

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will finally join me and fellow Democrats in this worthwhile endeavor.

It was John Lewis who said “that the right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool in a democratic society. We must use it.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in defending this precious right so that H.R. 14 can finally be brought forward for a vote; and show once and for all to our constituents that we are united in defense of our democracy and our most sacred right to vote.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR BENJAMIN JONES

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Major Benjamin Jones' impressive record of service to our country. Ben was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and attended high school at Clayton High School in North Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University and received his commission as an Armor Officer through Officer Candidate School in 2010.

Major Jones has served on active duty for just over ten years. He has served as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader within 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He commanded two Cavalry Troops within 1st Armored Division in Texas. After command, he served as an exercise planner for Joint Modernization Command, within Army Futures Command. He also has an operational deployment to Kuwait in 2017 as a Troop Commander. Prior to his current assignment in the Army House Liaison Division as a Legislative Liaison, Major Jones served as the Defense Fellow/Military Legislative Liaison for Representative Filemon Vela of Texas' 34th Congressional District.

As a Legislative Liaison, Ben was the face of the Army for 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, with direct influence over 10 states spanning 85 individual members. Ben built, promoted, and facilitated lines of communication between Congress and the Army that were instrumental in maintaining the relationship between the executive and legislative branches. Through his ability to clearly define the Army's message and help navigate the needs of Congress to provide essential oversight requirements, Ben has had a lasting and outsized impact on the government and the nation's ability to respond to global threats, ensure the military modernizes, and maintains readiness at the highest level.

In June, Major Jones will be attending the National Intelligence University as he continues his career as a strategic intelligence officer continuing his post graduate studies and continues to honorably serve our great Nation. I wish Ben, his wife Lauren, and his two children Colin and Harper, the best of luck in their future endeavors and their continued dedication to this great country.

RECOGNIZING
BARBARA
DEMAREST FOR HER YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF AM-
HERST AND WESTERN NEW
YORK AT LARGE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Demerest for her many years of community engagement and civic duty as a tireless conservative advocate in the Town of Amherst and across Western New York.

Barbara graduated with a master's degree and Advanced Certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work, and a Certificate in Supervisory Studies from the Cornell School of Industrial Relations. She went on to work in the healthcare sector, serving the region as both a clinician and administrator. As she advocated for stronger measures to combat family violence, Barbara connected with longtime State Senator Mary Lou Rath. Barbara Demerest's voice on community issues was appreciated, and Senator Rath later brought her on as the Director of Community Services, where she continued to have a large impact on policy, advising the Senator and working with the community on a wide range of issues, with a special emphasis on her background in healthcare.

Even in retirement, Barbara Demerest continues to be a trusted advisor to candidates and elected officials as a leader in the Town of Amherst Republican Committee and respected advocate in the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I thank Barbara Demerest for her tireless efforts to improve Western New York through her community engagement and activism.

RECOGNIZING BOB BLAZIER FOR
RECEIVING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Blazier for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce. This recognition acknowledges Mr. Blazier's unwavering commitment to serving his community in various capacities.

Bob Blazier's career in Crystal Lake began in 1962 as the Principal of Lundahl Middle School. His passion for education extended beyond the classroom, as he became a founding member of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in 1977.

From 1985 to 2002, Bob served as superintendent of District 47 in Crystal Lake, leaving an enduring legacy on the district's educational system. After his tenure as superintendent, he continued making a difference by serving as Vice President of the Northern Illinois Medical Center where he played a piv-

otal role in establishing the Centegra Foundation.

Bob's involvement in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce reached its peak when he served as President from 1990 to 2008. During his presidency, he spearheaded the creation of the Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation, which has since awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

Even at the age of 97, Bob remains actively engaged in the community, working at Home State Bank. His unwavering dedication to Crystal Lake is a testament to his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bob Blazier's lifelong leadership and dedication to serving others. His unwavering commitment serves as an inspiration to all who strive to make a lasting difference in their communities.

RECOGNIZING LOWER SOUTH-
AMPTON POLICE SERGEANT MI-
CHAEL WOJNAR'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Sergeant Michael Wojnar of Lower Southampton Township Police Department who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer.

He started his career in 1996 working for Jenkintown Borough and Rockledge Borough Police. He attended Bucks County Community College for his Associates of Art Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from 1992 to 1995 and enrolled in the Police Academy at Montgomery County Community College in 1995. By June 1997, he joined the Lower Southampton Township Police Department.

For 18 years, Michael served as a valuable asset within the South-Central Bucks County SWAT team, fulfilling pivotal roles in HAZMAT SWAT operations and crisis negotiator. Additionally, he was a member of the Lower Southampton Township Police Honor Guard, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to excellence in law enforcement.

During his tenure with Lower Southampton Township, Michael quickly rose through the ranks of the police department, promoted to Corporal in 2014 and Sergeant in 2018. Michael Wojnar has an array of worthy achievements, exemplified by his courageous rescue efforts at the Ridgecrest Nursing Home amidst perilous conditions of heat and smoke, and his adeptness in providing key information leading to the arrest of a serial bank robber.

Along with his patrol sergeant duties, he was extremely involved in accident investigation and reconstruction. While performing these responsibilities, he was also at Peirce College getting a Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Administration in 2021, and earning a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Corrections from the University of Arizona Global Campus from 2022 to 2023.

