

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT HOWARD R. BELDEN FOR HIS BRAVE SACRIFICE AT THE BATTLE OF CHOSIN RESERVOIR DURING THE KOREAN WAR

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of United States Army Sergeant Howard R. Belden. At the age of nineteen, Sergeant Belden gave his life in service to this nation at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. After nearly seventy-one years, Sergeant Belden's remains were accounted for on October 14, 2021.

Sergeant Belden was born in 1931 to James and Esther Belden. Shortly after the conclusion of World War II, Sergeant Belden enlisted in the Army at the age of seventeen. Two years later, he deployed to Korea as a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. On December 1, 1950, his unit was attacked by enemy forces in North Korean territory near the Chosin Reservoir. This attack occurred in the midst of a battle that would become the bloodiest seventeen days of the entire conflict. During this stretch, a massive enemy offensive comprising of over one hundred thousand Chinese communist troops forced the withdrawal of the much smaller United Nations coalition. This assault claimed the lives of at least one thousand American soldiers, including Sergeant Belden.

In the aftermath of the fighting, the Army listed Sergeant Belden as "unaccounted for" and informed his family that he was missing in action and presumed dead. Decades later, in August 2018, North Korea agreed to release the remains of fifty-five fallen American service members back to the United States. Sergeant Belden's remains were among those returned and were finally identified on October 14, 2021. To his family's relief, the Army reclassified his status to "accounted for" on that day.

In April 2022, Sergeant Belden will reach his final resting place in the Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be buried with full military honors. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I thank Sergeant Belden for his service and his sacrifice, and I am proud to honor his legacy of defending American liberty, freedom, and democracy.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER GEORGE O. FULENWIDER, III, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2022*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Commander George O. Fulenwider, III of the United States Coast Guard, to honor his long and illustrious career. Commander Fulenwider began serving in the Coast Guard in January of 1984, when he enlisted as an E1. Upon graduating from basic training in Cape May, New Jersey, Commander

Fulenwider was stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter *UTE* based out of Key West, Florida and has been serving our great nation with dedication and honor ever since. His retirement after many years of service to the United States Coast Guard is extraordinary and is a testament to his love for our country.

During his very successful career, Commander Fulenwider spent 15 years on 8 different cutters with positions including Engineering Petty Officer (EPO), Main Propulsion Assistant (MPA) and Engineering Officer (EO). During his service, Commander Fulenwider supported various Coast Guard missions including: Port and Waterway Security, Drug Interdiction, Aids to Navigation, Search and Rescue, Living Marine Resources, Marine Safety, Defense Readiness, Migrant Interdiction, Marine Environmental Protection, Ice Operations and Law Enforcement.

Throughout his career, Commander Fulenwider was either directly involved in or supported nearly every mission and operation the Coast Guard was involved in during his tenure. This includes Operation Just Cause in Panama (December 1989 to January 1990), Operation Desert Shield (August 1990 to January 1991), the Gulf War (August 1990 to February 1991), Operation Enduring Freedom/Global War on Terrorism resulting from the September 11th attacks on America's World Trade Centers (October 2001 to December 2014). In addition, Commander Fulenwider responded to the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti that killed 250,000 people and displaced thousands of survivors.

During his dedicated time of service, Commander Fulenwider quickly rose through the ranks of Seaman Recruit-Fireman (E1-E3), Machinery Technician Third Class (MK3, E4), MK2 (E5), MK1 (E6), MKC (E7), Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2), Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3), Lieutenant (LT, O3E), Lieutenant Commander (LCDR, O4), and finally Commander (O5). Furthermore, the U.S. Coast Guard afforded him the opportunity to obtain his Associate of Science in Naval Engineering from Trident Technical College located in North Charleston, South Carolina.

Commander Fulenwider has received countless awards and achievements during his illustrious career. These include the Meritorious Service Medal, numerous Coast Guard Commendation Medals, numerous Coast Guard Achievement medals and Commandants Letter of Commendation, The Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Coast Guard and Navy Unit Commendation amongst many more.

Currently, Commander Fulenwider is a Program Support Manager & Executive Officer at Project Resident Office Gulf Coast, assisting with the acquisition and construction of the Legend-Class National Security Cutters (NSC) at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The NSCs are the most technologically advanced ship in the Coast Guard's fleet, with capabilities for maritime homeland security, law enforcement and national security missions. The NSCs are the largest cutters in the Coast Guard fleet at 418 feet long and have a maximum speed of 28 knots with a range of 12,000 nautical miles; these cutters are equipped to carry a crew of 148 and can be out at sea for 3-6 months, projecting a U.S. presence around the globe, from the straits of Taiwan to the Black Sea.

Commander George O. Fulenwider, III will retire in Hubert, North Carolina with his high

school sweetheart and wife of 37 years, Nancy Fulenwider, who has supported his selfless career from the very beginning. The sacrifices they both have made to make this distinguishing career possible is simply admirable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the retirement of this incredible and noble patriot and wishing Commander George O. Fulenwider, III, a happy retirement from his life of outstanding service to our country.

AIDE SABINAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aide Sabinas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Aide Sabinas is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aide Sabinas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aide Sabinas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MICHAEL HARDAT AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Michael Hardat, a financial coach and youth advocate at the Financial Empowerment Center's Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, as Iowan of the Week.

Michael is a Lifelong resident of the Des Moines metro area and a recent Iowa State University graduate. From a young age, Michael recognized that he and his family lacked the financial resources that others had. As a result, Michael began going to the Children and Family Urban Movement's programs. These programs made all the difference for Michael and helped him embrace the spirit of community support and betterment. Knowing he wanted to give back to the community, Michael began working with the Financial Empowerment Center. In his role, he has a direct hand in helping families make informed financial decisions and plan for a brighter future. During the pandemic when many families faced even greater struggles, he spoke out about how Iowans receiving the Child Tax Credit could most effectively use those funds to create positive outcomes.