

Foundation, a new organization seeking to raise awareness about the importance of public service by empowering servicemembers and their families.

Through philanthropic efforts, including a newly launched scholarship fund, the Foundation seeks to raise awareness of the connection between family and our military. Additionally, the Foundation seeks to showcase the honored men and women who earn the Presidential Service Badge through non-partisan support to the Office of the President.

As the Dean of the Massachusetts and New England Delegations, I would like to join Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey in recognizing this organization and commending them for their support of those who have served our democracy. I am proud of the fact that New England is home to more Presidential Service Badge recipients than any other region in the country, with over 2,000 in Massachusetts alone. I thank them for their hard work, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SAM PACK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sam Pack of Dallas, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Sam has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Sam was born in Stephenville, Texas, and attended Tarleton State College to study business. As a young man, he worked at his family's gas station and convenience store, as well as Piggly Wiggly and Safeway. Sam began working for the Ford Motor Credit Company in 1962 and rose up the ranks to become a Branch Manager. As a result of his expertise in the automobile industry, he decided to pursue a career as a full time dealer. In February of 1980, Sam purchased Lee Jarmon Ford, now known as the Sam Pack Auto Group. For over 40 years, the Sam Pack Auto Group has continued to provide North Texas residents with excellent auto and customer care through a focus on employee success, personal growth, and community outreach.

For his outstanding entrepreneurship, Sam has received countless awards, including Business of the Year, Retailer of the Year, and the Lou Sartor Heart for the Community award. Sam Pack Auto Group won Time Magazine's Quality Dealer of the Year in 1998 and was inducted into the Ford Motor Company's Hall of Fame. In 2023, Sam earned an honorary doctorate's degree from Tarleton State University, and it has established the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business in his honor.

In addition to his professional career, Sam is involved with the Holy Angels nonprofit organization in Shreveport, Louisiana, to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For over 67 years, he has been married to his wonderful wife Carol. They have two sons, Tony and Todd, and two grandchildren, Carly and Macy. A devoted man of faith, Sam attends the Good Shepherd Epis-

copal Church in Dallas. I am proud of the work Sam has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

IN MEMORY OF DR. SHELIA ROSS

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Dr. Shelia Ross who passed away on September 13 after a hard-fought battle of cancer. As the Director of The University of South Alabama Health Stroke Program, Dr. Ross was focused on working with other health officials and community members on advocating for brain health and stroke care. She used every opportunity to educate the residents of Mobile about the functions of the brain, in specific relation to strokes. I am honored to have had such a courageous individual and friend residing in and helping the people of the First District of Alabama, and we will miss her greatly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was not present for one vote on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and one vote on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 403, and YEA on Roll Call No. 419.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF NICK F. KASTRANTAS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the honorable life of Sergeant Nicholas F. Kastrantas, a distinguished veteran, father, and artist. Mr. Kastrantas, in his military service, creative endeavors, and personal life displayed intelligence, dedication, and a commitment to fighting on behalf of the greater good.

Mr. Kastrantas was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Greece, where he joined the Greek army and mastered the art of cartography. He returned to the U.S. in 1939 and immediately enlisted to serve his country. He was personally selected by Lieutenant Colonel James Gavin to contribute his artistic and linguistic abilities to the 505th Parachute Infantry. Mr. Kastrantas was a skilled mapmaker and spoke five languages fluently, allowing him to be an incredible asset to the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II.

Affectionately nicknamed "The Greek," he used his skills to map drop points at Nor-

mandy and completed four combat jumps in Normandy, Sicily, Salerno, and Holland as a paratrooper. His intelligence and abilities were invaluable, enabling him to create a 3-dimensional sand table map for his unit's mission on D-Day. Nick also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned six bronze stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge through his heroic service.

Mr. Kastrantas settled down in Detroit, MI after the war and made a name for himself as a commercial artist. He lived a long life and left us on August 31, 2011. His legacy lives on through his daughter, Ann, and in his murals that can be found in restaurants around Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to recognize the life and service of Private Nicholas F. Kastrantas—a man who used his creativity and dedication to serve his country in its hour of need. Please join me in celebrating his wondrous life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, and 417 on September 9, 2024, September 10, 2024, September 11, 2024, and September 12, 2024 due to illness. Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows: Nay on Roll Call No. 401; Nay on Roll Call No. 402; Nay on Roll Call No. 403; Nay on Roll Call No. 404; Yea on Roll Call No. 405; Nay on Roll Call No. 406; Yea on Roll Call No. 407; Nay on Roll Call No. 408; Yea on Roll Call No. 409; Yea on Roll Call No. 410; Nay on Roll Call No. 411; Yea on Roll Call No. 412; Nay on Roll Call No. 413; Yea on Roll Call No. 414; Nay on Roll Call No. 415; Yea on Roll Call No. 416; and Nay on Roll Call No. 417.

RECOGNIZING THE BILBY FAMILY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilby Family of Franklin County who has received the 2024 Angels in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Each year, CCAI selects individuals across the country who are committed to improving the lives of children in need of loving homes.

The Bilby Family started their journey in 2017 and immediately recognized the need for foster parents in Kentucky. In 2019, 2-year-old James came into the family's life. Since adopting James, the Bilby Family has grown closer, and James has become an integral part of their family. Their story can serve as a blueprint for others who seek to open their homes and hearts to children in need of a forever family.

The entire 1st Congressional District of Kentucky should be proud of the Bilby Family.