I express profound gratitude to Sergeant Wojnar for the life of dedicated service he has given to our community, district, and country. His exemplary character serves as a model of civic stewardship and sets a precedent for future generations of law enforcement to emulate. Michael's devotion will be greatly missed, but thankfully he has continued to serve for the Bucks County Sheriff's Department as Deputy Sheriff. I wish to congratulate his service to the citizens of Bucks County, and I eagerly anticipate witnessing his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING KATHY DAILY'S
DEDICATED SERVICE TO HOOSIER VETERANS

HON. RUDY YAKYM, III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kathy Daily for the incredible work she does day in and day out caring for those who have worn the uniform of the United States Military.

As a registered nurse for mental health at the Jackie Walorski VA Clinic in Mishawaka, Indiana, Kathy serves on the frontlines in the ongoing battle to make sure Hoosier veterans are well-cared for and receive the quality mental health treatment they need and deserve. When our veteran heroes return home from battle, they often struggle with invisible scars and wounds that are not physically noticeable. Kathy works tirelessly to bind up and heal those wounds and support veterans in crisis situations.

Kathy's extensive background in the military and with veterans' groups is part of what makes her such an effective advocate for them. From serving in the U.S. Army during Operation Desert Storm to now serving as Vice Commander of the Edwardsburg VFW Post in Cass County, Michigan, along with various veteran suicide prevention groups, there are few people who better understand the veteran community and their challenges and needs better than Kathy does.

One of the veterans who Kathy went above and beyond for in a time of crisis is someone I have also had the privilege of getting to know well: retired Sergeant Ted Grubbs. An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, Ted was diagnosed with service-connected complex post-traumatic stress disorder and complex traumatic brain injury after returning home from duty. In April 2023, Ted experienced a severe mental health crisis and put a pistol in his mouth before, fortunately, putting the pistol down.

In the immediate aftermath of that incident, Kathy was there and available for Ted 24/7, and she made sure he was supported and received the treatment he needed. It is not hyperbole to say that Kathy saved Ted's life, and there are other veterans who woke up this morning and can say the same because they had Kathy in their corner. As we reflect on all the tremendous sacrifices our veterans have made across the generations defending liberty and preserving this great American experiment, it is equally important to express our gratitude to those individuals who care for them when they return home.

I, and many others, are extremely grateful to Kathy Daily for being a voice for veterans when no one else will speak up for them, and to make sure crisis situations don't turn into tragedies. I thank Kathy and all those doing diligent, dedicated work supporting and caring for America's veterans.

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH 2024

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month 2024. Each May, our Nation commemorates the anniversaries of the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Since a commemoration of these anniversaries was first proposed in 1977, we have celebrated the history, accomplishments, and contributions of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in America. On Wednesday, May 29, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join Gwinnett County's 2024 Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration.

Gwinnett County is home to Georgia's largest AANHPI community. I am proud to represent such a beautiful tapestry of ethnicities, nationalities, faith traditions, and experiences, and I am truly privileged to know and work with so many of these individuals in Georgia every single day. Whether running a business, working with students, or inspiring civic participation in our political system, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our community have made an indelible mark in their professional fields and in the lives of those they serve. Since 2023, I have also been a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to fight for the AANHPI communities here in Georgia and across our country. Together, we can support the hard-working Americans who bring their unique experiences to our Nation, advocate and advance our shared goals, and celebrate the many contributions that have made America a more perfect union.

This month and always, I am honored to represent the cultures, nationalities, and spoken languages that make up this vibrant community. Happy Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BRIAN MCCORMICK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mr. Brian "Mac" William McCormick of Colleyville, Texas, who peacefully passed away on April 15, 2024.

Mr. McCormick was born on June 8, 1942, in Oneida, New York, to Aaron and Berniece

McCormick. After graduating from Norwich High School, he attended Powelson Business School in Syracuse to study accounting. In 1966, Mr. McCormick was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Although he could have denied the draft due to his younger brother already having enlisted, he nevertheless heeded the call to serve his country. During basic training in Fort Riley, Kansas, Mr. McCormick was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, which was known as the "Old Reliables". In Vietnam, he served as a forward observer on an armored personnel carrier and performed numerous search and destroy missions in the Mekong Delta. For his exemplary service, Mr. McCormick received several awards, including the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

After returning home in 1968, Mr. McCormick was waiting to be processed out in Fort Meade, Maryland, during the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. This led to riots and civil unrest across the country, and he was temporarily called back to service to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C. In civilian life, Mr. McCormick remained active with his American Legion Post and volunteered in his community. He also helped organize company reunions and spoke at these events, in which he was recognized for his outstanding work and community service. Mr. McCormick was a loving father whose selfless service and compassion will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Mr. McCormick's extraordinary life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ANTHONY WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Anthony W. Williams, Jr. as he concludes his tour as Army Legislative Liaison in the Office of Congressional Legislative Liaisons. Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Captain Williams attended Fort Valley State University where he graduated as a 2013 Distinguished Military Graduate. Today, Captain Williams resides in Albany, Georgia, and I am proud to call him one of my constituents.

Throughout his life, Captain Williams has attained an impressive list of educational degrees, to include a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Fort Valley State University, a Master of Science Degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master's in Policy Management from Georgetown University.

During his career in the United States Army, Captain Williams has served in several duty stations across the country where he was selected to fill mission-critical roles. His first duty station was Fort Campbell, Kentucky, followed by Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the Pentagon where he served as a General Bradley Fellow, leading