

Each member of recruit class 2015–02 has successfully completed a rigorous application process followed by 1,248 hours of exhaustive academic and physical training over the course of 26 weeks. Upon successful completion of this program, each recruit is eligible to graduate and become a Fire and Rescue Technician I with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue.

A Technician I is trained in emergency medical services, fire prevention, and countless other public safety measures. The certifications required for reaching the status of a Technician I cannot be accomplished without dedication and hard work. The graduates have completed the requisite coursework for certification in CPR, Infection Control, CISM, EMTB, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EVOC 2, EVOC 3, Flashover Simulation, RIT, Mayday, Hazmat Awareness/Operations, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, LPG with Simulation, Rural Water Supply, BLS Protocols, Rope Rescue Awareness, Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Seat Installation.

It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015–02 recruit class graduates of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue:

Matthew Baker, Zachary Burnette, John Campbell, Matthew Cone, Nathan Eppley, Tyler Fable, Jason Guimond, Patrick McKinnon, Nicholas Ntiros, Brian Pelletier, Zachary Ramey, Dontrell Royal, Andrew Ruddle, Daniel Sawyer, Joshua Servais, Brian Smith, James Spengler, Andrew Turner, Chase Walton, Daniel Worrell, Austin Wing

As the newest members of the Department of Fire and Rescue, the 2015–02 recruit class graduates join the department as integral parts of the emergency response and community safety team. Just as the current and past Prince William County public safety officers have done, I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Prince William County with honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I thank them in advance for their dedication to protecting the lives and property of the county's residents. In the tradition of their new firefighting family I say: "Stay safe."

HONORING BAKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER TIM KERNS FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OREGON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Commissioner Tim Kerns for his many years of dedicated public service in Baker County. Tim is set to retire at the end of his term after serving 15 years as Baker County Commissioner, and I would like to pay tribute to his leadership for the people of Baker County.

Born in Baker City, Tim was raised with an appreciation for agriculture on his family farm which led him to attend Oregon State University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Engineering at a notable pace, completing 206 credit hours in just four years. But probably

the best part of his time at Oregon State was meeting Jan—his wife of 52 years. Upon completing their degrees, Tim and Jan returned to ranching in Baker County.

As his operation grew, so did Tim's desire to serve his community. His ability to provide innovative solutions to the problems that Baker County faced proved invaluable in a number of leadership roles, including serving on the school district budget board, as president of both the Baker County Livestock Growers and Farm Bureau, and as Regional Vice President of the Oregon Cattleman's Association.

Tim's familiarity with the agricultural industry and community leadership experience next led him to become a major figure in the national farm lending system. Between 1975 and 1994 he was a board member of a number of farm lenders, including the Baker Production Credit Association, Spokane Farm Credit Services, and Inter State Production Credit Association. Following success in those roles, he was appointed to a three year term as Director of the national Federal Farm Credit Funding Corporation. After completing his dual term with the Ag America Farm Credit Bank and the Farm Credit Funding Corporation, Tim was appointed to fill a vacant seat with the county commission, a seat which he has held for the past 15 years.

With federal lands making up more than 51% of Baker County, plenty of hurdles exist in the path to economic growth. Despite these hurdles, I know I can count on Tim's work ethic and knowledge of Baker County to help work through these issues and make sure that the needs of the local communities will not be ignored by the federal government. Whether it was stopping the EPA from regulating a local cement plant out of existence and killing hundreds of jobs, or some of the ongoing problems such as the red tape cutting off Baker County miners from being a part of a rich local mining history, or attempts to limit local access to national forests, I knew I could count on Tim to provide valuable input as we craft solutions.

As Tim begins his transition into retirement, I know he and Jan will look forward to more time with their two sons and three grandchildren, as well as plenty of time on the ranch and volunteering in various Baker County activities.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Commissioner Tim Kerns for his many years of leadership and service to Baker County.

RECOGNIZING THE LOUISIANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS' (VFW) 2016 STATE CONVENTION IN ALEXANDRIA, LA

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Louisiana Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for a successful 2016 State Convention in Alexandria, LA.

Our veterans are a national treasure. These men and women have sacrificed tremendously, many continuing to live with service-

connected disabilities, in service to our country. Without their courageous decision to answer the call of duty, our nation would not be the shining beacon of hope and freedom we are today. As we continue working to improve healthcare delivery and expand healthcare services for our veterans, the VFW will continue to be an important partner in organizing and advocating for our veterans across the country.

I also want to express my pride and congratulations that Louisiana was selected to host the 2017 VFW National Convention in New Orleans, LA. I am confident those attending next year's convention will experience the rich culture and hospitality during their stay that makes us proud to call Louisiana home.

I remain committed to working with the Louisiana VFW to ensure they are represented on the local and national levels. Their tireless efforts and advocacy in support of veterans in Louisiana and across the country are tremendously appreciated.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the Northern Virginia Veterans Association.

The Northern Virginia Veterans Association (NOVA Vets) officially launched on May 16, 2015, Armed Forces Day. With a diverse membership comprised of veterans, active military, service connected family members, community residents, and businesses, NOVA Vets' mission is to provide veterans with a comprehensive network of local resources by providing a continuum of services. Specifically, NOVA Vets provides care and support in the areas of reintegration, healthcare, employment, education, family/caregiver support, legal services, housing assistance, and community engagement.

Signature programs include offering reintegration programs at Fort Belvoir and Marine Corps Base Quantico, military care and resource training for civilian medical/healthcare providers, suicide awareness, and Veterans Helping Veterans.

Reintegration Program: Each reintegration program provides 24 months of comprehensive support to service members and their families relocating to or staying in Northern Virginia to ease the transition from activity duty. Over the course of the two-year cycle, data collection is used to determine what areas of support are needed to ensure comprehensive support and quality of life.

Military Care and Healthcare Resource Training Program: The in-person training provides insight and details needed to effectively treat and communicate with the veteran and military population. In addition, civilian health care providers are educated on health resources available at the local, state, and federal levels for veterans and service-connected members of the community.

Suicide Awareness Program: Throughout the year, NOVA Vets offer suicide prevention initiatives to include the screening of military