

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BONITA "BONNIE" SHEPHERD—AN EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH DISTINCTION FOR 48 YEARS

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a Certificate of Congressional Recognition to Bonita "Bonnie" Shepherd on the occasion of 48 Years of public service at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bonita L. Shepherd, "Bonnie" commenced her career as a public servant on Capitol Hill on June 18, 1967 and met everyone who crossed her path with her signature "Good Morning. How are you?"

Bonnie worked for the U.S. House of Representatives, with a starting per hour salary of \$1.51, providing service to Members of Congress, staff, citizens and visitors who traversed our nation's Rayburn Cafeteria.

On January 28, 1988, having served 21 years in the House, Bonnie continued her public service for another 27 years in the House of Representatives with the Architect of the U.S. Capitol as an Elevator Operator, playing an instrumental role in facilitating the safe and flawless movement of Members as they worked to make and pass federal laws affecting our nation.

Every year for 48 years, Bonnie served 435 Members who served the 50 states of our nation, serving the interest of the United States' population when the House was in session.

When the House was out of session, Bonnie also served at the House Flag office where on average more than 100,000 American flags fly over the U.S. Capitol every year, commemorating birthdays, retirements, anniversaries and other special occasions of everyday heroic Americans.

For almost half a century Bonnie has served our nation through wars, recessions, seminal national occurrences and celebrations.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in congratulating Bonita L. Shepherd, "Bonnie" for her work as an American public servant and keeping a smile on her face while serving Members working to serve the interests of the United States.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bonnie for her public service.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS DOZIER CRENSHAW

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of lifelong civil rights activist and public servant Doris Dozier Crenshaw. For more than 60 years, she has been on the frontlines in the fight for equality and human rights for all. Today, we salute this Alabama native for her commitment to serving this nation.

Her journey began in 1955 when at just 12 years old, Doris served as Vice President of the NAACP Youth Council when Rosa Parks served as the organization's advisor. After completing her degree at Clark College, she continued her community outreach in Chicago with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Open Housing Campaign.

Doris began her professional career as a Southern Field Representative for the National Council of Negro Women by organizing chapters, designing rural economic programs, and health and housing programs. In 1977, Doris joined the Carter White House Democratic Policy Staff for the Small and Minority Business Issue Division. In 1980, she went on to serve as Deputy Director for the South East Region for the Carter Presidential Campaign.

In the early 1980s, Doris also served as Special Assistant and Mobilization Director for Special Projects to the Rev. Jesse Jackson. In this capacity, she worked extensively in Washington, D.C. and nationwide with black businesses for the PUSH Trade Bureau. Doris then served as a consultant to Vice President Walter Mondale and was later named National Political Director for "Mondale for President in 1983."

In 1985, Doris was tapped by Coretta Scott King to serve as Director of Mobilization for the first national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was also charged by Dorothy Height to serve as Director of Mobilization for the First National Black Family Reunion and the National Black Family Reunions in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Detroit. This community icon also organized the nationally recognized 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 57th anniversary and now the 60th celebrations of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.

In addition to her various leadership roles, Doris is committed to passing the torch to future generations. In 2008, she founded the Southern Youth Leadership Development Institute. The organization was created to address educational policy issues while engaging youth leaders in inspirational training programs through the "train-the-trainer" approach.

Over the years, Doris has been recognized and awarded numerous accolades from organizations around the country and she is a lifetime member of the NAACP and the National Council of Negro Women. Doris is also a member of the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference as well as the First United Church of Christ. Her proudest accomplishment is her daughter, Dr. Kwanza (Mikki) Crenshaw.

On a personal note, Doris has served as dedicated mentor and friend. I know that my journey as the first black woman elected to Congress from the State of Alabama would not be possible without her wise counsel, support and mentorship.

On this the 60th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an Alabama treasure whose extraordinary contributions to this nation will continue to shape future generations of public servants.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S HUNTER WALKER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATOR

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Hunter Walker on the occasion of his retirement as Santa Rosa County Administrator, a position in which he has faithfully served for the last twenty years.

A native of Atmore, Alabama and an avid Crimson Tide fan, Mr. Walker attended the University of Alabama where he received both his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and his Masters of Public Administration. Upon graduation, he served as Assistant to the Homewood, Alabama Mayor for five years. He later moved to Yemassee, South Carolina, where he worked as both City Planner and Management Specialist, and in 1985, he became City Planner and Administrator of Beaufort, South Carolina. In 1986, he became Grady County, Georgia County Administrator in 1986, and from there, he moved to Tifton, Georgia, where he served as City and County Manager for seven years.

In 1995, Mr. Walker moved to Santa Rosa County, located in Florida's First Congressional District where he has since served as County Administrator. For the last two decades, Mr. Walker has been responsible for ensuring the efficient daily operation of county services. In addition, he has been responsible for drafting an annual operating budget for the county, preparing policy recommendations and advising County Commissioners on short and long term policy goals, working with state and federal officials and local stakeholders on joint policy efforts, and ensuring that policies enacted by the County Commission are carried out in the most thorough and efficient manner possible.

Aside from his public service, Mr. Walker is an active member and vestryman at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Pensacola and enjoys spending time with his family and playing golf.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Hunter Walker on his well-earned retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him; his wife, Pam; daughter, Sarah; and son, John all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, INC.

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO) on their 50th anniversary and to highlight its vital role serving our local community.

CAPSLO was established on December 8, 1965. It was created as San Luis Obispo County's official Community Action Agency to eliminate the causes of poverty by empowering low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency through a wide array of community-based collaborations and programs.

Over the years, it has touched and inspired so many working families through strong partnerships with volunteers, county government, city government, the private sector, and low-income populations throughout the San Luis Obispo community.

Through these partnerships, CAPSLO has worked tirelessly to implement successful programs, such as Early Head Start, Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, Supportive Service for Veterans and Families, Homeless Services, and Parent Education and Child Abuse Prevention Services. These programs address the needs of our community by directly combatting poverty and have directly improved the quality of life of local families, strengthened the community, and improved the safety of San Luis Obispo County.

I am pleased to recognize CAPSLO on its 50th anniversary for its leadership and wish the organization luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDY WALDEN SCARAFILE

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Judy Walden Scarafile on the occasion of her retirement as President of the Cape Cod Baseball League. Judy has served this organization honorably for 45 years, including the last 24 as President.

The Cape Cod Baseball League has been an integral and historic component of Massachusetts culture—having been embraced by Cape Cod residents, visitors, and baseball fans alike as a favorite summer pastime since its establishment in 1885. The continued success of the League and that of its individual players—through both collegiate, minor and major league careers—is testament to the

dedication and comradery of its leadership. Judy Scarafile embodies the best of the League and the best of the game of baseball; she is a savvy businesswoman, a respected leader, and a pioneer for women working in sports administration.

