

A native of Pearl City, Hawaii, Major Briones was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps from Officer Candidate School in 2006. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from The George Washington University (GWU), a Master's degree in IT Management from Webster University, and a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from GWU.

Major Briones has served in a broad range of assignments during his 12 years as an Army officer, including Platoon Leader and Battalion Signal Officer at Fort Lewis, WA; Company Commander at Schofield Barracks, HI; and Legislative Liaison in Washington, D.C. He also has served two combat deployments in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

I have had the privilege of working directly with Major Briones, first as a fellow in my Capitol Hill office throughout 2016 and, then, during his succeeding assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. His professionalism, performance, and commitment to the mission, as both a fellow and liaison, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression to both Members and staff of the United States Congress. Throughout his career, Major Briones has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors.

On a personal level, I have had the honor of also meeting Major Briones' family, who, as with all American military families, share his selfless commitment to our country. I thank his wife, Ilana, as well as his parents, Daniel and Roberta, for their sacrifices made in supporting his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Shane Briones since the second session of the 114th Congress. Our country has benefited from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Major Briones for his service to our country and wish him all the best as he continues his service in the United States Army.

HONORING PATTI COONS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Patti Coons for her contribution to our state.

Patti is an institution in Indiana politics and has been helping promote Republican principles for decades. She is a retired senior executive for the Decorating Den Interiors franchise. It has been a pleasure to work with Patti, and our state is better off today because of her extraordinary leadership and service. I

On a personal note, Patti is among my favorite people who I have met on this journey in Congress. She is smart, strong, honest and loyal. With Patti, you always know where you stand. She is a great friend to my wife Jennifer, and we both appreciate all that Patti has done to help Jennifer with the Congressional Club.

I will be forever grateful for Patti's friendship and support of my work in Congress. I wish

her continued success in all that God has planned for her family.

TRIBUTE TO WILFRED R. DEFOUR, SR.

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues' sad news that has struck my community with the passing of Wilfred R. DeFour, Sr. at the incredible age of 100.

Mr. DeFour was raised in Harlem; a proud alumnus of Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx; and later graduate of both the City College of New York and New York University School of Commerce.

Mr. DeFour was an aircraft technician working on many of the planes flown by the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. In fact, Mr. DeFour painted the tails of aircraft red by hand that lent the airmen their signature moniker of "Red Tails".

He was a man of extraordinary dignity, the highest character and a great sense of humor. He personified the magnanimity of his generation that endured the division and animus of racial segregation in this country yet still fought for our country and its shared defense.

Just a few weeks ago in New York City, I had the enormous privilege with my fellow elected officials and community leaders to officially unveil the renaming of the Post Office located at 99 Macombs Place as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building." Mr. DeFour was our guest of honor and shared with us his experience and what his service meant to him. It is my intention to rename the Lincolnton Post Office located at 2266 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10037, where he worked after returning from his military service for over three decades.

Just last month he said "I regret so many of my comrades are no longer here with us. It was a great experience. We didn't know that we were making history at the time, we were just doing our jobs. That's about the size of it."

For a man with a larger than life presence, what struck me and those around him was his humility and grace. He told us "After looking back at it, everyone was pleased with what we did. What we did, we did our best and our best was the greatest." We are lesser without him and can only hope to strive to match; but never exceed his example.

Godspeed Combat Technical Sergeant Wilfred R. DeFour, Sr. It was a pleasure to have known him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHINESE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF SACRAMENTO'S ANNUAL GOLD MOUNTAIN CELEBRATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Chinese American Council of Sacramento's 31st Annual Gold Mountain

Celebration. Each year, the Council celebrates the efforts of selfless community members in fostering intercultural relationships, increasing awareness for the cultural significance of Chinese Americans and all Pacific Islander Americans. This is in addition to their invaluable support for projects and programs that address the economically challenged members of the community that are often forgotten.

This year's honorees are staples in our community. The Hall of Fame recipient is the Chan Family of General Produce. They are a business built on three generations of dedication to supplying the highest quality produce to the Sacramento community and beyond, in addition to providing 80 years of civic engagement.

Receiving Frank Fat's Founder Award is C.C. Yin, Founder of Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs. Originally created to empower leadership and representation for the Asian Pacific Islander Community, this organization has inspired community involvement nationwide through fellowship, mentorship and education.

The recipient of the Community Service Award is My Sister's House. The organization provides invaluable services and is a haven for Asian Pacific Islander American women who are suffering from domestic violence. Since they began in 2000, My Sister's House has provided resources and community to those seeking refuge from dangerous situations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this celebration as it recognizes pillars in the Sacramento community and to praise them for another successful year for the Chinese American Council of Sacramento. As unparalleled leaders, these individuals and organizations set an incredible example.

RECOGNIZING LADD PAULSON FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ladd Paulson of Billings, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Paulson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1983 and served two deployments in the South Pacific with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. He rose to the rank of Corporal through four years of active duty and two years as a reservist.

Mr. Paulson served the Billings community as a law enforcement officer. He was active in the domestic violence task force and instrumental in organizing local businesses to help in the prevention of domestic violence. He was awarded the Montana Law Enforcement Medal of Honor for his bravery under fire while apprehending an armed and dangerous criminal. Even after a service-connected injury forced him to retire in 2002, he remains active serving others through his advocacy for disabled law enforcement officers.

Mr. Paulson also volunteers his time in the Adopt-A-Cop program at area schools, as a