

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
OF TY BLACKFORD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, I rise to recognize the leadership of Ty Blackford within his roles as President and Program Manager at the Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC).

During his time as President and Program Manager at IEC, Ty Blackford led his team to advance the cleanup mission at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Laboratory Site (INL). Under his leadership, in 2022, IEC completed the exhumation of legacy waste at the Site's Subsurface Disposal Area 18 months ahead of schedule. Following the demolition of two ancillary structures at the Naval Reactors Facility, his team began demolition of the Submarine 1st Generation Westinghouse reactor prototype and recycled more than 420 tons of non-radiological metals. In 2023, Ty's team completed the transfer of spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage nine months ahead of schedule.

In 2024, Ty led the IEC team to complete the Accelerated Retrieval Project, one of the largest demolition projects completed in the history of DOE's environmental cleanup program. The project was completed three months ahead of schedule and under budget. In all, workers demolished more than 520,000 square feet of building space, which is equivalent to three times the footprint of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Under Ty's leadership, operations began at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit in 2023 as well. To date, the project has processed over 100,000 gallons of sodium-bearing waste. These most recent accomplishments have paved the way for DOE to meet two significant milestones outlined in the Idaho Settlement Agreement for the State of Idaho.

Each of these accomplishments speak to Ty's 30-plus years of experience leading and managing large and complex projects for DOE's cleanup and nuclear operations programs at sites across the Nation, including the Idaho Cleanup Project, Savannah River, Hanford and Oak Ridge. He has set the bar high for future leaders and has established a baseline for success, of which Idaho can be proud.

We thank Ty Blackford for his diligence in his role as President and Program Manager at IEC and for his accomplishments in the cleanup mission at INL.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY CEBALLOS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Zachary Ceballos, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, of Euless, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America

and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Ceballos enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2008, serving as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, deploying to Sangin, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. During his deployment, his unit would suffer significant losses that would lay the foundation for his current dedication to supporting veterans from all eras of service.

Mr. Ceballos' decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 service stars, the NATO Medal—ISAF Afghanistan, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and the Expert Rifle Badge.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently serves as a veteran peer support specialist for GallantFew, a local veteran service organization. He devotes his spare time to coaching veterans on mental health, teaching them rock climbing, helping lead the Metroport Veterans Association, and planning Melborial Day as well as Veterans Day observances in the community.

Mr. Ceballos 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.

QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENT
SERGEANT FRANCIS MCCARDLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to present the Quilt of Valor to Army veteran Sergeant Francis McArdle, in recognition of his great service to our country. Sgt. McArdle gave three years of his life to the United States by serving in the U.S. Army during one of the toughest times of American history, the Vietnam War. He served his country in a multitude of ways, first beginning with a special designation as a Forward Observer to the 101st Airborne Division with the 527th Artillery Unit. He then served as Communications Sergeant for Battery Company of the 527th Artillery before finishing his enlistment with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Not everyone answers the call to defend our freedom, particularly during such a turbulent time for our country. Sgt. McArdle was one of those rare patriots that did, and it was my great honor that I was able to present him with the Quilt of Valor. May God bless Sgt. McArdle and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING "A SLAVE'S STORY"

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of

Wisconsin, I would like to recognize the Arnwine Family for honoring their family's legacy of perseverance, activism, and dedication to create a more equal and just nation.

Sterling Arnwine's 1936 interview with the Federal Writers Project captured the unimaginable hardship and persecution of him and his family while enslaved. I am inspired by the story of Sterling Arnwine and the commitment of his descendants to share the stories of Black Americans who suffered under the violent institution of American slavery.

The sharing of stories not only memorializes the many people who suffered but also gives voice to the survivors. I thank them for all they have done to benefit our communities. The Arnwine Family has touched the lives of many, and I look forward to seeing the continued impact and change their family creates in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MARSHALL
STREET ARMORY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 100th anniversary of the Marshall Street Armory, a historic landmark that has served as a vital cornerstone of the Lansing community.

Since its opening in 1924, the Marshall Street Armory has played an important role in supporting our military through numerous conflicts and serving the people of Mid-Michigan.

Originally home to the 119th Field Artillery Regiment of the Michigan National Guard, the armory was designed by Michigan's first state architect, Lynn W. Fry, and stands as one of the earliest examples of Gothic-inspired military architecture in the state. For more than 80 years, it housed Lansing-based National Guard units that contributed to the defense of our Nation in nearly every war during that period. The Marshall Street Armory was also the staging ground for Guard units providing aid during domestic crises and natural disasters, helping to protect our country and assist those in need.

Beyond its military purpose, the armory became a gathering place for local residents. It hosted weddings, concerts, swap meets, boxing matches, and even circuses, cementing its place as a hub for social events and activities. Whether for celebrations or service, the Marshall Street Armory always brought people together in times of peace.

After the 119th Field Artillery Regiment was decommissioned in 2007, the armory closed its doors as a military facility. In 2010, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, securing its legacy as an architectural and historical treasure.

In 2012, following extensive renovations, the Marshall Street Armory reopened as a non-profit collaboration center. Today, it houses several organizations, including Capital Area United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Capital Region Community Foundation. It continues to serve the Greater Lansing area in a new capacity, providing essential services and strengthening the fabric of Mid-Michigan.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Marshall Street Armory, let us honor both

its military heritage and its present role as a center of service and opportunity, filled with organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Lansing residents. It is with great appreciation and respect that I recognize the Marshall Street Armory's century of service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SUPERVISOR JOHN HIDAHL

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of El Dorado County Supervisor John Hidahl, who passed away on November 2, 2024, at the age of 73.

