

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS
MILITARY SERVICE OF COR-
PORAL THOMAS RAMEY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Corporal Thomas Ramey of Kingsport in Sullivan County, Tennessee for his heroic military service during the Vietnam War. CPL Ramey reported for duty in the United States Marines in 1968 after receiving his draft notice. He then transferred to Parris Island for Basic Training before joining the Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Lejeune. At Camp Lejeune, CPL Ramey also received training at the Motor Transport School for Jeeps, as well as 6x6 and PC trucks.

The following year, CPL Ramey was assigned to Camp Pendleton to prepare for a combat tour in Vietnam. Traveling across the Pacific, CPL Ramey stopped in Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan, before he finally arrived in Vietnam. During his tour of duty, CPL Ramey was stationed at Hill 327 Marine Base to conduct transportation operations with the 1st Marine Division Battalion 327 in the Transportation Corps.

As a truck driver, CPL Ramey transported everything—from North Vietnamese POWs to ammunition supplies. On August 12, 1969, within weeks of his arrival, CPL Ramey and his unit were ambushed by North Vietnamese Army Sappers in their own compound. Sappers were commando units, who trained to inflict devastating attacks on key road and bridge assets. During this engagement, CPL Ramey saw many of his comrades, including his roommate, pay the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, CPL Ramey reported to the USS El Paso, where he sailed from Norfolk, VA to Alexandroupolis, Greece. In Greece, he participated in wargaming exercises along with an international coalition of 5 other countries. In 1970, the El Paso was put on standby by President Richard Nixon due to civil unrest in Jordan in preparation for hostage rescue. Shortly after, CPL Ramey was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps later that year. I join East Tennessee and the Nation in saying thank you to CPL Ramey for his service, and welcome home.

Please join me in recognizing Corporal Thomas Ramey for his bravery, courage, and valiant military service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, I was unavoidably detained during the vote on Roll Call No. 409.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 409.

HONORING THE ST. JOSEPH COUN-
TY INDIANA BAR ASSOCIATION
ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the St. Joseph County Bar Association on their 150th anniversary this Fall.

For a century and a half now, the St. Joseph County Bar Association has been dedicated to advancing the principles of justice and the Rule of Law. As the oldest county lawyer organization in Indiana, the St. Joseph County Indiana Bar Association has long been a leader in raising the standard for the legal profession in the Hoosier state.

In their distinguished history, the St. Joseph County Bar Association has proved instrumental in bringing a federal district court to northern Indiana with a seat in South Bend. From offering referral services to connect clients with attorneys to implementing programs that provide low and no-cost legal services, the St. Joseph County Bar Association is a body that embodies sharing common ideals to serve the common good.

On the wall inside the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives are 23 marble relief portraits of great lawgivers throughout history, from Moses to Thomas Jefferson. The portraits serve as a constant reminder of the foundational role the law plays in an ordered society and our daily lives.

The Rule of Law tradition we have inherited helps secure individual liberty, promote justice, and ensures the conditions necessary for human flourishing. It is incumbent on us to do our part to make sure the principles of justice and Rule of Law precepts are passed seamlessly from one generation to the next. I know that mission is one the St. Joseph County Bar Association shares wholeheartedly and works tirelessly to advance.

I am proud to congratulate the St. Joseph County Indiana Bar Association on reaching this impressive milestone and on 150 years of dedicated service. I wish them continued success and many more anniversaries to celebrate going forward.

HONORING THE VALIANT MILI-
TARY SERVICE OF SERGEANT
MALCOLM E. WOLCOTT

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Malcolm E. Wolcott of Sevierville in Sevier County, Tennessee for his distinguished military service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War Era.

SGT Wolcott proudly served our country between March 29, 1965, and October 28, 1968. During his military service, SGT Wolcott received many assignments both domestically and abroad, including Lackland Air Force Base in Texas; Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii; Griffiss Air Force Base in New York; as well as duties at Clark Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan; the Philippines; Taiwan; and a temporary duty at Yakota Air Force Base in Japan.

nawa, Japan; the Philippines; Taiwan; and a temporary duty at Yakota Air Force Base in Japan.

SGT Wolcott honorably served as Security Police, providing security for nuclear weapons storage areas, perimeter security for Presidential and dignitary arrivals, central security as a Control Communications Plotter, and led as an Area Supervisor. During his last assignment, he inspired the next generation of our service members, providing training to new security police arrivals at Griffiss Air Force Base.

