

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.

Lt. Haver's service for his country both domestically and abroad deserves strong commendation. I am proud to recognize his bravery and patriotism today and am glad that his legacy lives on in the Seventh District of New Jersey.

#### RECOGNIZING CADENCE DONOVAN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Cadence 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 Cadence, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Cadence'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 Cadence Donovan on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DEBBIE FLANDERS

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Debbie Flanders of Sherman, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Debbie has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Debbie was born in Mountain City, Tennessee and graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. During her time in college she was active in the Young Republicans Club and worked for former US Senator Lamar Alexander's 1978 gubernatorial campaign. After graduation, Debbie married the love of her life, John, and they moved to Texas five years later. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Debbie began her career as a caseworker at Texoma Community Center and an editor for the Pottsboro Press, a local conservative newsletter.

In the mid-1990s, Debbie began working closely with the Grayson County Republican Party, and she served as Precinct Chair and Secretary for over a decade. She was one of the founding members of the Grayson County Young Republicans, where she helped educate and empower students in our community to be active in the political process. For her outstanding work and efforts, the GCRP has presented Debbie with the prestigious Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award. In 2014, she received the Texas Federation of Republican Women Tribute to Women Award. Currently, Debbie serves as the Vice President and Campaign Chair for the Grayson County Republican Women PAC. She is a de-

voted woman of faith and regularly attends the Central Christian Church in Sherman, where she was the Children's Church Director and a volunteer at the food pantry. I am proud to recognize Debbie today for her important contributions to our community.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH AN- NIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Ridgeland in Madison County, Mississippi, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary in 2024.

The land that is now Ridgeland was once only a footpath along the Natchez Trace for the local Choctaw Indians. Over time, the footpath became a common road for travel and commerce. Turner Brashears, an early settler in Mississippi, opened a stand nearby in 1804 after seeing the potential of the area for business. In 1811, Silas Dinsmor opened the Choctaw Agency in the area. Though small and seemingly insignificant at the time, in 1812 Andrew Jackson camped with his army at Brashears Stand returning from New Orleans.

By 1829, Madison County, named after former President James Madison, was established in Mississippi. The growth in the area was recognized and in 1832 William J. Austin was granted land along the Natchez Trace. In 1853, Austin sold the land to James Burroughs from North Carolina. By 1865, the area was called Yellowley's Crossing by the Illinois Central Railroad, which operated there. This changed the old footpath forever.

The local community began to swell with people and the locals started calling the area Jessamine. The old Brashears Stand was destroyed by a fire in 1896 and Yellowley sold his land to the Highland Colony Company owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edwards M. Treake. In 1899, the village was incorporated as Ridgeland.

Since its incorporation in 1899, Ridgeland has been a center for trade and travel and offers a vibrant life for its residents. Through many decades of forward-thinking leadership, including that of longtime mayor Gene McGee, Ridgeland has continued to prosper. In 1999, Ridgeland celebrated 100 years and here, in 2024, I am proud to offer these remarks in honor of her 125th anniversary.

Ridgeland has done much through the years to contribute to the betterment of society and I'm proud to represent Ridgeland, Mississippi, in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING THE CARYVILLE CARES PROJECT

#### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caryville Cares Playground project in Caryville, TN, and recognize the community that has supported it.

In Campbell County, TN, roughly one in five people under the age of 65 years old have a disability according to the US Census, nearly double the national average, yet no playground in the community was considered inclusive for those with different needs and abilities.

The Caryville Cares Playground is an inclusive playground, where children of all different ability levels would have the opportunity to play together. Inclusive playgrounds like this are the start of healthy friendships that can last a lifetime and are places where children of all levels of ability are able to experience the joy of outdoor play.

The playground was designed with seven main principles in mind to be fair; be free; be included; be smart; be independent; be safe; be active; and be comfortable. The seven principles guided every step of the planning, construction, and implementation for this project.

The groups that initiated this project spearheaded fundraising, applied for grants, and solicited donations and support from the Caryville community. Their efforts included dinners, auctions, roadblocks, and even a local "Dancing with the Stars"-styled event. They successfully raised more than a half million dollars in both cash and in-kind donations.

After two years of hard work by the team, the playground was fully funded. On April 26, 2024, the gates to the Caryville Cares Playground opened for the first time. Every child in the community will finally have a place to play, thanks to the dedication of the Caryville Cares organizing committee and the incredible generosity of the local community.

It is my pleasure to recognize the community team that took on this important and worthwhile undertaking. The group includes Mr. Brandon Johnson, who served as its president, along with fellow members Mrs. Cheyenne Allen, Mrs. Tayler Franke, Mr. Landyn Ford, Mr. Joe Goins, Mr. Blake Gray, Mrs. Tara Lee Gillespie, Mrs. Kristin Long, Mr. Joshua McDowell, Mrs. Autumn Longmire, Mrs. Ali Dower Miracle, Mrs. Ashley Whited, Mrs. Brandy Nelson, Mr. Micah Nelson, Mrs. Sara Padgett, Mr. Patrick Pebley, Mrs. Kaylee Queener, Mrs. Raewyn Snodderly, Mrs. Elizabeth Tamer, Mrs. Emily Tamer, Mrs. Katy Winter Vincent, Mrs. Ally Winter, Mr. Kevin Winter, and Mrs. Saarah Young.

#### RECOGNIZING VIOLET KEHL

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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