Judy's tenure would not have been achieved without her tireless commitment to CCBL, its players, and its fans. She first joined the League in 1970, when longtime head of Public Relations for the Red Sox, Dick Bresciani, her mentor, hired her as an official scorer. For over four decades, Judy's love for baseball and dedication to the League led her to rise through the ranks—from publicity assistant to, since 1991, CCBL's first female president.

As President, Judy Scarafile elevated the Cape Cod Baseball League to unprecedented heights. According to the CCBL Commissioner, her leadership helped the League grow "from little backyard local teams to an international power in terms of collegiate summer baseball." Well over one thousand players trained, coached, and supported by the League have gone on to lasting careers in baseball.

In 2003, the Cape Cod Baseball League honored Judy's achievements by inducting her into the League's Hall of Fame. She is also celebrated among other pioneering females in the game of baseball by the National Baseball Hall of Fame's "Diamond Dreams" exhibit. Among her many other honors and accolades, Judy has also been named the Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, presented with the Clara Barton Award by the American Red Cross, and received USA Baseball's Woman of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize the retirement of Judy Walden Scarafile from her position as President of the Cape Cod Baseball League. Judy has served the many players who pass through the Cape League—and the game of baseball. Though she will be sorely missed, I thank her for her devotion and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DAVID L. KOLBE

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend David L. Kolbe of Howard, Ohio for his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame this year. A veteran of the Vietnam War and former fire fighter, David has dedicated his life to both those he served with and served for, returning to Ohio to start a career in public service.

Kolbe was elected Damascus Township Trustee at the age of 33 and later served as Henry County Commissioner for four years, where he helped secure funding for the Henry County Veterans Memorial in 1989. Later, Kolbe helped elect President Bill Clinton in 1992 as Northwest Ohio coordinator for the Ohio Democratic Party.

As a union ironworker by trade, Kolbe has supported unions throughout his life, serving as Political and Legislative Director for the Ohio AFL-CIO in 1994 where he championed

reform on issues from campaign finance reform to prescription drug pricing. He also excelled in the realm of community service, working with the United Way and the Red Cross State Council during his time with the AFL-CIO, later earning an appointment by Governor Bob Taft to the State Community Service Council.

Throughout his life, helping veterans find employment has been David's core focus as a public servant. He has recently worked closely with Helmets to Hardhats, a non-profit organization that helps connect recently returned veterans to employment in the construction industry. In his current role as political and legislative director for the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, David builds upon his forty year membership in the Iron Workers Local 55 union by serving on the Union Veterans Council executive committee, which he helped found in 2009.

David was nominated for induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame by Bob Kane of McClure, Ohio and was inducted on November 5, 2015 at the Lincoln Theater in Columbus, alongside eighteen other distinguished veterans. As a Hall of Fame member, David joins the ranks of an impressive list of distinguished Ohioans, including astronauts, police officers, Medal of Honor Recipients, and former Presidents of the United States.

I could not be prouder of the work David Kolbe has done for veterans in the state of Ohio. I see his career of service as an inspiration. I hope you will all join me in congratulating David and his family for being recognized with this great honor.

HONORING VIRGINIA TECH'S COACH FRANK BEAMER

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia Tech's Coach Frank Beamer, who after 29 years, will retire at the end of this season as a football coach, mentor, friend and role model on and off the field.

Beamer was a three-year starting cornerback for the Hokies and after taking over as the Hokies' head coach in 1987, he built the football program at his alma mater into a national power.

Coach Beamer stands as the winningest active Division I football coach and the sixth all time with 279 career wins.

During his 29 years at Virginia Tech, he has 237 victories and has guided the Hokies to four ACC titles, three Big East championships, six appearances in BCS bowl games, and has posted 13 seasons with 10 or more wins.

At the end of this month, Virginia Tech will play in a bowl game for the 23rd consecutive year under Beamer's lead, the longest current streak in college football recognized by the NCAA.

Beamer has been the face of the Hokie football team and the Virginia Tech community as a whole for so many years. He will certainly be missed.

Thank you, Coach Beamer, for all that you have contributed to Virginia Tech, Blacksburg and the game of college football.

IN COMMEMORATION OF IVADALE  
MARIE FOULKES FOSTER

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a truly remarkable woman. Ivadale Foster passed away on November 14 in her hometown of Danville, Illinois, at the age of 93. Mrs. Foster was a pillar of the community, who dedicated her life to helping others. Her list of accomplishments and memberships on various community organizations is extraordinary. In 1964 Mrs. Foster was recognized as one of Danville's outstanding women and was named volunteer of the year in 1993. She was the first and only African American woman to serve on the Vermilion County Board, a position she held for three decades. She was active in the Laura Lee Fellowship House, American Legion Post 736 Auxiliary, and the Danville Public Schools, to name just a few of the organizations on which she served.

Her list of accomplishments could fill pages, and because of that record of service, the City of Danville and Vermilion County has lost a leader, a trailblazer, and an icon. Ivadale Foster embodied what is good and just in America, and her legacy of community service will touch future generations.

My sincere condolences go out to the family of Mrs. Foster, as we all mourn her passing.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAMPA LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 75th anniversary of Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind. Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind has been serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired since 1940. Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is dedicated to their mission to maximize independence and provide employment opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

On-site comprehensive rehabilitation services are provided in their two locations in Florida: Tampa and Winter Haven. The training programs are designed to help individuals who have recently lost part or all of their vision gain the skills needed to perform daily tasks and maintain employment.

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind opened its first Winter Haven facility in 1993 to provide rehabilitation programs to residents in Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties. In 1995, the Winter Haven facility opened its Low Vision Clinic for individuals who have some remaining vision. At the Low Vision Clinic, an optometrist specialized in low vision, works to improve visual functioning through the utilization of low vision aids, visual rehabilitation techniques, or specialized training.

Over the past 75 years, Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind has enriched the lives of individuals by providing them with the opportunity to

gain greater independence and quality of life, and enjoy and benefit from participation in their communities. On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I applaud the efforts of those involved and the investments they are making in the lives of individuals with vision loss to provide them with job training, work experience and other tools necessary to lead independent, successful lives. I wish Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind many more years of quality service to our community.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF UNC HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH CENTER EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Highway Safety Research Center. The Center's mission is to improve the safety, security, access and efficiency of all surface transportation modes by conducting interdisciplinary research and disseminating information. Located on the UNC campus at Chapel Hill, which is in my district, the Center is overseen by the Vice President for Research for the North Carolina University System and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

The UNC Highway Safety Research Center was formed by the North Carolina State Legislature in 1965 at a time when the public was calling for enhanced highway and vehicle safety and injury prevention. Established during former Governor Dan K. Moore's tenure, the Center began operations in 1966 under the direction of Dr. B.J. Campbell. I'd like to recognize the Center's current leadership, including David Harkey, Director of the Highway Safety Research Center; Lauren Marchetti, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School; Charles Zegeer, Director of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center; and Robert Foss, Director of the Center for the Study of Young Drivers.