Please join me in recognizing Sergeant Malcom E. Wolcott for his distinguished military service to our great Nation.

HONORING MARY DENNY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mary Denny.

For those who did not have the privilege of knowing her, Mary was a valued public servant who gave back to her North Texas community for nearly five decades. Today, North Texas mourns her unexpected death on September 14, 2023.

Mary graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Texas in 1973, with degrees in education and mathematics. Almost immediately after graduation she heeded the call to public service, entrusted in the role of Denton County precinct chair for ten years. Recognizing her dedication and abilities, her friends and colleagues elevated her as Chairwoman of the Denton County Republican Party in 1983.

During her eight years in that position, she became well known not just in North Texas, but across the state of Texas—all the way to Austin. In 1990, Governor William Clements appointed Mary to the Texas Committee for the Humanities for her work in the community.

One of the greatest honors of her professional life came in 1993, when her neighbors and fellow North Texans elected Mary to a seat in the Texas House of Representatives, a position they would keep honoring her with over and over again.

While in Austin, her fellow Representatives learned what Mary's community already knew. She received numerous awards for her service, including the Outstanding Texas Legislator Award and the 1995 Star of Service Award from Common Cause.

Even when her time in the State House drew to a close, that did not stop Mary. For years after retiring from elected office, the Denton Benefit League, United Way, the Arts Council, City Federation of Women's Clubs, the Current Century Department of Ariel Club, and the board of the YMCA were all enriched through her involvement. Her personal contributions to her community culminated in 2018 when she returned to her alma mater, to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of North Texas. Of all of her achievements however, she always felt her greatest accomplishment was being a mother to her beloved son Bryan.

The Honorable Mary Denny will be remembered in towns as small as Aubrey and cities as big as Austin. Her memory and dedication

to her work will continue to inspire not just her neighbors in Denton County but all Texans. I ask that you please keep Mary's family in your thoughts and prayers in their time of loss, and to give them the strength to carry on Mary's legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND NOBLE MILITARY SERVICE OF AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE, FIRST CLASS, DANIEL T. GRIFFIN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and noble military service of Aviation Machinist's Mate, First Class, Daniel T. Griffin, who died in the line of duty at Kaneohe Naval Air Station during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

AMM1c Daniel Griffin was born in Allendale, Illinois, and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado as an infant with his family. While growing up, AMM1c Griffin enjoyed hunting and fishing and worked for the Gazette Telegraph Co. during his years at Colorado Springs High School where he graduated in 1928.

AMM1c Griffin enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 19 in 1930 with a desire to serve his country and see the world. As he served in the Navy, it became his dream to become a pilot. In 1937, he reported to flight school graduating as an AMM2c Naval Aviation Pilot with his Patrol Bomber Y pilot's license in 1938. Following graduation, AMM1c Griffin was transferred to Pearl Harbor and later Kaneohe Bay in March of 1941.

Kaneohe Bay sits on the east side of the Hawaiian island of Oahu. On December 7, 1941, this area was one of the first parts of Hawaii to be attacked by the Japanese Imperial Forces. During that morning, AMM1c Griffin was standing watch and was one of the first servicemen to alert others of the Japanese attack. Swimming out to his plane, AMM1c Griffin immediately jumped into action to try and save his plane from destruction as it sat in the waters of the bay.

However, his aircraft was hit by Japanese machine gun fire as it became airborne leaving the waters. His plane crashed, but he survived and was badly burned. He attempted to swim to shore, but tragically lost his life at the hands of the Japanese machine gun fire. AMM1c Griffin was the first Coloradan to die in the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II. He left behind his wife, Lucille, and two children, Danelle and Donald, and was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

AMM1c Griffin was issued a citation by Admiral Nimitz for his valor in combat. In 1943 the United States Navy commissioned the U.S.S. *Daniel T. Griffin* APD 38, an Escort Vessel, in recognition of AMM1c Griffin's sacrifice at Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring the life and service of Aviation Machinist's Mate, First Class, Daniel T. Griffin, who faithfully served his country, community, family, and Colorado's 5th Congressional District.

