

And from a long-time classmate:

"My mother was battling cancer and it made it hard sometimes at school. I will never forget the compassion Andy showed me through the hard days at school. He never treated me differently, but always had a joke to keep me laughing and my mind off of what was going on at home. I will always be grateful for that."

Andrew graduated from Apache Junction High School in 2015. Coming from a military family he eagerly enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18 and was assigned as a '15T' UH-60 Black Hawk Repairer stationed with the 1st Armored Division's Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In this role, Andrew deployed to Egypt for a 13-month rotation as part of Task Force Sinai in support of peacekeeping operations, and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Wherever he served, Andrew's unit members recognized both his selfless service and the energy and time he dedicated to those around him. Andrew was the type of soldier and man who, while at Fort Bliss, pulled a woman from a burning vehicle without even telling his friends about it.

When asked about his heroism, Andrew simply responded: "I feel like anyone would pull over. It was just my time and place where I was that day."

A friend and fellow soldier who completed Army basic training with Andrew shared:

"It's a statement to who he was. You ask anyone; if they knew him for seven years or just seven days, you understood the type of person he was and how much he would be there for you, how much he would invest in you and expect nothing in return."

Never content with the ordinary, Andrew started down one of the most grueling challenges any military service member can endure by volunteering for the Army's legendary 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

After completing Green Platoon, the regiment's rigorous training and assessment program in 2023, he earned his place with the First Battalion, 160th SOAR as an MH-60M Crew Chief based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After the Hamas terror attacks of October 7, 2023, elements of the 160th SOAR were assigned to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in support of our allies in Israel.

On November 10, during a refueling training exercise over the Mediterranean between Cyprus and Lebanon, Andrew's aircraft crashed after suffering a catastrophic malfunction.

Tragically, he and four of his teammates were killed. We mourn them:

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen R. Dwyer, Clarksville, Tennessee; Chief Warrant Officer Shane M. Barnes, Sacramento, California; Staff Sergeant Tanner W. Grone, Gorham, New Hampshire; and Sergeant Cade M. Wolfe, of Mankato, Minnesota.

Though we grieve, we celebrate Andrew's life along with his devoted wife Ashley, his sweet children Jack, Gavin, and Hallie, and his parents, brother, grandparents, and friends.

But we also recognize that his sacrifice epitomizes the way he lived his life; defending the defenseless, standing by his fellow soldiers, and doing what was right without the thought of recognition or reward. May each of us follow his valuable example of courage, service, and friendship.

CELEBRATING MITRE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of MITRE's 65th anniversary of service to the Nation.

MITRE, a non-profit founded in 1958 in Bedford, Massachusetts, contributions have been both profound and wide-ranging, impacting not only national security but also advancing critical technology sectors and public welfare on a global scale.

For over six decades, MITRE has been at the forefront of technological and strategic development, adapting to and preempting global challenges from the Cold War era to the present day. Its pioneering work in the development of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) and its collaboration on the Apollo Mission underscore its pivotal role in shaping defense and space exploration strategies.

MITRE's innovative endeavors in the fields of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence have set the benchmark for the industry. The Orange Book, penned by MITRE's Grace Hammonds Nibaldi, laid the foundation for modern cybersecurity, marking the organization as a thought leader for more than half a century. Similarly, MITRE's role in developing America's Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) exemplifies its commitment to creating the safest, most efficient airspace in the world.

Today, MITRE continues to spearhead transformative projects. The MITRE ATT&CK framework has become a cornerstone in cybersecurity, guiding threat models and critical infrastructure protection. Through initiatives like "Black Pearl," MITRE confronts issues such as human trafficking and narcotics, displaying its adaptability and influence across various domains. Moreover, MITRE's cutting-edge work in space traffic management, quantum computing, and BlueTech, along with its contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrates its capacity to lead and innovate in response to emergent global issues.

