

Bancroft Elementary School. Principal Susan M. Lopez has demonstrated a deep passion for the success of her students, as well as a commitment to creating a warm and welcoming learning environment. The tireless efforts of educators and staff at Julia Bancroft Elementary School have earned them the "Level I School" status for the past two years.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of Julia Bancroft Elementary School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating Julia Bancroft Elementary School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING SARAH MASON AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Sarah Mason as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Mason was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Though Ms. Mason has been teaching for ten years, she was keenly aware of her passion for putting others before herself long before she stepped foot in a classroom as an educator. Her teaching aspirations took flight in high school, when she joined the Gold Seal Quality Care program her junior year, which afforded her the opportunity to inspire the young minds of local elementary school students. Ms. Mason built on this positive experience and pursued a Bachelor of Education at the University of West Florida. She has spent the last seven years of her decade of teaching at Blue Angels Elementary School in Pensacola, Florida.

Ms. Mason credits her family for igniting in her curiosity and passion for science, which indirectly led to the chemical reaction rocket experiments in her backyard as a child that have helped her cultivate tomorrow's scientists and engineers as an adult. She brings science to life in her classroom through hands-on activities, like the pegboard "engineering wall" that allows students to engineer their own creations using pegs, rubber bands, and pipes and the building and analyzing of marble roller coasters to understand mathematical, scientific and engineering concepts through real world applications.

Ms. Mason also welcomes the latest technology in her classroom, including iPads loaded with STEM applications that stimulate student interest in outer space through the engineering of models of irregular galaxies and discovering the complex motions of the planets of our solar system, as well as constructing motors. In addition, Northwest Florida is home to some of the world's finest engi-

neers, and Ms. Mason has partnered with Gulf Power Company making it possible for her students to engage its engineers in the developing of their classroom robots.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Mason on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Mason all the best for continued success.

HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH AND SACRIFICES MADE BY NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Trickster Art Gallery for its presentation of Native American Veteran artwork in honor of Native Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

During the month of November, we celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of Native Americans, as their contributions have been and continue to be instrumental in the development of our great Nation. Native Americans have helped shape American conservation policy, enriched American culture and have fought gallantly for our country.

From the Revolutionary War to current combat missions, American Indians have played a vital role in the United States Military. In World War II, for example, over 375 Navajo Marines were trained as Code Talkers and famously saved countless lives with their unbreakable codes.

Native Americans continue to serve honorably on behalf of our Nation. According to the Department of Defense, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a greater proportion of Veterans than the general United States population. As a Veteran myself, I understand the great sacrifice and courage of the Native American Veteran community.

I am proud to represent the Eighth Congressional District where the diverse cultures of our great Nation are celebrated.

COMMENDING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ON ITS NEW JEAN R. PACKARD CENTER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority on the ground breaking for the new Jean R. Packard Occoquan Center. Work on this multi-purpose facility will kick-off of a major rejuvenation effort throughout Occoquan Regional Park, which sits in Fairfax County just across the Occoquan River from the Town of Occoquan in Prince William County.

The 400 acre park is popular with families, boaters, and fisherman with its easy access to

the river, athletic fields, picnic areas, and connections to multiple regional trails, including the Gerald E. Connolly Cross County Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The modernization of this regional park will feature a new entrance with greater roadside visibility, a loop trail traversing the entire park, a landscaped waterfront plaza, and other infrastructure improvements.

A new focal point of the park will be the Jean R. Packard Center, named in honor of my good friend and mentor. Jean recently retired from the Regional Park Board after 24 years of dedicated service. It is difficult to overstate the tremendous environmental legacy Jean has cultivated here in Northern Virginia. A veteran of the Women's Army Corps during World War II, Jean moved to Fairfax in 1951 and got her start in public service much the same way I did as president of her neighborhood civic association. Thus began five decades of civic engagement, particularly focused on environmental stewardship and protection.

She was the first woman elected as chairman the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1972 and was an unabashed environmentalist before it became trendy. During my 14 years on the County Board starting in 1995, Jean was a member of my trusted kitchen cabinet and helped shape our award-winning environmental agenda. After her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Jean became the first woman elected to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Though not continuous, she has served on the Board multiple times over the past 40 years, and she is in the midst of her most recent term at the age of 91!

She was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, which recently renamed its lifetime achievement award in Jean's honor, and she has served on the national board of the Sierra Club. She has been recognized as Fairfax County's Citizen of the Year and Fairfax County Conservationist of the Year. I was proud to present Jean with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which is named in memory of our dear friend and fellow community leader.

Fittingly, the new center that will bear Jean's name will include a robust educational component on our local history and the environment. It will tie in with the nearby Suffragist memorial within the park, and it will feature an interpretive collection showcasing the native flora and fauna of Northern Virginia at the time of John Smith's historic expedition in 1608. From its perch overlooking the river, the Jean R. Packard Center will put on full display the beauty of our local parks and demonstrate the value of protecting environmental treasures like the Occoquan for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for undertaking this grand park renewal and for its stewardship of its many other properties throughout the region, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the immeasurable contributions of Jean Packard a true environmental champion, who has dedicated her life to protecting and improving the natural resources that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

## TRIBUTE TO JIM XINIS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize Jim Xinis and his twenty-five years at the helm of Calvert Memorial Hospital. Jim has been a tireless fighter to ensure the best service for the people of Calvert County and throughout southern Maryland.

Jim is an honest, confident, creative, and inspiring leader. He's been an effective manager and a visionary. His twenty-five years leading Calvert Memorial Hospital have been a period of growth and change that have increased quality, efficiency, and innovation for the benefit of patients and their families.

I will never forget how, in the summer of 2009, when the nation was engaged in a heated debate over passage of the Affordable Care Act, I asked Jim to facilitate a town hall meeting at North Point High School so I could hear from residents of the Fifth Congressional District on this important issue. It was quite a meeting with over 1,500 in attendance—and Jim displayed such grace and tact in keeping the meeting focused over several hours on the issues at hand and making sure everyone had a chance to weigh in. It was no easy task.

But Jim has never been one for easy tasks. Recognizing the challenge of rising health care costs and affordability, Jim created Calvert Healthcare Solutions, which serves the uninsured throughout the county. And under his leadership, Calvert Memorial Hospital has been the lowest cost hospital in Maryland for twenty consecutive years, with a reputation for providing a full range of services at a very high quality of care. At the same time, he has worked to preserve its warm community spirit, where patients can feel comfortable, cared for, and empowered. Jim's good humor and positive attitude have surely contributed to his effective leadership and his reputation for excellence.

I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his extraordinary service to Calvert County, to Maryland, and to our nation.

## RECOGNIZING STAYUNITED

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize StayUNITED, a nonprofit organization based in Rockland County, New York, and its founders, Mark and Ismini Svensson.

StayUNITED is devoted to improving the quality of life for children and youth across the country and throughout the world. Their recent initiative, "50 Acts of Giving Back," promotes volunteerism while highlighting the power of social media to promote good causes. Mark and Ismini Svensson, both constituents of the New York 17th District, are traveling across the country, visiting all 50 states, to perform 50 acts of kindness. At the same time, they are using social media platforms to inspire others to become active members of their communities by performing their own acts of kindness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mark and Ismini Svensson for their hard work and devotion to improving the lives of children across the globe. Their charitable journey is an inspiration for others and, through their hard work and kindness, has made the world a better place.

## RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF COLONEL JUSTIN MCCARTHY "MAC" MILLER, USMC (RET.)

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Greatest Generation, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller, United States Marine Corps Retired, upon the occasion of his 100th birthday. Colonel Miller has dedicated his life to service to his community, his family, and to our great Nation, and I am humbled to honor him and his remarkable achievements today.

