

In 2023, over \$2 billion in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was made available to researchers in Pennsylvania. This funding supported nearly 22,000 jobs and resulted in over \$5 billion in total economic activity across the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania is also home to a vibrant and growing biopharmaceutical industry, which employs over 56,000 individuals through direct employment creating billions of dollars economic impact.

In Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, Franklin and Marshall College as well as Millersville University, are recipients of grant funding from NIH.

As we recognize Medical Research Week, may we all give thanks for the medical breakthroughs that have improved our lives and the individuals whose dogged determination and pursuit of progress made them possible.

HONORING RAYMOND "RAY"  
HOLDWICK AS VETERAN OF THE  
MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S 9TH  
DISTRICT

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Holdwick, the Veteran of the Month for September from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. I am honored to highlight the exemplary service and dedication of this true American hero, whose courage and commitment has left a lasting mark on our nation's history.

Ray was born and raised in Sterling Heights, Michigan, graduating from Sterling Heights High School in 1981. Demonstrating an early commitment to service, he enlisted in the U.S. Army that same year. From there, he joined the 170th Military Police Company. Ray was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco from 1981 to 1983, where he was charged with maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of his fellow service members. His military service extended into the reserves from 1983 to 1987, where he continued to exemplify the virtues of discipline and dedication.

Beyond his military service, Ray's commitment to community support and law enforcement has been unwavering. In 2006, he and his wife embarked on a venture to establish a donation-based support program for K-9 units through the Macomb County Police Department. This initiative reflects Ray's ongoing dedication to supporting our law enforcement community in a meaningful and impactful way.

Ray and his wife also founded Rocko's Pet Shop in Macomb Township, a business that not only serves the community but also champions charitable causes for law enforcement. Their active involvement in local charities has made a lasting difference, enhancing the resources available to K-9 units and strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community they protect.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Holdwick's life story is one of service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our country and his community. It is with immense pride that I honor him today as the Veteran of the Month for September, a fitting tribute for a distinguished veteran who truly embodies the spirit of American valor and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for Roy Holdwick. His life of service serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifice of our service members and their families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JIM  
CHAPMAN

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Chapman of Horseshoe Bay, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Jim has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in Sulphur Springs, Jim graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1963. He then went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Texas and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University's Law School. Jim started his career as an attorney for six years, before being elected District Attorney for the 8th Judicial District of Texas in 1976, where he served 2 terms. He was then elected to Congress in 1985 through a special election, representing Texas' 1st congressional district for 6 terms. Throughout his time in Congress, he received the National Defense Achievement Award every year he served, and was recognized and endorsed by every teacher group, law enforcement group, the NRA, and many more. After retiring from Congress in 1997, Jim joined Bracewell & Patterson LLP and worked 15 years in the firm's D.C. and Austin office, co-chairing the Government Relations Group.

Jim's dedication to public service expands more than just public office. He served as Outside General Counsel for the Board of Hopkins County Memorial Hospital District, President of local United Way, and as Board Chairman and General Counsel for Peoples National Bank of Sulphur Springs. He's a proud member of 1st United Methodist Church, where he serves as chairman of the administrative board and as a Sunday school teacher for adult couples. I commend Jim for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Jim with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING AIRWAY TRANSPOR-  
TATION SYSTEM SPECIALIST  
MYLES OCONNER MAULDIN

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Myles OConner Mauldin and his service in ensuring the safety of his fellow Americans as a Transportation System Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Together we mourn the loss of a community member, gone too soon.

Myles worked with the FAA at the Ontario Airport in my district for 13 months, where he was responsible for maintaining a wide range of radar equipment for the National Air Space System. This entailed modifying and certifying radar, automation, and voice switches. As a safe-keeper of the systems that ensure air travel is safe, Myles helped support the backbone of our national airspace system.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On June 24, 2024, Myles passed away in a tragic accident while on his way to FAA training in Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife and their son. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishment, it is my honor to recognize Airway Transportation System Specialist Myles OConner Mauldin. His commitment to civic service and to the safety of the American people are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING LINDA BUSAM

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Linda Busam of Peoria, Arizona.

Linda is a dedicated public servant, serving as a West-MEC Governing Board Member and in various leadership positions throughout the community. She is also a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement.

Her support for elected officials, candidates, and the Republican Party has been instrumental to their success. I am thankful for Linda's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF COLONEL DOUG HOUSTON

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to take this opportunity today to honor and congratulate a distinguished member of our military on his well-deserved retirement.

Colonel Doug Houston, a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and an alumnus of Fort Dodge High School and Iowa State University, began his professional career as a Police Officer with the Cedar Rapids Police Department—serving from 1992 through 2002. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard's Headquarters & Headquarters Company 224th Engineer Battalion in 1997 at the age of 27. Upon completion of Initial Entry Training, Doug enrolled in the Iowa Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, commissioning in August 1999, and branching Engineer. Doug led Soldiers as a Platoon Leader, served as a Company Executive Officer, Detachment Commander, and then as a Company Commander of Company

C 224th Engineer Battalion, which had armories in Mount Pleasant and Keokuk.

In October 2004, then-Captain Houston mobilized with his 111 Soldier Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, spent 10 weeks at Fort Sill, Oklahoma preparing for deployment, and then deploying to Camp New York in Udayir, Kuwait, and on to Camp Habbaniyah, Al-Anbar Province, Iraq in January 2005. Important to note that the Al-Anbar Province was known as the most dangerous place in the world throughout 2005 Doug's company performed a relief in place of Company C 153rd Engineer Battalion, and began conducting route clearance operations in support of the I Marine Expeditionary Force and its Ground Support Element, the 1st Marine Division, from January through March 2005, and then for the II Marine Expeditionary Force and its Ground Support Element, the 2nd Marine Division, from April to December 2005, throughout Multi-National Forces-West—known at the time as area of operation Topoka.

Colonel Houston regards his 2004–2005 deployment as the Commander of Company C 224th Engineer Battalion as a space in time which held the most impact in his career. Doug was responsible for the 111 Soldiers assigned to his company in addition to the explosive ordnance disposal and joint tactical air control teams attached to him during route clearance operations Doug's unit supported all combat units in Multi-National Forces-West during their 12 months in-theater In addition to both the 1st & 2nd Marine Divisions, Company C supported Marine Regimental Combat Teams I, 2, 7, 8, the 11th & 13th Marine Expeditionary Units, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division and their subordinate battalions, including the 1st Battalion 506th Infantry in Habbaniyah, the 155th Brigade Combat Team "Mississippi Rifles", and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 28th Infantry Division, as they sought to destroy the insurgency in Al-Anbar Province. Doug's unit was engaged in combat operations throughout the Al-Anbar Province, including the cities of Anah, Baghdadi, Fallujah, Habbaniyah, Hadithah, Haqliniyah, Hit, Husaybah, Karmah, Khalidiyah, Kubaysah, Al-Qaim, Ramadi, Rawah, Rutbah, Trebel, and Waleed. In addition, Captain Houston was responsible for maintaining open lines of communication with his rear detachment Soldiers and Family Support Groups in Mount Pleasant and Keokuk.

On January 30, 2005, the Iraqi people participated in a historic event—their first free election in that Nation's history. Then-Captain Houston and a reinforced platoon of Company C engineers conducted route clearance operations on this historic date near the City of Hit, which straddles the Euphrates River, and has a population of more than 50,000. Marines from Regimental Combat Team 2 were tasked with ensuring security at polling station in Hit, and it was the mission of Doug's unit to ensure freedom of movement throughout the city by clearing the area of roadside bombs. On election day, as Doug's engineers approached the South side of Hit along the main highway, they discovered a series of roadside bombs and began investigating them with the Buffalo mine clearing vehicle's hydraulic arm. While investigating these improvised explosive devices, Doug's unit came under small arms fire from multiple locations inside the City of Hit. Several vehicles in the element were struck by

