSEY O'NEAL WALKER, ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING SURVIVORS OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

##### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2023*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorsey O'Neal Walker, a Texan who valiantly served our Nation during some of the darkest hours of WWII.

Dorsey grew up in Ora, a small Angelina County community, graduating in 1942 from Huntington High School. Drafted during WWII,

he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944. Assigned to the Fourth Marine Division in Maui, Hawaii, as Company Clerk because he could type, Dorsey would soon deploy with the Fourth Marines in 3 major Pacific war battles: Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. When returned to Maui from Saipan for replacements, he was 1 of only 12 among 200 in his company not killed or wounded. Then Corporal Walker's first Reserve separation from the Corps occurred in December 1945; his final Reserve separation occurred in 1948. Dorsey and his wife Habie have been married for 77 years.

Commendation Citations received from his Commanding General illuminate Dorsey's valor:

"For excellent performance of duties in connection with operations against the enemy on Saipan and Tinian, Marianas Islands from 15 June to 1 August 1944. Private First Class Walker diligently performed every assigned duty. His willingness to give battle, and his indifference to the hardships which he encountered throughout operation, evoked the admiration of his officers and the men serving with him. His unselfish devotion to the task at hand was a material contribution to the early and complete victory over the enemy. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

"For excellent service in the line of duties as a Radio Operator with a rifle company in combat with the enemy on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 February to 16 March

1945. Corporal Walker skillfully carried out his assigned duties under the most hazardous combat conditions. Frequently, on reconnaissances with his company commander or at a forward observation post, he unhesitatingly exposed himself to enemy mortar and small arms fire to carry out his duties successfully, and by his extraordinary resourcefulness and efficiency, he rendered invaluable aid to his company. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

It is my distinct honor to recognize Dorsey O'Neal Walker, a Texan, an American, and a "True Patriot," as one of the oldest living survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima.