

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to really look at this legislation. Study our fact sheets; read the dear colleague letters. Then really think about your constituents, and think about how our budget will better all of their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE WORK OF
MASTER DISTILLER JIMMY BED-
FORD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate the life's work of Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford, the craftsman behind the smooth and distinct Jack Daniels whiskey that flows out of Lynchburg, Tennessee, every year.

For years, Jimmy studied his trade under the tutelage of one-time Master Distiller Frank Bobo. When Frank retired, Jimmy took the reigns of the milling, yeasting, fermentation, distillation, and charcoal mellowing of the long lived Jack Daniels recipe. For 20 years, Jimmy has safeguarded this Tennessee tradition in Lynchburg's quiet hollow as the sixth Master Distiller in Jack Daniels history.

Throughout Jimmy's tenure at the distillery, Jack Daniels has seen its yearly sales rise from under one million to nearly ten million cases in just forty years, with shipments going out to 135 countries around the world every year; but, no matter where people are drinking their whiskey, whether overseas, along the coasts or right in the heart of Tennessee, they know now, as they have for twenty years, that every bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey comes to them with Jimmy Bedford's approval.

This year, Jimmy will retire to his farm just two miles up the road from the distillery he served for so long. While it is sad to see him go, we can trust that Jimmy will leave this icon of Tennessee and American culture in the hands of an able and dedicated successor. Jimmy retires this month with our blessing, but it is my sincere hope that before he steps down we might impress upon him our gratitude for his stalwart preservation of this lasting Tennessee tradition.

HONORING MAYOR STAN
SCHAEFFER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a great community leader and a great friend.

Mayor Stan Schaeffer of Collinsville, Illinois, passed away March 7, 2008, at his home in Collinsville. Like so many of Stan's constituents, I knew him in many different capacities: not only did he serve our city as mayor for the last 9 years, he was also a city councilman, a teacher for over 40 years, and a coach of many sports teams.

Stan was dedicated to seeing our community and our region move forward. His tenure as mayor will be remembered as one during which Collinsville grew in population and grew economically through business development, but one during which our town remained the caring, close-knit community it has always been.

Many individuals forget that all the basic services we require—local government, police, fire, sanitation, local roads—come from local government. Collinsville faced many challenges during Stan's tenure. His optimistic outlook and his calm spirit is a path that future leaders should follow.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Liz, his daughter Carrie, his stepdaughters Linda, Paula and Jami, his stepsons Timothy and Scott, his fifteen grandchildren, and all those who mourn this day for our friend Stan. He devoted his life to his family and his community, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know him.

TEXAS STUDENTS' INTERVIEWS
OF VETERANS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in North Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

My interview was conducted with Mr. Allen B. Clark. He served in the United States Army as a Military Intelligence Officer for the Fifth Special Forces. He was able to help many of the operations in Saigon and give life to a Special Forces unit started by him. Mr. Allen Clark gave me a perspective of one who risked his life and sacrificed himself for ideals that he believed in. Further-

more, he is the first person whom I have met that has ever faced such adversity and still succeeded in everything he has done. The adjustments he had to make in order to accommodate his prosthetic legs and his spiritual revolution attest to the integrity and strength of his character. Mr. Clark taught me that one who faces adversity never uses it as an excuse to fail, but rather as a motivation for succeeding. If one has a dream, then it is never out of reach even if the odds are against you. Standing firm for principle, guides one in life and gives him direction to make the choices that will allow him to be satisfied with life.—Nabeel Lockmanjee

For my veteran's interview, I interviewed my grandfather, Theodore Wade Falconer. My grandfather served in the Navy from September 1948 to September 1952 and worked up the ranks from Seaman Apprentice to 2nd Class Petty officer. Ted was born in Portland, Oregon on January 19, 1929, but grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon. He joined the Navy after high school for two reasons: one, he couldn't afford to go to college, and two, the Navy had an exceptional electrical technician program. After going through boot camp for 13 weeks, Ted was shipped off to Treasure Island, where he went to a Navy electrician training school. After 42 weeks of training, he was then shipped off to the Naval Communication Station on Guam, where he spent 16 months stationed there, while stating that it had been the best experience of his Navy career. After spending 16 months in a Pacific paradise, Ted was then shipped off to Hunter's Point in San Francisco to re-commission an old World War Two troop transport for active service in the Korean War. After six months of training, his commission was up and he was discharged from the Navy. His post military career was a successful one where he earned his masters degree and went to work for Texas Instruments for 33 years before retiring. After talking to my grandfather about his military experiences, I saw a living example of all the good virtues a person can possess; integrity, discipline, work ethic, and respect. My grandfather is a perfect example of these traits, focusing his actions based on these virtues. With this, I learned about not only his military experiences, but also how important it is to use these core values as he used them throughout his life. Anchors aweigh.—Joshua Womboldt

