

Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. For his outstanding service, Capt. Scott received the Purple Heart with one star, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, and many more awards.

In 1993, Capt. Scott retired from military service, but he has continued to make a positive impact on the world around him. He served as an Assistant Pastor at his Methodist Church and led weekly Bible studies for over 25 years. Additionally, he led mission trips to India in support of several ministries and helps homeschool his grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am proud of Capt. Scott's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent Capt. Scott 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 THE COMMUNITY
SERVICE OF BELLA ROMANO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the remarkable contributions of Bella Romano, a senior at Broadalbin-Perth Jr./Sr. High School, for her steadfast dedication to the Broadalbin-Perth backpack program. Through her work in this program, Bella has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to fighting hunger in her community.

The Broadalbin-Perth backpack program, in partnership with the Northeast Regional Food Bank and the Broadalbin Presbyterian Church, provides food products for 35 to 45 students during weekends and school breaks in the Broadalbin-Perth Community. Bella's efforts have been central to the success of this initiative.

Since her freshman year, Bella has raised over \$3,000 to support the program with a portion of the funds coming from a can and bottle drive that she organizes at Wally's Driftwood Park in Mayfield. Through this project, Bella has not only raised vital resources for local children in need but also promoted environmental responsibility.

In addition to her work with the backpack program, Bella has dedicated the past seven years to volunteer efforts throughout the community. She will soon begin her annual work with the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive, continuing her legacy of service. Her unwavering dedication has not gone unnoticed as she was named Miss Upstate New York's Outstanding Teen in 2022.

Bella Romano's commitment to the well-being of her fellow students and the greater community is an inspiration to all, and I am proud to recognize her efforts on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District.

COMMEMORATING THE 45TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR ZOO

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum as it celebrates its 45th anniversary. This achievement represents their dedicated years of service since their doors first opened in 1979.

In 1959, Air Zoo founders Pete and Suzanne Parish unknowingly began curating the world-renowned collection of aircraft the Air Zoo possesses today. The first step in assembling the Air Zoo's collection was Pete's purchase of a single-engine 35C Bonanza, later, the Parish's purchased a partially assembled P-40 Aircraft, the same combat plane Suzanne had dreamed of flying throughout her service with the Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP). Twenty years after Pete purchased the 35C Bonanza, the Air Zoo opened its doors for the first time on November 18, 1979.

Today, the Air Zoo offers educational programs and exhibits, displays over 100,000 artifacts and archives, flight simulators, maintains an aircraft restoration program through the Air Zoo's Flight Discovery Center, and processes the world's only SR-71B Blackbird. Mr. Parish's single purchase laid the foundation for the Air Zoo's world-class facility that thousands of visitors enjoy each year.

For the last 45 years, the Air Zoo has been a community leader in inspiring a new generation of aviators, engineers, and all those interested in STEM fields. As we look forward to the next 45 years, the Air Zoo will be a place that fosters curiosity, innovation, and education.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Parish Family, staff, and all those who enjoy the Air Zoo as they celebrate their 45th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY TRUITT
WALK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Dorothy Truitt Walk whose 1960 sit-in at Memphis' Cossitt Library began a transformation of my hometown for the better. Ms. Walk passed in October at the age of 88. Typical of her public-mindedness and humor, she donated her body to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the medical school in Memphis, telling her family it would make her a Tennessee Volunteer. Ms. Walk was a civic dynamo, raising the money to build the Orange Mound Community Center and riding in the parade on the day it opened. She also helped preserve and protect our city's monuments and landmarks. But it was the sit-in at the downtown library and her arrest that began her storied career in public life. Memphis had a segregated library for African Americans and a lawsuit to end segregation was pending when she, then a 24 year-old student at LeMoyne College, and 34 oth-

