

SGM Blaz and CSM Manglona exemplified bravery that saved the lives of those within their battalion.

These veterans endured many indignities due to their ethnic backgrounds yet persevered to serve with distinction.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We urge all veterans and residents of Guam to sign this statement in support of Delegate Moylan's amendments to authorize the MOH for these three heroes. By standing together, we can ensure that their bravery and sacrifice are properly recognized, and that this injustice is finally corrected.

Please sign below. Together, we can make a difference and honor the legacy of these brave sons of the Marianas.

ANTHONY TALJERON.
CORINA BALLESTA.
GLENN MANGLONA.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Transmitted via Delegate James C. Moylan.

Háfa Adai Chairman ROGERS: We write in hopes that as an important member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with full voting privileges, you will support the effort from Guam Del. Jim Moylan to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to three of America's bravest soldiers, at long last. The valor displayed by CSM Martin Manglona (U.S. Army Ret.), SGM Juan Ogo Blaz (U.S. Army Ret.), and SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez (U.S. Army Ret.) saved the lives of their fellow soldiers and should be honored with the highest distinction available to America's men and women in the armed forces.

Utilizing the National Defense Authorization Act to accomplish these awards is justified when considering all three of these men displayed their acts of heroism during the Vietnam War, a conflict that started to involve ground troops from the United States nearly 60 years ago. This legislative avenue is also prudent when considering the undeniable valor shown by these men—documented as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross.

SGM Blaz charged into enemy fire over and over again to save men from another platoon, all while knowing American forces were outmanned and outgunned at an enemy base camp.

CSM Manglona fought day and night in a jungle conflict, rescuing and resupplying troops despite being injured himself.

SPC4 Perez, who passed away in 2006, seized a grenade and used his own body to shield his fellow soldiers from the blast, miraculously surviving the explosion.

We also believe it is important to share that these three men were part of the first generation of CHamoru people who were granted American citizenship through the enactment of the Organic Act of 1950. They repaid this historic act of Congress with fearlessness, fidelity, and faith—traits that have become the hallmark of the generations of Pacific Island veterans who followed them. We sincerely pray that, given all of this perspective from fellow lawmakers and civil servants, you agree these three soldiers deserve to be the first generation of Mariana Islanders who are recognized with the highest honor the United States bestows to its defenders of democracy.

Si Yu'os ma'ase (With thanks),
TINA ROSE MUÑA, MA'ASE
BARNES (D),
Vice Speaker, 37th
Guam Legislature,
Chairwoman, Com-
mittee on Federal,
Foreign & Regional
Affairs.

FRANK F. BLAS JR. (R),
Minority Leader, 37th
Guam Legislature,

Vice Chair, Com-
mittee on Federal,
Foreign & Regional
Affairs.

JOE S. SAN, AGUSTIN (D),
ROY A.B. QUINATA (D),
WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (D),
DWAYNE SAN NICOLAS (D),
JESSE A. LUJÁN (R),
CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS
(R),
THOMAS J. FISHER (R),
Senators, 37th Guam
Legislature.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 248, and NAY Roll Call No. 249.

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON HIS 100TH BIRTH- DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize multiple testaments to the character of President George H.W. Bush on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Texas A&M Today's article entitled, "Remembering the Character of George H.W. Bush" induces remarks from the 41st President's former Chief of Staff, Jean Becket, and the author of his biography, Jon Meacham. The article said:

"Anniversaries are about more than just the person being commemorated—they tell us about how we see ourselves at that moment, Pulitzer-Prize winning author and presidential historian Jon Meacham said Wednesday on what would have been President George H.W. Bush's 100th birthday.

"Speaking to a crowd gathered at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University campus, Meacham said there's not been a single moment in American history when the country has been more in need of what the 41st president represented than now. During Bush's remarks in 1990 commemorating the centennial of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, he quoted a motto etched onto a plaque that sat on Eisenhower's desk. 'Gently in manner, strong in deed.'

"It's hard to imagine a better description of Bush," Meacham said.

"Meacham spoke alongside Jean Becker, Bush's chief of staff for nearly 25 years, as part of a three-day centennial celebration hosted by the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. In addition to sharing some of their favorite memories about the president, the importance of character and the qualities that defined Bush were the focus of much of their discussion.

"Bush, known for his humility, likely 'would not approve' of the amount of attention being paid to him this week, Becker said. The former president's reluctance toward discussing himself and his legacy was

exemplified by an anecdote Becker shared about a visit Bush made to his presidential library and museum in College Station before it opened in 1997.

"Bush was invited to walk through the library one last time to point out any changes he wanted made before the opening. 'In the car on the drive back to Houston, he turned to me and said, 'Jean, I have a big problem with the museum,' she said. And he said, 'Jean, it's too much about me.'

"Meacham said Bush had a similar reaction after he read the former president a draft of his eulogy.

"The eyes were very attentive. He was listening to every possible bit, let's be clear,' Meacham said I got to the end, and he said, 'That's great—awful lot about me.'"

