

MICHAEL SCHENCK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this month, it was my absolute honor to attend the retirement party of Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Schenck. Born a South Jersey native, Schenck embarked on his remarkable Marine Corps journey in 1995. From early days at Parris Island, he rose through the ranks with fierce dedication. While deployed to Okinawa as his first duty station, he quickly excelled and earned promotions. After transferring to Camp Lejeune, he became Corporal and served in the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit across Europe and Africa. His journey continued as he joined G Battery, achieved Staff Sergeant, and served as a Civil Affairs Team Leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He further contributed to logistics planning and earned Gunnery Sergeant rank in 2006. His roles expanded, leading as the military-to-military chief for operations across Europe and Africa. Mastering logistics, he became Master Sergeant in 2011 and was promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant in 2015. His awards, including the Legion of Merit and Navy Commendation Medal, testify to his exceptional service and commitment. Michael Schenck's journey epitomizes Marine Corps values and excellence and I hope he enjoys his retirement with his wife and two daughters. God Bless Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Schenck and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING WE ARE THE 22

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor "We Are The 22", an Arkansas-based veteran suicide intervention group.

"We Are The 22" was founded in 2017 by Mikel Brooks, a Little Rock resident and decorated Army veteran with two tours in Afghanistan.

Brooks, who had become addicted to pain medications in 2009 while recovering from injuries sustained in combat, founded the group following his own suicide attempt.

In just six years, "We Are The 22" has successfully responded to more than 430 calls from troubled veterans, has over 130 highly trained volunteers, and has become a trusted resource for local and state authorities.

I am proud to recognize the work of this dedicated organization and hope that they continue to serve as a symbol of hope for all veterans who may be struggling.

I thank Mr. Brooks for his service to our Nation and state.

RECOGNIZING SAFE SCHOOLS
WEEK**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Safe Schools Week. Safe Schools Week is celebrated every year to raise awareness about the importance of school safety and promote strategies for keeping students, teachers, and staff safe. This year for Safe Schools Week, I am proud to see so many schools in my district in Pennsylvania prioritize advocating for school safety policies.

As a member of the Bipartisan School Safety Caucus, I work with my colleagues to advocate for common-sense policies which center on improving the environment where our students learn and grow. We owe it to our students, educators, and school communities to prioritize their safety. Recent tragedies across our nation highlight the need to invest in substantive solutions to make our schools more secure, and I am proud of what is being done on the local, state, and federal level to ensure our schools are places of growth.

This week, it is also important to acknowledge the dedicated school officials, such as School Resource Officers, who protect our children. SROs are essential to crime prevention in schools and ensure that schools have a first responder already on campus in the event of an emergency. Beyond law enforcement, many SROs also serve as mentors in fostering relationships and reinforcing positive behaviors with students. Alongside my School Safety Caucus peers, I introduced the Strengthening Our Schools Act of 2023. This legislation would increase funding for SROs and ensure they have the resources required to support and protect students and school staff. I am grateful to the many School Resource Officers across Bucks and Montgomery counties for all they do to support our schools and communities.

In Bucks County, we are fortunate to have several school districts that have invested heavily in having SROs in their schools and we have many others that are in the process of laying the groundwork for an SRO program. The Bucks County school districts that have an existing SRO program include the following: Quakertown, Central Bucks, Council Rock, Neshaminy, Bensalem, and Bristol Borough.

As we acknowledge School Safety Week across the country, and raise awareness about the importance of strategies for keeping students and educators safe, I urge my colleagues to continue to focus on key policies to ensure schools have the necessary resources.

**HONORING "HOOKS & NEEDLES
FOR CHARITY" AND "THE GOLD-
EN YEARS KNITTING CLUB"****HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the ex-

ceptional efforts of two remarkable clubs in Southern California that have dedicated their time, talents, and compassion to support their community: "Hooks & Needles for Charity" and "The Golden Years Knitting Club".

For years, these two clubs have crafted a legacy of love, warmth, and care through the art of crochet and knitting. They have created a multitude of beautifully knitted and crocheted items that have touched the lives of so many. Their mission is to aid local hospitals, towns, and residents by creating and donating products like baby blankets, lap robes, head coverings, and many others. Their lovely and heartfelt creations continue to warm and comfort a variety of people, from hospital patients and veterans to children in abuse shelters. In doing so, they bring a little bit of home and hope to those who need it the most.