HONORING THE HEROIC MILITARY SERVICE OF SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS KENNETH LEE LOCKHART

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor SP/5 Kenneth Lee Lockhart of Mooresburg in Hawkins County, Tennessee for his valiant service in the United States Army.

SP/5 Lockhart enlisted in the U.S. Army in August of 1969, and was promptly sent to Ft. Jackson, SC, for bootcamp and Ft. Rucker, AL for helicopter school. Immediately after his training, SP/5 Lockhart left for Vietnam, where his first duty station was Vung Tau as a Helicopter Mechanic.

After 6 months, he transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fire Support Base Buttons with the A1/9 1st Cavalry, where he was assigned as a Crew Chief-Door Gunner to a UH-1 D Huey helicopter. Their flights operating as hunter-killer teams, where they provided critical reconnaissance to areas after enemy activity was located. SP/5 Lockhart accumulated a total of 185 hours of flying time, 180 of which were combat assaults, and received the Air Medal and Bronze star for his meritorious achievements.

Please join me in recognizing SP/5 Kenneth Lee Lockhart for his courage and bravery in service of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING VICKIE McCURDY'S 50 YEARS IN BANKING

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vickie McCurdy as she celebrates 50 years in the banking industry with Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Vickie was born on January 19, 1955. She married her husband, Gary McCurdy, on June 15, 1973. Her first day at work was October 1, 1973.

Vickie and Gary were blessed with one son, Dr. Matthew McCurdy. Matthew is married to Elisha, and they are expecting Vickie's first grandchild early next year. Vickie attends Lebanon Church of Christ in Piedmont, Alabama, where her husband, Gary, serves as pastor.

Vickie has worked to raise money for the American Cancer Society for a number of years and helped with the Spring Garden Education Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for Vickie McCurdy. Congratulations to her on 50 years of service.

HONORING JOE DELEON "LITTLE JOE" HERNANDEZ

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate Temple, Texas music

legend Joe DeLeon "Little Joe" Hernandez, an NEA National Heritage Fellowship honoree for 2023. The "King of the Brown Sound," he helped pioneer Tejano music, a uniquely American synthesis of Mexican and European styles that reflects the resilient spirit of the people and the land in which they live.

Little Joe is a Texas-style success story. Born in poverty to a family of cotton pickers, he took up the trade as a child before finding success as a musician. Joe built his reputation on his live performances in the neon-and-smoke wonderland of bailes grandes, the big public dances that are the essence of Chicano social life throughout the Southwest. With many classic albums and beloved songs in his catalogue, he continues touring the world, trailblazing, looking forward to new challenges, breaking down cultural and musical barriers, and innovating his musical style.

Folk music is the song of the people, their struggles, tragedies, and triumphs. While he's won multiple Grammys and countless civic awards, Joe remains a humble and steadfast champion of equality and justice, using his artistry to bring audiences together for a more harmonious world. His performances are crowd-pleasing showcases of his diverse influences, inspired songwriting, and stellar musicianship that transform into cultural and political celebrations.

Little Joe Hernandez is a most deserving recipient of an NEA National Heritage Fellowship, our Nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. He remains a vital part of our Nation's rich artistic tradition and has made indelible contributions to a music that speaks to a uniquely American experience. I proudly celebrate his life, career, and contributions and wish him nothing but the best for the future.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CORPORAL WILLIAM THEODOR TURNER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Corporal William Theodor Turner of the United States Marine Corps of Johnson City in Washington County, Tennessee.

Corporal Turner enlisted, along with his friend Norris Shell, in the United States Marine Corps on May 18, 1956. He went to Boot Camp in Parris Island, South Carolina in May until September of that year. While at Parris Island, he was one of two Marines promoted to the rank of Private First Class. After leaving Parris Island, he was stationed at Camp Geiger/Camp Lejeune for advanced infantry training for approximately one month. After Camp Lejeune, he was transferred to the Sixth Marines, 2nd Division Line Company.

While he was at Camp Lejeune, a Major and a Sergeant came down from Washington, D.C. to recruit candidates for service at 8th and I. Every day, Corporal Turner and his unit drilled for at least a week. The Major and Sergeant asked a selected group of Marines if they were interested in serving at 8th and I. Corporal Turner responded Yes. A stipulation of serving at 8th and I was that whatever rank you held when you first entered that duty remained the same. While at 8th and I, Corporal