The Center's cross-discipline research—from social and behavioral sciences to engineering and planning—addresses the diverse challenges we face in building safer roads and highways. Research topics include animal-vehicle crash information, bicycle & pedestrian safety and access, child passenger safety, distracted and drowsy driving, motorcycle safety, occupant protection, the safety of older and younger drivers, school travel, traffic operations, and roadway design.

Over its 50-year history, the Center has worked with various partner agencies in North Carolina on identifying road safety challenges, developing and implementing strategies, and evaluating the effectiveness of programs and interventions. Partners in North Carolina include the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the State Highway Patrol, and many others. In recent years, the Center worked closely with NCDOT to train State professionals on the concept of complete streets, develop and implement the 'Watch for Me' pedestrian and bicycle safety program, and develop the 2014 Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

The nationally renowned investigators at the center have also translated their results into programs and policies that have been implemented in North Carolina, saving countless lives and injuries. The Center's staff has also trained thousands of safety professionals, and have served as a resource for the public and the media on how to communicate safety messages and provide an impartial voice on timely road safety topics.

For 50 years, the Highway Safety Research Center has been a leading research institute that has helped shape the field of transportation safety. We are fortunate that this world-class highway safety research center calls North Carolina home. Again, I want to congratulate the Center on celebrating 50 years of service to the cause of highway safety and road users everywhere. I look forward to their continued work over the coming decades.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of people talking about gun violence as if it is just another headline or topic of the day. While we tend to discuss gun violence because it occurs so frequently in our country, another debate is not enough.

How many Americans do we have to bury before gun violence stops? What will it take for every Member of this House to consider gun safety laws? And, when will we stop talking about the lives lost and take real action to save our constituents before their names are called before a moment of silence?

It is clear that there is a culture of violence pervading our society. It is crippling us at our core: tearing families apart and hurting communities. Perpetrators are cutting off generations at the head and ending lives way too soon.

Gun violence is a crisis of murder. We need to call it what it is. We must figure out how to stop people from killing other people and get guns out of the hands of those that do not need them.

Proponents of gun rights say that there is an absolute right to bear arms. I disagree. All rights are subject to reasonable restrictions. But what is absolute, is that Americans have the right to leave their homes without being shot. All Americans deserve to live free from fear.

But, every day Congress does not act, we lose more innocent children, men and women. Every day we do nothing, we forfeit more lives.

I call on my colleagues in Congress to pass comprehensive, national gun policies that eliminate loopholes, ban assault weapons, and place limits on high-capacity magazines. Several bills have been introduced in the House this year. I have co-sponsored many. Yet, none have made it to the House Floor.

This is unacceptable. We have to protect the lives of our constituents.

It saddens me that we are still just talking about gun safety. We did the same after Sandy Hook and Newtown. We reacted similarly following Aurora, Charleston, Oregon,

and now San Bernardino. And, discussions continue after each tragic instance of gun violence in our districts.

We are complicit in this violence if we fail to strengthen our gun laws and combat other reasons these murders continue. Comprehensive gun control may not be a panacea, but it is indeed a good start. It is time to take action. Let's make our streets safer for all Americans.

HONORING THE CENTRAL NEW YORK STORM CHEERLEADING ALL STAR PROGRAM

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th anniversary of the Central New York Storm Cheerleading All Star Program. The CNY Storm was founded in 1996 and was the first All Star program in New York State. The CNY Storm provides a welcoming environment where all ages and ability levels are invited to come and learn about cheerleading and tumbling.

The CNY Storm All Star Program is the longest running and most successful program not only in Central New York, the Capital District, and North Country, but in all of New York State. The coaches and staff at CNY Storm are knowledgeable, experienced and nationally recognized. The team is a United States All Star Foundation member gym and all athletes are USASF members.

The CNY Storm Cheerleading Program plays an important role in Central New York, working with young people locally to teach them life skills, teambuilding, character education and the importance of community and the pursuit of academic goals. The team continuously offers community service activities for its team members, along with academic rewards, college scouting opportunities, and a family atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the CNY Storm Cheerleading All Star Program and congratulate the program on achieving its 20th anniversary. I wish the program continued success for years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-103, THE PEOPLE'S STATION

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 40th anniversary of "The People's Station", V-103, a radio station that has withstood the test of time and always kept up with the pulse of metro Atlanta.

V-103 started in 1976 primarily as a disco music station. The station rose to prominence and became one of Atlanta's radio market leaders under the guidance and leadership of then program director, Scotty Andrews. Although it found its audience in disco, as musical tastes changed, V-103 proved to be fluid and ready to meet the listening needs of the people of Atlanta.

There is no finer example of this fact than in 2000 when the People's Station added full time hip hop to their catalog of urban contemporary soul and R&B. V-103 helped promote some of Atlanta's most notable homegrown musicians and producers. But more than just a music station, V-103 has been a pillar of support in both the Greater Atlanta community as well as the United States.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, then-Mayor Bill Campbell escorted the V-103 morning team to Ground Zero to present more than \$100,000 to then New York mayor Rudy Giuliani for the families of first responders. The station raised over \$250,000 to assist the displaced people of Hurricane Katrina in Atlanta and New Orleans. In November 2008, the station paused its music service to report on the historic election of this nation's first African American president, Barack Obama. V-103 has been a partner in promoting the 13th district's Health, Job and Foreclosure prevention fairs and contributing to the success of these events.

Over the past 40 years, the People's Station has proven itself as a resource for the greater Atlanta community. With over one million listeners, V-103 is undoubtedly an integral part of people of Atlanta's morning and evening commutes as well as an important part of the philanthropic community.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate and honor an organization that has been an informative voice for so many Georgians throughout the last 40 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating V-103 on their organization's anniversary and for their continued service to the Greater Atlanta community.

180TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 180th anniversary of the founding of Centenary United Methodist Church in Effingham, Illinois. Centenary United Methodist Church can trace its origins to 1835, four years after Effingham County was established. This makes Centenary the oldest congregation in Effingham County. The congregation at first had no building in which to worship, the first members of the church would meet in each other's homes. Ground breaking for the current church began in 1954 and the building was dedicated in 1961.

Centenary United Methodist Church has a long tradition of community involvement and care, and for 180 years it has been serving the spiritual and emotional needs of its members and the community with many different activities and programs. I look forward to the continued success of Centenary United Methodist Church, and I extend my best wishes to it on its 180th anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JENNIFER L. BAUN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Jennifer L. Baun of Youngstown, Ohio who served in the U.S. Navy. Today she serves veterans and the greater community and has been recognized for her outstanding work with induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

While Jennifer works full-time in the pharmaceutical industry, she spends a great deal of her free time helping veterans. Jenn is the president of the Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21, a chapter of the Military Women Across the Nation veterans group, an organization dedicated to women who proudly served in the military. She is vice chair of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and was instrumental in seeking sponsorship for the biennial Ohio Women Veterans Conferences. Additionally, Jenn worked diligently on the movement of legislation supporting the Ohio Women Veterans license plate. In May of 2015, Jenn was a finalist for the Athena Leadership Award for the exceptional impact and leadership she has made in her career and community.

Despite having already given so much, Jenn's commitment to giving even more and helping her fellow veterans is a source of inspiration to me, and our whole community. On behalf of the whole community, I would like to congratulate Jennifer on this most recent honor, and offer my sincere thanks for the work she has done, and will no doubt continue to do for fellow veterans in our community.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BUCK LEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Buck Lee for his dedicated service to the Gulf Coast community on the occasion of his retirement as the Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director.

A native Northwest Floridian, Buck was born in Pensacola on December 24, 1947 to Jack and LaVonne Lee. Growing up along the Gulf Coast, he attended Warrington Elementary and Junior High Schools, Escambia High School, and Pensacola Junior College. A life-long Ole Miss fan, he attended the University of Mississippi, where he was a proud member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Following his studies, Buck served in the United States Army until 1974, when he returned to Northwest Florida to start a career as a businessman and public servant.

Buck's successful business career included ownership of a car dealership, Jack Lee Buick, and the creation of a government consulting firm. In addition, Buck was also elected to

serve the people of Northwest Florida as a County Commissioner in both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

In 2005, Buck was selected as Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Island Authority. In this capacity, he is responsible for implementing plans and programs established by the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board and administering the daily operations of the Santa Rosa Island Authority, which includes a staff of 35 permanent employees and approximately 40 seasonal employees on Pensacola Beach.

Buck's tenure as Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Island Authority has coincided with several pivotal moments in Northwest Florida history. He was appointed in the wake of Hurricane Ivan, one of the costliest storms in American history and was also Executive Director during Hurricane Dennis. Buck worked diligently to restore the beach, but in 2010, the community was hit hard again following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. In 2012, however, Pensacola Beach had the best year ever for retail sales, and with the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board approval, Buck implemented "Bands on the Beach," an event that attracts thousands of individuals. Buck also oversees the Pensacola Beach Blue Angels Airshow and is active in various civic and community organizations. His excellent service has not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous awards, including the 2011 Communicator of the Year award by the Florida Public Relations Association.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Buck Lee on his well-earned retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him all the best for continued success.

JOSEPH DEMOTT

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph DeMott of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Mr. DeMott served our country in the Army Air Corps during World War II, suffering severe leg wounds in a mission over what is now Jakarta. While he was in the hospital, Japan overtook the city and he was captured in March 1942. He was sent to a POW camp to do farm labor, build fences, dig ditches, and work on the docks. Joseph DeMott was starved, beaten, and temporarily blinded when the camp was liberated in September 1945. For his heroism, he received two Purple Hearts.

After the war, back home in Pennsylvania, he became an electrical engineer after graduating from Penn State. He went on later to work as a plant manager at Champion Blower and Forge in Lancaster.

This October, 70 years later, he and seven other former POWs held by Japan during World War II traveled to Japan as guests of the Japanese government to revisit and reconcile with their past.

Mr. DeMott's story is an outstanding lesson to us all not only in courage, selflessness, patriotism, and valor, but also in forgiveness. Those who are truly strong are strong enough to forgive.

Mr. Speaker, there are heroes all around us in this country. I am proud to represent over 40,000 of them in the Sixteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS AND LINDA  
KOEHN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thomas and Linda Koehn for being recognized as Outstanding Individual Philanthropists by the Des Moines Business Record. They have long been supporters of arts, culture, and community service in the Des Moines area.

For years the Koehns have dedicated their time and talents to promoting the greater good. They have directed most of their philanthropic efforts to The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and United Way of Central Iowa. Thomas and Linda describe the two organizations as pillars of the greater Des Moines metropolitan area.

The Koehns' willingness to serve others before themselves has left a long-lasting impact on the community. Their dedicated leadership on a variety of philanthropic boards and organizations cannot be understated, as well as their contributions to the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, the Des Moines Symphony, and the Science Center of Iowa, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the Koehns' display of civic duty throughout their lives is admirable and gives me great hope for our nation's future. It is Iowans like them who make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Koehns for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING THOMAS "TANK"  
STRICKLAND

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Thomas "Tank" Strickland is one of the hardest working people I have ever known and a very patriotic American. He will retire soon from his position as city community relations director in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he has served for almost 20 years. He has also represented the city he loves so much for several years as an esteemed member of the Knox County Commission.

A graduate of Austin-East High School and the University of Tennessee, Mr. Strickland's service to the community spans a lifetime and has come not just through government but also volunteer and philanthropy work. The community honored him for this devotion with the naming of Thomas "Tank" Strickland Park. Recently, he was also bestowed with the Jayne Thomas Grassroots Volunteer Recognition Award for community advocacy from the

Community Action Partnership. This award is given only to those who have "made a significant and outstanding contribution toward accomplishing the promise of Community Action" and is "devoted to changing people's lives."

Mr. Strickland has devoted countless hours of his life to combating neighborhood violence and helping at-risk youth. He is seen in Knoxville as a symbol of integrity. Among other causes he champions are the Howard Circle of Friends, a senior day-care group, and the Interfaith Health Clinic for the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas "Tank" Strickland has spent his entire life in service to the neighborhood where he grew up. I call his work and dedication to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers in hopes that he will inspire many, many more in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, December 10, 2015, as I was attending a funeral in my congressional district in Massachusetts.

On Roll Call Vote Number 688, the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair on the Privileged Resolution offered by Ms. PELOSI of California to place on the calendar for an immediate vote H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, had I been present I would have voted NO.

36TH ANNUAL RECOGNITION DAY  
OF CONCERNED WOMEN OF  
BROOKLYN

### HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 36th Annual Recognition Day of Concerned Women of Brooklyn. This organization has helped to make a difference in the lives of countless women, their families and communities in Brooklyn for decades. On December 12, 2015 at Giando's on the Water in Brooklyn, NY, this year's honorees will be celebrated for their invaluable service.

