

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF HAWAII NATIONAL CEMETARY ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 26, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to build a new national cemetery in Hawaii. I am joined by my Hawaii colleagues, Congresswoman JILL TOKUDA, and Senator MAZIE HIRONO, who is introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

Our Nation has a special responsibility to our veterans. They served with selfless service, courage and sacrifice to defend our Nation. As a fitting measure of respect for their service, our federal government provides a burial benefit for veterans who meet certain criteria. This benefit is a solemn national recognition of our veterans' service and a dignified final tribute.

Veterans who qualify for burial benefits have a choice about their final resting place, including burial in a national cemetery. The national cemetery in Hawaii is the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, often referred to as "Punchbowl."

Few national cemeteries can compete with the natural beauty and calm of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, which is nestled in a quiet 100,000-year-old volcanic crater at the foot of the Koolau Mountains. It's lush green lawns and sprawling banyan and monkeypod trees offering a serene and natural amphitheater that creates a peaceful place for solemn remembrance.

With a rich history linking the site to the Native Hawaiian people and the defense of Honolulu during the Second World War, the cemetery opened to the public on July 19, 1949, with services for five who lost their lives in service to our Nation: an unknown serviceman, two Marines, an Army lieutenant and one civilian—noted war correspondent Ernie Pyle. Since then, it has become the final resting place for an estimated 53,000 veterans from World War I, the Second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the War on Terror.

Sadly, we have begun to run out of room to bury our Nation's heroes at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. It became essentially closed to casketed burials in 1991 and will stop accepting cremated remains by 2036. This is a serious concern for the roughly 115,000 veterans living in Hawaii, some 11% of the state's population.

To maintain equitable access to burial benefits in a national cemetery for veterans residing in Hawaii, where the next closest national cemetery is over 2,500 miles away, our Nation must begin the construction of a new cemetery. The work should start immediately, as developing a new national cemetery involves many phases, including community consultation, which can take more than eight years to complete.

I urge my colleagues to support me in this effort to ensure we can assure a fitting last

resting place in a national cemetery for our Nation's veterans in Hawaii.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN MATEO DAILY JOURNAL FOR 25 YEARS OF LOCAL JOURNALISM

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 26, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the San Mateo Daily Journal, a local newspaper celebrating its 25th Anniversary, marking a quarter-century of reputable and respectable journalism. I am proud the San Mateo Daily Journal keeps the residents of San Mateo County informed on local, state, national, and international issues. Published every weekday and with a special weekend edition, it provides a constant stream of timely coverage for readers. The San Mateo Daily Journal covers a wide range of issues that engage readers young and old, including breaking news, sports, entertainment, and governmental topics.

The paper's first issue was published on August 18, 2000, among stiff competition for local news coverage, and has emerged as the eminent newspaper focused on San Mateo County. The newspaper began by covering local stories in San Mateo and Burlingame and has since expanded to cover original news from across the region and distributes its paper in San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County. It is one of the few independently owned papers in the San Francisco Bay Area, and without the San Mateo Daily Journal, there would be a tragic dearth of local news coverage for the Peninsula.

Even as local print newspapers across the country have faced challenges from the rise of television and the digital age, the San Mateo Daily Journal has stood strong as a paragon of honest journalism. As the expansion of the internet led to news transitioning into online formats, the Daily Journal launched a digital edition and website that now reaches an average of 750,000 readers each month.

Local journalism is a vital part of a democratic society by ensuring citizens stay informed about issues that impact their community. Local journalists cover impactful stories that are often neglected by larger media outlets. Independent news outlets also serve an important role as a government watchdog and a check on societal concerns. Freedom of the press is the first line of defense against the threat of misinformation and disinformation. In the digital age, it can prove difficult to find reputable independent news media, but the San Mateo Daily Journal has stood valiantly providing accurate and timely coverage on local issues thanks to its team of committed journalists.

The newspaper has played an important role in encouraging civic participation by informing community organizers about opportu-

nities to participate in public policy development, and shining a light on local governments, nonprofits, and businesses. The paper has fostered a more inclusive and positive Bay Area community by routinely amplifying community events to a broad audience.

The San Mateo Daily Journal includes an opinion section for community members to engage in dialogue and voice their thoughts on contemporary issues and the topics they are passionate about. In its Rediscovering the Peninsula section, the paper engages readers on the rich and diverse history of the Bay Area while sharing the stories of the pioneers who made our community what it is today.

The San Mateo Daily Journal also fosters the next generation of news reporters by offering internships, which enable students and aspiring journalists to gain real-world experience in a newsroom. The paper supports a thriving local economy not only as an employer, but with its opportunities for local businesses to advertise their services and products.

While many individuals have contributed to the San Mateo Daily Journal's success over its 25 years, there are a number of individuals who have dedicated their careers to the paper and have set the high standard for which it is known.

Jerry Lee has served as publisher of the paper since its inception and bought the San Mateo Daily Journal in 2006. His indefatigable work has elevated the paper to the high-quality publication that it is today, and it remains one of the few independently owned newspapers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thanks to Mr. Lee's continuous work and adaptable approach to running the business, the paper is available for free in newsstands and libraries throughout San Mateo County, which has helped to ensure equitable access for countless readers. He is also a creative writer in his own right, providing movie reviews as a local critic.

Jon Mays, who joined as Managing Editor in 2000 and became Editor in Chief in 2001, has dedicated his career to journalism and making the newspaper creative, honest, and interesting. His keen leadership and writing skills truly make a difference in keeping the community informed. "I've always considered myself a connector, someone who can get help for others or at least point them in the right direction. And that's really what a community newspaper does. We hold the powerful to account, but we also provide power to those who may not have it," Mr. Mays said.

The San Francisco Peninsula has benefited from his commitment to connecting the public with the stories, events, and businesses they care about. His heartfelt opinion pieces are profound and thoughtful, giving light to under-recognized topics and asking the hard questions in an engaging and endearing manner. Over the years, Mr. Mays has been a key mentor to hundreds of reporters and interns, instilling in them a high degree of professionalism and journalistic integrity.

Nathan Mollat has been with the paper since its founding and as Sports Editor covers

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Bay Area teams big and small. His dedication to covering local high school teams provides a rare and valuable platform for student athletes to shine. Every season, the San Mateo Daily Journal honors its pick for athlete of the year, highlighting students' achievements and ac-

complishments. Mr. Mollat's creative style enlivens sports coverage with a focus on the people, not just the game.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when independent journalism is under threat, the San Mateo Daily Journal continues to demonstrate the irreplaceable value of freedom of the press in a

democratic society. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Mateo Daily Journal for 25 years of excellent journalism, professionalism, and devotion to providing accurate and reliable news coverage to the Bay Area community.