

District. Jessica has departed my office for a new opportunity serving as Legislative Aide in the Office of Sen. ELIZABETH WARREN, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

From her birthplace in Bellshill, Scotland to the basketball court at Minnetonka High School and on to the halls of the United States Congress, Jess has proven herself a force to be reckoned with. In the spirit of a Minnetonka Skipper, Jess set sail across the pond to attend Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. After graduating with First Class Honours, she returned stateside to serve her home district with compassion and dedication.

Jess joined the office as a Staff and Executive Assistant, imparting her infectious joy on every colleague and constituent that walked through the front door. Her intelligence, kindness, and Radical Hospitality touched everyone she met and inspired the staffers who would follow in her footsteps. It wasn't before long that Jess grew into a widely respected and highly competent Legislative Assistant whose passion for helping others made her a role model for the entire team. Constituents came into their conversations with Jess eager to meet a DC staffer with deep ties to the district. They consistently left blown away by her empathy and policy acumen for the most pressing issues facing our country and Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

Jess worked tirelessly to make U.S. Department of Agriculture programs more equitable for Black and Brown farmers, provide adult sized changing tables in airports to ease travel for people with disabilities, and preserve Minnesota's Boundary Waters as an oasis uninhibited by harmful mining practices. She is a fierce advocate who has an unparalleled ability to treat the issue at hand with the utmost importance. The office will not be the same without her insight, diligence, warm smile, and occasional sarcasm. We look forward to working for Jess some day in the not-too-distant future.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her expertise and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that this expertise will continue to serve the nation and the people of Massachusetts. I wish Jessica all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for two years of faithful service to this nation—and many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN SAYLER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the president of the Sun City Republican Club, Glen Sayler. Glen Sayler has distinguished himself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City, Arizona.

As president, Glen has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Glen and the Sun City Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Glen's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely

appreciate his service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING MAGAIRA HOWARD

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Magaira Howard for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Magaira has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Magaira, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Magaira's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Magaira Howard on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT TOM WATT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Tom Watt of Denison, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Tom currently serves as the chief law enforcement officer for Grayson County, and he has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Tom was born at Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township, Michigan. He began his lengthy law enforcement career in 1979 as a Corrections Officer for the United States Army's 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1981, Tom began serving as a civilian patrol officer for the Sherman Police Department. For his outstanding public service and excellence, he was selected to serve as Sherman's Chief of Police in 2004, a position he held for nearly nine years. Tom briefly retired in 2013, but was drawn back to public service when then-Sheriff Keith Gary asked him to become his Chief Deputy, which Tom gladly accepted. When Mr. Gary retired in 2016, Tom was appointed by the Grayson County Commissioner's Court to complete his term. He was later elected to serve as the duly elected Sheriff for Grayson County and will retire at the end of this year.

For his extensive efforts to protect and uplift our community, Tom has been recognized on several occasions. In 2019, Tom received the Community Champion Award from the Texoma Health Foundation for his leadership on the issue of mental health services. He also received the Dr. Don Rogers Award from the Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team. Tom currently serves on the board of the Texoma Regional Police Academy and the Texoma Law Enforcement Leadership Group. In his free time, he enjoys bowling, golfing,

and playing pinball. I am proud to recognize Tom today for making a positive impact on the world around us, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.C. ROPER, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN THREE-STAR GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper, the first African American three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, as he celebrates his retirement from the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant General Roper's exemplary service began after he was commissioned in 1983 as a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His military education is extensive, including Chemical Officer Basic and Advance Courses (Honor Graduate of both), Public Affairs Officers Course, Equal Opportunity Advisors Course (Commandant's Award), Inspector General Course, Combined Arms Staff Services School, Command and General Staff College (Commandant's List), the US Army War College, the Joint Senior Reserve Component Officer Course, the Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) Course, the National Defense University's CAPSTONE Course, the NORTHCOM Joint Task Force Commanders Course, and Harvard University's National & International Security Seminar. He earned a Master of Science from the University of Alabama and a Master in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. He furthered his education at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. He specialized in protecting critical infrastructure and served on the Executive Board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

On May 14, 2021, Lieutenant General Roper broke a barrier within the armed services, becoming the first African American to become a three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, earning the rank of Lieutenant General.