The Concerned Women of Brooklyn are proud to honor 12 prominent individuals selected for distinguishing themselves in their chosen fields. Ms. Georgetta Belton, Director of Culinary Ministry at Bethany Baptist Church, Mr. Frank Boswell, Executive Director of Bushwick Economic Development Corporation, Mr. Edie Gonzalez-Devonish, Educational Director of Two by Two Child Care, Dr. Benjamin Igwe, President and CEO of Family Service Network of New York, Mr. Winchester Key, President and CEO of East New York Urban Youth Corporation, Reverend Rose M. King-Bennett of Associated Minister Greater Bright Light Missionary Baptist Church, Ms. Judy D. Newton, independent consultant and community advocate and Reverend Marsha Scipio, Esq. Executive Director of Berean Community and Family Life Center are recipients of Concerned Women of Brooklyn's Excellence in Community and Civic Services.

Dr. Jonah Green, Medical Staff President of Woodhull Medical Center, Ms. Marcia Peters, JD, Senior Associated Executive Director at Bellevue Hospital Center and Dr. Ramanathan Raju, President and CEO of the New York City Health + Hospitals are recipients of Concerned Women of Brooklyn's Excellence in Health Services and Ms. Jani Selestine Ahay, a New England College student is the recipient of the Peggy Pinchback Scholarship Award.

I commend these honorees for their dedication, commitment and contribution to serving the people of Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the 36th Annual Recognition Day of Concerned Women of Brooklyn and these 12 wonderful honorees.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE CHAPMAN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Steve Chapman for being recognized by the Des Moines Business Record as this year's Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser. For over 20 years Steve has been relied upon in the greater Des Moines metropolitan area as a trusted and effective fundraising leader.

Among the many diverse contributions Steve has made to the Des Moines metro area, his fundraising acumen has been exceptionally influential. In dedicating his time and talent Steve has successfully fundraised for organizations like ChildServe, Yes for Valley, Boy Scouts of America, Easter Seals, and the American Heart Association, to name a few.

Steve has also played a key role in a number of important Des Moines initiatives, including the passage of the Polk County local option sales tax. His willingness to serve and work on the behalf of others is a testament to his character.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Steve today. It is Iowans like Steve that make me proud to be an Iowan and represent our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Steve for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### CONGRATULATING LISA DRAKE UPON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lisa Drake upon her upcoming retirement after 28 years with Monsanto.

Since January 2007, Lisa has served as the Team Lead for U.S. State and Local Government Affairs for Monsanto. In that capacity, she has managed the company's government affairs and community relations teams in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. She also has served as Secretary of the Board of Colorado Biosciences Association.

Prior to working in Government Affairs, Lisa was Director of Public Affairs for Monsanto's Agricultural Sector, managing global media relations and issues management for the company's leading herbicide, Roundup herbicide, and several of its biotechnology traits and seeds businesses.

Before she joined Monsanto, Lisa earned a B.A. in technical journalism from Colorado State University and she worked for two trade associations in California. She also served as a reporter for several daily and weekly newspapers in Colorado, Mississippi and Alabama.

As the Team Lead for U.S. State and Local Government Affairs, Lisa recruited, trained and developed an outstanding team of professionals to represent Monsanto before local and state governments. She and her team have built deep and effective relationships with legislative bodies, elected officials, and grower organizations throughout the nation. While she has had many accomplishments, one of note is her development and implementation of a strategy to engage and partner with communities around a number of Monsanto's facilities.

Throughout her career, Lisa has represented Monsanto with professionalism, grace, and class and has been a strong advocate for American agriculture and farmers. After relocating from St. Louis some years ago, Lisa and her husband Jack and two children, Sam and Amanda, live and work in Denver, Colorado. In retirement, Lisa and Jack are looking forward to traveling and pursuing their hobbies and philanthropic activities. I wish them the best as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND BARBARA KUNZE

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard and Barbara Kunze of Griswold, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married at the Lewis Methodist Church in 1950.

Richard and Barbara's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Rebecca, Dennis, Brad and Dana, along with their grandchildren and great-children truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Kunzes that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

#### TRIBUTE TO TED BEATTIE

### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Ted Beattie

for his dedication to education and to congratulate him on his retirement after twenty-one years with Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

For over two decades, Mr. Beattie has led Shedd Aquarium as its president and CEO, overseeing the aquarium's largest expansion project and launching Shedd to its position as one of the country's leading educational aquariums.

Mr. Beattie began his career as a marketing and development director for the Cincinnati Zoo and eventually went on to lead zoos in both Tennessee and Texas before coming to Chicago in 1994. He is an active member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and formerly served as its president.

As a respected leader in his field of marine science, Mr. Beattie was appointed by President Bush to serve on the sixteen-member U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, an initiative that has led to the creation of new ocean policies, such as pollution prevention efforts and the enhancement of marine science, commerce, and transportation.

A commitment to education has been one of Mr. Beattie's top priorities in his years with Shedd Aquarium. The \$45 million Wild Reef wing opened in 2003 and features one of the most diverse shark exhibits in the country. In 2009, during Mr. Beattie's tenure, the renovation of Shedd's Abbott Oceanarium marine mammal pavilion was completed—restoring one of Shedd's favorite exhibits, beloved by teachers, students, and patrons of all ages.

Under Mr. Beattie's leadership, Chicago's Shedd Aquarium has secured its reputation as a world-class aquarium, hosting millions of guests each year. Mr. Beattie's commitment to marine education has undoubtedly contributed to Shedd's excellence and I congratulate him on his many achievements and thank him for his work to make Shedd Aquarium one of Illinois' most treasured attractions.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 687—Yes, rollcall No. 688—No, rollcall No. 689—Yes.

I was unavoidably detained.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREENFIELD OIL

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Greenfield Oil from Greenfield, Iowa. The company has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 100th anniversary of providing goods and services to southern Iowa.

Greenfield Oil's doors first opened on August 15th, 1915 by its owner, Frank Grounds. Since that time, three generations of family have owned and operated Greenfield Oil, focusing on auto care and tires.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor that I'm able to recognize Greenfield Oil and its hard-working employees today for their dedication and

perseverance through the years. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 100th anniversary. I wish them nothing but continued success.

HONORING RYAN CHESTER, WINNER OF THE BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR CHALLENGE

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Ryan Chester for his accomplishment of being selected the winner of the Breakthrough Junior Challenge. Ryan is an extraordinarily talented senior from North Royalton High School, who competed against more than 2,000 applicants from across the world. The Breakthrough Junior Challenge is a competition that invites students ages 13–18 to submit videos that explain science, physics, and math concepts.

With a bowl of popcorn, a brilliant mind, and some very creative video-editing skills, Ryan created a capturing visual to explain Einstein's Special Theory in Relativity, and won first prize in this inaugural competition.

As the winner of this competition, Ryan won a \$250,000 scholarship, a \$100,000 state-of-the-art new science lab for North Royalton High School, and \$50,000 for his AP Physics teacher Mr. Richard Nestoff. He also had the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, whose Silicon Valley Community Foundation co-hosted the event.

