

RECOGNIZING THE TRANTHAM
FAMILY AS ALABAMA'S OUT-
STANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Daniel and Carla Trantham and their children, Davis, Sadie, Anna Kate, Sawyer and Callie for being named Alabama's Outstanding Young Farm Family as well as being named the nation's top young farm family during the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention. This is the first time an Alabama Farmers Federation farm family has won this award.

The Tranthams are row crop and cattle farmers who run their own feed operation. They bag and sell over 80 tons of feed and grain on a weekly basis at their storefront in Alexandria and through feed stores.

The Trantham family also sells wheat straw and Bermudagrass hay while improving yields on 1,000 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans and cotton through irrigation and seed selection. Since 2010, Daniel has more than doubled grain storage and tripled his cattle herd.

The family also operates a trucking company where Carla manages payroll.

The Tranthams are members of Leatherwood Baptist Church. Daniel is the local Young Farmers chair and serves on the Alabama Farmers Federation State Soybean Committee. Carla serves on the local Women's Leadership Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this young family on these 2 great honors. Congratulations to the Tranthams.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GEN-
ERAL STEVEN ROGER RUDDER,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
(RETIRED)

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Marine who has served our great nation for over 38 years. From a Cobra Pilot to a General Officer leading the Marine Corps largest operational command, Marine Forces Pacific, Lieutenant General Steven Rudder has made a significant impact on the Marine Corps. He has flown attack helicopters in combat and commanded Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 26, and also was in charge of the Legislative Affairs office for the Marine Corps. During his time with the Legislative Affairs office, he was responsible for ensuring the U.S. Congress had the most up to date information on all Marine Corps ground and air programs.

He commanded the 1st Marine Air Wing in Japan with Wing deployments to Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Australia. He also served as the planning officer at the United States Indo-Pacific Command where he led operational planning and further strengthened relationships with our Western Pacific partners and allies.

As the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation, he aggressively

transitioned the F-35B aircraft program to include oversight of the historic F-35B deployment on the HMS *Queen Elizabeth*. Additionally, Lieutenant General Rudder completed the MV-22 and H-1 aircraft transitions and increased the readiness of Marine Corps Fighter force to 80 percent.

Lieutenant General Rudder finished his career by commanding Marine Forces Pacific, the largest Marine Corps command with over 80,000 Marines. Under his command, the Marine Forces Pacific reestablished a significant program with the Philippines and entered into several trilateral agreements with Japan and Australia. Lieutenant General Rudder would go on to chair the 20 nation Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium with his Japanese counterpart. He was a key figure in the reestablishment of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Corps Air Group.

Ashore or afloat, Lieutenant General Rudder has insured our Marines were ready to fight on behalf of our nation, and on behalf of our nation's commitments to our allies and partners. For his incredible leadership, Lieutenant General Rudder was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun by former Minister of Defense Nobuo Kishi. He was also awarded the Gukun Medal, which is also called the Order of National Security Merit, signed by South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol. It was personally awarded by the ROK Commandant and signifies the impact Lieutenant General Rudder has made in the defense of the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Lieutenant General Rudder's awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat "V" Device, the Defense Superior Medal (2 awards) and the Legion of Merit (2 awards). The Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat "V" Device is of particular note, as it is our Nation's highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement and in Lieutenant General Rudder's case, was awarded due to his courage and skill in combat.

I want to note the close ties Lieutenant General Rudder and his family has with my Congressional District (NC-03). They were stationed for about 10 years total in the Jacksonville, North Carolina area. His son, Dean Rudder, graduated from high school there and is a graduate of East Carolina University (ECU) and his daughter, Brittany, attended three schools in my District. Brittany currently resides in Jacksonville, where she has made it her permanent home for the past 12 years.

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize his wife, Holly, and her support of Lieutenant General Rudder's career. She was 100 percent behind him during his entire 38-year career and is a Navy veteran herself, after growing up in an Air Force family living all over the world. Needless to say, many of Lieutenant General Rudder's successes can be attributed directly to Holly's support. I wish both of them all the best as they transition to this new chapter of life. May they have fair winds and following seas. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICARDO
MOLINA SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Ricardo Molina Sr., who passed away on December 29, 2022.