Veterans have done a service for our country with their selfless acts during the war, regardless of how large or small their sacrifice was. Charles Pearson made his life the best that he could, and was part of the crucial moment of the Japanese surrender in World War II. As 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, Mr. Pearson was sent to Okinawa and fought the Japanese on the island for a lengthy period of time. After being sent to Guam to rebuild his division, Mr. Pearson and his men who survived the previous assignment were sent to Japan, just north of Tokyo Bay. Their mission was to verify the Japanese's surrender. Mr. Pearson and his men prepared for a possible attack from the enemy, even though an attack would result in a complete destruction of their ship. Bravely entering the enemy's territory, they were relieved that the Japanese had indeed surrendered. After the peace treaty was signed in 1945, Mr. Pearson was finally sent to China to help improve the economy and send the remaining Japanese back to Japan. In 1946, Mr. Pearson returned home. Since the war, Mr. Pearson has fulfilled his dreams by living a quiet and peaceful life on his family farm in Frisco, Texas.—Rena Sheng

Russell Friese was born in Alto-Pass, Illinois in 1915. After hearing many achievements about brave young men risking their lives for freedom, Mr. Friese decided to enlist and leave with the next shipment of

troops for training. He was asked to serve in both the Navy and the Marines but turned down both offers and asked to be stationed in the Army because he knew that he could be more constructive there. He was stationed at Fort Mead in Maryland before going overseas. He received umbilical hernia surgery during boot camp. He was a Private at the time; and his unit was taken overseas. They infiltrated "Hitler's hideout" in Salzburg, Austria. During one of the unit's firing missions, Private Friese jumped out of a tank and rolled his right knee. Since then he's had many surgeries and to this day he walks with a cane. He received two battle stars and ended his military career as First Sergeant. He was recently named Grand Marshall in September of 2007 on Veterans Day. Friese is 93 years old and currently lives in Anna, Illinois. Russell's story showed me how determination and love for the U.S. can win freedom for others to take pleasure in. He has encouraged me to stand up for what I believe in and to fight for those beliefs with vigor and passion. Russell's story told of values and beliefs that are in the government and in every American's goal for the future. He showed how perseverance can help you strive to achieve anything with a good heart if you are willing to do so. Finally if we work together as a team, we can all accomplish numerous tasks, and win a war or two.—Alexis Webber

I interviewed Peter Perry, a former Sergeant in the United States Army, and now a U.S. world history teacher for McKinney High School. During Mr. Perry's service he learned that " * * * I can do a lot more than I thought. It showed me many different kinds of people in the world than I had encountered previously. It gave me respect for the longer-term and career soldiers. Most important, it taught me how to take charge of my life, to organize, plan, overcome difficulties, and to persevere." Personally from this interview I gained experience learning how life will be for me within the next nine years. I am going to attend either the United States Naval Academy or the United States Air Force Academy next year and talking to veterans gives me a real outlook on what experiences I can look forward to in the future.—Sean W. Gent

Interviewing my grandfather was a life changing experience. Never before had I realized the importance of preserving our history of the United States armed forces. No matter how big or small an action, being a part of the military is something in which my grandfather is proud to say that he has been a part of. Growing up in a military family, my grandfather's transition into the army was not a foreign ideal. Having been familiar to the lifestyle of a soldier, it was easy for my grandfather to adjust to the sometimes harsh living conditions. However, regardless of the struggles, being in the military was an award winning experience. "The army has provided me with so many opportunities and advantages in which I am grateful for . . . it has also provided me with life learning lessons in which I will always carry with me . . . and continue to pass it on to my children . . . people often take for granted what the army does for them . . . being part of the U.S. armed forces is a big responsibility in protecting our country's freedom."—Mellissa Stepczyk