Ryan's ability to take his passion for both film and science and apply it in a setting outside of the classroom on his own accord should be encouraged in schools throughout the country. As a nation, we are committed to advancing our understanding of science and applying it in a way that can impact the lives of all man-kind. I know we are in good hands as we continue to lead the way in new scientific breakthroughs and innovations that will define the 21st century with young scientists like Ryan.

It is with great admiration I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ryan on his achievement, and wish him the best with all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN AND SHIRLEY KAISER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Norman and Shirley Kaiser of Massena, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on October 2, 1965 at the Baptist Church in Knoxville, Iowa.

Norman and Shirley's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter, Dori, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. It is families like the Kaisers that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,775,084,981,439.86. We've added \$8,148,207,932,526.78 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CREW OF THE M.S. SHAHAN II

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut, rise today to honor the crew of the M.S. *Shahan II*. On September 14, 2015, a seemingly normal work commute turned into a life or death rescue mission. Al Yeomans, Ship's Mate; Cliff McGuigan, Ship's Mate; Jeffrey Krause, Security; Meghan Jackson, Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Specialist; Allyson Cooke, Document Control Specialist; Jennifer Knight, Administrative Assistant; and Hector Lavarreda, Procurement Manager, all a part of the workforce at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, sprang into action after spotting two boaters off the coast of Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Upon arriving at the scene, the crew saw the boaters clinging to the fender of their sinking vessel and not wearing life jackets, which meant that a timely rescue was critical. Despite the rough conditions, Captain Peter Jordan managed to maneuver the ferry into position to deploy a rescue sling and hoist the boaters to safety. Once aboard, the crew rushed to protect the victims from hypothermia and shock.

If not for the courageous efforts of the crew members, the story being told may have ended tragically. The actions undertaken by these crew members embody the spirit of American determination and the desire to help others when they need it most. It is important to recognize these individuals so that their selfless actions do not go unnoticed and can be commended by all. Today, we thank these crewmembers for their efforts and service to their communities.

TRIBUTE TO MAIN STREET CORNING

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Main Street Corning. The group has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 25th anniversary of working hard to improve the Corning local business community.

The mission of the Main Street Iowa Program is to improve the social and economic well-being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets, and character of each historic commercial district. For 25 years, Main Street Corning has continued to successfully beautify the downtown and fiscally strengthen its businesses.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Main Street Corning and its hard-working employees and volunteers in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 25th anniversary and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF TED BEATTIE

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I join my Illinois colleagues in wishing Ted Beattie the best as he retires following a 21-year tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Shedd Aquarium. Under Mr. Beattie's leadership, Shedd Aquarium has prospered, growing into one of the largest indoor aquariums in the world. I thank him for his contributions to the State of Illinois.

CELEBRATING THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKAWAY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church, located in Boonton Township, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 230th Anniversary.

Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has been an active part of the Boonton Township community since its founding in 1785. Through its weekly masses the church continues to foster religious life.

The United Methodist Church got its beginnings in the United States in 1784. The church spread through "circuit riders" who traveled spreading the word of God, and caring for His people. In 1785 the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church was built as a center of worship for this new religion. The current church



was built in 1842 by members of the founding families. In 1894 a slate roof was added, and the cupola was added in 1895–1900. There are 12 stained glass windows dating back to 1900 which were donated in honor of the founding members. The church is surrounded by a cemetery which dates back to the building of the church. In 1976 the church building was added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and in 1977 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has helped the United Methodist community celebrate and practice their beliefs. The church has also done much more for the community of Boonton Township. The church has served as a gathering place for the entire community. Boy Scouts of America Troop 69 has been using the church as a meeting place for 80 years. The church also plays host to a Christian drama school, and a weekly karate class. In 2014 the church donated over 400 pounds of food to the Interfaith Food Pantry. The Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church holds a weekly playgroup for children from birth to kindergarten along with their caregivers to foster a community among the small congregation.

For Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church's 230th Anniversary, I commend all of the pastors and committees of the Church. Since its founding, Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has been supported by the people of Boonton Township; this is one of the main reasons why the church is still a big part of the community. After 230 years of outstanding service to the Boonton Township, I commend and congratulate Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church for all of its hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church, as it celebrates its 230th Anniversary.

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TRIBUTE TO DYLAN DECLERCK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dylan DeClerck for being recognized by the Des Moines Business Record as this year's Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy.

At a young age Dylan recognized that one of the most important aspects of life is giving back to others and helping those that need it most. For his part, Dylan founded the organization Opportunity on Deck at the age of 16. This organization plays a key role in empowering youth by encouraging active lifestyles and athletics. Dylan's organization has served over 500 children in Greater Des Moines and continues teaching young people the importance of healthy living, teamwork and sportsmanship. Opportunity on Deck gives youth who wouldn't normally have a chance to participate in sports camps the ability to experience them free of charge.

Dylan's willingness to serve others before himself has already made a long-lasting impact on the lives of hundreds of young people in the Greater Des Moines area. His dedication to improving the community through vol-

unteerism and civic engagement is a testament to his character. Today, Dylan attends Drake University as a marketing and finance student. Although he is busy with his studies he continues to volunteer what little extra time he has to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, Dylan's leadership and display of civic duty at such a young age gives me great hope for our nation's future. It is lowans like him who make me proud to call myself an lowan and represent the people of our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dylan for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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HONORING BILL SNYDER FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BUCKS COUNTY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Bucks County Treasurer William "Bill" Snyder for 36 years of honorable service to the people of Bucks County. Before his election in 1980, he served our country with the 31st infantry in Korea between 1951 and 1953. Upon his return to civilian life, he operated and built a successful business and was a member of the International Operating Engineers Union. He is known for his local civic and community involvement, including serving on the Doylestown Township Planning Commission and later the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors. As county treasurer, Bill Snyder has implemented many changes and efficiencies and was an active member of the County Treasurer's Association of Pennsylvania. In addition, he held various leadership positions on the Bucks County Republican Committee. On this, the occasion of his retirement, we wish him many happy and healthy retirement years.

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HONORING COMMANDER JOE GROOM

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Commander Joe Groom of the Aurora Police Department.

Since his appointment to the Aurora Police Department in 1989, Commander Groom rose through the ranks to become Investigations Division Commander. He was a steadfast fixture in our community through his involvement in local organizations and constant engagement with his neighbors, fellow officers, and city officials.

Commander Groom was also an ambassador for the City of Aurora, through his work with the International and Illinois Associations of Chiefs of Police, the Chiefs Associations in Kane, DuPage, and Kendall Counties, the Kane County DUI Task Force, the Juvenile Drug Court Advisory Committee, and the Aurora Police Foundation. Beyond his involve-

ment with law enforcement, Commander Groom held leadership positions in the Exchange Club of Aurora, the Knights of Columbus Council 736, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kane and Kendall Counties.

Commander Groom passed away on December 9, 2015, at the age of 50. Although his life was tragically cut short, his legacy of 26 years of selfless service will be felt by generations of Aurorans. He will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, and community leader.