ers, grew impatient and staged the March 16, 1960 sit-in. Months later, the city integrated its libraires, but her arrest meant she could not work in the city schools, and she got a job teaching across the river in Arkansas. Ms. Walk often wrote to me with ideas, and I was fortunate to receive her thoughts and support. She also wrote thoughtful letters to the editor and to city officials, raising important issues. In response to her suggestions, then-Mayor Dick Hackett asked her to serve on a city board or commission, and she chose the Memphis-Shelby County Landmarks Commission and served there for 10 years. She also worked at International Harvester, the farm-equipment company, and retired when the Memphis plant was moth-balled. Ms. Walk was a lifelong member of the Beulah Baptist Church in Orange Mound. In addition to her civic work, she read the daily newspapers for 14 years on the public radio station WYPL, the Memphis Public Libraries' non-commercial station. St. Mary's Episcopal School named her a Memphis Woman Who Made a Difference in 2001. I extend my condolences to her son Calvin and his wife Christy Walk; her sister Janiece Williamson; stepsister Claudette Flowers; brother Jeff Harrison; and her extended family, friends and many admirers. Ms. Walk truly made a difference and made Memphis a better place. Hers was a life well-lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 15, 2024, I was absent for Roll Call No. 465. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on the FAFSA Deadline Act.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR CLARENCE
JORIF

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clarence Leadore "CJ" Jorif of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW3 Jorif honorably served in the United States Army.

CW3 Jorif joined the Army in 1983, where he served as a military policeman and special agent for criminal investigations. He was inspired to join to serve his country and make a difference in the lives of those around him. As a result of his hard work and leadership, CW3 Jorif quickly rose up the ranks to become a Staff Sergeant in the Military Police Corps within four years. He was deployed to Honduras, Panama, and the Middle East as part of Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm. As a Warrant Officer, CW3 Jorif successfully performed protective missions for the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during wartime and peacetime without any incidents. For his outstanding service, CW3 Jorif received the Army

Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star, and many more awards.

After retiring from the Army Reserves in 2003, CW3 Jorif has continued to be an active member of our community and dedicated law enforcement officer. From 1996 to 2016, he served as a Senior Special Agent for the U.S. Secret Service to provide critical protections for the President, Vice President, and other top officials from foreign nations. CW3 Jorif currently serves as a Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Rockwall. On top of his public service career, he is involved in numerous volunteer activities throughout North Texas to promote youth development and advocate for senior citizens. I am proud of CW3 Jorif's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent CW3 Jorif 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 NAVY VETERAN
ANDREW "ANDY" McTAGUE

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 life and legacy of Navy veteran Andrew "Andy" Scott McTague. Andy was a cherished member of his community in Thurman, New York, and his life was marked by an unwavering dedication to his country and loved ones.

Andy was born on July 29, 1979, in Glens Falls, New York. He was raised in Thurman, where he attended Warrensburg Central School, graduating in 1997. Andy embodied a spirit of service and followed in his grandfather's footsteps by enlisting in the United States Navy post-graduation. After completing bootcamp at the Great Lakes Regional Training Center, he began his distinguished service in a Naval Construction Battalion, known as the Seabees, where he traveled across both the Pacific and the United States and took part in special projects of all forms.

After his military service, Andy transitioned to a successful civilian career and worked for a variety of companies and institutions in Upstate New York which included Echo Lake Camp Maintenance, Donnelly Construction, Verizon, Warren County, and the New York State Department of Transportation. He also started his own company, Adirondack Services and Maintenance, which allowed him to work with his family members on various projects. Despite his success in civilian life, his commitment to service remained strong and in 2017, he re-enlisted in the Seabees as a reservist and rapidly rose through the ranks and earned recognition as Sailor of the Year in 2022. In September of 2023, Andy was proudly promoted to Chief Petty Officer and left behind a legacy of leadership and dedication that will continue to inspire future generations of sailors.

Beyond his military service, Andy's life was filled with a deep love of his family. He mar-

ried his soulmate, Kaitlyn Witz, in 2016, and together they welcomed their daughter, Lyla Mae, a source of immense pride and joy. As a devoted father, Andy cherished the time spent with Lyla, sharing his love for the outdoors, hunting, hiking, and enjoying the beauty of the Thurman countryside.

