

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY QUINTEN L. MIGHT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifesaving efforts of Deputy Quinten L. Might of the Gibson County Sheriff's Office and thank him for his continuing service to his community and state.

Deputy Might grew up in the community that he serves today, attending and graduating from Wood Memorial High School in Gibson County. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army where he served as a medic. He continued his record of service when he joined the Gibson County Sheriff's Office in 2019 as a correctional officer and was sworn in as a deputy in 2021. At only 25 years old, Quinten has proven that he is willing and ready to protect and save the lives of those in his community, including in four separate incidents since July of 2023.

One of these lifesaving occasions was on May 24, 2024, when Deputy Might and another deputy responded to a personal injury accident involving a two-vehicle collision. Upon arrival, Deputy Might came to the aid of an individual who was unconscious and not breathing. Despite multiple small explosions from the fire of the crash, the two deputies moved the victim to safety, and hooked up an AED unit and began two-person CPR until the individual thankfully regained consciousness, ultimately surviving the incident.

More recently, on August 9, 2024, Deputy Might responded to a residence call about a two-year old girl who fell into a swimming pool and was unresponsive. As soon as he arrived, Deputy Might called an ambulance and quickly moved the child from the backyard to the front, during which time he freed up her airway by striking her back, likely saving her life.

I am grateful that we have law enforcement officers like Deputy Quinten Might serving our communities today and thank him for his service and dedication to Gibson County, and the State of Indiana.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BERMAN AND VIOLET LAYER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate a husband and wife from my Congressional district in Dayton, Ohio, who have reached a rare milestone, celebrating their 80th wedding anniversary.

Berman Layer and his wife Violet Layer are both 101 years old. They were married on Berman's 21st birthday, on September 16, 1944. At the time, Berman served in Europe as an aerial photographer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After serving three years in both France and Germany, Berman retired from the military and returned home to the United States. He used the GI Bill to attend Ohio State University, and graduated in 1950.

During their eight decades of marriage, Berman and Violet have served as business and

civic leaders in their community. They owned and managed a small business called Layer Repair Solutions in Dayton. Berman was elected to the Miami Township Board of Trustees in Montgomery County and served from 1978 through 1997. He helped establish the Miami Township Park Board, was a member of the Ohio Township Association, and served as an officer for that organization for 15 years.

Berman and Violet have been faithful members of the Parkview Methodist Church in Miamisburg for the past 70 years. They served as nature tour guide volunteers for school children at Cox Arboretum for over 40 years. They have visited all 50 states and toured 23 foreign countries. The couple have one son, two daughters, and eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Berman and Violet's love for each other has kept them together for more years than many people live. Together, they have shared the joys and challenges of marriage, and set a fine example for many young husbands and wives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Berman and Violet Layer as they each celebrate 101 years of a life well-lived, and 80 years of love and treasured memories. I wish them more years of good health and happiness together.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL SUZANNE C. NIELSEN FOR HER SERVICE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Suzanne C. Nielsen, Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

She graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in the class of 1991 with a B.S. in political science. She holds a master's degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and is an alumna of the National War College. She also has a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University. Colonel Nielsen serves on the governing council of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Upon commissioning, Colonel Nielsen moved to Augsburg, Germany, where she served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Operations Officer for the 204th MI Battalion, 66th MI Brigade. She then went on to serve in many roles in the United States Military, both at home and abroad, from 1995 to 2009, including serving in Korea and Iraq. Her career at West Point began in 1999 as an Instructor and Assistant Professor with the Department of Social Sciences. Colonel Nielsen assumed the role of Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point in 2013 and became the head of the department in 2016, where she has served since.

Colonel Nielsen has written six books, including her most recent American National Security, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2018. Over her distinguished 34-year career, Colonel Nielsen has proven herself to be a superb Soldier, an inspirational leader, and an outstanding educator. As the Head of

the Department of Social Sciences for the past eight years, Colonel Nielsen's leadership has positioned the department to provide a 21st-century outlook for cadets, faculty, staff, and the Army.

Colonel Nielsen's unwavering dedication to duty and her lifelong impact on the careers of faculty members and future Army officers have contributed immeasurably to the Department of Social Sciences and the United States Military Academy. I commend Colonel Nielsen for her life-long service and wish her all the best as she transitions to civilian life and continues to serve in new ways.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL BOBBY M. GINN, JR. ON HIS NEW ROLE AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Bobby M. Ginn, Jr. on his new role as the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard.

Major General Bobby Ginn was appointed by Governor Tate Reeves on August 1, 2024. From Tylertown, Mississippi, Major General Bobby Ginn has a long history of military tradition. His grandfather served in WWI, and his father served in WWII, both mobilizing through Camp Shelby, Mississippi—the very same military post that Major General Ginn commanded from July 2017 through November 2020.

Ginn has over 34 years of service in the Armed Forces. He started his career in 1990 as an enlisted soldier and was commissioned as a Logistics Officer in 1993 through Officer Candidate School. He became a Supply Officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 114th Area Support Group, and then was assigned as a platoon leader in 1994 of the 367th Maintenance Company—a unit he later commanded. Ginn has completed many critical assignments, including playing a vital role in the response effort after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He answered the call in 2007–2008 when he was deployed overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2017, he was appointed commander at Camp Shelby and, most recently, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. Ginn earned a B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College.

Major General Ginn is a decorated officer having earned the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and many other commendations.

I am proud of his appointment as the new Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. His service both to our Nation and the State of Mississippi are well recognized, and I am thankful for his leadership. Major General Bobby Ginn is a true American patriot.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREERS OF THREE RECENTLY
RETIRED KVOA JOURNALISTS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the remarkable careers of three distinguished journalists who have recently retired from KVOA, one of Tucson's premier news organizations: Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika.