Their advocacy is inspiring and will have a lasting impact in Franklin County and beyond. I thank the Bilby family for supporting and advocating for Kentucky families.

HONORING SENATOR WENDELL H. FORD

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great leaders in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, former Governor and United States Senator Wendell H. Ford. September 8, 2024, would have been Senator Ford's 100th birthday, and the day brought back many special memories for me, my family, and countless others whose lives were improved by his lifetime of service.

Born September 8, 1924, he is the first and only Kentuckian to ever serve as a state senator, lieutenant governor, governor, and United States senator. His career started in 1965 as a state senator from his hometown of Owensboro, later saw him serve as the Commonwealth's 49th governor from 1971 to 1974, and concluded with his retirement in January 1999 after four consecutive terms in the United States Senate.

First elected to the Senate in December 1974, he served as Democratic whip from 1991 until his retirement. In the Senate, he played a key role in shaping many key pieces of legislation, including the National Voter Registration Act, the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Energy Security Act of 1992, the Aviation Safety and Capacity Act of 1990, the Airport and Airways Capacity Expansion Act of 1987, the Age Discrimination Act in Employment Act Amendments of 1986, the Tobacco Reform Act of 1985, and the Energy Security Act of 1977. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, he led the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inaugurations of President George H.W. Bush in 1989 and President William Jefferson Clinton in 1993 and 1997.

In reflecting on Senator Ford's long and accomplished career—and what it might mean for us today—three thoughts stand out:

First, he believed with all his heart that the sole purpose of government was to serve people, and he lived that philosophy every day in every office he held.

Second, he thought that politics was an honorable calling and that government at any level could not succeed unless individuals from all walks of life took time to become involved and engaged.

Third, coming from the state that produced Henry Clay, he recognized democracy could not work without compromise involving give and take from all sides. He was fond of saying that there are no victories in Washington, only varying degrees of defeat.

Senator Ford continued his life of service after his Senate career ended, teaching at the University of Kentucky, working with young people at the Wendell H. Ford Education Cen-

ter in Owensboro, and serving as a mentor to countless young leaders across the Commonwealth. He passed away on January 22, 2015, at the age of 90. His wife Jean celebrated her 100th birthday on March 1 of this year and still lives in the family home in Owensboro. She and Senator Ford were married 71 years before his passing.

On a personal note, I would add that one of those young people receiving Senator Ford's wise counsel was me. He was a tremendous role model for me, a close friend of my family, and someone who demonstrated the true meaning of public service. Let his lifetime commitment of service be an example for us all as we remember him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION—JONI CARRICO

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Joni Carrico of Graves County on being chosen as the 2024 Angel to Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Ms. Carrico has worked tirelessly with Hope That Binds, a nonprofit organization based out of Western Kentucky that aims to provide financial assistance for foster and adoptive families. Through Hope That Binds, a network of loving families is growing and expanding. To date, over 100 families have been assisted through the organization's fundraisers and grant program.

Throughout her time at Hope That Binds, Ms. Carrico has been a voice of advocacy in her church and community. Her service has provided much encouragement to the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky and our constituents. She remains an important voice for hopeful parents seeking to grow their home.

Ms. Carrico is an outstanding leader in Western Kentucky and her work impacts our communities daily. I thank Ms. Carrico for supporting, connecting and advocating for Kentucky families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GARY THOMPSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Thompson of Cooper, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Gary has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Growing up in Lake Creek, Texas, Gary studied at the Delmar Schools and graduated from Cooper High School in 1967. He then attended East Texas State University and earned a degree in History and P.E. in 1983. Gary joined the US Navy in 1971 and served our country for over 20 years before retiring in

1995 as an E6 Petty Officer Crew Chief on a DC-9. Throughout his time in the Navy, Gary was stationed at NAS Memphis, where he was trained for 3 months, stationed at NAS Miramar in Vietnam for three and a half years and stationed at NAS Dallas during Desert Storm for three months. He continued his public service in law enforcement, serving as a Delta County Constable and Sheriff's office Investigator, and Lamar County Investigator. Today, Gary spends most of his time running his ranch.

Gary's commitment to public service continued as Commander of the American Legion, Red Henderson Post 483, where he helped initiate a local scholarship program and placed flags in local cemeteries to honor our veterans. He stays involved with his community today, sitting on the Delta County Museum Board, the Camp Shed and Mt. Joy Cemetery Board, the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial Board and the Red River Valley Tractor Club. Gary is a proud member of New Hope Church in Cooper, where he sings in the Lighthouse Gospel Quartet, and serves as the treasurer. I commend Gary 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 Gary with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of our Nation and the people of North Texas.

APPRECIATION FOR BEA HOLDING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize former staff member Beatrice Holding for her service to the citizens of the Second District of South Carolina.

Beatrice was a valued team member, and both her contributions and presence will be missed. Upon graduating from the University of North Carolina, she took on staff assistant duties in the Washington Office and immediately became a welcomed, energetic face.

As the daughter of former Congressman George Holding from North Carolina, Beatrice was already familiar with the work of Congress and was able to jump directly into policy work, eventually earning her the title of Legislative Aide.

Beatrice brought a unique background to the office being a dual U.S.-U.K. citizen, always helping the staff and myself to use proper English. I offer her the best of luck as she continues her career in politics working on the campaign of North Carolina U.S. Congressional Candidate Brad Knott.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War On Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing border laws. HARRIS shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.