

cadet the next year. He earned his military wings after nine months of training, in March 1943 as a second lieutenant. In his 89 missions as a fighter pilot and as part of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group he flew over France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Romania, Greece, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

It was in 1944 during a strafing mission over Lake Balaton in Romania that he took flak from German anti-aircraft artillery, ultimately parachuting to the ground before being turned over by local farmers to the German military. He was transferred to Stalag Luft III, a prisoner of war camp specifically designated for airmen. He was liberated from the camp along with all other prisoners in May 1945.

Lt. Col. McCreary returned home from his time as a prisoner of war in Germany and continued his service within the armed forces for nearly two more decades. His commitment and the historic contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in the face of institutionalized discrimination were recognized in 2007 with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me once more in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Lt. Col. Walter McCreary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 2, 3, 4 and 5, I would have voted YES.

On January 7, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, I would have voted NO. On roll call no. 12 and 20, I would have voted YES.

On January 8, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32, I would have voted NO. On roll call no. 21, 22 and 33, I would have voted YES.

On January 11, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 34 and 35, I would have voted YES.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ISABEL OPORT NEIDIG

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Isabel Oport Neidig. On February 5, Mrs. Neidig will celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born in Morelia, Mrs. Neidig saw the height of the Mexican Revolution. Her parents chose to leave Mexico shortly after her birth and moved to the United States.

At the age of 15, Mrs. Neidig moved back to Mexico where she pursued her passion for education. She taught elementary and middle school students, and played a critical role in having a high school built in Jojutla. She was the only bilingual teacher and referred to, by both students and parents, as "La Teacher". It is the hard work Mrs. Neidig embodies daily that makes America exceptional. She has shown true leadership in her profession and community.

Mrs. Neidig went on to marry Edward William Neidig and had two sons, Andres and David. She left Jojutla in 1962 for Colorado, where she still lives. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mrs. Neidig as she celebrates her birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Neidig.

IN MEMORIAM DON W. STRAUCH JR. APRIL 8, 1926—JANUARY 11, 2016

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Don W. Strauch Jr. (Mayor Strauch), Mayor of Mesa, AZ from 1980–1984, Mesa City Council Member from 1972–1978 and Arizona State Representative from 1987–1988. In 2003, Mayor Strauch was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, his work with the American Legion, VFW, and his contributions as a civic leader.

Mayor Strauch was instrumental in creating the Mesa that we know today. He launched the Mesa Sister Cities program and championed the proposed Mesa Arts Center; he broke down walls of discrimination and advanced civil rights throughout Mesa and Arizona. His negotiations with McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) convinced the company to locate in Mesa. Mesa Fire and Medical is a model of efficiency and innovation today because of the groundwork that Mayor Strauch did during his time as mayor. He saw Mesa libraries as a vital community asset and worked to improve them.

Mayor Strauch's optimism, pragmatism and sincere belief in the greatness of Mesa and its citizens were always at the center of his work. He had the strength to put partisan issues aside and work with a diverse group of community partners during an important time in Mesa's growth. His humility and pragmatism are leadership examples that we can all learn from in our work as Members of Congress.

Mayor Strauch died on January 11, 2016 after complications from a fall. He leaves behind his beloved wife Chris, his partner in all things for over 66 years, his daughter Christy and a large and loving family. Members, please join me in extending condolences to Mayor Strauch's family and the City of Mesa on the inconsolable loss of this extraordinary man. Mayor Strauch will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by everyone whose life was made better because of his selfless contributions.

COACH JOSEPH—COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katy High School's head football coach, Gary Joseph, for being named MaxPreps National Football Coach of the Year.

Gary Joseph has been with Katy High School for 34 years, 22 of those years as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator and the last 12 as head coach. Coach Joseph started his coaching career at Luling High School, where he coached the Luling football program to its first district championship in over 20 years. This season, he led Katy to 16–0 and its eighth state championship. Coach Joseph's career record stands at 168–14 with 11 district titles and four state titles with the Katy Tigers. We are extremely proud of Coach Joseph and his team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Coach Gary Joseph for all of his success and hard work.

HONORING THE WASKOM HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS, 2015 3-A, DIV II TEXAS STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize today the great accomplishment of the Waskom Wildcats football team, a team which—for the second year in a row—has captured the title of Class 3A Division II Texas State Football Champions.

The Wildcats' winning season culminated with their thirty-first consecutive win, a stellar streak they began during their 2014 championship season. Waskom ended this 2015 season undefeated with a perfect 16–0 record.

The Waskom Wildcats were eager for a rematch with the only team to beat them in the prior season, and began their run to the title by toppling a talented team from Center with a 34–22 victory. Equally satisfying victories followed, as the Wildcats pounced on teams from all over east Texas in their quest to secure a spot in the championship.

The state championship game found the Waskom Wildcats in a tangle with the Franklin Lions. The Wildcats rallied from an early deficit to take the lead at halftime, then a drive to a second consecutive state championship with a decisive 33–21 final score.

The life lessons learned about teamwork and discipline will no doubt improve every participant in immeasurable ways.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Whitney Keeling and his staff including Coaches Jeremy Kubiak, Greg Pearson, Gary Wilson, Jeff Lyles, Vencent Lee, David Higginbotham, Matt Goode, Justin Watson, Frank Crisp, Joe Williams, and Lorenza Thomas; also, Managers Isaac Irving, Cameron