insurgent's rounds. Doug and his Soldiers located the enemy firing positions, returned engaged with small arms and crew served weapons systems, and suppressed the enemy. Within minutes, the enemy began firing 60-millimeter mortars on the convoy of vehicles which was stopped on the road as the engineers investigated the IEDs. After approximately a dozen mortars were fired with increasing accuracy, the engineer element broke contact and moved North approximately two kilometers on the highway, leaving the excavated IEDs on the roadside. Prior to leaving the Buffalo arm operator was able to secure the remote trigger for the IEDs which rendered them inoperable and essentially unexploded ordnance. Captain Houston sent two squads to go back to area and overwatch the IEDs that were left to ensure insurgents were not able to regain control of them. Over the next half hour, the engineers received additional rounds of inaccurate mortar fire. After a short period of no mortar or small arms fire, Captain Houston directed the two squads to go secure the ordnance and return to the unit's new position. The combat engineers secured four South African 155-millimeter artillery rounds which were later destroyed using C4 explosives north of Hit and away from any structures or Iraqi citizens.

This mission was a crucible moment for many in the element, as it was the first time they had received direct and indirect fire from insurgents with the express intent of killing them. They responded with precision in the most disciplined and military manner, positively identifying where the enemy was located before returning fire. The Soldiers not engaged in returning fire calmly focused on their individual responsibilities from the Buffalo arm operator to the radio operators, to the vehicle drivers scanning other sectors and prepared to take evasive action if necessary. Events of this day, and many similar moments during the deployment for Company C 224th Engineer Battalion, became the glue for a bond across this company that still endures today—nearly 20 years later. Doug maintained the leadership lessons of this deployment throughout the remainder of his career. Lessons on mission accomplishment, teamwork, motivating others, critical thinking, integrity, personal courage and many others formed the foundation for an officer who sought out difficult jobs and made a difference within the Iowa Army National Guard and the Soldiers with whom he served. Doug's legacy will continue through the many officers and enlisted he mentored throughout his career.

Captain Houston was nominated by the 224th Engineer Battalion, the 67th Troop Command, and The Adjutant General of Iowa as Iowa's nominee for the 2005 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. On May 17, 2006, then-Captain Houston and his family traveled to Washington, DC where Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker recognized him and seven other company grade officers from across the United States Army National Guard, and 28 total U.S. Army warrant officers, lieutenants, and captains with the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership award during a ceremony in the courtyard at the Pentagon. Recipients of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership award demonstrate MacArthur's ideals of "Duty, Honor, Country", and have a proven record of extraordinary performance, leader-

ship and achievement Doug Houston epitomizes those ideals.

Following company command in 2007 Doug transitioned to the Iowa Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion where he served as an Operations and Training Officer—leading Non-Commissioned Officers and working the vital mission of enlisting the next generation of Soldiers. He was promoted to Major while in this position. In January 2010, Doug began a tour as the Training Officer of the 671st Troop Command. In 2012 he was assigned as the Executive Officer for The Adjutant General of Iowa and served in this capacity for 19 months. In June 2013 Doug returned to Recruiting and Retention as the Battalion Commander and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He completed this tour in August 2015. Doug was then assigned as the Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Manager and Human Resource/Equal Opportunity Officer for the Iowa National Guard where he was responsible for managing this part of the full-time support force of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard. In January 2018 he was reassigned as the Iowa Army National Guard Deputy Director of Personnel (G1), serving in that capacity until March of 2021 when he was selected as the Director of Personnel and promoted to Colonel. In December 2022, he was appointed as the Chief of Staff, Iowa Army National Guard as his final assignment, retiring in August 2024 with over 27 years of service.

Colonel Houston earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Iowa State University, a Master of Education from Graceland University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Doug's military schools include Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Intermediate Level Education (ILE)-Common Core (resident), ILE-Advanced Operations Course, the Recruiting and Retention Force Leadership Course, and the U.S. Army War College. Doug and his lovely wife of 30 years, Angela, have three children, Sydney—28, Jack—26 and Evan—23. They reside in Johnston, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Colonel Doug Houston. Let's all extend our thanks and best wishes as he steps into his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT  
MELBA JEFFUS

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melba Jeffus of Paris, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Melba has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in the Paris, Texas, Melba graduated from Paris High School in 1962 and went on to study at Paris Jr. College after graduation. Melba started her professional career as a title clerk for the Lamar County Tax Assessor in 1963. Melba then worked for Rowland Edwards Signs in Dallas and the Boy Scouts of America while her husband enlisted in the military. Upon the birth of her daughter