

In Charlie's time after war, he continued his second life of service as a high school teacher for building trades where he filled young minds with memories they still talk about today. He leaned into his passion as a sportsman by spending time hunting, fishing, and writing a weekly column named 'The Wild Side' which became a staple for the Western Montana community.

Charlie's life with his wife Clara was the epitome of the American dream and our state was made a better place because they called it home. History will know Charlie Dowd as one of the last living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a Montana legend, and true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today Representative MAST and I introduced the Veterans Equal Access Act. This legislation would provide equal access to state-legal medical marijuana for veterans participating in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. It ends the harmful VA prohibition on doctors and health care providers giving opinions or recommendations on, or completing forms for, state-legal medical marijuana programs.

U.S. cannabis laws are broken, including our laws that govern veterans' access to medical cannabis. Many veterans report using cannabis for medical purposes as a substitute for prescription drugs. The VA National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has acknowledged that veterans use cannabis to relieve symptoms of PTSD, and that in many states PTSD is a qualifying condition for enrollment in medical cannabis programs.

Most states with state-legal medical cannabis programs require some sort of recommendation or approval from a medical provider for patients to enroll in the program. However, VA policy prevents VA physicians and care providers from any participation, including helping with the required paperwork or forms.

This forces veterans to seek care outside of the VA system to receive medical cannabis recommendations, which can interrupt continuity of care, lead to mistakes or gaps in care, and require veterans to pay out of pocket for additional physician visits. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation that they think may meet the needs of their patients. And veterans should not be forced outside the VA system to seek treatment that is legal in their state.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would allow VA doctors and healthcare providers to give their opinions or recommendations on medical cannabis and to complete forms in compliance with state-legal medical marijuana programs.

I look forward to working with my co-leads, Representative BRIAN MAST and Senators JACKY ROSEN, and my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and provide equal access to state-legal medical cannabis for our veterans participating in VA health care.

HONORING THE SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS BAR ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the South Hampton Roads Bar Association on its 100th Anniversary.

The South Hampton Roads Bar Association, initially called the Tidewater Bar Association, was formed in October 1923 to empower African American attorneys in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. Members of the association promoted the advancement of African Americans in the Commonwealth of Virginia and fought against the unjust practices of segregation and racial discrimination.

As one of the oldest African American bar associations in the nation, the South Hampton Roads Bar Association remains active and supports racial equality within the legal community in the Hampton Roads area. It is comprised of members that have distinguished themselves as devoted Commonwealth Attorneys, state and federal judges, members of the Virginia General Assembly and city councils. Through their present work, they are continuing the legacy of the founding members to strive towards racial equality and to build a community focused on opportunities for all.

I want to thank Attorney W. Marcus Scriven, the current President of the South Hampton Roads Bar Association, for his leadership and dedication to the organization's mission. I also want to thank all prior presidents and the many African American legal professionals who laid the foundation for this association to thrive for so long.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate the member of the South Hampton Roads Bar Association on the many hard-fought battles won since their inception 100 years ago and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 167, I mistakenly voted no when I intended to vote yes.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER L.C. "BUCKSHOT" SMITH

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of long-time law enforcement Officer L.C. "Buckshot" Smith of the Camden Police Department. This week, at 93 years old, Officer Smith will be retiring after over 60 years of invaluable service to the people of Camden, Arkansas.

Officer Smith's dedication to protecting and serving the people of his community goes deeper than just his badge; it's in his heart. His true character has been evident through the relationships he's built within the community he's served for so long. Throughout his record-long career, Officer Smith has treated everyone in Camden with the utmost fairness and respect. He's held the nickname "Buckshot" for most of his life, and everyone in Camden knows him as such.

While he will surely be missed by the Camden Police Department, his 60-plus years of service will be remembered forever. Officer Smith is a beloved member of the community, and his legacy will go down in history as one that was built on the Golden Rule to treat others as you would want to be treated.

I'm proud to recognize Officer L.C. "Buckshot" Smith for his historic career in law enforcement, and I want to thank him for making such a deep and lasting impact on his community, the 4th District of Arkansas, and our country. I hope his record of service will be an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps.

HONORING YVETTE BENARROCH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Yvette Benarroch whose lifelong dedication toward serving her country and her community has had a significant impact on South-west Florida.

Born in Luquillo, Puerto Rico, Yvette began her time in public service in the United States Air Force, serving in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm before returning to Puerto Rico. After earning her bachelor's degree in marketing from Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and attaining her master's degree in marketing from Southern New Hampshire University, Yvette began her professional career in public relations and education. She later became a successful entrepreneur.

However, Yvette never lost her servant-leader spirit inspired by her time in service to her country. She maintains that her "service to her country has no expiration date." Since moving to Naples, Florida in 2003, Yvette has served as a volunteer and board member in various local nonprofit organizations, further investing in her community by coordinating several hurricane relief efforts and food collection drives. When her community needed her the most, Yvette was always there. Yvette's staunch commitment toward helping her community has been both an inspiration and a blessing to those around her.

Motivated by her love of country, her conservative values, and her dedication to service, Yvette soon found herself involved in local, state, and federal politics. Additionally, Yvette also served as Vice Chairwoman for the Collier County GOP from 2020 to 2022 and was a former State Vice Chairwoman for the Republican National Hispanic Assembly of Florida. Today, she is the second Vice President for the Florida Federation of Republican Women.

Yvette's persistent drive to continue her involvement in her community, specifically in