

are responsible for ensuring that their subordinates have the opportunity to practice their religion. Under no circumstances can they deny military personnel the freedom of religion.

Military Chaplains are staff officers with specialized training and specific responsibilities for ensuring the free exercise of religion. They advise and assist leaders and individual personnel on matters of faith and conscience, especially in a hostile environment. We must support our chaplain corps to help military personnel who desire it to achieve a proper faith based mindset.

The Honorable Representative Sam Johnson of Texas is a former Vietnam prisoner of war. He recently mentioned his faith helped him through the hardships of his years of captivity. In Vietnam, as a young infantryman, I witnessed countless soldiers saying prayers before missions. In Iraq, I heard many of our National Guardsman praying before performing our Convoy Combat missions. The importance of a faith cannot be understated.

Our country's distinguished military history gives ample testimony to the need for a faith-based character. Every combat veteran understands the basic requirements for readiness are not only their training and their equipment, but also a prepared mind, heart, and soul to face the enemy. An individual's beliefs assist our military personnel on the battlefield. Faith helps us face the horror and challenges of battle.

In combat, ethical choices are not always easy. The right thing may not only be unpopular, but dangerous as well. Complex and frightening situations often reveal a person's character. Faith-based ethical behavior helps prevent atrocities during battle and soldiers and Marines have demonstrated a duty-consciousness that ultimately enforces a standard of moral decency. The moral courage to do the right thing in the midst of chaos and violence stems from the belief in a higher power.

Mr. Speaker, living a faith and ethics go hand in hand. Ethical decisions are made every day in military organizations throughout the world. They include decisions that directly affect the lives of military personnel in the field, innocent noncombatants, military civilians, and contractors in the theatre of war. I encourage my fellow colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to make value and faith-based ethical choices for the good of the Nation. As members of Congress it is our duty to have the strength of character to make the right choices that ensure the protection of individual natural rights rather than taking them away.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVE ROSS

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Ross of Muncie, Indiana. Dave is the Chairman and CEO of National Catastrophe Adjusters, Inc., doing business as NCA Group, which is a leading provider of insurance management services. Incorporated in 1984, the company originally specialized in catastrophe claims management, handling claims throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. NCA Group currently serv-

ices both daily and catastrophe claims for 5 of the top 10 carriers in the United States and the second largest insurer in Canada. NCA Group has since expanded its service offering well beyond that of a traditional catastrophe firm, providing a complete suite of claims service solutions.

As a veteran, Mr. Ross knows the importance of service to his community and country. He employs over 300 people in Indiana's 6th Congressional District and all over the country, including a large number of veterans. Mr. Ross has developed a very unique and beneficial program for veterans returning back home that helps them translate their military experiences and traits into private sector skills. He then employs many of those veterans at NCA Group or recommends them highly to positions elsewhere.

I recognize Mr. Ross' exemplary conduct as both a soldier and citizen. He truly has used his time and talents for the betterment of his fellow Hoosier and American.

#### COMMEMORATING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT AT THE ERIE-OTTAWA COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the dedication of the new Erie-Ottawa International Airport in Port Clinton, Ohio. This new facility has been made possible through the Port Authority's leadership and the sacrifices and dedication of local citizens who understand what it takes to build a strong community and nation. Their contributions, along with a \$1.7 million federal Airport Improvement Grant, have resulted in adding an important new facility along our precious Lake Erie coast for economic growth.

To celebrate this event, citizens gathered during Veteran's Day weekend to mark this historic occasion at the new hanger. At the invitation of the airport's dedicated and visionary Director Stan Gebhardt, all gathered witnessed the first flight from Pelee Island, Canada. The plane was piloted by Griffing Flying Service president Tom Griffing, with passengers Erie County Commissioner Tom Farrell and Ottawa County Commissioner Jim Sass who worked across county lines to bring new growth potential to our coast. Upon landing, they were greeted by numerous local, state and federal officials as well as members of the public who marked the occasion with a special ceremony.

In honor of the occasion, a new US flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol for presentation to the Airport Authority. Let me offer warmest congratulations to all those who piloted this significant project to completion. The new facility and adjacent buildings will allow for improved air service, more hanger storage, expanding commercial development around the airport's perimeter, and enhanced opportunities for tourism and commercial development. May the years ahead bring new opportunity as well as adventure to those who recognize Ohio as America's state where air flight began. Onward and upward!

BOOTS AND HOOVES—HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM'S AIRPORT RANGERS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if a person is traveling down Farm to Market Road 1960 in Houston, Texas and glances over toward the massive airport grounds, it will not be uncommon to see men and women on horseback providing security for the airport perimeter. These are the Houston Airport Rangers. They will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on December 7, 2013.

In 2003, the Houston Airport System and Texas horse riding enthusiasts embraced the concept of a citizen-based crime prevention program designed to add an extra layer of security at the fence-line securing George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and in return, horse enthusiasts would have exclusive access to thousands of acres of riding trails. Kind of like border patrol, just with boots and hats and on horseback!

IAH Airport is the only airport in our country with a dedicated volunteer rangers program. It's Houston's largest airport and the eighth busiest airport in North America. In 2012, nearly 40 million passengers traveled through the airport. More than 13,000 acres surround the airport, so it makes sense to have the right folks saddle up and patrol the trails on a regular basis.

The number of rangers has increased every year, and nearly 100 members have qualified for an Airport Ranger badge. Rangers share a passion for patrolling the range and keeping the peace—this passion has created a spirit of camaraderie amongst members. As Rangers ride their horses along the airport perimeter, they alert TAH security personnel of any suspicious or dangerous activity in their patrol area. Rangers keep track of their patrol hours—thousands of volunteer hours have been recorded since the program launched ten years ago. These Rangers are a special breed. But, would we really expect anything less from Texans?

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring the Airport Rangers program for its 10 years of dedicated service and commitment to make Harris County, Texas a safer place to live. I do not know of another crime prevention program of this caliber that is completely run by volunteers. Next month, they will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a Texas style celebration: Texas country music, barbeque and horseback riding—sounds like heaven.

Happy Trails, y'all.

And that's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding program for young