

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on November 15, 2024 as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 465 for H.R. 8932.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR VANCE CLARKE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Chief Master Sergeant Vance Michael Clarke of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CMSgt Clarke honorably served in the United States Air Force.

CMSgt Clarke followed in his family's footsteps and joined the Air Force in 1980. For over twenty years, he specialized in material management and successfully managed inventory and supplies for our troops. After being promoted to Chief Master Sergeant, he led Supply Squadron nights and helped coordinate airlifts and other operations in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. For his meritorious service, CMSgt Clarke was awarded the Legion of Merit the Meritorious Service Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device with four oak leaf clusters, and many more.

In 2010, CMSgt Clarke retired from the Air Force, and he has continued to be actively involved in our community. He worked as a Program Manager for L3Harris's aircraft and logistics team to help source critical parts for the Air Force. In addition, CMSgt Clarke is the Northeast Chapter President of the Air & Space Forces Association, in which he assists with recruitment efforts to inspire the next generation of Airmen and Guardians to serve our Nation. He is notable for his extraordinary leadership at AFA, as he has transformed the Northeast Chapter into one of the best in the organization. I am proud of CMSgt Clarke's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent CMSgt Clarke in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING EAGLE-MATT LEE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 and the dedicated service of its members. The Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1's origins stem all the way back to 1815 and I am honored to recognize those who have served our community and passed on, as well as the Company's "Old Timers" who have given so much back to the community and possess over twenty-five years of service.

In 1815, the citizens of Ballston Spa gathered to build an engine house. Chimney fires, a top issue for the community, were addressed with the founding of the first fire company named Engine House No. 1 which was located on the southwest corner of Bath and Walnut Streets.

Engine House No. 1 eventually became known as the Eagle Fire Company in 1843. The expansion of the town saw the rise of yet another firehouse and in 1868, the J.A. Harvey Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1. Just one year later, they renamed the organization Matt Lee Hook & Ladder Company No. 1.

To serve the community better, these two houses merged and became known as the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1. In 1933, Charles Duffy was elected Captain of the house, and he passionately served in this capacity for the next twenty-five years. Since Charles' initial captainship, the Company has grown tremendously. It currently employs over 50 firefighters and has access to numerous firefighting tools including a ninety-five-foot aerial ladder truck, an ETA pumper, and an E-one Rescue truck.

The Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1's service to their community is truly inspiring and we are immensely grateful for their work as firefighters in our district. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service and commitment to the community of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 for their years of service and solemnly remember their brothers who have lost their lives in service. I congratulate them on their incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing their future endeavors in the community.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH PAMUNKEY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 250th anniversary of

North Pamunkey Baptist Church in Orange County, Virginia.

North Pamunkey Baptist Church has a rich history that is marked by resilience and courage. Formed in 1774, the church was created after two brave ministers, Elijah Craig and Aaron Bledsoe, were detained for preaching without the permission of the Church of England. Led by the ideals of religious freedom, North Pamunkey Baptist Church advocated for the religious freedom of all throughout the American Revolution. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," supported early American Baptist ministers in their fight for liberty—and North Pamunkey's founders implored Madison to enshrine religious freedom in the Constitution of the United States.

The congregation's unwavering commitment to their faith laid the foundation for the community that still thrives today.

Over the last 250 years, North Pamunkey Baptist Church has grown to be a sanctuary for spiritual nourishment. It is a gathering space for fellowship and support. As we celebrate this milestone, let us honor the legacy of those two early ministers and the countless individuals who have contributed to the church's mission over the years. Their dedication has built a thriving community that will continue to flourish for generations to come.

Today, the North Pamunkey Baptist Church congregation includes the Jones, Pierce, and Pugh families who are descendants of those who had the courage to fight for religious freedom during the church's early days. They are witnesses of its everlasting impact and the countless contributions of the North Pamunkey Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating North Pamunkey Baptist Church on their 250th anniversary. I am honored to represent the families and individuals who make up this caring and loving community, and I look forward to celebrating their continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN JOSEPH TOMANELLI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of Stephen Joseph Tomanelli, a graduate of Operation Recognition Class of 2024. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education and Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who were unable to complete high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or due to internment in World War II Japanese-American relocation camps. Operation Recognition provides a way to express our appreciation and gratitude for our veterans' significant contributions and sacrifices.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Stephen Joseph Tomanelli grew up in the Bronx, New York, and attended public schools in New York City. Economic challenges led him to leave Samuel Gompers Vocational High School after his sophomore year to support himself and his family. His technical skills and interests opened doors for employment in the emerging field of computers and technology. Facing the likelihood of being drafted during the Vietnam War, Stephen enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served from 1969 to 1973. His roles included serving as a ceremonial guardsman at Arlington National Cemetery and working as a fire control technician and ordnance mechanic aboard the USS *Massey*.

