

Station Jacksonville, one of the United States Navy's pivotal bases. For Jacksonville citizens, this anniversary brings back a flood of memories. Many began their journeys here as young sailors ready to go to sea. They enlisted and scattered far and wide. Now, years later, many of these same sailors will commemorate this important base. For these sailors their sea anchor is right here in this military friendly town.

In 1938, before there was an NAS Jax—as we lovingly call the base—there were citizens who lobbied the Hepburn Board as it searched for a new naval base in the Southeast. The citizens voted to support bonds to purchase the property and construction began in 1939.

The base was commissioned on Oct. 15, 1940, with Captain Charles P. Mason serving as its first commanding officer. Walt Disney drew a logo for the new base depicting Donald Duck in flight gear and sporting gold wings emerging from an egg as NAS Jacksonville was given birth.

As America entered World War II, construction and the pace of training increased at NAS Jax. Soon, there were three runways operating as well as seaplane ramps. An overhaul and repair facility was begun to rework the station's planes. Today, that facility is called the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, and they still inhabit some of the original buildings from the 1940's.

By 1949, NAS Jacksonville was the plane capital of the East Coast and handled 60 percent of the fleet's air striking force in the Atlantic area from pole to pole. As the Navy led the dawning of the jet age, the first jet carrier air groups and squadrons came to Jacksonville. So it was only natural that the Navy's first Flight Demonstration Team—later known as the Blue Angels—got its start at NAS Jacksonville. Fleet Air Wing 11, now the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, relocated to the station followed in the 1970s by Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, U.S. Atlantic, and its squadrons.

Over the ensuing decades, NAS Jacksonville supported the Navy's efforts during wartime and peace. Its pilots and planes flew in combat and training. Planes and other airframes were retired and new ones put into the inventory. As with other bases, buildings were added, old buildings were renovated, and personnel came and went.

Today, the runways are being totally rebuilt. The new airframe is heavier and larger than its predecessor and after 75 years of service, those original runways are being recycled. In a way, today's pilots will still be taking off and landing on the history of those who went before them.

NAS Jacksonville is a recent two-time winner of the Commander's in Chief, Naval Installations Command Excellence Award and is home to the newest manned and unmanned systems that Naval Aviation has in its inventory.

The Navy has led in advancing innovation because the Navy must ensure our maritime supremacy and national security. NAS Jacksonville has for 75 years been the face of that strength in Northeast Florida. Our citizens hear the sounds of freedom in support of our Nation's defense. NAS Jax has been a constant in my life and in the lives of all in Jacksonville. The greatness of this premier base is woven into the memories of all who have shared in the pride of having NAS Jacksonville within our city limits.

I salute the 75th Anniversary of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, which continues to be a major employer and economic stimulator, but more importantly, its personnel continues to contribute through their hard work and dedication to the important missions of our Nation's defense.

HONORING CALEB PRETTYMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Prettyman. Caleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Caleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Caleb has earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Caleb has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Caleb sanded and repainted all 24 of the fire hydrants in Barnard, Missouri, and installed locator antennas on them so that they may easily be located in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caleb Prettyman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JACK COGHILL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great Alaskan and someone I am honored and privileged to call my friend, Mr. Jack Coghill. Without Jack, I would not be here today as the Congressman for all Alaska; I might very well be retired or even buried near the banks of the Yukon River.

Jack's commitment to public service goes back long before Alaska statehood. He served as the Mayor of Nenana for 22 years, served in the Territorial House from 1952 to 1956 and was a State Senator for the first three Legislatures. He rounded out his time in elected office as Alaska's sixth Lieutenant Governor from 1990 to 1994.

Beyond his elected political career, Jack—dubbed “Mr. Republican”—has had a profound impact upon all of Alaska as one of the 55 framers of the state constitution.

On a very personal note, in 1972 Jack was one of the few people who believed in me enough to encourage me to run for Congress. Jack not only encouraged my run but worked tirelessly in his support of my candidacy. None

of us knew at that time there would be a horrific accident in which Congressman Nick Begich and House Majority Leader Hal Boggs would be lost in a flight from Anchorage to Juneau. Due to this loss, it was up to the Republican State Central Committee to appoint a Republican candidate for the Special election rather than go through a formal primary process. Despite many other qualified candidates, Jack stood by me and convinced his colleagues on the Central Committee to vote in my favor. I am forever thankful for his role in shaping the path that has led me to serve as the Congressman for all Alaska these past 42 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of September 17, 2015, a vote was held. Had I been present for this roll call vote, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 497—I vote “NAY.”

HONORING DONALD F. HARRISON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald F. Harrison, a teacher at Parkview Elementary in Cameron, Missouri, who was recently named America's Top Teacher by Live with Kelly and Michael.

Donn is more than just a teacher in Cameron. He also serves as a crossing guard, a volunteer firefighter, and an EMT for Cameron. He also serves as the unofficial voice of Cameron, announcing track meets, basketball games and any other church and school events he can make. Known for his affinity towards bowties and Chuck Taylors, Donn's nomination created an instant sensation in Cameron. Every business in town changed their signs to encourage folks to vote for Donn, ‘Vote for Donn’ yard signs sprung up across town, and social media posts drove the vote for Donn. Winning this award not only earned him a well-deserved vacation and new car, it also provided the Cameron R-I School District with computers to facilitate the classroom experience.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, his wife, Lynette, and their family and friends in commending Donald F. Harrison for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom and for his efforts put forth in achieving this high distinction.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JON WOODS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Jon Woods,