"Meacham, who wrote the 2015 biography 'Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush,' eulogized Bush at his funeral following his death in November 2018.

"Meacham said Bush's humility wasn't an affectation. But he also acknowledged the complications of a man who wanted to serve in a subtle and decent way, but 'also wanted to bend the arc of history in the direction he thought it should go.'

"If we overly canonize him, he loses the capacity to teach," Meacham said, adding that it's important to acknowledge that Bush was fallible.

"Bush represented a man who was driven by ambition, but who ultimately put service above self," Meacham said. He also warned against 'overly romanticizing a past in a way that prevents us from rising to the occasion.' When putting together his new book, 'The Call To Serve,' Meacham said he was thinking about what Bush's legacy means at this time.

"The easy answer is the climate," he said. 'Here's this decent, gentlemanly figure who represented a long-ago order. All true. But it was 20 minutes ago—it's not impossible to recover if we summon the same reserves of character. Because character, as the Greeks taught us, is destiny.'

"Becker, who is also promoting a new book, 'Character Matters,' said she's often pessimistically asked, 'Where's the next George Bush?' This outlook is a mistake, she said.

"The people who think there are no more George Bushes, yeah, there are," Becker said. 'You just have to vote for them. You all control this. Quit voting for people who don't have character. . . . The people are out here, and they're willing to serve. We just have to follow his example of 'do what's right for the country.' Not what's right for you, not what's right for the party, but what's right for the country.'

"Becker and Meacham's panel was attended by hundreds of members of the public, as well as members of the Bush family and alumni of his administration. Becker said the former president would have loved that the centennial celebration served as a reunion.

"He loved all these people. The party part of it he would love, and seeing everybody, but he definitely would complain to me and Jon, 'Quit talking about me, talk about other people,' Becker said.

"While Becker said Bush hated discussing 'the L word'—his legacy—the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M 'is his legacy, and it was really important to him.'

"He would be so proud of the Bush School graduates, because they're doing exactly what he wanted them to do," she said. 'They're everywhere—the State Department, particularly, the CIA, city managers. They're doing everything, and he would be very proud.'

"When it came time to choose a location for his presidential library after Bush left the White House, there was interest from several schools, including the University of Houston and his alma mater, Yale University, Becker said. But even though Bush did not attend Texas A&M, the university "had his heart," she said.

"He loved service. That was his life motto, and he fell in love with A&M the first time he came and gave a speech here," Becker said. "It was sort of a slam dunk that it would be here, and he loved it up here."

"The '41@100' celebrations continue Thursday with the grand opening of the Marine One/4141 Locomotive Pavilion. The new 29,000-square-foot building at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum features the retired Marine One helicopter used frequently by Bush during his time in office, as well as the Union Pacific 4141 locomotive that led Bush's funeral train from Houston to his final resting place on the library grounds. The building will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m."

The Today Show's article entitled, "Jenna Bush Hager shares letter to her late 'Gampy' George H.W. Bush on his 100th birthday" shared remarks that the former President's granddaughter had to say about her grandfather. The article said:

"He was gentle," Jenna said. "He led with kindness. He wanted to be the type of leader that listened."

"Jenna Bush Hager is remembering her late grandfather, the United States' 41st president, George H.W. Bush, on what would have been his 100th birthday.

"On June 12, Jenna paid tribute to her late 'Gampy' by reading to viewers a letter she wrote to him about his impact on her life.

Dear Gampy,

We miss you. We miss your letters and emails. We miss racing through the waves of the Atlantic on your boat fishing . . . laughing and debating around the dinner table.

We miss your rules: Don't be afraid to shed a tear when your heart is broken or because a friend is hurting. Nobody likes an overbearing big shot. As you succeed, be kind to people. Thank those who help you along the way.

We miss your quiet compassion, like when you shaved your head for the son of your secret service agent who had leukemia.

We miss your belief that our country is greater when we work together, and your lifelong dedication to our country as one of the youngest navy pilots in World War II.

On this day, many of your grandkids—inspired by you—will jump out of a plane. Your milestone birthday tradition that you so proudly did in honor of the nation's military.

Gampy, you have been gone for eight years, but we feel you still as we look into the sky and see a thousand points of light . . . in simple acts of love . . . in the smiles of your great grandchildren.

"Jenna's tribute had TODAY co-anchor Hoda Kotb in tears.

"The life lessons he taught that you summed up in that short piece were incredible," Hoda said "And what struck me so, was the kindness. It's like, we're better when we're kinder."

"He was gentle," Jenna said "He led with kindness. He wanted to be the type of leader that listened."

"George H.W. Bush passed away at the age of 94 in 2018, less than 8 months after the death of his wife of 73 years, Barbara Bush.

"Jenna and her twin sister, Barbara, were both greatly influenced by their Gampy. Barbara chose to marry right after getting engaged to Craig Coyne in 2018, so that her ailing grandfather could attend.

"George H.W. Bush, like Jenna, loved putting his feelings down on paper.

