

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

HONORING THE SUMMIT PROJECT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
OF MAINE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 12, 2013

MR. SPEAKER, I rise today to honor the efforts of The Summit Project and its leader and founder, United States Marine Corps Major David J. Cote, to memorialize Maine's fallen service members since September 11, 2001.

Major Cote launched The Summit Project on Memorial Day of 2013. This outstanding initiative will recognize and pay proper tribute to the sacrifices made by our fallen service members and their families.

Beginning on Memorial Day 2014, volunteers will carry memorial stones to the summit of Mt. Katahdin to honor each fallen Maine hero who was given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country during recent conflicts. Each engraved stone will bear the initials, birth year, death year, rank, and service branch of the Maine heroes who valiantly gave their lives while defending our country. The act of carrying memorial stones during tribute hikes across mountains in Maine will become a symbol of solidarity that recognizes the sacrifice of our brave Maine service members and their families.

I grew up and still live in the heart of Maine's Katahdin Region, a part of our state built on a strong work ethic and devotion to service above self. Since I was a child, I have been acutely aware of the significant number of Mainers from across the region and the state who choose a life of military service to protect and defend the United States at home and abroad. I can't think of a better place than Mt. Katahdin to pay tribute to our fallen heroes and the Maine values that defined their character.

As a living memorial, the Summit Project was created to honor the fallen while challenging the living. The Summit Project ensures that the spirit and sacrifice of our fallen Maine heroes will not be forgotten, and it creates an environment in which their surviving family and friends may continue the healing process. The project exemplifies the values of the people of Maine: service, loyalty, patriotism, and selflessness.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Maine, the creators of the Summit Project, and the Katahdin Region in Congress. Soon, Maine's highest peak will host a fitting dedication to the memory of Maine's bravest.

MR. SPEAKER, please join me in honoring the members of The Summit Project and Major David J. Cote as they honor the service members from Maine who lost their lives protecting our freedom.