The women of these groups make blankets for families through the Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing for families with hospitalized children, and the Orange-wood Children's Home, which houses children in foster care. These families, who are going through a difficult time in their lives, have received solace and support in the shape of warm and comfortable knitted presents. They also spend the month of July collecting goods for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary to send in care packages to troops overseas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the tremendous contributions made by "Hooks & Needles for Charity" and "The Golden Years Knitting Club", as well as the love of country they display using their knitting needles and crochet hooks.

EDUCATIONAL AWARD PROGRAM**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, each year, I recognize outstanding young community leaders in the Second Congressional District that are high school juniors and seniors. Today, I rise to acknowledge the 37 honorees from this year's Educational Award Program.

I am proud to celebrate the character and accomplishments of this year's group of students and look forward to seeing all they do in the future. This year's honorees are: Skylar Hoyt, Layla Patrick, Trevor Tucker, Brandt Tip-ton, Zoe Wilson, Murtadha Malik, Reeves Bethel, Nicholas Tarini, Avery Ferguson, Lexi Aikman, Fiona Wolter, Tyler Browning, Nathan Mishra, Sydney Massey, Liam Johnson, Samantha Brookman, Tristan Hogan, Shelby Kiker, Malachi Robinson, Jerry Igweh, Clara Bozzay, Kerrigan Quast, Chyanne Cossey, Andrew Pittman, Kayla Tolliver, Chloe McNabb, Kristopher Wilson, Madeline McNeil, Anna Patterson, Zane Ussery, Eva Reaper, Shiloh Seward, Allie Thomas, Calyn Hemphill, Addison Zimmerman, Kameron Mason, Muskan Pirani.

This group has received accolades such as first and second in their class, induction into honor societies, and attendees of Governor's School, Boys State, and Girls State.

They are National Merit Finalists, AP Scholars, and Presidential Service Award recipients.

Their schedules are incredibly busy at school with tutoring other students and leading clubs like National Honor Society, student council, FBLA, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Mock Trial, debate, Model UN, Quiz Bowl, and more.

Outside of school, these students' interests range from the arts and music to almost every sport.

And their service is exemplary, as these students have volunteered with numerous organizations that are making a difference in central Arkansas including: Arkansas Blood Institute, School for the Deaf, Salvation Army, AR Kids Read, and several other local and national nonprofits.

Counselors and principals gave these students glowing recommendations, describing them as: hardworking, honest, dependable, ambitious, and resilient among other notable qualities.

I am always pleased to celebrate the accomplishments of those in my district, and these are certainly some of the best and brightest among our young people.

Congratulations to this talented group of students.

CHIEF FONG

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I want to honor Chief Petty Officer Philip Fong Jr., a remarkable individual who has led an impressive life and career. Chief Fong's career in the Navy began in 2002 where he immediately excelled in his training. His first assignment was on the USS *Reuben James* where he advanced all the way from the rank of E-2 to Second-Class Petty Officer. Shortly after, he was transferred to Italy where continued to rise through the ranks. His unit completed important work, directly supporting Presidential Missions, Joint Task Force, and much more. In 2008, he contracted Cerebral Malaria and encephalitis during a deployment to Monrovia, Liberia, leading to a long hospitalization and rehabilitation. After battling the long rehab, Chief Fong pushed on and continued his impressive career. In 2009, Chief Fong was selected for orders at the Naval Special Warfare schoolhouse where he achieved remarkable milestones, including being selected as the Command Sailor of the Year and promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 2012. Chief Fong's dedication continued as he served in various roles, including as Operations and Training Chief at the Navy Operational Support Center in Tampa, where he managed over 600 Navy Reservists' travel and orders. His final tour of duty saw him handpicked to work for the United States Special Operations Command, Warrior Care Program, where he made significant contributions. Chief Fong has also proven himself to be an incredible athlete as he had the opportunity to represent Team USA for the 2018 Invictus Games in Australia and 2022 Invictus Games in the Netherlands earning gold and bronze medals for rugby and rowing. In addition to his outstanding career, Chief Fong is a devoted husband to Sylvia and a proud father of three sons, Phill, Will, and Dill. I applaud Chief Fong

for his dedication, resilience, and remarkable accomplishments throughout his career and I thank him for his service. God Bless Chief Fong, and God Bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING RICHARD E. SANTSPREE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor and remember the life of United States Army veteran Richard Edward Santspree.