Recognizing MITRE's multifaceted impact, from the development of the Standard Health Record for Oncology to modernizing judicial records, reflects its profound influence beyond the scope of traditional research and development organizations. Fast Company's description of MITRE as "the most important company you've never heard of" encapsulates the silent, yet significant footprint MITRE has left on modern society.

Finally, it is essential to acknowledge that MITRE's success is fundamentally a human story—driven by a team of dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, often without public acclaim, motivated by a shared commitment to the public good. As we honor MITRE on its 65th anniversary, we celebrate not just the organization's remarkable achievements but also the people who have made it all possible. Their uncredited service and relentless pursuit of innovation for the nation's benefit indeed set MITRE apart as a unique and invaluable institution.

Please join me in honoring MITRE and its talented staff on MITRE's 65th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN WINTERSTEEN

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman STANTON, to posthumously honor Mr. John Wintersteen, a dedicated public servant of Paradise Valley and a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Mr. Wintersteen led the Paradise Valley Police Department as police chief from 1995 to 2009, protecting our local communities and showing exemplary care for the safety of residents across Paradise Valley. He founded the community's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration nearly 26 years ago, helping to grow the celebration of Dr. King's life from 10 to 15 people when it first began to over 250 people coming to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. In retirement, Mr. Wintersteen continued to stay involved with the community by volunteering for the Rotary Club of Southwest USA and served on the board of Empire of Hope, where he helped fight issues of poverty and unemployment and promoted education and medical care in African countries. He also worked with the Creighton Community Foundation to provide food for families of students struggling with food insecurity.

I join the entire Paradise Valley community in mourning the loss of Mr. Wintersteen and extend my condolences to his family. While this year's MLK Day Celebration will undoubtedly be different without Mr. Wintersteen, I'm confident we will honor his memory at this event which he worked incredibly hard to bring our community together for. He had an unparalleled impact on everyone who knew him, and he will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was detained chairing a hearing in the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 6, H.R. 788.

RECOGNIZING THIRTY YEARS OF BANNERMAN CASTLE LAND TRUST

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bannerman Castle Trust for thirty years of excellent work in historical preservation.

Since 1994, the Bannerman Castle Trust has overseen the preservation of the historic buildings on Pollepel Island, also known as Bannerman Island. Pollepel Island is located just off the eastern shore of the Hudson River between Beacon and Cold Spring, New York.

The island is home to Bannerman Castle and its surrounding structures, built by Scottish-American businessman Frank Bannerman

in 1901. Since then, Bannerman Castle has been a beacon of architectural beauty in the Hudson Valley.

The Bannerman Castle Trust is an official “Friends” organization of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region.

Over the past 30 years, the trust has been dedicated to maintaining and preserving educating community members and tourists about the history of the land.

Throughout this time, Neil Caplan, founder and Executive Director of the Bannerman Castle Trust, has dedicated his work to making this historic site safe and accessible to the public. By hosting kayak tours, river cruises, dinners, and even movie nights, Caplan and his team has continued to preserve this site and make it a special place within our community.

I want to personally thank Mr. Caplan and his Board of Directors for all their great work and years of service. I wish all the best in the next 30 years as Bannerman’s Castle is preserved and remains an important historical feature within our district.

HOMETOWN HERO SAISHEREN
SENPON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Saisheran Senpon of Irving.

Ever since he was three years old, Saisheran has been practicing karate. Now, 20 years later, he has become an elite athlete

at Champion Karate Academy, earning a 3rd Degree Black Belt and a spot on the USA Karate Senior National Team.

As Mayor of Irving in 2014, I had the privilege of recognizing Saisheran for his accomplishments and am impressed by all that he has gone on to accomplish.

Following in his parents’ footsteps, both of whom were national champions in karate, Saisheran is a nine-time National Champion, multiple-time US Open champion, three-time Pan-American Champion, and a gold medalist in the Junior Pan American Games, Cali 2021. Most recently, he brought home the bronze medal in the 84kg category for Team USA at the Pan American Games, Santiago 2023. He currently stands at No. 47 in the world rankings.

Congratulations to Saisheran, and I wish him continued success in his karate career.