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HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL IN WORLD WAR II!

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to co-sponsor my legislation, H.R. 719, which will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Civil Air Patrol in recognition of their contributions during World War II.

The volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) during WWII, an estimated 200,000 civilian men and women ranging in age from 19 to 81, provided extraordinary public and combat services during a critical time of need for the nation. CAP members used their own aircraft to perform a myriad of essential tasks for the military and the entire country, including attacks on enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

The CAP was established on December 1, 1941, one week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The CAP was initially mobilized in response to a massive German Navy submarine offensive off the east coast of the United States that targeted oil tankers and other critical shipping. As 52 tankers were sunk between January and March 1942 alone, neither the Navy nor Army had sufficient resources to patrol and protect the coastline — threatening the entire war effort.

Members of the CAP rose to the challenge of protecting our sea lanes and supporting the military's efforts in a time of war. More than 40,000 volunteers at 21 CAP bases stretching from Maine to Texas coordinated efforts that saw heroic CAP aircrews responsible for attacking 57 submarines — destroying or damaging two — as well as reporting nearly 200 submarine positions, 17 floating mines, and 91 vessels and 363 survivors in distress. The CAP's WWII service came at the high cost of 64 fatalities and 150 aircraft lost. In recognition of this remarkable military service and exemplary record, H.R. 719 will award a single gold medal collectively in honor of the WWII members of the CAP.

I urge you to join in support of the valuable wartime service rendered by the civilian volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol! To co-sponsor H.R. 719, please email Todd Ethington at: todd.ethington@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress