

projects such as the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Landmark Hotel. During his tenure, San Carlos updated and preserved many of the city's community facilities such as the San Carlos Library, the Youth Center, and the Adult Community Center. In doing so, Ron has provided San Carlos' residents with comprehensive spaces to congregate and enjoy the city's public resources.

Ron's impressive record as a Councilmember reflects his deep, longstanding commitment to improve the lives of San Carlos' residents. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ron Collins for his years of service on the San Carlos City Council, commending him for his immense dedication towards the community he served, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE DELAVAN GRIDER COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable history and accomplishments of the Delavan Grider Community Center. Established in 2001, under the bold vision of passionate block club leaders, the Delavan Grider Community Center has evolved into a space where neighbors of all ages come together to share experiences and build lasting bonds that strengthen our community.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a resource in our community—offering diverse programming for all ages, including youth and seniors, Girl Scouts, after-school programs, and summer activities. The programming offered by the Delavan Grider Community Center has empowered countless individuals, providing a safe environment where they can discover new skills, forge lifelong friendships, and grow in ways they never imagined.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a beautiful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose, as well as a reminder that there is always something and somewhere for everyone. This Center is not just a thriving hub in the heart of our community, but also a vital part of the fabric that makes the East Side of Buffalo strong, connected, and resilient.

Today, as we look back at all that the Delavan Grider Community Center has achieved, it is important to reflect on the many ways this center has enriched the lives of so many through its past accomplishments and the exciting future that lies ahead. Please join me in celebrating the Delavan Grider Community Center—may it continue to grow, inspire, and strengthen the power of community.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF TEXAS' 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall and recognize the recipients of a special annual salute to honor local Veterans of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Starting in 2005, I have had the privilege of honoring distinguished Veterans of my district with Texas' 26th Congressional District Veteran Commendation.

Our nation's Veterans have selflessly and honorably served our country and preserved our freedoms. It is because of their service that we enjoy all the liberties we are afforded. These brave men and women deserve our thanks and praise.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to publicly recognize eighty-six Veterans over the past two decades and honor their service through the presentation of the Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association (HVBA) and the City of Highland Village, Texas.

At this patriotic event each year, in addition to the announcement of the CVC recipients, each Veteran in attendance is afforded the opportunity to give their name and branch of service along with a highlight of their military service. With an annual attendance of over 250, the HVBA graciously covers the cost of the luncheon for attending Veterans and their guest.

As I retire from the U.S. House of Representatives, allow me to announce the five recipients of the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation and add their names to the illustrious list of prior recipients.

2024

Thomas Balmer (Sergeant—U.S. Army), Carrollton
Kasey Brown (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Justin
Frank Dixon (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Flower Mound
Christopher Garner (Specialist—U.S. Army National Guard), Gainesville
John Miller (Captain—U.S. Army), Frisco

2023

Mary Garcia (Major—U.S. Air Force) of Lewisville
Timothy Qualls (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force) of Savannah
David Seals, Jr. (Captain—U.S. Army) of Frisco
Melvin Sumrall (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps) of Denton

2022

James Brown (U.S. Marine Corps—Corporal), Sanger
Jere Delano (U.S. Air Force—SSGT), Denton
Lena Jackson-Lynch (U.S. Air Force—MSGT), Denton
Daniel Joseph (U.S. Army—Corporal), Lake Dallas
John Mulholland II (U.S. Navy—Petty Officer 2nd Class), Justin

2021

Carolyn Bradford (Specialist—U.S. Army), North Richland Hills

Richard Crossley, Jr. (Lt. Col.—U.S. Army), Flower Mound
Karl Monger (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club
Michael Shasteen (Petty Officer Fourth Class—U.S. Navy), Frisco
Ron Trees (Lt. Col.—U.S. Air Force), Little Elm

2020

Paul Bastaich (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Oak Point
Richard Cook (Lieutenant—U.S. Navy), Double Oak
Jacob Schick (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco
Dennis Sheridan (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club
Danny Weakley (Master Sergeant—U.S. Army), Little Elm

2019

Sharon Balsley (Lt. Colonel—U.S. Army), Corinth
Carlos Gallardo (Captain—U.S. Air Force), Frisco
Tom Kim (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Highland Village
Robert Kohankie II (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound
James Trombley (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2018

Virgil Aldag (Specialist 4th Class—U.S. Army), Denton
Lewis Duckwall II (Gunnery Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Lake Dallas
Robert Lessard (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Aubrey
Christopher Martin (Colonel—U.S. Army), Argyle
Gustav Wittschack (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Cross Roads

2017

Paul Farrar (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Army), Denton
Donald Graves (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Fort Worth
Paul Perez Jr. (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Flower Mound
Donald Phillips (Chief Petty Officer—U.S. Navy), Denton
Johnnie Yellock II (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Lantana

2016

Roberta DuTeil (Lieutenant Junior Grade—U.S. Navy), Bartonville
William "Bill" Lawrence (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Highland Village
Virginia "Ginger" Simonson (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village
Clinton Turner (Corporal—U.S. Army), Denton
Charles "Chuck" Wright (1st Lieutenant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2015

Jack Bailey (Major—U.S. Army/Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound
Forrest Beadle (Captain—U.S. Army), Denton
Doug Brown (Chief Warrant Officer—U.S. Army), Flower Mound
Andre "Frenchy" Rheault (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Gary Steele (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton

2014

Charles Correll (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Peter Lane (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Jack Milligan (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village
Pat Smith (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
William Splichal (Chief Warrant Officer 4—U.S. Army), Trophy Club

2013

Gilbert Brown (Sergeant—U.S. Army),
Lewisville
Jerry Galler (Storekeeper 3rd Class—U.S.
Navy), Highland Village
James Rosengren (Major—U.S. Army),
Flower Mound

2012

Robert Baird (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S.
Army), Lantana
Victor Durrance (Sergeant—U.S. Army Air
Force), Gainesville
Andrew Fortunato (Lieutenant Colonel—
U.S. Marine Corps), Keller
Joe Gray (Colonel—U.S. Army), North
Richland Hills
Mugg Pawless (Private First Class—U.S.
Army), Gainesville

2011

Gary Alexander (Corporal—U.S. Marine
Corps), Gainesville
Julius Fambray (1st Sergeant—U.S. Army),
The Colony
Donald Langa (Lieutenant Commander—
U.S. Navy), Denton
Joe M. Leonard, Jr. (Captain—U.S. Army),
Gainesville
Leroy M. Williamson, Sr. (1st Lieutenant—
U.S. Army/Air Force), Denton

2010

Major Lee Roy Keith, (U.S. Marine Corps),
Denton
Sergeant Arlen Ray Mayfield, Jr., (U.S.
Army), Lewisville
Master Sergeant Guy Northrup, (U.S. Ma-
rine Corps), Lewisville
Colonel Larry Patterson, (U.S. Army),
Highland Village
Major Richard Stewart, (U.S. Army/U.S.
Air Force), Denton

2009

Corporal Arthur F. Berg (U.S. Army),
Lewisville
Colonel Ernest L. Isbell (U.S. Army, Ret.),
Highland Village
Captain Hank Scheible (U.S. Air Force,
Ret.), Denton

2008

Staff Sergeant Mark H. Graunke, Jr. (U.S.
Marine Corps), Denton
Commander Robert Heid (U.S. Navy, Ret.),
Flower Mound
Sergeant Donald W. Pettigrew (U.S. Ma-
rine Corps), Gainesville
Colonel Walter W. Pine (U.S. Army/U.S.
Air Force, Ret.), Keller
Major Earl L. Russell, III (U.S. Army/Army
Reserve, Ret.), Gainesville

2007

Lt. Col. Walter Dyer (U.S. Air Force, Ret.),
Highland Village
Col Susanne Hechinger (U.S. Air Force, TX
ANG, Ret.), Flower Mound
Col James P. Mariades (U.S. Marine Corps,
Ret.), Copper Canyon
Lt. Col. Edward "Red" Weir (U.S. Air
Corps/Air Forces, U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Den-
ton
Capt William B. Springfield (U.S. Marine
Corps, Ret.), Flower Mound

2006

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Blagg (U.S. Marine
Corps, Ret.), Denton
Mr. Woodrow Wilson Burch, Jr., (U.S.
Army/U.S. Air Force), Denton
Lt. Col. Ivan N. Glasscock (U.S. Air Force,
Ret.), Denton

2005

Mr. Johnnie Bulen (U.S. Army), Lewisville
Lt. Gen. Charles R. Hamm, (U.S. Air Force,
Ret.), Argyle
Mr. Reby Cary (Radioman First Class—
U.S. Coast Guard), Fort Worth

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID BIGGS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of David Biggs as he retires from his role as City Manager of Orinda.

David has brought a deep understanding of urban development to his work as City Manager of Orinda. After earning a degree in political science from California State University, Fullerton, he went on to earn his MBA from University of California Irvine. For the last ten years of his career, David has served as city manager of two cities in the East Bay, first in Hercules starting in 2014 and later in Orinda, beginning in 2021. During his time as City Manager of Orinda, he has worked tirelessly to serve our community, from his role in making Juneteenth an official holiday to his work to enhance Orinda's downtown area. David's hard work has helped to increase quality of life and foster a vibrant community throughout the city.

Further, David has been a leader in improving Orinda's roads, helping to improve connectivity throughout the city. He was instrumental in the continuation of this long-term project, which began in 2012, and his efforts improved the city's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score from one of the lowest in the region to the second highest in the Bay Area. In recognition of his service, David was also awarded the 2020 Local Government Service Award by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), an accolade he certainly earned for his years of dedicated service to the people of Orinda and the East Bay.

Please join me in congratulating David Biggs on his well-deserved retirement after years of outstanding public service.

CELEBRATING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Whereas, for the past 40 years, Metra has dedicated itself to providing my constituents and other Illinoisans with reliable, affordable transportation options to connect them to greater Chicagoland;

Whereas, on February 15, 2022, Metra approved its second strategic plan, My Metra, Our Future. While the name indicates a transportation plan, the motto My Metra also illustrates the ethos of the agency;

Whereas, Metra is not solely a transportation provider. It is an essential and reliable service that is there when you need it. To get you and your loved ones' home, and everywhere else, safely and comfortably. It is about meeting its riders' expectations and understanding their values and priorities for the region;

Whereas, My Metra was adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic—to ensure that trains kept running. Metra provided valuable services to essential workers in the healthcare field and other sectors who didn't have the option to work from home or take leave. Metra's own employees are part of this group of essential workers who proved that Metra is a source of continuity and connection, and a vital cog in economic and social life in Illinois; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I ROBIN L. KELLY, SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RECOGNIZE the public servants who work for Metra while it celebrates its 40th anniversary and continues to serve our community.

HONORING DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WARREN PERRY ON HIS RETIRE- MENT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of New Hampshire's Deputy Adjutant General, Warren Perry, who is retiring later this year. For nine years, Warren has diligently served New Hampshire's Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. In his role, he has played a key part in connecting military officials with the needs of New Hampshire and ensuring our veterans are receiving the support that they need.

Warren served our country for 28 years in the United States Army, and for that we are incredibly thankful. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom where he fought to keep the United States safe from foreign threats. In service to his fellow Granite Staters, when he returned home, Warren went on to serve as the State Inspector General for the New Hampshire National Guard.

Beyond national security, Warren has tirelessly served our communities on a local level. As Deputy Adjutant General, Warren has worked to strengthen the New Hampshire Veteran-Friendly Business Program and increase veterans' employment with our local businesses as they return from combat.

As a decorated soldier, Warren has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and many other distinguished honors. As a community leader, Warren has aided our veterans in their employment efforts. And as a proud member of a military family, Warren knows the meaning of service and has always strived to give back to his community. Warren has dedicated his life to the security of our Nation and the betterment of our communities.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Deputy Adjutant General Warren Perry for his service and wish him a happy retirement. I wish Warren and his family all the best in the years to come.