

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS EDWARD "GRADY" HALCOMB

**HON. DENNIS A. ROSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Edward "Grady" Halcomb and his brave and selfless acts while serving as a medic for Company B, 1st Battalion of the 29th Infantry Division in the United States Army during the Korean War. Sergeant First Class Halcomb passed away on July 2, 2017.

A veteran of 20 years of service, Sergeant First Class Halcomb's strength and care for his fellow soldiers during the war was truly exemplary. At only 19 years old, he endured and witnessed unspeakable horrors that no one should ever have to experience. No matter how dangerous or grim the circumstances, he never gave up hope on his fellow soldiers, his country or himself.

His company was outnumbered by North Korean troops, depleted of all ammo, and captured. One of only 11 men left after battle, then-Private First Class Halcomb was forced to walk the 120-mile Seoul Death March to Pyongyang, North Korea, where he and more than 300 American troops were held as prisoners of war (POWs).

As numerous soldiers were dying daily from malnutrition and medical issues, Private First Class Halcomb risked his life day-after-day to protect and save his fellow soldiers by helping to negotiate food and medicine for them.

After 85 torturous and terrifying days of being POWs, Private First Class Halcomb and four other soldiers miraculously escaped and were rescued, only days before the rest of the prisoners were brutally murdered.

Sergeant First Class Grady Halcomb's valor, sacrifice and service to this country communicate an incredible testimony of a man who put his life on the line for America and its people. Because of him, and soldiers like him, we are able to enjoy the benefits of living in the greatest nation on Earth.

Although we owe more to Sergeant First Class Halcomb than we can ever truly repay, one of my greatest honors and joys of being a Member of Congress was presenting him with the Distinguished Service Cross, for which he so richly deserved and humbly accepted after never seeking any recognition or glory for his heroic actions.

Not only was Sergeant First Class Halcomb a tremendous soldier, he was also an exceptional representation of the Polk County communities that I am honored to represent. Having the opportunity to meet him and his family is a treasure I will forever hold close to my heart.

The depth of appreciation, respect and admiration I have for Sergeant First Class Halcomb and his fellow soldiers is immeasurable. He will be dearly missed.

Let us never forget or take for granted the selfless and courageous acts by Sergeant First Class Halcomb and our service members to protect us and our freedoms every single day. May God bless them all, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING LEE BEALUK

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership and contributions of Lee Bealuk, of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, specifically all that he has done for the Township of Medford. Lee has served in a leadership capacity with Boy Scout Troop No. 20 of Medford for over 50 years, currently serving as Scoutmaster Emeritus and mentor to scouts who are working towards attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Lee has mentored 84 young men from Troop No. 20 who have achieved this rank, the highest within the Boy Scouts of America organization. Lee's accomplishments with Troop No. 20's Eagle Scouts are astonishing given that less than 5 percent of youth who participate in Boy Scouts achieve this rank. As a component of the Eagle Scout process, the candidate must develop, coordinate, and implement a community service project and with 84 Scouts earning this rank, the Township of Medford as well as many other local facilities, have been the beneficiaries of the projects undertaken by the Eagle Scout candidates.

Lee serves as the liaison between each Eagle Scout and the entities where the projects are conducted and his diligence in ensuring that all the logistics have been addressed is an excellent example to the Scout, while imparting other Boy Scout ideals including responsibility, community involvement, and civic duty. Lee's leadership skills and dedication are an asset to the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 20, his community, his family, and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Mr. Lee Bealuk as a selfless and devoted member of their community who has made a tremendous impact on our future generations of leaders. It is my honor to recognize his outstanding achievements and untrifling dedication in mentoring the young men and fellow Scoutmasters who participate with Troop No. 20, especially those who commit to attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and thank him for all that he has done, before the United State House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER OF TOM BEEDE

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize Mr. Tom Beede's illustrious and successful career as President, CFO, and CEO of MetroList Services, Inc. On the occasion of his retirement, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Beede and his outstanding career at MetroList.

Mr. Beede has served more than thirty-two years with MetroList and more than forty years in the MLS industry. Before his time with MetroList, he was an Account Manager for PRC Realty where he created the first MLS computer system for the Sacramento, El Do-

rado, and Placer Associations of Realtors. He was eventually hired by MetroList to help manage, build, and lead it as the first MLS company in the United States to own and operate its own MLS computer system.

In large part due to Mr. Beede's hard work and visionary leadership, MetroList became an organization with a culture of unparalleled customer service, subscriber value, and high level data integrity. His success can be attributed to his ability to bring the best products and services to MetroList's customers, and to his commitment to forming regional relationships and finding new, cost-effective ways to share MLS data.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me nothing but pride to stand and honor Mr. Tom Beede today and wish him the best of luck in retirement. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Beede and his outstanding service to the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN SCHLECHTER, 2017 NFIB YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR FINALIST

**HON. KRISTI L. NOEM**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellen Schlechter, a South Dakotan and recipient of the 2017 National Federation of Independent Business Young Entrepreneur Award.

A resident of Orient, South Dakota, Ellen is the founder and owner of the Calving Book App. Being a South Dakota farmer and rancher myself, I understand the onerous nature of calving season. Any effort to make this time of year more manageable should be pursued. Ellen's app makes it simple and convenient to keep, search, and share your operation's calving records on a phone, tablet, or computer. Data on breeding, preg-checking, and weaning can also be recorded. This might just be the next generation of ranch management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing a fellow South Dakotan, Ellen Schlechter, for her bold, innovative steps as a young entrepreneur. I can't wait to see where this app goes next.

HONORING CHIEF ALONZO MORALES, TEXAS' FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Alonzo Morales, Texas Firefighter of the Year.

Chief Morales began working with the Goliad Volunteer Fire Department when he was eighteen years old. He has been with the department for 37 years, serving for the past 27 years as its Fire Chief.

In addition to his role with the Volunteer Fire Department, Morales is County Commissioner for Precinct Two, a post he has held since 2010.