Andy's work ethic extended into every aspect of his life, from his career as a lineman for Verizon to the many local projects he undertook through his own business. Whether it was through his military service or the impact he left on those in his community, Andy's commitment to leadership, humor, and dedication was an inspiration to all, and I am proud to honor his achievements on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District.

HONORING DR. ENID PINKNEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney, a trailblazing leader, educator, and historic preservationist whose tireless dedication to her community and to preserving the rich cultural heritage of Miami has left an indelible mark on our Nation.

Enid Curtis was born the third of four children on October 15, 1931 in Miami's Overtown neighborhood to Lenora and Henry Curtis. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1949 and later earned degrees from Talladega College and Barry University, along with three honorary doctorates.

Her professional journey began as a social worker and educator, dedicating nearly four decades to the Dade County Public School System, where she retired, in 1991, as Assistant Principal of South Miami Middle School. However, her retirement marked the beginning of another chapter of service, as she turned her attention to historic preservation.

In the mid-1980's, Dr. Pinkney joined the Dade Heritage Trust and, in 1998, broke barriers by becoming its first Black president. She was the driving force behind the creation of the African American Committee, which sought to highlight and preserve the contributions of Black Americans in Miami. Among her many successes was leading the effort to save the Miami Circle, an ancient archaeological site, from demolition, preserving an irreplaceable piece of history.

Dr. Pinkney's commitment to preservation extended across Miami. As president of Natives of Dade, president of the Brownsville Neighborhood Civic Association, and a member of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, she was instrumental in preventing the commercialization of historic sites, including the "Colored" Beach at Virginia Key, safeguarding its legacy for future generations.

One of Dr. Pinkney's most significant achievements was her work as the Founding President and CEO of The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc. Through her tireless advocacy, she saved the Historic Hampton House Motel, a landmark of Miami's Black history, from demolition, ensuring its restoration and continued presence as a vital cultural site.

Her passion for history also led her to preserve the Lemon City Cemetery, an abandoned Black cemetery, where she worked to ensure that the stories of those interred there were not forgotten.

Dr. Pinkney was not only a preservationist but also a prolific writer and producer, contributing to books, documentaries, and television programs that showcased Miami's rich African American heritage. Her contributions earned her numerous awards including induction into prestigious Halls of Fame, recognition from various organizations, and the Peter H. Brink Award for Individual Achievement in Historic Preservation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Not to mention being honored by: The Bahamian Government, and being named by Congresswoman Frederica Wilson as one of the twenty outstanding Bahamian Americans in Miami.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of this remarkable woman, whose impact will be felt for years to come. Dr. Pinkney's legacy is a reminder of the power of one individual to make a profound difference in the world.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK P.
KESSLER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and service of Frederick P. Kessler. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of his passing on November 12, 2024. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the many people in our community whose lives he touched.

Fred's remarkable career began in this very chamber, where, as a high school student, he acted as a Page in the United States House of Representatives. By the time he was 20 years old, Fred had been elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly. Throughout this time, he played a pivotal role in achieving compromise during Wisconsin's redistricting battles of the 1960s. Fred used his position to advocate for equal education, election reform, civil liberties, and fair housing. In the midst of his public service, he earned both a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Following the end of the legislative session in 1972, Fred was appointed to a judgeship in Milwaukee County. After working on the Wisconsin Legislative Council Committee on Court Reorganization in 1978, Fred was appointed as a circuit judge for Milwaukee County. He served with distinction for 10 years, upholding the law and administering justice to the people of Milwaukee.

In 2004, Fred returned to the Wisconsin State Assembly for 14 more years. During this period, Fred once again championed critical reforms in Wisconsin's criminal justice system, elections, and federal relations. Fred's dedication to justice will be dearly missed. His unwavering commitment to public service fills me with honor in recognizing his incredible career and passion for creating a more equal and just nation.