

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.

I have long admired Fred's dedication to improving the world around him. His legacy is one of selfless service, a steadfast pursuit of justice, and a profound care for others. Fred's life was defined by his compassion, his integrity, and his unwavering belief in the power of public service to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Fred was always a voice for the voiceless, a champion of fairness, and an advocate for those who needed it most.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I am proud to pay tribute to Frederick P. Kessler today. He has changed the lives of so many people, including my own constituents. The people of the 4th Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States join me in thanking him for his legacy of service and commitment to the public good.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CLAYTON MCGRAW

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Clayton McGraw of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SFC McGraw honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

During the Korean War, SFC McGraw was drafted into the Army. In one incident, he successfully rescued a fellow soldier from drowning during a dangerous river crossing and was recognized for his quick thinking and bravery. For distinguishing himself through an act of heroism, SFC McGraw was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

After retiring from the Army, SFC McGraw continued to make a positive impact in our community. He is the founder and Chairman of the Hopkins County Veterans Memorial Committee to advocate for and support veterans across North Texas. SFC McGraw also served for eight years on the Sulphur Springs Planning and Zoning Board and was a member of the First Baptist mission team in Longview, Texas. His outstanding leadership has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of so many people throughout the years. I am proud of SFC McGraw's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent SFC McGraw 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 CHIEF ALLEN D. ALDENBERG

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the impressive and impactful career of Manchester Police Chief Allen Aldenberg as he retires.

Throughout his life, Chief Aldenberg dedicated his efforts to serving others.

In a military career spanning 30 years, he commanded from the company to the brigade level and deployed in support of key operations to combat terrorism and protect our Nation after 9/11. He was awarded a Bronze Star medal for his service in Iraq from 2009 to 2010.

As a law enforcement officer for 27 years, including the last four years as Manchester Police Chief, Chief Aldenberg has worked with officers, department staff, city leadership, and community members to make Manchester safer and stronger. His commitment to public safety and securing a bright and safe future for the Queen City is evident through his investment toward improving the Manchester Police Department.

Through his leadership, Chief Aldenberg spearheaded the Manchester Police Department's strategic goals to focus on data-driven approaches to public safety, invest in high-quality training and development, put more well-trained officers on the street, and enhance community engagement. Under his leadership, Chief Aldenberg also strengthened the Manchester Police Department's Mental Health and Wellness Program, which serves as a standard bearer across New Hampshire for other departments to emulate.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Chief Allen Aldenberg for his exceptional service in New Hampshire as a law enforcement officer. I join all Granite Staters in thanking Chief Aldenberg for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions to making the community safer. I wish Allen, his wife Emily, and his children all the best as he retires from a career in law enforcement.

I congratulate Chief Aldenberg on a job very well done.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY

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 recognize The Arc of Warren County for its 70 years of service to the 7th Congressional District of New Jersey. By assisting families in addressing the challenges associated with the lifelong care of relatives with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Warren County has created an environment where those they serve are accepted and respected in the community. Currently serving over 1,100 individuals annually, The Arc strives every day to ensure that all those associated with the program are able to achieve independence, make friends, and contribute to society. I am honored to have such an amazing organization working to strengthen the lives of New Jersey residents, and I look forward to seeing all that they will achieve in the future.

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER PRIVATE JOHN ADAM STROBECK

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 remarkable life and legacy of Private John Adam Strobeck, a Soldier of the American Revolution and stalwart patriot whose family resides in the Mohawk Valley of New York.

John was born on September 7, 1763, and was a devoted husband to his wife Sophia Merkel Strobeck. He was the proud father of five children: Sophia, John, Paul, Adam, and Catharina. On April 1, 1781, John enlisted as a Private in the Revolutionary War where he first served under Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of Levies under Captain Lawrence Gros.

During the Battle of Sharon, John's back and left arm were wounded, but these injuries did not deter him from continuing to fight for our country's independence. He recovered and fought in the Battle of Johnstown before receiving an honorable discharge in December 1781. John went on to reenlist in April 1782 with Colonel Willett, where he served for nine months before his final discharge in December 1782.

After the war, John settled in the Town of Seward and established a tavern where neighbors gathered for horse races and lively outings. He was affectionately known in Seward as "Honorable Adam" for his charitable spirit, always extending kindness to those in need. He was renowned for horseback riding and leading adventures while transporting grain to Albany where friends would join him in spirited competitions.

John passed away on June 16, 1845, and was laid to rest on his property, which was inherited by his son Paul. It was on this land that the "Strobeck Family Cemetery" was discovered more than a century after his passing. John is the only Revolutionary Soldier buried there, joined by generations of his descendants.

In October 2024, the Seward community came together to commemorate John's service and sacrifice. The Patriot Burial Marker on Rhinebeck Road serves as a testament to his contributions to American freedom and a reminder of the values for which he fought. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize John Adam Strobeck.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR GERALD NELSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Ray "Chappie" Nelson of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. LTC Nelson honorably served in the United States Army.