

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 Udairi, 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 Tokpeka.

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 1, 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

Jennifer, she's served as the head room mother and PTA President. Melba then went on to work at Eastfield College, from the Financial Aid department to marketing, and ended as the IT Director. Her commitment to serving the public was recognized when she was awarded the TFRW Tribute to Women Award in 2016, the Rockwall County GOP Chairman's Award in 2017, and the RCRW Woman of Influence Award in 2019.

Melba's love for her community led her to serve the public in several capacities. She's a member of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club, where she's held several leadership roles including Hospitality Chair, Vice President, and President. She also sat on the Rockwall Architectural Review Board and the Rockwall County Tax Appraisal Board. Melba considers her faith to be very important and was heavily involved with First Presbyterian in Mesquite for over 20 years, serving on the Board of Deacons, the Board of Elders, the Fellowship Committee, the Search Committee for Minister of Music, and as Secretary for Sunday School. Today, she is a member of First Baptist of Rockwall. I commend Melba for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I was regretably unable to vote on Roll Call No. 418. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call No. 418.

IN MEMORY OF JACI WINSHIP

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jaci Winship.

My team and I are absolutely devastated that Jaci Winship, our Senior Community Liaison, passed away this week. Over the past decade, Jaci has faithfully served the people of Missouri's 2nd District with compassion and dedication. She has been a core part of the team from the very beginning, and her passion for her work shined through in all she did.

Jaci's commitment to helping the most vulnerable truly made our community better each and every day. She was a leader in our fight against human trafficking and in helping victims of domestic violence. Local advocates and community leaders knew they could count on her when they needed help at all hours of the day.

She had an innate desire to help others and foster a stronger, more creative, and more hardworking next generation of students. She worked with high school students and art teachers as the head of our Congressional Art Competition, she championed emerging lead-

ers in the tech space during the Congressional App Challenge, and she was a tireless advocate for students serving our Nation in United States Service Academies. The future is bright in Missouri thanks to Jaci's work pushing students to work even harder and break out of their comfort zones.

Jaci served in numerous positions throughout the Missouri Republican Party. Whether she was working on a campaign for office or leading an issue-related organization, her passion inspired others to excellence. Called by her unwavering faith to Jesus Christ, Jaci was a staunch defender of the unborn and an activist in the pro-life community. She was a champion of Israel and the Jewish community here in St. Louis where she made numerous friends and touched countless lives through her advocacy.

Jaci was a fighter for those in need, a deeply caring coworker, and a loving mother. My heart breaks knowing she is no longer with us. She made us all better people and we will be forever grateful to have known her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL AUGUSTINE GUTIERREZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Michael Augustine Gutierrez, who passed away surrounded by his loved ones at age 86.

Michael was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, family member, and friend. Born in 1938 and hailing from Brea, California, he proudly served as a private first class in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963. He often recalled this period of his life with humor and affection, and loved to share stories of his service.

After leaving the military, Michael spent his career working for the City of Anaheim. A gifted artist at heart, Michael loved to spend his free time painting, drawing, building models, and doing woodworking.

He also built a beautiful family alongside Virginia Gutierrez, his beloved wife with whom he shared 59 wonderful years of marriage. Michael was a loving father to his daughter, Sharon Siegel, and son, David Gutierrez, as well as a proud father-in-law to Randy Siegel. He especially cherished his role as a grandfather to his granddaughter, Anna Siegel, who brought immense joy to his life.

Michael's love for storytelling, his lively wit, and his generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and creativity that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Michael Augustine Gutierrez, a patriot and loving father who brought love, joy, and laughter to his family and our Anaheim community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ANNA CAMPBELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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

Anna Campbell was born in the Panama Canal Zone to an American soldier and a Panamanian teacher, where she was raised until the signing of the Panama Canal Treaty. She then moved to the United States, growing up in the Florida Keys before moving to the great state of Texas in 1990. Anna is a proud graduate of Texas A&M Commerce, where she earned a double degree in English and Spanish. Now entering her 25th year as a teacher, she continues to proudly fulfill her passion for sharing her love of the Spanish language and culture, while helping students achieve their college degrees. In June 2020, Anna was appointed to, and then elected to the Rockwall City Council for 3 terms. She has also served as Council Liaison of several City Boards and continues to serve the wonderful citizens of Rockwall with honor. Her dedication to public service was recognized when she was awarded Williams Middle School Teacher of the Year, the Hawk Award-Most Influential Teacher of the Year twice, Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the year, the Multi-Cultural Secondary Teacher of the Year, and many others.

Anna's love for North Texas has motivated her to serve the public in several capacities, sitting on several boards of non-profit organizations that focus on raising money for college scholarships for the youth in our community. She's also served as a board member of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club and has held additional leadership roles with the Boys and Girls Club. As the founding member and former President of the Rockwall County Hispanic Republican Club she actively reached out to the Spanish-speaking community in Rockwall with several forms of outreach. I commend Anna for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING FRANK RIZZO

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 Frank Rizzo of Surprise, Arizona.

Frank is a hardworking and dedicated leader with an outstanding track record of supporting the community and serving in Republican Party leadership roles. Frank is a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement.