Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. John Railey for achieving a remarkable milestone in his career. His dedication to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Yard, and his fellow employees has made him a valuable asset to all throughout his 50 years of devoted service.

HONORING COLONEL MOHAMMED A. ''MO'' KHAN, JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Mohammed A. ''Mo'' Khan, Jr., who accepted command of the 341 Operations Group on May 20 in a change of command ceremony.

Colonel Khan is originally from Ronceverte, West Virginia, born November 5, 1966. After graduation from California Lutheran University in 1988, Colonel Khan received his commission through the University of California at Los Angeles Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Over the past twenty years, Mo has been promoted from Second Lieutenant to the rank of Colonel. Upon accepting command of the 341st OG, Colonel Khan stated his three main priorities, which are to do your absolute very best at all times; to take care of each other and your families; and to give freely of yourself, both on and off base. It is because of these values that Mo has advanced so far and received so many decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and National Defense Service Medal with Star Device.

Early in his Air Force career, Colonel Khan served a variety of positions in a missile combat crew, advancing to squadron, group and wing level positions. In 2002, Colonel Khan assumed command of the 564th Missile Squadron where he led over 200 operations. His extensive operations experience led to several positions at the Pentagon in the space operations division, where until March of 2008 he held the title of director of space operations. Most recently, he was chief of the space superiority division before assuming command of the 341st Operations Group.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Mohammed A. ''Mo'' Khan, Jr.—he is a man that represents the best of West Virginia. I would like to congratulate him for his invaluable service to the Air Force. I know his wife, Lisa, and two children, Mo III and Simeon, are extremely proud.

THANKING KAREN WESS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on August 7, 2009 we rise to thank Mrs. Karen Wess for her seventeen years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Karen has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Karen began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1992 as a Systems Programmer working with the mainframe Customer Information Control System (CICS) transaction services. Her technical expertise in the delivery of mainframe CICS transaction services led to Karen being selected to work on a team tasked with the initiative to combine several disparate e-mail systems into an efficient and sustainable enterprise e-mail system for the House. Karen has been involved with the House e-mail systems since their early inception and has helped to make them the mission-critical service the House relies on today. Karen applied her leadership abilities to help deploy an anti-spam component for the House e-mail service and currently serves as a Senior Systems Engineer in the CAO's HIR Enterprise Technology Systems Branch.

Karen has been one of the primary engineers providing the House's Internet e-mail functionality. She has acted as a technical liaison between the House, other legislative organizations, and government agencies in the field of e-mail connectivity. She has provided consulting services to House customers, internal and external, making the delivery of House e-mail systems the success they are today.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Karen for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROSS THORNTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Mr. Thornton will be recognized on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Ross Thornton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In May 1964, Mr. Thornton moved to Madera, California to become the voice behind the mic at KHOT radio, a local radio station. In 1967, he went to work for CalFarm Insurance, and two years later made a career change into the medical supply business. In 1986, Mr. Thornton moved back into the insurance profession with Foster and Parker Insurance; where he still works today.

Mr. Thornton has had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He was named ''Trustee of the Year'' in 2001 and ''Agent of the Year'' in 2003 by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He is as successful in his commitment to the community as he is in his profession. Mr. Thornton is a long time member of the Madera Chamber of Commerce, where he has served on several committees, including the Ambassador Corps and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee. He has been a member of the Madera Sunrise Rotary for twenty-nine years and has maintained perfect attendance. He is the past-president of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he also served on the board from 1986 through 1996. Mr. Thornton served on the Board of Directors of Madera Community Hospital from 1988 through 1994. He served for nine years with Valley Public Television Board, a seventeen year board member of the Darin Camarena Health Clinics, served as a Trustee of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors at the state level and is past-president of the Fresno area Chapter. He is a current member of the Madera Elks, President of the Board of Directors for Sherman Thomas Charter School and Vice-President of Valley West Christian Center Board of Directors. For twenty-five years, he has served as a Speech Judge for the Madera Scholastic Decathlon. Mr. Thornton was appointed to the Planning Commission for the City of Madera and continues to serve in this civic capacity. For his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Thornton has been honored by being named the 1998–99 Citizen of the Year by the Madera Elks and the Madera Hispanic Chamber's Businessman of the Year in 1998.

Mr. Thornton has three sons and three grandchildren. His mother, Alberta, is ninety-six years old and lives with him and his wife Barbara, who has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being honored as the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Thornton many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANISTIQUE ELKS TEMPLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manistique Elks Lodge #632 on the 100th Anniversary of the group's landmark building. The Manistique Elks Temple was built in 1909 and continues to be a source of pride for the community and a unique venue for activities including civic events, receptions and patriotic ceremonies. The building has seen both high times and low times, but throughout its 100 years of existence it has touched nearly every person in the Manistique community in some way or another.

Visitors to the Temple step onto a sweeping front porch and through grand pillars to enter the building. Once inside they look up to the ornate ceiling of stamped tin, richly painted with gold filigree and accented in burgundy and hunter green. They walk across hardwood floors that are a testament to the timber industry that has helped sustain the city of Manistique throughout the years. The sun shines through newly restored windows to create a bright atmosphere. It is a place that echoes the natural beauty found throughout Manistique and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

While so many buildings from the beginning of the 20th century have been destroyed or replaced, the Elks Temple continues to stand