

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM R.  
HILTON

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William R. Hilton, a U.S. Army veteran whose service during the Korean War earned him three Purple Hearts and one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Mr. Hilton was born and raised in Chester County, Pennsylvania. One of ten children, he began his military career at the very young age of 16 years old. Upon completion of basic training in 1950, Mr. Hilton was sent to the frontlines of the Korean War.

During his service, Mr. Hilton endured some of the most difficult and horrific conditions of the war. Through three injuries on the frontlines, he continued to fight and act as a leader in battle.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Hilton for his service and I thank him for the extraordinary sacrifices he has made for his country.

HONORING MR. TOM DEBLASS

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom DeBlass of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest commendation as to all of his accomplishments.

Mr. DeBlass has been named to the New Jersey Martial Arts Hall of Fame as a Grappler. He has won titles such as the Pan American and World Championships. Beyond his personal feats on the mat, Mr. DeBlass has devoted his time to giving back to his community by opening his own Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy.

Mr. DeBlass has used his expertise to produce his own world champion students. He has created a legacy of martial arts success in his community and has given young athletes the opportunity to develop and excel.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Mr. Tom DeBlass as an involved member of their community. It is my honor to recognize both his personal athletic accomplishments and his lasting contributions to our community before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MONSIEUR LOUIS  
SICOIT

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsieur Louis Sicoit, a man who has dedicated his life to honoring the American soldiers who liberated his village during World War II.

Monsieur Sicoit, a resident of Roynac, France, was just a young boy when his village was at the nexus of the Battle of Montelimar. As a result of witnessing the grueling battle and seeing those American soldiers who risked their lives to protect his village, Monsieur Sicoit built a remarkable museum filled with hundreds of photographs, pieces of memorabilia, weapons, equipment, and testimonials from survivors like him. Sicoit's museum attracts a variety of visitors and also opens its doors to local school children in order to educate them and to help honor the memory of those who helped rid France of the German occupation. Additionally, members of the U.S. Army's 173rd Brigade Support Battalion visited Sicoit's museum and bestowed upon him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Please join me in honoring Monsieur Louis Sicoit for his life-long dedication to paying homage to the brave American soldiers who risked and lost their lives in saving and liberating his village, and for helping to strengthen the bond between our two countries.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES  
"BUD" BURNS

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles "Bud" Burns, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Second World War.

A South Philadelphia native, Mr. Burns enlisted in the Navy in 1946. After completing basic training, he was sent to Italy for his first tour of duty on the USS *Compton*. During his time overseas, Mr. Burns patrolled the Mediterranean Sea before returning to the United States and being honorably discharged in 1948.

Mr. Burns received the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for his admirable service.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Burns, and I thank him for his service and allegiance to his country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
GEORGE DEFILIPPI UPON HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel George DeFilippi, USAF (Ret) as he prepares to fully retire after 46 years of faithful government service and extraordinary dedication to duty and to the United States of America.

George DeFilippi has had a fine career, including in his most recent role as Head, Congressional Support Branch in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller). I would like to share with you some highlights.

George DeFilippi graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1969. Following graduation, he honorably served his nation on

active duty for the next 30 years spanning many key leadership positions. From 1986 to 1991, George was the Commanding Officer of the 23rd Tactical Air Support Unit out of Davis Monthan AFB, where he was responsible for consolidating the forward air control training for all Air Force and Marine Corps operational units.

His next assignment was to serve as the Commander/Air Liaison Officer with the U.S. Army (XVII Airborne Corps) and Republic of Korea's Third Army, leading a 250-person unit integrating aviation assets into army operations. From 1993 to 1999 George reported to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) and was responsible for the oversight of a \$4 billion tactical fighter and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle programs. He later went on to serve as the Chief of Staff within OUSD (AT&L) continuing to provide oversight for major defense acquisition programs.

Upon completing 30 years of active duty service within the United States Air Force, George retired from active duty but continued to serve his country through the civilian sector. From 1999–2010, he worked within the Cobham Life Support Division as well as Government Relations promoting life support products to the U.S. Armed Forces.

In 2010, George DeFilippi reported to his current assignment as Head, Congressional Support Branch, Navy Appropriations Matters Office where he helped the Department of the Navy achieve their financial and legislative goals. For five years, George DeFilippi has demonstrated exceptional leadership and foresight, engaging Members of the Appropriations Committee and its staff to provide information essential to resourcing the Navy for its role as the world's dominant sea power. In an increasingly difficult budget environment, George DeFilippi provided essential support in shepherding Navy budgets through the appropriations process. George served our nation with integrity, insight and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to George DeFilippi for his extraordinary dedication to duty and steadfast service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Air Force as well as his public service and we wish him and his wife Patricia the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY CHAM-  
BER OF COMMERCE AND THE  
8TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLAS-  
SIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt respect that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 8th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. In honor of this outstanding event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will host a celebratory luncheon in Gary, Indiana, at the Majestic Star Casino on Tuesday November 24, followed by a basketball tournament at West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28, 2015.