John Hidahl was born and raised in California's Central Valley and graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Throughout his successful career, he worked at Aerojet for 31 years and Northrop Grumman for 10 years, where he filled various roles, such as a rocket test engineer, the director of engineering, and the chief systems manager. Coming from a farming family, Supervisor Hidahl was also the Chairman of Hidahl Ranch, where he helped manage the almond and walnut farm.

Outside of his career success, Supervisor Hidahl tirelessly worked to improve the community around him. His motto of service before self is evident in the various areas where he volunteered and served his community. Among his many other roles in the El Dorado Hills community, he served for 33 years on the County Water District, 36 years on the Area Planning Advisory Committee, and 23 years on the Community Council.

Supervisor Hidahl was elected twice to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, where he served as the District 1 Supervisor while advocating for a balanced budget, open space preservation, and housing options for seniors. Supervisor Hidahl was also engaged with his community outside of his formal roles, as he also actively supported the boy and girl scouts along with groups that serve the county's homeless population. In his spare time, Supervisor Hidahl enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, and being outdoors.

Supervisor Hidahl is survived by his wife Eileen, their five daughters, and their 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Hidahl was a devoted public servant who loved his country, his county, and his community. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. BRIAN E. FUCHS

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Brian E. Fuchs, who retired this month after 41 years of faithful and dedicated service as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army.

After graduating from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. Fuchs chose to apply his knowledge and experience to the U.S. military's munitions research at Picatinny Arsenal located in NJ-11. The contributions he has made to our national defense, and to our allies' defense, are enormous, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Dr. Fuchs first entered the U.S. Army in 1983 where he worked in energetics materials testing, detonation physics, and energetic formulations. Since then, Dr. Fuchs has maintained a variety of different positions on various boards and organizations focused on insensitive munitions research. Dr. Fuchs is also a leader in the rapidly growing field of research on explosive ink where, under his leadership, his team was able to produce the first qualified explosive ink.

Along with his long career in munitions development, Dr. Fuchs is an Adjunct Professor for the Stevens Institute of Technology and serves as the Steering committee chair for NATO's Munitions Safety Information Analysis Center (MSIAC).

Widely recognized by several organizations, Dr. Fuchs was awarded the National Defense Industrial Association Firepower Award for Technology Development in 2016. Dr. Fuchs has also been awarded the Academic R&D Award by Printed Electronics USA, the Six Army Research Development Achievement Award for Technical Excellence, and the Army Research Development Award for Leadership. These awards were all given in recognition of Dr. Fuchs' outstanding devotion to duty and his contributions to research and development of munitions.

I want to thank Dr. Fuchs for the critical engineering and research work that he and his team have done over his career to support our national defense, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT ANDREW "TIM" KINIRY (WWII ARMY MEDIC)

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to pay tribute to Sergeant Andrew "Tim" Kiniry, a 102-year-old U.S. Army veteran who served his country gallantly on the shores of Normandy during World War II. Sergeant Kiniry performed one of the most courageous duties a soldier can do by volunteering as a medic right on the front lines of one of America's bloodiest battles. Not only did he charge bravely into battle with his unit, but he also simultaneously treated his fellow soldiers for injuries while under fire. Army medics were often the primary target on the battlefield, marked by the Red Cross for protection, but it ultimately led to increased fire by the Nazis. Tim, however, carried out his duties with bravery, applying tourniquets, bandaging wounds, and helping evacuate casualties to hospitals. This past year, he returned to Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and pay homage to all the fallen heroes. In the years following the war, Tim has devoted much of his time educating the youth of the atrocities that war brings, and he loves to remind me of the great quote "Lest we forget."

I thank Tim for all he has done for the United States. God bless Sergeant "Tim" and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUR LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS AND THE VALUE THEY PROVIDE TO EAST- ERN WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four Lower Snake River dams and the value they provide to Eastern Washington.

The Columbia River System is the beating heart of the Pacific Northwest. This critical infrastructure helped transform our region from a dry, barren sage brush into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

It serves as a super-marine highway for farmers to ship their products all across America, while keeping thousands of trucks off the road every year. The dams along the Lower Snake River have strengthened our energy grid, lowered energy costs, and made us a leader in reducing carbon emissions.

They help prevent life-threatening blackouts during extreme weather, not just in Washington state, but in California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming. They also support a thriving tourism economy of small businesses and protect parts of our region from devastating floods.

To put it simply: the Columbia River System is critical to our entire way of life.

Thanks to historic investments by Congress through the years, the four Lower Snake River dams are nearly transparent to salmon. With some of the most effective fish passage systems in the nation, these dams have achieved an average survival rate for ocean-bound juvenile salmon of between 95 and 97 percent. For adults, that average is more than 98 percent.

The scientific evidence supports the reality that dams and salmon can—and do—co-exist. According to a 2018 evaluation conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 99.6 percent of juveniles and 97.3 percent of all yearling Chinook salmon safely bypassed the Lower Granite Dam—a survival rate that exceeds the NOAA Biological performance standard of 96 percent.

The same study found that steelhead salmon enjoyed a 100 percent juvenile survival rate and an overall dam passage rate of 99.4 percent. On top of that, available data suggests that 2023 was the highest count for adult sockeye salmon on record at Lower Granite Dam with 2,921 adults returning.

Despite the rhetoric surrounding the Lower Snake River dams and salmon, we continue to see improvements in the returns with 2024 currently on track to be the third straight year of exceeding the 10-year average sockeye return.

This is not a coincidence. The Lower Snake River dams utilize some of the most informative technology we have to help fish migrate the river, including fish slides and fish ladders to help salmon get over the dams safely, fish friendly turbines, spillways, and bypass facilities.