

RECOGNIZING ARMY SGT.
WILLIAM "WILD BILL" GUARNERE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sgt. William "Wild Bill" Guarneri, who served in the 101st Airborne division of the United States Army during World War II.

Sgt. Guarneri was a Philadelphia native who enlisted in the Army in 1942. His bravery earned him the nickname "Wild Bill" for his passion and perseverance in battle. Sgt. Guarneri's first combat jump was Operation Overlord, in the early hours of the morning of June 6, 1944, hours before the first allied landing craft hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. A member of the famed "Band of Brothers" of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's "Easy Company", Guarneri served in some of the most significant engagements of the European theater, including Operation Market Garden. Ultimately, Sgt. Guarneri's combat service ended when he lost a leg in the Battle of the Bulge. He was eventually awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts for his bravery in the face of the enemy.

On Saturday, September 19, the Delaware County Veterans' Memorial Park will unveil a statue of "Wild Bill" Guarneri to commemorate his service and sacrifice. It's a fitting tribute to a true American hero from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Guarneri's admirable service displayed an extraordinary devotion to his country and his fellow soldiers. I am honored to recognize him today as one of the true heroes of our Greatest Generation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,568,904,537.03. We've added \$7,523,691,855,623.95 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LEADING A HALL OF FAME
BUSINESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alfred Froberg, Jr. of Alvin, Texas for receiving the 2015 Junior Achievement Hall of Fame award.

Mr. Froberg received this award thanks to his positive impact on the Alvin and Brazoria

County business community. He is deeply dedicated to growing and promoting businesses all across his hometown. As a member of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame, Mr. Froberg's efforts serve as a model for other local businesses, helping them grow and succeed. Brazoria County is proud to have such an inspiring business leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alfred for being part of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame.

HEROES MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA
FLOODING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the past few days have been an extraordinary catastrophe, correctly identified by Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina as a "thousand year rain" causing flooding and damage across South Carolina. Fortunately, Hurricane Joaquin bypassed the state after causing destruction in the Bahamas but, it created a weather anomaly of record rainfall of over 20 inches and flooding. I am grateful to the National Weather Service and senior forecaster John Quagliariello, for monitoring the situation and providing early warnings for our citizens.

Six generations of my family have lived on Wilton Road in Springdale, which was washed away during the storm for the first time ever since construction in 1890. I am grateful that our home was spared major damage, though thousands were not so fortunate.

Our state officials were true leaders and handled the catastrophe impressively. When visiting the State Emergency Response Center in Pine Ridge, I thanked Governor Nikki Haley, Adjutant General Bob Livingston, and Attorney General Alan Wilson for leading the recovery, as well as South Carolina Emergency Management Division Kim Stinson. I am further grateful for the National Guard's role in aiding the relief efforts—three of my sons, Alan, Julian, and Hunter, were activated for National Guard disaster service.

I visited the world-class Lexington County Emergency Response Center, led by Director Bo Davenport, with Sheriff Jay Koon and County Administrator Joe Mergo where I thanked the dedicated personnel who saved many lives.

In between stops, I appreciated thanking Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin for his leadership and I thanked Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson for coming to tour the impacted areas this Friday with Congressman JIM CLYBURN and myself. Mayor Mike Miller of Wagener assured me his Aiken County community was secure.

Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall and Town of Lexington Police Chief Terrence Green gave me a first-hand tour of multiple pond dam breaks, including the Mill Pond blocking U.S. Highway 1 of Main Street in Lexington.

I visited the Lake Katherine neighborhood with State Representative Kirkman Finlay of Columbia, where I met homeowners and vol-

unteers already planning the reconstruction of their homes. Sheriff Leon Lott had experienced deputies at critical roadways.

At the Red Cross shelter at A.C. Flora High School, I thanked the A.C. Flora Key Club and other volunteers who distributed bottled water, food, diapers, and clothes to those who had lost everything. I am grateful to Richland School District One Board Member Beatrice King and State Senator Joel Lourie for coordinating such a positive outpouring of donations from the community.

Visiting the Richland County Emergency Center, led by Columbia Deputy Fire Chief Tisdale, there were dedicated personnel thoughtfully handling calls of distress.

At the Seven Oaks Recreation Center shelter, sponsored by the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, I thanked the organizers: Director Elizabeth Taylor and Park Director John Cantey. I saw first-hand how those who had to flee their homes found people who cared and supported them.

A lesson learned is that in the watersheds of multiple downstream dams, as exist in Richland and Lexington counties, there should be a coordination of lowering water levels to anticipate extraordinary rainfall to reduce the potential for sequential dam failures resulting in catastrophic loss of life and property damages.

Late yesterday, I returned to my Congressional office in West Columbia, where I found that a leak in the roof had caused the ceiling and light fixture above my desk to collapse.

Though the destruction of the 1000-year event was catastrophic, it was a testament to the people of South Carolina working together for the common good.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEHADKEE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S
141ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church in Roanoke, Alabama as they celebrate a remarkable 141 years. An anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015.

The Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest African-American churches in Randolph County, Alabama. Throughout its 141-year history, the church has been a bridge over troubled waters for the African-American community of Wehadkee-High Shoals-Springfield.

Under the name "Perhaps," the church was established in 1874, just eleven years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The church held its first services in a very small log cabin one mile south of its current location, which is 1216 County Road 310 in Roanoke, Alabama.

Reverend Spy Flag was the founding Pastor of the church, serving from 1874 until approximately 1884. Between 1884 and 1918, ten ministers led the church: Reverend Ben Goss, Reverend Symon Vickers, Reverend Aaron Strong, Reverend Tom Almond, Reverend Charlie Steward, Reverend Spencer Beasley, Reverend A.E. Stitt, Reverend John T. Hines,

Reverend A.J. Turner, and Reverend A.J. Green.

From 1918 to 1972, the six pastors who led the church included Reverend S.A. Adamson, Reverend C.C. Terry, Reverend G.W. Sims, Reverend J.P. Madison, Reverend B.O. Phillips, and Reverend R.L. Thompson.

In March 1973, Reverend Elijah Jackson, Jr. was called to lead the flock and in April 1974, the Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church was incorporated. In October of that same year, Reverend Jackson presided over the church's first centennial celebration.

For the past 42 years, Reverend Jackson has led the congregation with distinction as the longest serving Pastor of the church. His spouse, First Lady Farris Jackson, plays an important role in his ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly join President Obama in celebrating the 141st anniversary of the Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church.

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 141st anniversary.

Throughout our Nation's history, places of worship have brought us together in the spirit of faith and love. Offering space for celebration in times of joy and comfort in times of uncertainty, they help foster a strong sense of community and call on us to meet life's most sacred responsibility—to give of ourselves in service to others.

As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *August 28, 2015.*

OCTAVIA GEE—BEST IN THE
WORLD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate nine year old Octavia Gee from Sugar Land, Texas for setting a world shot put record.

Octavia, a student at Settler Way Elementary, recently competed at the Texas Vs. The World All Comers Meet with the goal of setting a world record in the nine-year-old division with an 8.8-pound shot put. If Octavia was nervous, she didn't show it, blasting the old record with a throw of 7.28 meters. Even better—she broke the world record on her mom's birthday. Octavia made her family, friends, and community proud. We look forward to seeing her set more records. We'll definitely see Octavia in future Olympic games.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Octavia for setting a world shot put record.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the National Collegiate Honors Council has been

enriching the lives and education of honors program students around the country. I rise today to congratulate them on this historic accomplishment. Serving over 325,000 honors students at 800 colleges and universities, the NCHC is dedicated to excellence in education in diverse subject and curriculum areas.

I would like to further honor the University of California, Riverside, in my home district. Since 1988 the University of California, Riverside has provided a world-class honors education to its students.

Founded on the principle of strengthening the involvement of faculty in undergraduate teaching and, through doing so, improve the quality of undergraduate education, the University of California, Riverside's honors program has produced significant results.

With their four-year honors program, the University has a program that provides intellectual growth, personal development, and social responsibility, at its core. The four-year honors program provides guidance and preparation to students, and allows entry portals to select students who demonstrated academic excellence, interest in research, or creative activities, that led to a senior thesis project.

The robust honors program at The University of California, Riverside has proven to be at the pinnacle of education creating the global citizens of today and tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO CLEMENCIA SPIZIRRI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clemencia Spizirri for being named Iowa's Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Department of Education.

Established in 1958, the Iowa Teacher of the Year Award recognizes one teacher each year who displays the ability to motivate, challenge and inspire their students. They must be someone who is respected by their peers and students. The Teacher of the Year must be able to think outside the box and have a positive influence on their students, not only inside the classroom but also outside the classroom.

Clemencia is a shining example of all the qualities this award represents. She has dedicated her career to bettering the lives of her students through effective teaching techniques and a determination to provide high quality education for each and every one of her students. It is clear that Clemencia is uniquely qualified and deserving of this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Clemencia for receiving this award and for her role in molding the leaders of our future generations. Her hard work and dedication truly embodies our Iowa values, and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Clemencia and in wishing her nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS PERSONNEL

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Firefighter/EMT Michael Dunn of the Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Lt. Don Rossow of the Englewood Area Fire Control District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

District Chief/Paramedic Robin Thayer of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Lt. Jason Wilkins, Lt. Jamie Mann, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Jones, Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Sponable and Firefighter/EMT Clayton Huber were chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award.

Deputy Chief Brett Pollock of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Fire Investigator/Inspector Larry Betts of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

IN MEMORY OF GREGORY THOMAS
ALIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tragically Forest Acres, South Carolina, Police Officer Gregory Thomas Alia was killed Wednesday, September 30th at Richland Fashion Mall in the line of duty protecting the people of his community. There was an outpouring of love and appreciation for his services. The following obituary is from The State on October 2nd.

Columbia—A Mass of Christian burial for Officer Gregory Thomas Alia, 32, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 3, 2015, at St.