

Selected to lead several of the Air Force's most engaged combat intelligence units from 2006 to 2013, Colonel Flood commanded the 55th Wing's 488th Intelligence Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, England; led the 603rd Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany; and commanded Distributed Ground Station 2 and the 548th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group at Beale Air Force Base, California.

Following my election to the House in 2016, I invited Pat to help me establish our Washington, D.C., office. We both arrived in Congress in January of 2017 with no prior legislative experience. Without hesitation or any formal training, for the next 9 years Pat selflessly committed himself to learning and mastering Congress' complex legislative processes. Pat personally drafted hundreds of legislative bills and amendments, shaping America's national defense policy, force structure, and capabilities.

The results of his efforts have been remarkable with a significant number of his proposals enacted into law via the National Defense Authorization Act and the Defense Appropriations Act from the years 2018 to 2025.

While by no means exhaustive, here are some of the accomplishments: quality of life reforms for the all-volunteer force and military families; comprehensive management reforms for DOD's electromagnetic spectrum superiority policy; numerous casualty assistance policies; program reforms for Gold Star and surviving families; the first DOD program for integrated military-civilian national emergency medical response; the reconstruction of Offutt Air Force Base following the devastating 2019 floods; the DOD's Warfighter Brain Health Initiative; the elimination of Russian fuel at U.S. military installations in Europe; the significant expansion of the EA-37B Compass Call electronic attack combat aircraft fleet; academic copyright ownership for civilian faculty members of DOD academic institutions; direct support to military service academy foundations; sustained funding for the Baltic Security Initiative; and significant funding to establish the first secure software development facility to modernize our aging nuclear command, control, and communications enterprise.

However, these legislative victories only tell a small part of the story of the impact Pat has had. As my closest and most trusted adviser, he turned my intent and aspirations as a member of the Committee on Armed Services into legislative action that delivered tangible progress and results for DOD, Nebraska, and for the men and women who commit, and sometimes sacrifice, their lives for our security and the defense of our freedom.

I was selected multiple times as the most effective Member of Congress, and I owe much of this to Pat Flood.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pat for his years of service to our great Nation.

RIISING HEALTHCARE COSTS

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because families in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and across the country are already paying the price for Republicans' inaction on healthcare. The enhanced ACA premium tax credits expired December 31, 2025, and now health coverage is more expensive and families are already feeling the impact.

In my district, 90 percent of the 32,000 people who get ACA coverage rely on those subsidies. Four out of five were previously able to find plans for \$10 or less per month. That safety net is now gone. Families are seeing premiums jump by hundreds of dollars a month or thousands of dollars a year. Across the country, more than 4 million Americans have already lost or are at risk of losing their healthcare coverage entirely.

This isn't a theory. It is happening right now. In Canton, AultCare, a regional insurer tied to Aultman Hospital, stopped offering some individual family and small business ACA plans before December 31. That affects 6,000 people in my district. These are working families and small business employees losing coverage because Republicans refuse to act.

I have fought to protect these credits by cosponsoring legislation to extend them and by signing on to Leader JEFFRIES' discharge petition to bring the issue to a vote on the House floor. Instead of acting, Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans chose to delay, and that action is simply unacceptable.

Don't just take my word for it. Just a few weeks ago, Congressman MIKE LAWLER called Speaker JOHNSON's refusal to allow a vote idiotic and political malpractice, and I agree. What happened? Speaker JOHNSON sent us home for the holidays while American families paid the price.

Republicans also pushed a partisan healthcare bill that would make things much worse by increasing the number of uninsured people, shifting costs onto working families, and weakening the protections that so many Americans rely upon.

I offered an amendment to protect working families from losing health coverage and to protect access to reproductive healthcare. But guess what. Republicans blocked it. Once again, they chose politics over people.

We cannot forget the real people caught in the middle of this. These are families deciding between healthcare and groceries and between medicine and rent. Access to healthcare should be a right, not a gamble. At a time when we are talking about the horrors and tragic costs of the drug trade and the impact it has on American people, let us not forget how people get drug

treatment. It is from the Medicaid program that has already been cut by a trillion dollars and the ACA marketplace health plans.

The Republicans' failure to act is literally going to kill people across this country. They let deadlines pass, premiums rise, and coverage disappear. That is not leadership. That is failure.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. Congress can either act to restore affordable healthcare or we can continue to let premiums soar, coverage vanish, and families face financial ruin.

I know one thing is for certain, Mr. Speaker. I was brought to Congress to work on behalf of the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District to lower costs, to keep them safe, and to make sure that they had affordable, accessible healthcare coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage every single Member of this Chamber to do those things, not only for the people in my district but for the people all across America who are asking and needing Congress to act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT L. KNIPRATH

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Robert Kniprath who was proudly recognized as October's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Mr. Kniprath answered our Nation's call during World War II, serving in the United States Navy in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. As a petty officer second class, he carried out vital responsibilities supporting critical naval operations that contributed to Allied success in the Southwest Pacific. His service earned him multiple commendations, including the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

After his military service, Mr. Kniprath built a life rooted in family, hard work, and community in Brevard County. He was known as a devoted father, husband, and grandfather, and as a man who deeply believed in civic duty, the importance of voting to safeguard our Republic and our democratic values.

Mr. Speaker, Brevard County and our Nation are stronger because of patriots like Robert Kniprath.

RECOGNIZING DEBBY ELLEN MOONE

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Floridian and patriot, Debby Ellen Moone. She was named Brevard County's November Veteran of the Month.

Captain Moone dedicated 32 years of her life to serving our Nation in uniform, answering the call in both the United States Air Force and the United States Army. After serving 22 years in the United States Air Force and rising

to the rank of senior master sergeant, she continued her service by becoming a commissioned Army officer, ultimately retiring as a captain in the Medical Service Corps.

