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House of Representatives

SPEECH OF
HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA

Madame Speaker,

I rise today to recognize my constituent and friend, Andrew Marshall, who has spent a lifetime of service to our country and to his fellow Veterans.

Andrew, a combat-wounded Army Veteran of the Vietnam War, currently serves as the National Commander for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The DAV serves more than one million members throughout the country, and Andrew was elected to its highest office at the 2021 DAV & Auxiliary National Convention in Tampa, Florida.

As an airborne infantryman serving with the Americal Division in the Khe Sanh Valley in December of 1970, Andrew was injured while

engaged in combat against the enemy. After two weeks of recovery, he was transferred to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. On Patrol in January of 1971, he stepped on an explosive, which injured his lower left extremities, resulting in the amputation of two toes and extensive damage to his left leg. Andrew was medically retired from the Army after receiving the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster in lieu of a second award, and Army Commendation with "V" device.

Upon his medical retirement, Andrew went on to serve for 41 years as a strong advocate for his fellow Veterans in a supervisory role at the DAV. He has held many leadership positions within the organization, including Judge

Advocate for the Department of Maryland. Andrew served for three years on the Florida Veterans Advisory Committee and was also assigned to the DAV Judicial Appeals Office in Washington, D.C. He has also been very active with DAV at the chapter, department, and national levels. He is a past commander for the DAV Department of Florida, and currently serves as the state's adjutant and executive director, as well as the adjutant and treasurer for Chapter 4 in Tampa, Florida where he has been a member since 1975.

On a personal note, Andrew has been an active member of my Congressional Veterans Advisory Committee for many years. He has given me invaluable insight into how we, in Congress, can do a better job meeting the needs of those heroes who have sacrificed so much in defense of our nation. I sincerely value his counsel and friendship. Additionally, I greatly admire the work he has done to give an impassioned voice to all Veterans and their families. I have no doubt that he will continue to serve with great pride and distinction.

Mr. Andrew Marshall will be presenting the DAV's annual legislative priorities at today's Joint Session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. My colleagues are indeed fortunate to

hear from such an esteemed and dedicated leader today.

Thank you, I yield back my time.