I interviewed Commander Martin Nell of the Plano VFW, who served in Vietnam as part of the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion of the 3rd Marine Division. He had a diverse range of experiences during his time in Vietnam, and he went into detail about the things he encountered and the people he met—American and Vietnamese—and their impact on him. He was in many combat situations and grew up rapidly during his time in

the service. His most poignant remark during our interview was that with regards to dying in battle, he accepted that fact, "When it's your turn, it's your turn." Talking with him was like traveling back in time, and I learned a lot from him about the turbulent era in which Vietnam cast a large shadow over and the cruel ways in which many of the veterans were treated after their brave service in Vietnam. Finally, when comparing his military life to his civilian life, he told me that "Everyday is a war. In Vietnam I fought for my country and nowadays I fight for my family." I will never forget that quote.—Nirjhor Rahman

Allen Clark has done a lot with his life. As the son of an Army father, he graduated from West Point in 1963 and went on to volunteer for action in the Vietnam War. While there, he set up a secret unit whose ultimate goal was espionage against Cambodia. During a mortar attack in 1967, Mr. Clark was severely wounded and lost both of his legs. Since then, he has suffered through depression and bouts with PTSD, but has always fought back and has become an extremely successful man. He has been awarded numerous medals, been very successful in business/politics, and is always busy with giving speeches in the DFW area. Interviewing a person who has traveled as far as him, both emotionally and physically, was an experience most do not get. I feel that I have learned a lot from Mr. Clark because he seems to have life figured out, and I'm very lucky to have met him and to be able to have spoken with him about his life's events and the way he reacted to them.—James MacGibbon

My name is Mark Macmanus, and I interviewed Major General Charles R. Bond of the United States Air Force. Second Lieutenant Bond found himself too old to get a commission, and that made getting into a fighter impossible. Until he heard about the American Volunteer Group in China, headed by Claire Chennault, he knew it was where he belonged. They had a fighter waiting for him. He quickly headed to China. Bond was thrilled to have his own P-40 Tomahawk. After World War II started, several battles and raids took place and his kills started to add up. It was May 4, 1942 where he gained fame among the now called Flying Tigers. During a bombing raid he quickly got off the ground ready to fight. He looked back to realize he was alone against 25 bombers. He took down 1 bomber, and then 3 Japanese Zeros shot him down. He had severe burns, but he continued to fight until July 4, 1942 when the AVG disbanded. For his valiant actions he received the British Distinguished Flying Cross. This story that was relayed to me was an experience that I will never forget. It showed me how many stories of soldiers there are, and how they are all heroes.—Mark Macmanus

Michael L. Coffman entered the Vietnam Conflict as an E1 Private, and returned as an E5 Specialist. He worked logistics in Europe during the war, and made sure that soldiers, military equipment, and supplies were where they needed to be at all times. When the time came that these men and supplies needed to be transported, he would make sure that the trains were at the right place and the right time, and that all the necessary clearances had been provided for the move. After this, he became a trainer to other trainers, instructing them on how to keep up with new army regulations, as they changed frequently. This experience taught me that not all soldiers that make a difference in the war do so with a gun. Had Mr. Coffman not been where he was, and doing what he did in the war, there would have been no soldiers to fight and no guns to use. This interview gave me a new perspective on the Vietnam Con-

flict as well. Not all of the soldiers were unhappy to be involved, nor did all soldiers consider it a negative experience. Some, like Mr. Coffman, gained valuable knowledge from their experience, and thoroughly enjoyed their time spent.—Jessica Huseman

I chose to interview David Ramsey, an Airborne Forward Air Controller in the Vietnam War. He received eight Air Medals, awarded for all the combat missions that he flew in. In addition to combat missions he flew various other types of missions such as escort missions. The hardest part for him while in Vietnam was having to be away from his family for all that time. The best part for him was that he enjoyed the high levels of patriotism that his fellow soldiers and officers had. From interviewing him I learned that there is more to being in the military than just shooting the enemy. There is teamwork involved and friendships made in the military, as well as fun to be had. I never knew that the military was like this; I always envisioned it as just shooting at enemies.—Kevin Zimmer