Mr. Molina leaves behind a giant legacy. A native of Laredo, Texas, he was a tireless advocate for education and young people in South Texas. After joining the United ISD Board of Trustees in 1996, Mr. Molina spearheaded efforts to bolster school security, reduce rates of drug use and dependency, and establish the district's dropout recovery program. He was also an advocate of adult education programs in Webb County, believing that learning is a lifelong endeavor.

Mr. Molina's life is a testament to the value of education and hard work. At different times in his life, he worked in oil fields, cotton fields, and machine shops. He identified most with kids from working-class backgrounds, always fighting to ensure they had the very best opportunities in the classroom and beyond. When UISD opened a brand new, state-of-the-art middle school in August 2022, it was only fitting that the new school bear Mr. Molina's name.

As a pillar of our community, Mr. Molina will be missed dearly. My thoughts are with his loved ones, and I pray that they find comfort in the beauty of their memories with him—and in the knowledge that Mr. Molina touched the lives of so many in our community.

NEIL M. LARIMER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Neil M. Larimer, Colonel, United States Marine Corps, of Southlake, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Larimer was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956, serving as an artillery officer with the Second and Third Marine Divisions during the Vietnam War. He saw combat while in convoy operations in South Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" device indicating valorous actions in combat and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in a roadside bomb blast. His other decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and Parachutist Badge.

The selflessness Mr. Larimer demonstrated in the U.S. Marine Corps continues with his service to his community. He has volunteered on the Executive Swimming Committee for the Amateur Athletic Union and as a Lector with his local Catholic church.

Mr. Larimer's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine

Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING GEORGE PUKENAS, ON
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Pukenas, a U.S. Navy veteran who bravely served during World War II, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Petty Officer First Class, George Pukenas, proudly answered the call to protect his country on Landing Ship Tank (LST) 991 assigned to the Pacific Theater for over 3 years until his honorable discharge in 1946. George exemplified integrity and resilience even as his unit suffered heavy trials and losses. In grave circumstances they persevered, enduring numerous attacks and even surviving a typhoon in the South China Sea.

Earning 5 battle stars while aboard the LST 991, it was through their unwavering dedication that they successfully completed multiple operations. These efforts were later recognized as George earned honors for his commitment to our nation including the Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Not only through his service, but also through the life he built in Roebling, New Jersey, people know George for his commitment to family and community. Starting his career at the John A. Roebling & Sons steel mill, he worked, making submarine nets utilized in WWII amongst other vital materials. Additionally, George used his skills as an accomplished carpenter, to build a home he and his family. He accomplished a great deal through service and work and was still a supportive family man, father of 6 and husband to his beloved late wife of 45 years.

We are proud to have George call New Jersey's 3rd District home, and to have benefitted from his brave contributions to our country. It is undoubtedly true that George Pukenas is a distinguished member of our community whose actions at home and abroad have had a positive ripple effect that will continue to benefit generations to come. As George continues to enjoy hand-carving, and spending time with his family, we wish him many more years of good health and continued happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CAPTAIN THOMAS EDWARDS
DAVIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of service of Captain Thomas Edwards Davis. Born in Arkansas, he attended Mississippi College, Tulane University, and Southwestern at Memphis, and entered the United States Navy in July of 1945.

As an Aviation Midshipman, Captain Davis underwent flight training at the Naval Air Station, Ottawa, Iowa; Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola and Jacksonville, Florida; and was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1949. He served in Fighter Squadron 173 from August 1948 until released to inactive duty in January 1950.

He was recalled to active duty in June 1950 with Reserve Fighter Squadron 791 and deployed to Korea on the USS *Boxer*. He later served with the Fleet Gunner Unit at El Centro, California as a gunnery instructor from January 1953 to August 1954. He was also a gunnery instructor at the Naval Air Station Barin Field, Alabama, from August 1954 to March 1956.