Most recently, Lieutenant General A.C. Roper served as the Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and Vice Commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. As Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General Roper assisted the Combatant Commander in anticipating, preparing for, and responding to threats against North America and within Northern Command's assigned area of responsibility. Additionally, he provided oversight of the U.S. Northern Command's mission to provide Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Throughout his decorated career, Lieutenant General Roper's reputation has always been one of purpose and passion. Prior to this current assignment, he commanded the 76th

Operational Response Command in Salt Lake City, UT, which was the USAR's all-hazard response command. He also served as Commanding General—80th Training Command (OPCON to TRADOC), Acting Deputy Commanding General—CBRN, 335th Signal Command, and Commander of the 415th CBRN Brigade, where he was dual-hatted as the Task Force Operations Commander, JTF-51, ARNORTH for the C2CRE-A homeland response mission. Lieutenant General Roper was deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also supported Joint Task Force Andrew relief operations in Southern Florida.

Lieutenant General Roper's other general officer level assignments include duties as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, NC, and Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, headquartered at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. In 2018, Roper traveled to France during the World War I Centennial Commemorations and walked the same battlefield as his grandfather, Cpl. Roper who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division, and was a significant inspiration for Lieutenant General Roper's career.

Lieutenant General Roper's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and various other awards. He also served as a principal member of the Secretary of the Army's Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee and the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

As a civilian, Lieutenant General Roper has over 33 years of law enforcement experience, serving as the Chief of Police of the Birmingham Police Department for a decade. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and on the Executive Board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

On a personal note, I got to know the Lieutenant General in his civilian capacity as the Police Chief for the City of Birmingham Police Department, for over 10 years. Chief Roper, as he was called, is a disciplined and principled servant leader who impressed me with his firm yet compassionate leadership style that commanded the respect of his fellow officers and endeared him to the Birmingham community. While serving as Police Chief, he continued to serve his country as a U.S. Army reservist whose deployment assignments were in Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. Lieutenant General Roper is an honorable man, guided by his abiding faith in God and love of country shown in both his military and law enforcement service. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we honor Lieutenant General Roper for his 33 years in law enforcement and his 41 years of military service. We commend him for his dedication, commitment, and strong belief in God, family, and country. I thank him.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary career and exemplary service of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper for his contributions to our Nation and the enduring legacy of his service.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AYOTTE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona's 27th Legislative District, it is my honor to recognize Carol Ayotte. Carol Ayotte is the Chairwoman of the Republican Legislative District 27 which spans portions of the Cities of Glendale, Peoria, and Phoenix with a population of over 240,000.

As Chairwoman, Carol has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders in the Phoenix West Valley have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

As a resident of Legislative District 27, I am thankful for her leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the State of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING JAYCE MAERZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jayce Maerz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jayce has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jayce, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jayce's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jayce Maerz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GEORGE WOODROOF

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Woodroof of Gunter, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. George has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

George was born in Paris, Texas. From a young age, he knew he wanted to serve and defend our nation. In 1969, George enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he spent the next three decades as a Marine Squadron Commander and pilot. He primarily operated CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters and was stationed in various locations across the

world, including Europe, the Middle East, and on aircraft carriers. While at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, George met the love of his life, Barbara, and they married in 1980. As he had numerous flight hours and aviation experience under his belt, he began a very successful career as a pilot for American Airlines starting in 1986. George retired from the Marine Corps as a Colonel in 1999.

When they returned to Texas, George served as a board member for the Marilee Special Utility District and the Grayson County Planning Board. Additionally, he served as the Chair of the Grayson County College Foundation Board's Finance Committee for six years, where he helped support prospective students in our community with scholarships. Since 2018, George has been a Precinct Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party and helps local candidates fundraise and win elections. In his free time, he enjoys ranching, traveling, and taking care of his dog. George and Barbara are longtime contributors to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sherman, and the Grayson County College Foundation. I am proud to recognize George's important contributions to our community and his continued efforts to support those in need.

It is an honor to bestow George with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT DALE HAVER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of First Lieutenant Dale Haver in the Vietnam War.

Lt. Haver grew up in Whitehouse Station, NJ, now part of New Jersey's Seventh District. An accomplished student athlete, he was a leader on many sports teams at Hunterdon Central High School. After leaving New Jersey, Lt. Haver attended the University of Montana and became a firefighter. He joined the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, Montana, as a smokejumper, parachuting into remote woodlands to fight wildfires. He routinely undertook the most challenging assignments, impressing all with his dedication and talent.

In 1968, Lt. Haver was deployed to Vietnam with the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot, where he flew more than 25 missions over hostile territory in under six months of service. On April 9, 1969, Lt. Haver was piloting a rescue operation when his aircraft experienced a technical malfunction and crash-landed. Lt. Haver stayed with the wreckage, assisting his flight crew in escaping despite having suffered 3rd degree burns. Sadly, he passed away from his injuries two days later. For his remarkable courage and selflessness, Lt. Haver was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal, to add to the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon he had earned prior to his death.

Furthermore, he was awarded the National Order of Vietnam, Fifth Class by the Republic of Vietnam.