

HONORING JAKE KRAUS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I would like to recognize Jake Kraus for his heroic efforts during World War II. His courage led to the liberation of thousands of half-starved American prisoners from the inhumane living conditions that they had been forced to endure.

Jake Kraus grew up on a farm in Pea Green, Colorado. Mr. Kraus was drafted into the war and served as a tank driver under the command of General Eisenhower. The capture of the Ludendorf Bridge was due in part to Mr. Kraus and his Tank Destroyer Group, which in turn, opened the first permanent gateway to Berlin. This marked the defeat of Hitler's dream and the beginning of the long-awaited liberation of the American Prisoners Of War.

Mr. Speaker, the service that Mr. Kraus gave our country will always be remembered by the soldiers whose lives he saved and by their families for the years to come. Even after putting his life on the line, Kraus insists that he did nothing heroic. But such a humble and brave individual deserves many accolades for his service to our country. It is with great admiration that I thank and congratulate Mr. Kraus for a job well done.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF JAMES N. GOLDSMITH'S SELECTION TO HEAD VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF AMERICA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an important milestone in the history of our nation's oldest veterans organization.

On Aug. 24, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States installed James N. Goldsmith of Lapeer, Michigan, as Commander-in-Chief. Even as I speak, veterans from around the state and across the nation are assembling in Harbor Springs, a beautiful community in my congressional district, to welcome Jim home and congratulate him on his great honor. He is the first National Commander elected from Michigan since 1943.

Jim has been active since 1967 as a member of the VFW. He served as All State Post Commander in 1974, and in 1977 he earned recognition as an All State and All American District Commander. In 1978 he was selected as Michigan's "Young Veteran of the Year," and in 1980 he became the first Vietnam veteran to be elected Department Junior Vice Commander. He earned All American status as a Department Commander, 1982-83.

He served in Vietnam as an engineer from April 1966 to August 1967. In his acceptance speech as National Commander-in-Chief, Jim made the fight against diabetes one of the key elements of his tenure, demonstrating that he

will clearly articulate the concerns of Vietnam veterans. I trust that all our House colleagues are aware that diabetes is linked to Agent Orange, and that combat forces who were "in country" during the Vietnam War and now have diabetes may be eligible for monthly disability compensation benefits and VA health care.

Jim has also been back to Vietnam. While serving as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, he was selected to travel there as part of a presidential fact-finding committee. On an earlier trip to Vietnam and Laos as VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, he participated in field efforts to recover the remains of missing U.S. service personnel.

The effort to account for missing combat individuals from past wars will remain one of the highest priorities of the VFW under Jim Goldsmith. He has already announced a new VFW initiative called the "The VFW Reach Out for DNA Initiative" to help contact eligible donors of blood DNA.

The goal is to collect blood samples of all material relatives of World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War casualties whose remains have not been recovered or identified. These samples will be sent to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii to aid in such identification.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Jim Goldsmith will be a powerful spokesman for 1.9 million members of the VFW, for all our nation's veterans, for active-duty personnel and for their families. I know we will see Jim Goldsmith on Capitol Hill, speaking out in support of bills like H.R. 303, a bill that brings fairness and just compensation to military retirees who have a service-connected disability.

This weekend, as Michigan celebrates the selection of James Goldsmith to head the VFW, I ask you and our House colleagues to keep him in our thoughts and prayers, as he undertakes his vital task on behalf of all who served this nation so well.

HONORING CELIA DUNHAM ON BEING NAMED COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2001

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Celia Dunham on being named Colorado Teacher of the Year 2001 by Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and the Miss America Organization.

Celia Dunham, of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, teaches first grade at Strawberry Park Elementary. For her accomplishment, she will be presented \$2,500 in the name of Strawberry Park, and she will be considered for the national award.

Celia has taught full-time in the Steamboat School District since 1978. She is the first to explain that she has benefited from her kids by teaching them. She told Avi Salzman of The Steamboat Pilot that "their energy goes into me," and that, "It's what keeps me young." As any good teacher acknowledges, she also realizes that "she has learned an incredible amount from her kids."

Before entering consideration for the state competition, Celia first won the local competition, which was chosen from nominees entered by local Wal-Mart customers. For that honor, she received \$500 to use in her classroom. She was then entered into the statewide competition with 52 other candidates, where a panel of educational experts selected her as the winner. The contestants were chosen for their "rapport with students, student performance and teaching standards," said Wal-Mart Spokesman Rob Phillips.

Mr. Speaker, teachers provide a service vital to our Nation's youth. Celia has provided an excellent example for other teachers to follow. I would like to thank her for her dedication, and to congratulate her on being Colorado's Teacher of the Year.

HONORING CARA FISHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 05, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Cara Fisher, the Director of the Cañon City Public Library History Center, for receiving the 2001 Colorado State Honor Award. Through her diligent efforts of preservation in Cañon City, Cara has contributed volumes to our historical knowledge as well as revitalizing significant portions of the city.

Cara is one of thirteen children who grew up in a large house with important historical ties. At one point, an individual threatened to tear the house down. However, the family sought to obtain a purchaser and was successful in preserving the house. Stemming from this experience, Cara gained an appreciation for preserving historical buildings and this has served as her guiding light for 17 years in Cañon City. Her particular focus is on preparing grants for substantial projects, and she has been an integral person in numerous efforts for the city.

The Colorado State Honor Award acknowledges her persistence and dedication to her passion. Cara Fisher has dedicated much of her time to ensure that our past is preserved and not compromised.

Mr. Speaker, as we progress into the future, I would like to thank Cara for all of her work and congratulate her for being honored with the 2001 Colorado State Honor Award.

HONORING WILLIAM RAIMER FOR HIS MILITARY SERVICE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 05, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many of our citizens dedicated their efforts to the success of our military forces. William Horace Raimer is the embodiment of service, success, and sacrifice and clearly deserves recognition from this body.

Bill Raimer was stationed on the USS Flying Fish—an SS-229 Gato Class submarine that