Captain Davis attended the Air Launched Missile School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, FL, after which he served with Fighter Squadron 101 at the Naval Air Station Cecil Field and Key West, FL, until June 1960.

He was a student at the United State Naval Postgraduate School from August 1960 to August 1962. In September 1962, he was transferred to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operation. From September 1964 to August 1965, he was attached to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, as Armament Officer, after which he served as Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Training Squadron 9 at the Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi until January 1967.

He served as the Carrier Air Traffic Control and Strike Operations Officer while on the USS *Intrepid* deployed in the Tonkin Gulf.

Leaving the *Intrepid* in August 1968 to become a student at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Earning his Master of Science degree in International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He returned to the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, United States Atlantic Fleet in July 1969. Captain Davis reported to CF-1 in June 1972 as Commanding Officer and served there until transferred to Naval Air Maintenance Training Group, NAS Memphis, in August 1975.

Captain Davis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Air Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Navy Distinguished Service Order and the Navy Commendation Medal. He has also earned the Korean Service Medal, the China Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Our Nation is forever in the debt of Captain Davis and his family for his many years of service to our country. He leaves behind a legacy of service to others that has inspired future generations. May his memory be everlasting.

COMMEMORATING THE
RETIREMENT OF BETSY RUSSELL

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the retirement of Betsy Russell, 1 of

the most effective and respected reporters in Idaho, from 37 years of remarkable reporting and editing in Idaho politics.

As reported by Clark Corbin, of the Idaho Capital Sun,

Russell started her reporting career early, joining her high school paper and covering her own graduation.

She earned a political science degree from the University of California-Berkeley and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Russell moved to Idaho in 1986 to cover Boise City Hall for the Idaho Statesman. Over the next 36 years she covered the Idaho Legislature, government and politics for the Statesman, the Spokesman-Review and Idaho Press newspapers. Along the way, she was a part of a team of Spokesman-Review journalists that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for their coverage of Randy Weaver and the Ruby Ridge standoff in Boundary County, Idaho.

Her coverage exposed false claims made by Republican and Democratic elected officials from the campaign trail to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives. Russell's stories led to prison reform and changes in state policy, while her work with the Idaho Press Club and Idahoans for Openness in Government sought to increase transparency in halls of power across the state.

When Russell first arrived at the Idaho Statesman, she covered then-Mayor Dirk Kempthorne and the debate about downtown Boise's redevelopment and an ill-fated proposal to build an indoor shopping mall. Gov. John Evans was nearing the end of his last term in office and Russell got her first taste of covering the Idaho Legislature and the governor's office when Kempthorne would testify at the Statehouse. Russell went on to cover six other Idaho governors closely—Cecil Andrus, Phil Batt, Kempthorne, Jim Risch, Butch Otter and Brad Little.

Russell's career included several highlights.

Russell created and wrote the Eye on Boise blog, first for the Spokesman-Review and later for the Idaho Press. that was a must-read for anyone interested in the Idaho Legislature and state government—including many of the most highest ranking and influential elected leaders in the Gem State.

In 2004, Russell and Dean Miller, a veteran Idaho and Washington newspaper editor, created Idahoans for Open Government, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to openness and compliance with the Idaho Public Records Act and Idaho Open Meetings Law.

Russell's 1997 series investigating Idaho prisons revealed the fact that nearly a quarter of Idaho's prison population was incarcerated for 4 crimes that are not even considered felonies—simple drug possession, drunk driving, driving without a license and writing bad checks—in a majority of states. The series led to a gubernatorial investigation launched by then-Gov. Phil Batt and led to several reforms. In a telephone interview, Russell called her prison series 'probably the most significant story I have covered in my career.'

I thank Betsy for her outstanding service to the citizens of Idaho. All of Idaho is better because of her premier skills and relentless commitment to accuracy. Her remarkable impact in Idaho journalism and politics will never be forgotten. I hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.