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TRIBUTE TO LARRY GILES

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Giles, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Larry was a 1958 graduate of Tingley High School and was hired as a junior high math teacher at Mount Ayr Schools in 1966. During his 29 years at Mount Ayr Schools Larry served in a number of different roles, including: elementary guidance counselor, special education coordinator, and eventually elementary principal. Larry was closely involved in the reorganization of individual schools into Mount Ayr Community Schools. At one point, he was the principal of 13 buildings at the same time. Larry has served on the school board, Southwestern Community College Board, the Mount Ayr Foundation Board, and has been an active sports official since 1967.

Mr. Speaker, Larry's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and lowans like him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Larry for his distinguished career and wishing him nothing but continued success.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN CARL A. LAHTI

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Carl Lahti, United States Navy, as he concludes his service as the 50th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. On behalf of southeastern Connecticut, I thank Captain Lahti for his service, his leadership and his friendship to our region.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Captain Lahti graduated from the Naval Academy in 1989 and went on to serve in a number of capacities throughout the Submarine Force at sea and on shore. It was during his tour as Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, however, that I got the chance to work closely with Captain Lahti. In a region that follows developments on the base like a box score, Captain Lahti's two and a half-year tour at the base was distinguished



by a focus on the fundamentals of supporting the submarine force, a focus on the vitality and viability of the base, and deepening the connections between the base and its host community and state.

Under Captain Lahti's leadership the base undertook over \$36 million in major infrastructure projects and capital investment to improve the base's operational infrastructure and the quality of life for sailors and their families. Most notably, Captain Lahti led the preparations to return a new flag officer to SUBASE with the establishment of the new Undersea Warfighting Development Center. And, working closely with the State of Connecticut, Captain Lahti deepened the innovative relationship between the base and its host state through collaborative investment in new projects to improve the operations, training and security at the base.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of base infrastructure, Captain Lahti prioritized efforts to deepen the connection between the installations and the surrounding community. Under his watch, the base community contributed thousands of community service volunteer hours in the region in local schools and organizations. And Captain Lahti was instrumental in broader regional events such as the highly successful Coast Guard Birthday Salute event in August 2015.

Captain Lahti was a fixture in the southeastern Connecticut community during his tenure at SUBASE New London, and the base was rightfully honored under his leadership. It is no wonder then that SUBASE New London was selected by the Mystic Chamber of Commerce as Southeastern Connecticut's "Employer of the Year." In addition, Captain Lahti's leadership led SUBASE New London to earn the SECNAV Energy Gold Award, Galley 5-star Award, and the CNO Environmental Restoration Award.

As you might imagine, a close working relationship with the Commanding Officer of the base is a prerequisite for anyone representing eastern Connecticut in Congress. However, I consider myself privileged to have worked so closely with Captain Lahti not just in his capacity as a Navy officer, but as a friend. He and his team have never been more than a phone call or email away, and the connection between his office and mine has been nothing short of a two-way street. I am grateful for his time, his advice, his counsel and most of all, his unflagging commitment to Connecticut's base and the sailors and submarines stationed at it.

Leading a major installation like SUBASE is a team effort, and no one was a more important part of Captain Lahti's team than his wife Lisa. She was actively involved in the surrounding community, attending a wide range of events for non-profit organizations, promoting charitable activities of all different stripes. Both Carl and Lisa are devoted parents to Benjamin, Nathaniel, Samuel, Abraham, Rebecka, and Katheryn, who also have been frequent guests at community events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Lahti for his service to SUBASE New London and our nation, and in wishing him and his family, "fair winds and following seas" as they move on to new challenges.

COMMENDING REGINA MEREDITH

### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Regina Meredith, Salem High School's counseling coordinator, who was recently named Counselor of the Year by the Virginia Counselors Association.

Regina studied at Radford University, where she earned her bachelor's degree as well as two master's degrees. She began her career at Carroll County High School, where she taught English. Regina also worked in Hillsville, Roanoke, and Christiansburg as a special education teacher.

She began her counseling career in 2000 in Christiansburg, where she also taught English, prior to joining the staff at Salem High School in 2005. In 2012, Regina was named Salem High's teacher of the year, and in 2014 she was named the Roanoke Area Counseling Association's Member of the Year.

"Regina is an exemplary educator and her work ethic, her professionalism, her innovation and, most importantly, her love for and service to others are models for both students and her colleagues," said Salem High School principal Scott Habeeb in the Roanoke Times. "Without a doubt, we meet the needs of Salem's young people more effectively as a result of Regina Meredith's influence on our school."

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Regina Meredith for her years of dedication to our nation's young people. I appreciate her hard work, and congratulate her for this tremendous accomplishment.

### TRIBUTE TO DAN AND JOAN HOLLINGSWORTH

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a couple whose commitment to each other and to the Riverside County, California community is exceptional. Today, Dan and Joan Hollingsworth will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. This couple has spent their lives raising a beautiful family and serving their local community.

Dan and Joan were married in Pomona, California in 1955 at the First Baptist Church. After moving to San Jacinto, California in 1960, the couple established Dan's Dairy, a dairy farm that also featured a cash and carry storefront. Dedicated to his business and the greater farming industry, Dan joined the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Farm Bureau after being asked to serve. Dan later went on to serve as the President of the Farm Bureau Board from 1976 to 1978. Dan also worked as a District Representative for Congressman Victor Veysey.

Like her husband, Joan was also very involved with the community over the years. She served on the Riverside County School

District Organization, as well as many school, church and charitable organizations. Together Dan and Joan have four children; Bettina Louise, Marcella Joan, Leonard Daniel, and Dennis Clark, 17 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Dan and Joan are still both very active community members. They have owned and operated JoDan Farms, a wholesale tree nursery, in Murrieta, California since 1989. Dan also has served as the Chair of the Riverside County Republican Party. In 1989, Dan was chosen to be the recipient of the Bob Howie Award for Outstanding Service to Riverside County Agriculture. More recently, he was also selected to receive the Myra Goldwater Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many contributions to the Riverside County community.

Dan and Joan's tireless passion for their family, community service and giving back has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside County, California. I am proud to call Dan and Joan close friends, fellow community members and great Americans. Today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating them on the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY DANOS

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnny Danos for being recognized by the Des Moines Business Record with the Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Johnny has been a longtime supporter and volunteer for numerous local charities and organizations.

For years Johnny has dedicated his time and talents to promoting the greater good. He has volunteered his efforts to organizations like the United Way of Central Iowa, Broadlawn Advocacy Center for Mental Health, Above and Beyond Cancer, Iowa Society of Economic Success, and the Des Moines Symphony, to name a few. Johnny has utilized his unique relationship-building skills to improve the community.