Throughout her distinguished career, Captain Moone deployed in Operation Desert Storm, served overseas in Korea, and led soldiers as a medical company commander. Her service has been recognized with numerous honors, including: the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Moone represents the very best of the Space Coast: selfless, resilient, and devoted to something greater than herself. Our Nation is stronger because of her service, and Brevard County is proud to call her one of our own.

HONORING LUIS FRANCISCO RAMOS RAMIREZ

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez who has been selected as January's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Mr. Ramos Ramirez proudly served our Nation in the United States Army, answering the call of duty during a critical moment in our history. He served in Vietnam where he conducted reconnaissance missions, some of the most dangerous and demanding assignments in combat. He served honorably, even volunteered to remain in Vietnam for additional time, demonstrating his extraordinary courage and selflessness.

For his service, Mr. Ramos Ramirez earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, Two Bronze Service Stars, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal, decorations that reflect both his valor and his sacrifice.

Like so many of our veterans, his legacy extends beyond the uniform. His commitment to protecting our freedoms remind us that the liberties we enjoy today were secured by Americans willing to put country before self.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Space Coast and a grateful Nation, I thank Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez for his service, his sacrifice, and his example of leadership.

RECOGNIZING BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH AND PASTOR HORACE SANDERS, JR.

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and salute the dynamic faith community of Bethesda Baptist Church in New Rochelle as they welcome their new pastor, Reverend Horace Sanders, Jr., and his wife, Lady Katrina Sanders, to the pulpit. Bethesda Baptist will be celebrating this month over installation weekend, highlighted by a congregational celebration gala on Friday night, January 16.

The faithful of Bethesda have given God the glory for over 138 years, since

1888, with weekly Sunday services, Friday morning prayer line, Wednesday Bible study, programs for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a food pantry for the needy and hungry, and programs targeted to the youth of the community.

Pastor-elect Sanders served for over a decade at Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Schenectady and previously in Peekskill. His energetic leadership was on display last week when Bethesda hosted Watch Night services, joined by two other New Rochelle congregations. Reverend Sanders' sermon "Leave the Baggage Behind" was a perfect theme to start the new year and his new responsibilities at Bethesda.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome him and Lady Katrina to New Rochelle from the floor of the House of Representatives, and I look forward to his many contributions in the days to come.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF C. NATHAN EDWERS

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Archbishop C. Nathan Edwers, spiritual leader and senior pastor at Friendship Worship Center in Mount Vernon as he celebrates his 65th birthday this month. His congregates, friends, and admirers will gather that weekend for a festive event in his honor, and we join in that recognition for a man of God who has been a leader in the community inside and outside of his church.

Bishop Edwers holds a number of academic degrees, including a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He began his ministry in 1983 and came from Brooklyn to Mount Vernon in 1989 to lead the Friendship Worship community. He has grown the church dynamically with outreach to embrace a large presence in the Mount Vernon community with the religious vision for worship, prayer, Bible study, and a community vision for services to the youth, seniors, and those in need with food delivery, after-school and summer programs, a warming center for the homeless, foster family services, and more.

Bishop Edwers has held numerous positions in the church organization, also in the Masons, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, and as a founder and leader of the United Black Clergy of Westchester County. He has done all of this with his wife, Aro Denise Edwers, as his life partner, and all of this was done in a mere 65 years.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Bishop Edwers from the floor of the House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING SHORELINE PUBLISHING

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in a world where local newspapers and radio stations are disappearing, it is valuable to recognize and salute those organizations that are continuing to provide information about our local communities' life and times.

In Westchester County we owe a public debt of gratitude to Shoreline Pub-

lishing, which serves the people of southern Westchester with five community newspapers; a countywide Jewish monthly newspaper; and a full-color quarterly magazine, Westchester Women.

Under the leadership of president and publisher Edward Shapiro, Shoreline provides an information lifeline across our towns with the Pelham Post, the Bronxville Bulletin, the Harrison Herald, the Larchmont Ledger—as you can see, alliteration still has its appeal—and the New Rochelle Review.

Editors Cynthia Pena and Joyce Farrell ensure timely local news reaches the readers in each community, as well as the readers of Westchester Jewish Life, which is always available in the local synagogues and temples. Other key Shoreline executives round out the local team, including Lauren Levine and Mary DeYoung.

I thank Shoreline Publishing from the floor of the House of Representatives for continuing to keep local news at the forefront of our hometowns.

HONORING DR. CALVIN BAKER

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor my friend Dr. Calvin Baker, an education giant in our community who sadly passed away on December 26 of this past year.

It is nearly impossible to put into words what Cal meant to our community. I am so sorry for Nancy's loss. Cal Baker was a truly devoted husband, father, friend, and a transformational leader in public education.

For 32 years, Cal served as superintendent of the Vail School District dedicating his life to students, educators, and families across southern Arizona. During his tenure, Cal pioneered K-12 education in Arizona, guiding Vail's growth from fewer than 400 students to nearly 14,000 students by the time he retired in 2020. His legacy lives on through the Calvin Baker Leadership Center, a lasting tribute to his service and vision.

Cal is remembered for his strength, his wisdom, his faith, and deep love for his family and his community. Throughout his entire health battle, he kept a positive attitude and always, always had a smile to give. Though he is no longer with us, his impact will be felt for generations.

In a loving message, his family described Cal as a man of "grit and perseverance," words that perfectly capture his life's work and his heart, as well.

Laura and I were honored to know Cal and are heartbroken by his passing. We are keeping his lifelong bride, Nancy, the love of his life; their family; and all who loved in him in our prayers.

We lost one of the greats. We thank Cal. May my friend rest in peace.