After his military service, Mr. Tomanelli earned his GED and pursued various professional opportunities, ultimately relocating to California. He utilized the GI Bill to develop his technical expertise in computers and to purchase a home in the Sunnymead area of Riverside County. His career in the technology sector has been marked by his contributions to providing early computer solutions to municipal and commercial clients in Riverside County. Since 1986, he has owned and operated a computer sales and service business. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Tomanelli has dedicated himself to public service. Since 2005, he joined the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) as a Commissioner and has contributed to various non-profit organizations throughout the region. Mr. Tomanelli is a resident of the Poppet Flats area and remains active in his community, with one of his grandchildren attending public school in Riverside County.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Mr. Tomanelli for his service to our country and congratulate him on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2024.

HONORING JAMES W. PUTNEY, JR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James W. Putney, Jr., who passed away this September at 70 years old.

A Georgia native, James was a born and raised Savannah and is widely remembered for his passion for service and dedication to his community.

For over two decades, James served in the military specializing in information technology, and once said his favorite place he was stationed in was Panama, as it reminded him of his beautiful home of Savannah.

After retiring from active duty, James began working with fellow veterans in the American Legion, and served as the Commander of Post 500, the first African American Legion in the state of Georgia.

James also served as the chaplain on the Chatham County Veterans Council, which was another reason he was chosen as the grand marshal for Savannah's 2023 Veteran's Day Parade.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Putney family and the Savannah area, as we

mourn the loss of a truly impactful member of our community.

HONORING SPECIALIST FIFTH
CLASS MICHAEL ANTHONY
DEBONIS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Vietnam Veteran, Specialist Fifth Class, Michael Anthony DeBonis.

Michael was born on September 7, 1950, in Troy, New York, where he and his three siblings were raised by their parents, Michael and Josephine DeBonis. Michael attended St. Mary's Elementary School and later attended Troy High School.

Michael enlisted in the United States Army on February 24, 1970. Following basic training, Michael attended service school in Fort Eustis, Virginia, where he trained as an Airframe Repairman. He was later assigned to a year-long tour of duty in Vietnam, where he conducted maintenance and repairs on Army aircraft and equipment in challenging conditions, including jungle environments and remote locations.

On March 23, 1972, Michael was honorably discharged from the United States Army at Fort Meade, Maryland. For his honorable service, Michael was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Service Bars, the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar and M16 Bar, and the Expert Marksmanship Badge with Grenade Bar.

Upon returning to civilian life, Michael married Kathleen Agostine on May 4, 1973. Together, they had two children, Michael and Lindsay. Michael was incredibly talented, working in construction with Rocco Testo and as a carpenter at the Watervliet Arsenal to support his family.

In his spare time, Michael enjoyed hunting, playing darts, and excelled at a game of corks. He was an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, the North Greenbush American Legion Post 1489, and the Ciccarelli Rea Agar Bevevino Garrison Post 1954, where he cherished the camaraderie of his fellow members.

Michael passed away on March 22, 2005, but his legacy will always live on through the memories of those dearest to him. Michael DeBonis' dedication to service to the United States is truly remarkable. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize his incredible life.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR TRACY BREW-
STER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Tracy Brewster of

Rowlett, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. MSgt Brewster honorably served in the United States Air Force.

MSgt Brewster joined the Air Force in June 1982. Over the next two decades, he served as an Air Cargo Specialist and Air Transportation Craftsman to ensure that our troops were safely and efficiently resupplied around the world. MSgt Brewster completed two tours in South Korea and deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. For his meritorious service, MSgt Brewster received the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and many more awards.

After he retired from the Air Force in 2003, MSgt Brewster has continued to serve our community in numerous ways. For many years, he worked in supervisory positions at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and concluded his public service career as an Immigration Services Analyst. In this role, MSgt Brewster led efforts to investigate and prevent immigration fraud. He is also a longtime contributor to charitable initiatives to support disabled veterans, churches, museums, and youth athletic programs across North Texas. Most importantly, MSgt Brewster is a devoted husband and father to two children and two grandchildren. I commend him for his selfless service and dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent MSgt Brewster in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING MRS. CLAIRE
SEIFFER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Claire Seiffer, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on November 21st of this year. Mrs. Seiffer has spent her entire life in the State of New Jersey, where she was a longtime public-school PE teacher. Her service to the state and nation was complemented by that of her husband, a World War II veteran. Mrs. Seiffer met her husband at the school that they worked at together after he returned from his military service. Mrs. Seiffer has fond memories of iceboating on their hand-built boat with her husband on New Jersey's famous Lake Hopatcong. Going into her 100th birthday, she continues to maintain an active lifestyle, and her friends and family enjoy her vivacious spirit and sharp mind.

It is my distinct pleasure to celebrate Mrs. Seiffer today, as she continues to be the embodiment of American and New Jerseyan commitment to public service, health, and prosperity.