

State University in 1999 as Associate Professor of Biology and Associate Director of Preprofessional Health Careers Program, although he continued as an adjunct professor for a number of years.

Dr. Washington married the love of his life, Dora Scruggs, in 1958, and together they began a teaching career in higher education.

Dr. Washington received many civic and church-related awards, including "Kappa Man of the Year" from the Jackson Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the "Lifetime Achievement Award," given at the 71st Southwestern Provincial meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. He served as a trustee of the Gulfside Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees, Piney Wood School.

As a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, he served as a choir member, a member of Prime Timers Ministry, the Board of Trustees, and the United Methodist Men's organization, from which he received a Lifetime Award.

Beyond the local church, he served as president and vice president of the Conference United Methodist men and on the Episcopacy Committee.

Dr. Washington is survived by his wife, Dr. Dora Washington of Jackson, Mississippi; children, Dr. E. Patrice Colbert, George C. Washington IV and Tamara Y. Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. George C. Washington III.

TEXAS TRADITION—AGGIE
MUSTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ok, so I may not exactly be the biggest Texas A&M fan around. And, I possibly ruffle a few maroon feathers from time-to-time poking fun at the Aggies. But, one thing I can say without a doubt is that there is no other school that has as loyal a following and dedication to tradition as Texas A&M.

Texas A&M is famous for its traditions, ranging from the Aggie War Hymn, the 12th Man, Midnight Yell, Gig 'em, Reville and of course, the ring. But above all else, there is one tradition that I have the greatest respect for—Aggie Muster.

Every year on April 21st, Aggies from all over the world come together to honor the memories of fellow A&M men and women whose death prevents their answering the Roll Call at the annual Muster. (It is no small coincidence that April 21st is also the anniversary of the battle of San Jacinto—where Texas gained independence from Mexico in 1836.) The Roll is a symbolic Roll Call of all students and former students whom death has taken from the Aggie ranks, but whose memory lives on in Aggie hearts. As each name is called, a comrade will answer "here" in their stead.

This time-honored tradition began in June of 1883 as a reunion of sorts of former students reliving their college days from the ball field to the battlefield. By 1889 it had evolved into a celebration of Texas Independence, and in 1922 it became the official ceremony it is today to account for every Aggie around the world by honoring the "Roll Call of the Ab-

sent" every year on San Jacinto Day, April 21st—the day marking Texas' Independence in 1836.

According to tradition, "if there is an A&M man in one hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas." The most famous example of this edict was the Muster of 1942 under the command of General George Moore during World War II. Amid fierce enemy fire, hunched in the trenches on Corregidor Island in the Philippines, General Moore and 25 fellow Aggies answered the Roll Call for the Aggies who no longer could.

A war correspondent observed the make-shift ceremony and the world was introduced to the Aggie spirit.

During times of war, Muster is especially poignant. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor winners than any other university in the United States. When General George Patton was in Europe going to combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had under his command. He said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war."

The Aggies' long tradition of duty and service to our great nation dates back to their beginning, to the days when A&M was an all-male military academy. Texas A&M trained nearly 4000 troops during World War I and over 20,000 Aggies served in World War II, 14,000 as officers. The entire graduating classes of 1941 and 1942 enlisted in the military. The Aggie War Hymn was written on envelope by Aggie Marine J.V. "Pinky" Wilson while standing guard on the Rhine River during World War I and it remains the most recognizable school fight song across the country—probably the world.

Today, Muster is observed in more than 400 places worldwide and this year's "Roll Call of the Absent" honored 1015 people around the world, including those remarkable young men and women who gave their lives for our country today. The family of former U.S. first lady Barbara Bush elected to defer her recognition at Aggie Muster to 2019, when her family will have the opportunity to participate. When her name is called, Aggies all over the world will whisper "here".

Muster is a time to honor those that have died, and a time for all Aggies to come together to reconnect and celebrate a way of life known only to those that proudly hail from Aggieland. This somber tradition illustrates the deep bond among all Aggies and is a key part of the rich heritage of tradition that sets Texas A&M apart from all the rest.

Gig 'em Aggies.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CRAIG
LAMOUNTAIN

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Craig LaMountain for his

dedication and accomplishments in establishing the Vietnam War Foundation and Museum for the purpose of memorializing those who fought in Vietnam as well as to educate succeeding generations concerning these veterans' experiences, sacrifices, service, and devotion to duty.

Mr. LaMountain is a Vietnam veteran, drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1966 and coming home in August 1968. Mr. LaMountain began collecting memorabilia and visiting schools in New York after his brother, LT Vetal Charles LaMountain, a Naval aviator crashed while on a mission during the Vietnam War and whose remains were never recovered. When Mr. LaMountain's close cousin, Mickey Addy, died of cancer from Agent Orange, the collection was expanded to further present to schools the opportunity for veterans to share their experiences. Like so many Vietnam veterans, Mr. LaMountain continues to sacrifice to this day in fighting his own battle against the effects of Agent Orange.

Upon retirement, Mr. LaMountain incorporated his collection as the Vietnam War Foundation (VWF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) public education foundation. The VWF provides schoolchildren and the general public the opportunity to learn about the military legacy of the 1960s in a "hands-on", free of charge environment, hear its Vietnam veterans share their stories, and see and touch restored, historic military aircraft and vehicles. No other known educational foundation in the U.S. is totally dedicated to preserving this unique Vietnam era equipment and memorabilia for future generations of schoolchildren and the general public to experience. Mr. LaMountain has devoted himself to this mission for over 30 years.

It is my privilege to honor Mr. Craig LaMountain today, and my sincere hope that you'll join me in recognizing him for his extraordinary effort to present the Vietnam era story and experiences to schools, veterans and their families, historians and the general public.

HONORING RYAN HOFMANN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Ryan Hofmann, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Ryan has been on our team for over a year and has worked in several capacities in our Washington, D.C. office. He started as a policy intern last summer in our leadership office, the Republican Policy Committee. He was then hired as a full time staffer in February and is responsible for producing the Legislative Digest, handling tour requests, managing our internship program and advising me on a variety of policy issues.

On a personal note, I admire Ryan's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. He has been a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Ryan's future is very bright. I want to thank Ryan for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.