Richard was born in Troy, New York on July 28, 1950. After graduating from Cohoes High School, Richard enlisted with the United States Army in October 1967. He served in the Army for three years, rising to the rank of Specialist Fourth Class, before he was honorably discharged in October 1970. For his service, Richard was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and M16 Expert and M14 Sharpshooter badges. Richard remained with the Army Reserves until 1973.

Returning to civilian life, Richard married the love of his life Christine Hogan Santspree in April 1971. They moved to Cohoes and started their family together, raising three children: Kimberly, Richard Jr., and Thomas. Richard spent his professional career with General Electric in Schenectady, working as a machinist for four decades before retiring in August 2010.

Richard was a well-rounded member of the Cohoes and Troy communities, participating in his local church, veterans' organizations, and recreational activities. He was a member of the Cohoes Moose Club, the Cohoes-Waterford Elk's Lodge 1317, and the American Legion Ruane Post 476. Richard competed in a league at the Cohoes Bowling Arena, along with the Cohoes Rod and Gun Club's Dart and Horseshoe League. Richard assisted with St. Rita's Church's annual bazaar, as well as the Rod and Gun Club's kids' fishing contest at the Van Schaick Island pond. More than anything, he was a proud family man who enjoyed travelling and spending time with his wife, children, and four grandchildren.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life of Mr. Richard E. Santspree, defined by exemplary service to his community and his country.

LAST SALUTE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I want to honor the mission and dedication of the Last Salute. Last Salute, a nonprofit veteran's organization, is dedicated to providing profound and dignified funeral ceremonies that pay homage to the honor and dedication of military service. Their services adhere to the high standards expected by both

families and deserving service members. These ceremonies encompass various elements, including the dignified transfer of remains through military transport, a Civil War cannon artillery salute, the solemn tolling of a memorial bell three times, a three-volley rifle salute, the rendition of Taps, and the meticulous folding and presentation of a memorial flag. Furthermore, Last Salute commemorates fallen individuals by placing their prayer card or image into their Memorial Prayer Box, signifying their enduring membership within the honor guard. Last Salute provides its services at no cost and relies solely on donations to sustain its vital mission of honoring the fallen and upholding the values of military service. Their services help honor the sacrifice of our fallen soldiers in the most commendable way, and I thank them for their dedication to their mission. God Bless Last Salute and God Bless the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF ROY KIDD

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor a legendary Kentuckian, Roy Kidd. He was a renowned football coach at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky and he passed away on September 12, 2023.

Coach Kidd was born in Corbin, Kentucky on December 4, 1931. He was a star athlete at Corbin High School, playing 3 sports. He attended Eastern Kentucky University, where he was an outstanding quarterback and also played center fielder. His coaching career began at the high school level where he coached from 1955 to 1961. He entered the college coaching ranks at Morehead State University and moved to ECU one year later. Coach Kidd served as head football coach for thirty-nine years, retiring in 2002. He amassed an outstanding record, winning over 300 games, with two I-AA national titles and two runner-up titles. Coach Kidd's teams had 25 consecutive winning seasons. He was twice named the NCAA Division I-AA National Coach of the Year and received the prestigious American Football Coaches Association's Amos Alonzo Stagg Award.

Coach Kidd was well respected and beloved by his former players. He was a staunch ambassador for his alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University. His impact on the university was significant, resulting in the football stadium being renamed Roy Kidd Stadium in his honor and the street in front of the stadium named Roy and Sue Kidd Way. He was a member of the ECU Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the ECU Athletics Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame, the OVC Hall of Fame, and the Madison County Sports Hall of Fame. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association's highest football award is named the Roy Kidd Award.

Coach Kidd is survived by his wife Sue. They were married for 62 years and have 3 children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Richmond.

Roy Kidd was highly respected as a coach and a leader throughout the Commonwealth of