

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 SP5 Kenneth Lee Lockhart of Mooresburg in Hawkins County, Tennessee for his valiant service in the United States Army.

SP5 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, SP5 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. SP5 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 SP5 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

Turner was a member of the first Evening Parade. He also participated in President Eisenhower's second Inauguration Parade.

While in Washington, D.C., Corporal Turner began training as part of the Silent Drill Team. He was in the First Platoon. His platoon trained at 8th and I, and at Camp David. As part of their duties, he met foreign dignitaries flying into D.C. at the airport.

After a clearance by the FBI and Secret Service, along with 5 other Marines, Corporal Turner was selected to be in the Presidential Guard. He was assigned to guard the parameter around the President in his office, while at Camp David or anywhere else he may be. President Eisenhower gave each Marine an engraved pin knife with his name on it. Corporal Turner has kept his pin knife to this day.

Corporal Turner's first assignment was to accompany President Eisenhower to Newport, Rhode Island in October of 1957. He was reassigned at this point to the Secret Service. The Secret Service told him to forget everything the Marines had trained him for and that if anyone and they meant anyone entered the area where the President was, he was to shoot them and that they (the Secret Service) would take care of the details. Corporal Turner recollects that he would have probably shot his own grandmother.

While at 8th and I, he represented the United States at a sporting event in Bermuda called the British Tattoo Festival. He flew from Washington, D.C. to Bermuda on the Marine Commandant's private plane. On Corporal Turner's return from Bermuda, the Commandant's private plane or any form of transportation was not available to fly him back to Washington, D.C. The only transport available was a C-119. He was then given one day's parachute training. Upon departure, Corporal Turner received a parachute, shark repellent and a life preserver for the flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Thankfully, he did not have to use any of that assigned equipment.

After 2 years at 8th and I, he earned the rank of Corporal. Following his retirement from active-duty service, Corporal Turner joined the United States Marine Corps Reserves and proudly served his country for another 4 years.

Please join me in thanking Corporal William Theodor Turner for his distinguished military service to the United States of America.

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RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER ADKISSON

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**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. PETTERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexander Adkisson, a manufacturing and construction teacher at Green Mountain High School in Lakewood, Colorado.

Mr. Adkisson is an incredible educator who was recently recognized for teaching excellence due to his experience, insights, creative approach to teaching, and commitment to student success. He draws from his own struggle in academics to workshop innovative ways to ensure that none of his students fall behind. Mr. Adkisson co-developed the Algebra 1, Manufacturing, Processes, Entrepreneurship, and Design (AMPED) program which helps students run a business that creates products

for sale while applying the mathematical principles taught in his class. He fosters a sense of entrepreneurial spirit in his students while also ensuring their grasp of mathematical concepts.

Mr. Adkisson is helping pave the way for the next generation of Coloradans looking to make a difference in STEM fields. On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, I thank Mr. Adkisson for his dedicated service to his students and to our education system.

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CONGRATULATING MR. GREG KESTER ON RECEIVING THE 2024 MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Potosi High School's Mr. Greg Kester on receiving the 2024 Missouri Teacher of the Year Award.

Throughout his nearly three decades as a teacher at Potosi High School, Mr. Kester has played a significant role in shaping generations of Missourians. Countless families in my district share an immense appreciation for Mr. Kester's dedication to our children's education and community's success. His decades of public service have made him an invaluable member of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Greg Kester for being named the 2024 Missouri Teacher of the Year.

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HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE OF SPECIALIST DONALD W. SCALF

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**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Specialist Donald W. Scalf of Bluff City in Sullivan County, Tennessee for his honorable military service in the United States Army from 1963 to 1965. SPC Scalf proudly served with the 37th Field Artillery Unit in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany in support of the 24th Infantry Division following the construction of the Berlin Wall.

As a member of the Communications Section, he managed the switchboard to coordinate phone lines between the 8in Howitzer Batteries and protect from interception by the enemy. SPC Scalf often recollects the memorable experiences he had in Germany, including digging trenches in the deep snow of Southern Germany to maintain switchboard operations or going ahead of the Howitzer guns to prepare for the next position.

Please join me in recognizing Specialist Donald W. Scalf for his distinguished military service to our great Nation.

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RECOGNIZING SERGEANT ALTON RUSSEL HEIMBACH

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**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Mr. Alton Russel Heimbach on the auspicious occasion of his 100th Birthday on August 7, 2023.

Mr. Heimbach enlisted in the U.S. Army at 19 years old. Earning the rank of Sergeant (SGT), he served in Company C, 157th Combat Engineers and fought with "The Greatest Generation" on the Atlantic front, He served in General George Patton's 3rd U.S. Army, which marched across Northern France.

SGT Heimbach's platoon landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on June 25, 1944. He was instrumental in keeping the 3rd Army moving by building bridges and repairing roads that were destroyed by the Germans. Most significantly, he helped to build the first Bailey Bridge, implemented primarily to help our Troops cross the Seine River, but served many thereafter, these bridges were critical to our mission of pursuing the retreating Axis forces. When Patton's 3rd Army moved into Paris, the 157th Engineers were among the first Soldiers to enter the city. SGT Heimbach went on to serve in Rhineland, Germany, Austria, and other areas in Central Europe, until his return to the United States upon the end of World War II in December 1945.

After military service, Mr Heimbach had a successful and varied career ranging from heavy machine equipment operator to superintendent. He remains dedicated to the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren, and his wife, Maria and their 3 children, Alton, Mary, and Brian.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate Alton Russel Heimbach on his 100th Birthday, but also for his distinguished, tireless, and selfless service to our Nation. He sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him Godspeed, and many more years of great health, prosperity, and happiness.

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HONORING THE STEVE AND NANCY FOX CANCER CENTER

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**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Fox Family Foundation for their transformative investment to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso to help launch the "Steve and Nancy Fox Cancer Center," the first comprehensive cancer center in West Texas.

Steve Fox, who has called El Paso home for the past 45 years, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Fox Auto Team, a group of car dealerships based in El Paso. He is a cancer warrior, who battled stage 4 tongue and neck cancer over two decades ago. Steve Fox has tirelessly advocated for comprehensive cancer care in our community and has served on the board of the Rio Grande Cancer Foundation and MD Anderson's Board of Visitors and Advance Team. For 20 years, it has