Veteran Dr. Randall Friese proudly served his country as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Friese became interested in the military when he received a naval scholarship to complete his medical residency. As a battalion surgeon, Dr. Friese served in operations around the world, including Operation Southern Watch in 1998. One of Dr. Friese's most memorable experiences was the opportunity to travel. His assignments included a position at a naval hospital in Japan and stations in the Middle East, California, Dubai, and United Arab Emirates. Dr. Friese's service ended in July 2001, and since then, he has become an assistant professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. As a surgeon and researcher in trauma and critical care, Dr. Friese has published several papers. His research on disruptions in Intensive Care Unit patients' sleep was featured in the December 2007 issue of the *Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection and Critical Care*. Grateful of the opportunity to serve his country, Dr. Friese would recommend his experience in the Navy to young Americans. After interviewing him, I gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the many sacrifices of our soldiers.—Amanda Lu

Many citizens have carried a passionate gratitude towards the United States government and have risked their lives in order to better our nation. Eugene N. Close is a proud, decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as a team leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry, in Thua Thien Province in Vietnam. The war caused much turmoil and many people disapproved of it and did not support it. What happened there to Mr. Close has marked him for life as it has too many other people. On April 21, 1970, Mr. Close's platoon came under a "sudden small arms fire" from four enemy soldiers. He was stuck by an enemy round but regardless of his wound, Sergeant Close continued to fire and saved the rest of his squad. It is this act of heroism that makes America what it is today, to sacrifice their lives for not only our freedom, but also for our pride, dignity and honor. After conversing with Mr. Close, I have learned the sacrifices people make for their country on a daily basis and how we must not take this for granted. Veterans Day now has a larger meaning to me and I admire the soldiers that are willing to risk their lives for us. The very least we can do is to give them our gratitude, hearts and minds for simply a day. Samaritans such as Eugene M. Close have risked and given far beyond anything we can wish to do ourselves.—Sibel Kayaalp

Charles B. Unger was born in Illinois to Robert Williams and Ida Mae Unger and grew

up with two brothers and a sister. At the age of 23, he was drafted into the Vietnam War. Although his family was uneasy about the draft, they supported him. First, he attended Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic boot camp and training. The hardest thing about this time was that he was ripped away from his daily life, and thrown into a life of rules, schedules, and tough workouts. But he also trained with helicopters in Ft. Virginia, which led him to working at the helicopter bases while stationed in Vietnam. From January of 1970 to December of 1970, he worked 13 hour days, 7 days a week, taking soldiers out, flying them in, and doing aircraft maintenance.

While most of it was sheer boredom, there were also times with unexpected terror. There was always the threat that his base at Camp Evans could be attacked. Thankfully it wasn't, and he was able to return home 2 days before Christmas in 1970. He still carries the values and lessons he learned during the war and it has helped him to be successful in life. After telling his story, he concluded by saying that what we have in this country is valuable, and we better be willing to fight for it. Charles and many other men were able and willing to fight for our protection and I value the courage it took to do so. I can only hope that the future generations, no matter how anti-war they might be, will be willing to fight for our freedoms and protect this beautiful country.—Erin McGranahan

Antonio Molina served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam conflict in 1972. After growing up in southern California, he enlisted himself in the Navy at the age of seventeen as a seaman recruit (E-1) and left as a Commander (O-5E). He helped with the evacuation and dismemberment of military bases during the withdrawal of troops from the region. In addition, he helped to clean up many of the mines and other weapons left by troops as they were withdrawing. After leaving the service, he eventually joined a local reserve unit where he attended flight and officer school. He now works in Hollywood using his military and technical experience to create films and spends time stressing the importance of veterans' issues including the existence of post-traumatic stress disorder among the returning troops. This experience stressed the importance of realizing the impact combat situations have on the young minds of our men and women who are fighting in conflicts worldwide from Vietnam veterans to current Gulf War veterans. We owe it to them to help them readjust to life back in the United States just as we help them to adjust to life in conflict.—Laura Rector

In hearing a veteran's story, we become more appreciative of the freedoms soldiers fight to protect every day. I had the privilege of hearing the story of Specialist 4th Class Gary Herrin of the 101st Airborne, 326th Battalion of the United States Army. Herrin was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas and was drafted into the Army in 1968 to fight in Vietnam. He fought in the Battle of Hamburger Hill, placing C4 and grenades in the North Vietnamese bunkers as the infantry charged up the hill to clear the way for his battalion which followed behind. Specialist Herrin was also involved in numerous reconnaissance missions to scout out sites for potential firing bases. If a site was chosen, Herrin and his unit would clear the plot and construct bunkers. On one particular reconnaissance mission, Herrin was knocked off his feet by the concussion of a rocket-propelled grenade and he sustained a bullet wound in the leg as Viet Cong trackers opened fire on his unit. Ironically, Specialist Herrin believes to this day that had the RPG not knocked him off his feet, he would have been a standing target for the V.C. bullets

and probably would have been killed. Specialist Herrin's story brought me to realize that there are people we encounter every day with a story of heroic service to tell. They are seemingly ordinary people that have done the extraordinary by sacrificing their time and possibly their lives to ensure that their fellow Americans and others around the world are safe and free. We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and I hope that one day I too can serve my country in an honorable fashion as our soldiers do every day.—Patrick Ivey

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELKINS/RANDOLPH COUNTY YMCA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA located in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

For the past century, the Elkins YMCA has played an integral role in the history of the community and its people. The YMCA building was originally built with \$25,000 donated by Mrs. Hallie Davis Elkins, the wife of a prominent West Virginia capitalist, Stephen B. Elkins. During the outbreak of World War I and World War II, local troops were reviewed for mobilization in front of the YMCA. The Y building was also used as a training facility for the National Guard between World War I and World War II.

Throughout its many renovations over the next 50 years, the original structure still stands in place to serve the youth, families, and senior citizens as the county's premier recreation and community center. The Elkins YMCA has the proud distinction of being one of three YMCA facilities to serve a city with a population under 10,000.

On March 22, 2008 friends and members of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA will celebrate its 100th anniversary and name its newest addition, the Legg Family Youth Center.

I would like to recognize all of those who were a part of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA 100 year history and wish the members and friends of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA congratulations in celebrating its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MS. LAURA-LYNN VIEGAS DACANAY AS THE 2008 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Laura-Lynn Viegas Dacanay on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

Laura is a leader in the financial services industry of the region and is a committed member of our island community. She has a re-

warding career in the banking profession dating back to the 1970s, when she began with an entry level position at Chase Manhattan Bank as a telephone switchboard and telex operator and cashier. In 1984, she became a loan officer and later was promoted to loan manager. In 1986, she joined the First Hawaiian Bank as an assistant branch manager.

In just over 10 years, Laura has been promoted from manager to assistant vice president, and today, to senior vice president of the Guam and Northern Marianas region. Under her leadership, First Hawaiian Bank has had outstanding performance ratings. She has increased residential funding to over \$8 million, managed the acquisition of accounts and employees of Union Bank of California on Guam and Saipan, and paved the way for the opening of the Tamuning branch and off-site ATMs.

Laura is active in our community and she is the current chairwoman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she chairs the Family Selection Committee of Habitat for Humanity. She serves as an advisor to the Guam Visitors' Bureau 5-Year Strategic Plan Task Force, Strategic Economic Development Council in Saipan, the USO Advisory Council, and Andersen Civilian Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and Guam Board of Realtors Association.

Laura's expert knowledge of banking and finance has resulted in business success for her banks and quality financial services for our community. I commend her commitment to serving our people, and I congratulate her as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE ACT OF 2008

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Chairman PETERSON and I, along with five other original sponsors, is a fiscally responsible solution to the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior wildfire budget dilemma.

The Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008 creates a new fund to pay for firefighting while setting strong standards for containing costs and holding the agencies accountable.

There's no question that firefighting costs will continue to rise in the future, given the current overly-dense condition of our forests and the fact that more people are moving into these heavily forested areas. Last year, over 9 million acres across the country went up in smoke, costing the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior over \$1.5 billion to suppress.

This does not mean that Congress should simply give the agencies a blank check to cover these rising costs. This bill sets up a funding structure to balance the need for more funding with the need for accountability.

As firefighting costs are increasing, the Forest Service and Department of the Interior's