

and children too, two sons and three daughters by 1940. Martin came first in 1923, and after attending high school in Porterville, he left the valley for the University of Southern California.

The Second World War swept Martin into the United States Army and across the Pacific to the small island of Okinawa. Returning in 1947 to Delano, California, Martin married Margaret Surjak and co-founded Jasmine Vineyards with his cousin Vincent. The farm marked the beginning of Martin's rise in the table grape industry just as it began to take off. In 1961, production stood at 450 thousand tons. By 2003, output had swollen to 730 thousand tons as aggressive marketing more than doubled domestic per capita consumption.

It was not an easy accomplishment. Facing weak demand in the late 1960s, Martin convinced his fellow growers to pool their resources and press the California legislature to pass the Ketchum Act, which elevated the table grape industry to parity with California's other agricultural commodities. Martin—who at various times chaired the South Central Farmers Committee, the California Fresh Fruit Association, and the Delano Grape Growers Products to promote and expand the market—accompanied the California Table Grape Commission he helped found on its first international trade mission to Japan in 1973.

As a staunch conservative with a firm belief in individual enterprise and market economics, Martin constantly pursued policies and goals on behalf of valley growers. His work ethic went hand in hand with his philanthropy; Martin was one of the original founders of the California State University Bakersfield and a board member of Mercy Hospital.

Martin is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their three children: Katina, Sonya and Jon. Today, Martin's family operates his vineyards with the same hard work and discipline he personified so well. The San Joaquin Valley has lost one of its champions, formidable and tireless, another of those citizens for whom the greatest generation was named. On behalf of our community, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Martin Zaninovich, and offering our condolences to his family.

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SERVING WITH HONOR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lt. Cheryl Hillegeist on her impending promotion to the rank of captain in the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. This promotion will make her the highest-ranking female officer ever to serve the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. As a resident of Fort Bend County, I sleep better at night knowing officers like Lt. Hillegeist are on patrol looking out for my family and the great folks who call our diverse county home.

Hillegeist's distinguished career in law enforcement has spanned three decades. While working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office, her exemplary character and actions encouraged her rapid rise through the ranks

and she earned the recognition and gratitude of her community. This well deserved promotion is a reflection of her stellar commitment to protecting our county.

I thank Lt. Cheryl Hillegeist for her dedication to service and extraordinary conduct in the discharge of her public duties. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Hillegeist for being promoted to captain in the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

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RECOGNIZING CANADA CONSUL  
GENERAL ROY B. NORTON'S  
VISIT TO SPRINGFIELD, MO

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give Consul General of Canada Roy B. Norton an enthusiastic welcome and wish him well on his visit to Southwest Missouri.

Consul General Norton represents Canadian interests in Missouri as well as in Illinois and Wisconsin. He focuses on trade, investment, environmental, cultural and academic policy areas.

Missouri and Canada's alliance runs deep in trade, impacting nearly 164,000 jobs in the state.

Canada is a strong partner with not only Missouri, but the U.S. as a whole. There is deep appreciation for the resources Canada offers such as energy and agricultural trade and our mutual national security interests as we partner to protect our shared borders, our homelands from shared enemies abroad and assisting the defense of our allies from theirs.

I am honored to recognize Consul General Norton, his representation of Canada and the valuable partnership the great state of Missouri and Canada share. I welcome him to my home state and continue looking forward to a strong future and alliance ahead.

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HONORING MATTHEW LAWRENCE  
KNOPP

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Lawrence Knopp. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Lawrence Knopp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LONG SERVICE  
OF MARGARET "PEGGY"  
THERESA GIERIE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2015*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished service to the country of one of my constituents, Margaret "Peggy" Theresa Gierie, who is turning 90 and is, I believe, among our nation's oldest federal employees.

Ms. Gierie comes from a long line of military service. She had a great grandfather who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg, her father survived gas attacks in World War I, and her husband was a U.S. Army Air Corps navigator in World War II. Ms. Gierie added to that legacy in 1945 by enlisting in the WAVES, a women's division of the U.S. Navy in which she served as a telegrapher at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Her service earned her a World War II Victory Medal.

Ms. Gierie went on to attend college and work at several different jobs while raising three children with her husband.

At this point in her story, no one would have faulted her for taking a well-earned rest in retirement. She has done no such thing. Ms. Gierie re-entered the workforce after her husband of 50 years passed away. And since 2007, she has found a new way to serve the country—as a receptionist at the Sanford Vet Center, which offers a range of services to Maine veterans and their families.

In her time there, she has become a familiar and welcome face to the clients who often come to appointments early just to chat with her. At the same time, she handles demanding duties with a positive attitude, professionalism, dedication, and, above all, a never-ending supply of energy. She goes above and beyond for every veteran who calls or comes through the door.

Mr. Speaker, I truly admire Ms. Gierie for her incredible service, and would like to thank her for the difference she has made in the lives of Maine veterans and wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

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SUPPORT FOR H.R. 644 AND H.R.  
636

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2015*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of 2 bills that will bring tax certainty to small businesses and families in my District.

It is legislation that will make a number of tax provisions permanent. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

We have to fix the tax code for everybody—including hardworking small businesses and families.

I have traveled my District and have heard from many small businesses and families who are looking for tax relief.

H.R. 644—The Fighting Hunger Incentive Act will promote charitable giving which will