

Kirk Windmueller. LTC Windmueller's work ethic took him to the highest ranks of the military, serving as Deputy Chief for Combat Developments, G8, at U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and his current assignment as a Strategic Planner, J5, Joint Special Operations Command where he deployed in support of Operation Uprise Giant.

LTC Windmueller received a Bachelors of Science in Biology from The Citadel and a Masters of Science in Defense Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School. In addition, he trained at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, where he served as the Chief of Special Forces Doctrine in the Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

Deployed on numerous operational assignments around the globe and through some of our nation's toughest times, LTC Windmueller stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation. Some of his most notable engagements took place during his assignment to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group. During this assignment he served as the Commanding Officer of a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha, with deployments to Kosovo and Iraq in support of Operations Joint Guardian and Iraqi Freedom, and commanded the Group Mountain Operations Training Detachment. Throughout these operations, he delivered on the promise to keep America safe and confront our enemies head on under the most difficult conditions.

During these deployments, LTC Windmueller received numerous medals, including the Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, Joint Service Achievement, Army Achievement, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Kosovo Campaign, Iraq Campaign, Afghanistan Campaign, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal. These medals are a testimony to his monumental success in safeguarding America.

While fighting our nation's battles overseas, LTC Windmueller had a full family at home. His wife, Laura, and he have three wonderful children. This country cannot repay the debt we owe to LTC Windmueller and his family. The Windmuellers are true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the career of Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Windmueller.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day.

Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to two extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Shannon O'Quinn from Texas Tech University; and Lauren Butia from The Madeira School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like Shannon and Lauren the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful, committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH TOWN HALL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the new Town Hall in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

On November 12th, America's hometown will be celebrating its community with the opening of the new Plymouth Town Hall. This event will be marked by a walk from the old Town Hall to the new Town Hall with everyone who contributed to this new landmark.

Construction on the new Town Hall began just two years ago, in the fall of 2015. I commend the town leadership and the residents of Plymouth for their collaboration on this community project. This would not have been possible without the dedication of all of those who were involved, from the over 40 volunteers who helped generate support for the project over local coffee and tea events, to the residents who advocated for the project at Town Meeting, to the many involved in the construction and restoration efforts. The level of planning and outreach involved in this project

serves as a powerful example of how local government working together with community members can be a tremendous success.

This project involved the restoration of the historic 1820 Courthouse. The Community Preservation Committee worked with a historical restoration team and many volunteers to return this building to its original glory. The centuries-old judge's bench in the courthouse is now set to be the new location for selectmen's meetings. Among the many 1800s-era pieces incorporated into the newly renovated building is its American Eagle Weathervane, which traveled aboard the ferry to Nantucket to be restored.

Located at 26 Court Street in the heart of downtown Plymouth, this Town Hall will be a centerpiece for the town, including during the 400th anniversary of Plymouth just a few years away, in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the celebration of the new Plymouth Town Hall and the dedication of the entire Plymouth community.

RECOGNITION OF TOLIE BRODIE HARRISON—TRIBUTE TO HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Tolie Brodie Harrison who is an outstanding citizen in Nash County, North Carolina. Mrs. Harrison affectionately known as "Ma Tolie" will be 100 years young on December 12, 2017.

Born in 1917 during the height of World War I, Mrs. Harrison has devoted her entire life toward improving the quality of life for her community.

Mrs. Harrison and her husband, Frank Barnabas Harrison, were blessed with ten wonderful children. Education was important to the family. The Harrison's were adamant that their children would receive a proper education and encouraged them to attend college. Mrs. Harrison was also a provider and motivator by working countless hours on farms and in tobacco factories to keep her children enrolled in school. At age 45, she was employed by Abbott's Pharmaceuticals; which ensured the necessary benefits to support her family.

Mr. Speaker, many in the Nash County community can testify to the hospitality and encouragement of Ma Tolie. As a strong advocate for education, she would welcome new teachers to her home until they could find a permanent residence. For the students; she fed them, housed them, and wisely counseled them. With her many years of selfless service, Mrs. Harrison has left an indelible impression on the lives she touched. Throughout her life she has received many awards, recognitions, and praises for her contributions.

It is my high honor to offer these remarks in recognition of a great American who is an example of the highest degree of service to humanity.