"He wrote us the most beautiful letters when he was in his 70s, 80s, about being together, about how all he wanted was us to come home and that that was what brought him the most joy, was to be surrounded by his grandkids and his family," Jenna shared on TODAY on June 5.

George H.W. Bush and Barbara shared six children: Former President George W. Bush, 77, Jeb Bush, 71, Neil Bush, 69, Marvin Bush, 67, Dorothy Bush Koch, 64, and Pauline 'Robin' Bush, who died at the age of 3 from leukemia."

The Wall Street Journal's article entitled "The George Bush Century" by James A. Baker III, the former President's Secretary of State, said:

"At a time of political dysfunction, the 100th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush's birth provides an opportunity to examine his leadership traits, which could help America regain its national footing. Those qualities—which made him the best one-term president in U.S. history and one of the best ever—include these:

"Selflessness. Born into a family with a tradition of public service, Bush put his nation above himself. He did so as the 20-year-old son of an influential East Coast banker who risked his life as a Navy pilot and was shot down over the Pacific during World War II. As president he was domestically rebuked for refusing to thump his chest after the Berlin Wall fell. He reasoned that triumphalism might hinder tense relations with the faltering but still dangerous Soviet Union.

"Trustworthiness. What started as a wary relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's last leader, developed into a strong, personal bond that Gorbachev credited with improving relations between the countries. The two worked together to reunite Germany, eject Iraq's troops from Kuwait and negotiate two nuclear arms-reduction treaties.

"Pragmatism. Bush recognized that savvy responses were often more effective than bold ones. Conservative in nature, he preferred stability and calm. His decision against marching to Baghdad in 1991 was driven by a pragmatic assessment of potential risks of occupation. The decision, much criticized at the time, proved wise.

"Respect for experience. Bush often advised aspiring young politicians to avoid being like a Dalmatian in a fire house, running every time the bell rings. Instead, he told them to get a job, start a family and do other things that would allow them to build a full life. By the time he became president, Bush had worked in the Texas oil patch, raised five children to adulthood, and served as a congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, top diplomat in China, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and vice president. No one knew the world as thoroughly and clearly.

"Leadership by example. Always a workhorse rather than a show horse, Bush let his actions speak for him. The "kinder, gentler nation" he envisioned wasn't merely a political bromide. He and Barbara Bush dedicated personal time to support and promote education and service-oriented programs. The Bushes didn't show class. They were class.

"Bipartisanship. He didn't mind butting heads with Democrats, or with fellow Republicans for that matter. But he refused to demonize opponents, and he always looked across the aisle for bipartisan solutions, such as the Clean Air Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The political climate was far more temperate when Bush was in the White House than it is today. Debates could be rancorous,

but they reached nothing like today's feverish and destructive pitch. As I watch the calamity that American politics has become, I yearn for the brand of wise, courageous and humble leadership that George H.W. Bush embodied. His virtues remind us of what we have lost—and can regain if we follow his example."

Joe Strauss, former Speaker of the Texas House, had this to say about the former President in the San Antonio Express-News article "Celebrating President George H.W. Bush, who governed with principle."

"This week marks what would have been the 100th birthday of President George H.W. Bush. It is a time to celebrate a man who distinguished himself by what he accomplished and how he led.

"Bush's presidency from 1989 to 1993 was highly consequential: The United States won the Cold War, helped broker the peaceful reunification of Germany and liberated Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Bush signed the landmark American with Disabilities Act and the Clean Air Act. Strength and diplomacy abroad, combined with kindness and compassion at home, defined his time in the White House" . . .

"Sununu writes, "President Bush's decades of integrity and credibility allowed him to move these powerful leaders in unison toward a common goal. They trusted his tactics and strategy, and most importantly they trusted that he would ensure that they shared the credit for the success of this world-changing effort" . . .

"Bush, however, did not waver. He said of one critic, 'He couldn't have been uglier and meaner. But that Just made me more determined to do what was right.'

"As president, he agreed to a deficit-reduction deal with congressional Democrats that reduced spending while also making modest increases in tax rates. Because he had famously promised not to raise taxes, Bush knew this decision could cost him reelection, and in large part, it did. But the deal also reversed growing deficits and paved the way for a balanced federal budget in the years after he left office.

"Throughout his life, Bush demonstrated the moral fiber that we should expect, if not demand, from great leaders. Even many Americans who disagreed with his policies understood that he put his service to others above any personal gain or glorification—a style that is growing less and less familiar in an age when we seem to measure elected officials by their visibility in the media rather than their effectiveness in office."

HONORING DR. JOHN REILLY, JR.
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of John Reilly, Jr., MD, and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. For nearly a decade, Dr. Reilly served as the Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for health affairs at CU Anschutz, where he led the charge in establishing Aurora and Colorado as national leaders in health care and biomedical research.

During his tenure, he elevated CU Anschutz to the top tier of academic medical centers in the Nation, expanded programs to serve more people across our state, and recruited leaders who will extend this legacy for decades to