Lupita Murillo joined the KVOA team in 1978 as a general assignment reporter, specializing in crime reporting. A pioneer in her field, Lupita was the first Hispanic female in broadcasting in South Texas before moving to Tucson. Her career at KVOA spans an impressive 46 years, during which she has garnered numerous accolades, including awards from the Arizona Press Club, United Press International, and the Associated Press. She has also been honored with several Edward R. Murrow awards and has received national recognition from the American Women in Radio and Television. Lupita's commitment to community service is exemplified by her involvement with organization such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson and Santa Cruz County, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, and the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Her dedication extends beyond the newsroom, making her a cherished member of the Tucson community.

Frank Velasco has been a steadfast presence at KVOA since 1965, starting with janitorial work and rising to become the station's first official news photographer in 1973. Over his extensive career, Frank has witnessed and adapted to significant technological changes in the industry. His passion for videography and production has left an indelible mark on the station, and his creative contributions have shaped many of the station's memorable broadcasts. Frank's deep-rooted connection to KVOA is evident in his long tenure and his role in helping the station evolve over decades.

Al Mazeika joined KVOA in 1975, initially as a part-time booth announcer and eventually transitioning into roles such as audio technician, technical director, and commercial producer. With nearly 50 years at the station, Al's versatility and dedication have made him an integral part of the KVOA family. Known for his engaging voice and behind-the-scenes work, Al has not only contributed to commercial production but has also made occasional on-air appearances. His enduring commitment to KVOA and his personal connection to the station, including meeting his wife Cathy through KVOA, highlight the deep ties he has with the organization.

Together, Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika have exemplified excellence in journalism and broadcasting. Their careers have enriched the Tucson community and the field of journalism through their unwavering dedication, innovative contributions, and deep connections to their work and audience.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Lupita, Frank, and Al in their retirement and life after journalism. Their legacy of service and excellence will continue to inspire

and influence the next generation of journalists and broadcasters.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES MARTIN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Martin, a Hoosier hero of the Vietnam War who has dedicated so much to our country and to Indiana. Drafted into the U.S. Army on St. Patrick's Day of 1965, Mr. Martin took on multiple roles in the Army, including mailman, fireman, battery clerk, and supply clerk. In Vietnam, he was a critical element to the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, within the notorious 1st Cavalry Division.

Mr. Martin's unit was vital to the war effort, often serving as a lifeline to fellow soldiers and the South Vietnamese Army via cover and support. He and his fellow men were known as "Shining Star" by those they saved in combat.

After returning home in 1967, Mr. Martin continued to serve in a different way—working in finance with Northwestern National Bank, which later became Wells Fargo, and eventually shifting to computer work in the final 20 years of his career.

Since moving to Noblesville in 1998, Mr. Martin has been actively involved in Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, contributing his time and passion to honoring fellow veterans.

We are forever thankful to the service of Mr. Martin, and so many others who answered the call and sacrifice so much for our Nation. From me and on behalf of the people of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Mr. Martin.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF COLONEL JACOB HELGESTAD

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Colonel Jacob Helgestad, who recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer.

Col. Helgestad was born and raised in Lonsdale, Minnesota. He attended New Prague High School where he played football, hockey, and baseball. His life of service started earlier than most—before he even graduated high school, he joined the National Guard as a private. He continued to serve in the National Guard while he attended college at Mankato State University, where he met his wife, Karry.

In 2001, Col. Helgestad deployed to Saudi Arabia as an enlisted chemical reconnaissance specialist. A few months later, in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11, he made the selfless choice to dedicate his life to serving our country. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was then deployed to Kosovo and later Iraq as a company executive officer of an infantry company in the Al Anbar province where he spent two

years leading the soldiers of Charly Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For his final deployment, Col. Helgestad served as the Battalion Commander of the 1-194 Armor Regiment. He led a historic deployment for Operation Spartan Shield based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Under his leadership, 425 soldiers participated in the evacuation of Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021 by securing vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport and providing humanitarian assistance. His battalion was awarded the Army Presidential Unit Citation, the U.S. military's highest unit award, for their work. Col. Helgestad's life and career were characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represented the best that this country has to offer.

I offer my deepest condolences to Col. Helgestad's family—his wife, Karry, and his two children, Lucy and Sam. And I thank him and his family for their service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING CHAIR JHEANELLE
WILKINS, THE PEOPLE'S POLICY-
MAKER

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Maryland leader who is a visionary when it comes to policymaking and the epitome of Black excellence. Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins is a commanding trailblazer in our state who is currently serving as the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

Delegate Wilkins was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to the United States at just five years old. She was raised in neighboring Delaware and attended the University of Delaware before concluding her studies with a master's degree from American University.

Chair Wilkins has always been steadfast in her lifelong mission of enacting policy change that makes a substantial difference in people's lives. Before she ever held public office, Wilkins began her professional career as an intern at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She would impressively develop within the organization from her position as an intern all the way to her current full-time role as the Director of State and Local Government Affairs working fiercely in the realms of immigration reform, education equity, and civil rights legislation.

Wilkins' first steps into the political arena were through her positions on the board of the Montgomery County Association of Black Democrats and the Montgomery County Young Democrats. In 2014, she was elected to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

Then, in 2016, she was appointed to fill the vacant state delegate seat in the Maryland House of Delegates 20th District—becoming the first African American woman to assume this position. From the moment she took office, Delegate Wilkins has been a passionate and powerful voice in the House of Delegates on behalf of all of her constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is respected by so many of her peers for being unapologetic in her fight for what is right.