Born in 1914, aviation has always been a stronghold in Colonel Miller's life. As a young man, he admired the pursuit pilots, or fighter pilots, of the Allied Forces. From his early encounters with comic books and magazine covers depicting the Lafayette Escadrille, to his application to the United States Naval Academy, Colonel Miller knew his life's destiny was to become a fighter pilot.

While at the Naval Academy, he resigned as a midshipman and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an aviation cadet in 1940 before receiving his wings in 1941. His first assignment was as an Instructor Pilot in Pensacola, Florida, where he would return later in life. He then was assigned to Staff and Command school at United States Marine Corps Base, Quantico. Though these two assignments were perhaps not the most ideal for someone just pinning on wings eager to enter theater, shortly after the beginning of World War II, not only would Colonel Miller be presented with the opportunity to fly in combat, but he would be assigned as the Commanding Officer and take on the role of Executive Officer of the newly-established fighter squadron VMF 217, training in the F4F Wildcat. In 1943, the squadron embarked on the USS BARNES (CVE-20) deployed to the South Pacific, transitioned aircraft to the F4U Corsair, and flew combat missions over the Solomon Islands. In 1944, the squad embarked on the USS SANTEE (CVE-29) and deployed to Guam, where they commenced strikes against the island of Rota. In October 1944, Colonel Miller took Command of VMF-321 until 1945, when the squadron returned to the United States. Throughout his tour in the Pacific Theater, Colonel Miller commanded two fighter squadrons. He then joined the Reserves in 1948 after the end of the war, where he continued his career in flight while also proving to be a successful businessman, as evidenced by his ownership of many radio stations, including WCOA Pensacola.

Amongst his vast array of accolades and contributions lay a century's worth of anecdotes, including being taught to fly his favorite aircraft, the F4U Corsair, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh himself. Amazingly,

throughout his remarkable career, Colonel Miller flew 140 combat missions in 31 different aircraft, and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, and four Battle Stars, amidst an interminable list of decorations, honors, and awards for his distinguished service in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller is a valued member of our community and national history. He is a true "American Patriot" and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of his exemplary life. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday as he turns 100 years young, and we wish him and his entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

## IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED STATES NAVY SEAL LIEUTENANT MICHAEL MURPHY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a fallen American hero, United States Navy SEAL Lieutenant Michael Murphy with a tribute to his most heroic life. On October 22, 2007 The Medal of Honor was presented to his family by President George W. Bush at The White House. This Veterans Day let us remember all of the Fallen like Lt. Murphy who have given That Last Full Measure to protect us. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

BUT, WHERE OUR HONOR LIES

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

All . . .  
 All in our darkest days of night!  
 As all around us the most wicked of evil  
 casts its light!  
 When before us death so lies!  
 While, all out there on that road of life!  
 When, all in the throes war realized!  
 All in those moments of truth comprised!  
 Are but all of those defining moments of  
 light!  
 Which shine so very bright!  
 Are but a true reflection of one's soul and  
 might!  
 Which shines like gold this sight!  
 Comes the most precious of all things!  
 Above all else which surely rings!  
 As lies the proof of ones most inner being!  
 Is But, Where Our Honor Lies!  
 When all between life and death comprised  
 . . .  
 When one's courage comes to rise!  
 All in those moments when who lives or dies!  
 So all depends on you comprised!  
 But comes only America's Best!  
 Is But Where Our Honor Lies this test!  
 When, uncommon valor is extolled!  
 And with clenched fist we see the greatest of  
 all virtues, behold!  
 Coming from all within one's soul!  
 To our world as now exposed!  
 Is But Where Our Honor Lies!  
 As we lose so lose our breath!  
 As we so reflect upon all of this and those  
 . . .  
 Most Christian acts as so!  
 Now carried deep in our souls!  
 All in hearts to have and hold!  
 Could we but live by such an honor code?  
 Would we ever see such light as have all of  
 those?  
 With such Uncommon Valor who into that  
 darkness did go!