Johnny's willingness to serve others before himself has made a long-lasting impact on the community. His dedicated leadership on a variety of philanthropic boards and organizations cannot be understated. The philanthropic work Johnny has put in over the years has advanced the Des Moines metropolitan area in ways that were previously thought to be unachievable.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny's display of civic duty throughout his life is admirable and gives me great hope for our nation's future. It is Iowans like him who make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Johnny for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for a vote cast on December 11, 2015 on passage of H.R. 2250 and the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 664, Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

On Roll Call Vote Number 693, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "No."

While I believe H.R. 644 makes some meaningful steps toward combatting unfair trade practices, negative provisions in the bill related to climate protection, and a lack of strong currency provisions make me unable to support the legislation. The conference report strips language that was included in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 644 that would have allowed for the application of countervailing duties to address currency manipulation.

## TRIBUTE TO STEVE BUCCI

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, Steve Bucci has served his country in over 40 years in war and peace. From his first days at West Point, Steve has dedicated his life to protecting this nation. After a distinguished military career, he served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and most recently as the head of national security research at the Heritage Foundation. Steve launched the Foundation's Index of U.S. Military Strength, the most comprehensive and authoritative annual assessment of the state of the armed forces. He is a recognized world expert on security matters from cyber security to terrorism. Most importantly, he is one of Washington's premier mentors of our future—our young professionals. We all owe him a thank you for a lifetime of putting his nation first.

## HONORING THE WORK OF TED A. BEATTIE

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ted A. Beattie and wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life, retirement.

Ted Beattie has served for more than two decades as President and CEO of Shedd Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in the world. It has also ranked as the top paid cultural attraction in Chicago for seventeen of the twenty-one years. This was due in large part to Mr. Beattie's leadership.

He led two noteworthy and record breaking fundraising efforts, raising almost \$100 million in funds for Shedd Aquarium, demonstrating his ability to inspire support for Shedd and its

diverse, global animal collection. His leadership for the aquarium, housed in an architecturally beautiful setting, also helped promote 21st-century advances in animal care, environments and interpretation.

For 35 years he devoted his life to animal conservation and education. He holds degrees from Ohio State University (OSU). After completing his education, he went on to serve on the OSU Provost's External Advisory Board on Teaching, the Advisory Board for the School of Journalism and Communication and the OSU Major Gifts Committee.

I know that I speak for many when I say that Ted Beattie will be deeply missed. His devotion and professionalism, his focus on economic security for Shedd Aquarium, and his entire career are truly one of a kind. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ted Beattie for his extraordinary leadership and commitment to animal conservation.

## CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT AT PICATINNY ARSENAL

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Picatinny Arsenal on opening a renovated, historic firehouse on the military installation.

Picatinny Arsenal, located Morris County, New Jersey, has been a leader in developing cutting edge guns and ammunition for all branches of the United States Armed Forces since its founding as a powder depot in 1880. Home to over 6,000 employees including civilians, military personnel, and contractors, Picatinny Arsenal's portfolio comprises ninety percent of the Army's lethality and all conventional ammunition for joint warfighters.

Building 3316, home of a new fire department, was originally built in 1903 as a Dutch-colonial structure. Before serving as a fire house it was a horse stable, and later a garage for the Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Depot. By 1945 the building was converted to a dormitory and fire department for the Navy. In 1962 Army firefighters moved into the building, and it remained a fire headquarters until 2009. In 2010 the building was repurposed to serve as an outdoor recreation facility. Now after renovations, the fire department is moving back in, and creating a third fire department for the installation.

The building was selected as a location for a new fire department after the Fire Chief's assessment showed a need for a new department to better serve all three fire zones. The creation of this department has resulted in the hiring of 16 new firefighters. Many surrounding towns rely on the fire services provided by the arsenal for mutual aid. Due to the dangerous mission of Picatinny Arsenal, all firefighters are trained in a variety of situations including medical response, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear situations. The opening of this building will help the Picatinny Fire Department to better serve its community.

First responders are the backbone of our communities, and Picatinny is lucky to have such a well-trained fire department at its dis-

posal. While we all hope the fire department does not see too much action, at least we all know they are ready for every crisis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Picatinny Arsenal Fire Department and its firefighters for their dedicated service, and wish them continued success with their new department.

## CONGRATULATING BLACKSBURG MAYOR RON RORDAM

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam, who was recently approved by the Virginia Municipal League to serve as its president for one year.

"My theme as president is 'Live Local,'" Rordam said in a statement released by the Virginia Municipal League. "This means everyone should support our local businesses, schools, and neighborhoods. It's how we support our citizens. And, within that broad concept, I will focus on ways we can influence education affecting our youngest citizens to give them every advantage to succeed in the future. To have strong communities, we must have a work force that is flexible and nimble. Early childhood education is one of the most important keys to ensuring that our localities can compete for those future jobs."

I congratulate Mayor Rordam on this accomplishment, and look forward to continuing to work with him and other local officials in an effort to further the growth of our area's economy and improve its quality of life.

## HONORING TED BEATTIE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ted Beattie, the CEO of Shedd Aquarium for his decades of service and to wish him well as he retires. Ted has had an incredible impact on the Shedd Aquarium, the Chicago community, and marine wildlife around the world. My family and I have spent many enjoyable hours at Shedd Aquarium.

Ted joined Shedd Aquarium in 1994. Under his leadership Shedd has added 6 permanent exhibits. His work brought creatures of the Caribbean Reef to Chicago, including sharks, stingrays, and of course, coral. He also brought us the Stingray Touch exhibit, which allows children of all ages to come in direct contact with these incredible creatures—with no risk of harm, of course.

Ted was instrumental in the re-imagining of the Oceanarium. There, Shedd Aquarium guests can experience the coast of the Pacific Northwest and the dolphins, sea lions, and others that make it their home.

Ted's work extends beyond Chicago and the shores of Lake Michigan. Under his leadership, Shedd established the Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research. The center includes a portfolio of 18

global field research programs that help us understand and protect threatened marine life.

I thank Ted for all he has done to help us bring the amazing wildlife of Earth's oceans to Chicago. He has helped introduce millions of Chicagoans and visitors to the incredible creatures living beneath the ocean's waves. I am especially grateful for all he has done to protect marine animals around the world.

FIRST RESPONDER IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY NEEDS IN DISASTER SITUATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2795, the First Responders Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act, which was introduced by my friend Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas. That her bill is expected to be approved with overwhelming bipartisan support, including from Chairman MIKE MCCAUL of the Homeland Security Committee, ought to surprise no one, because Rep. JACKSON LEE has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's first responders to move this legislation through the House. Her legislation would launch a study of best practices and state of preparedness of state and local response agencies with the aim of improving safety and access to lifesaving resources.

This bill recognizes the important role first responders play in communities throughout our country. We must ensure that these men and women have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively. We've witnessed the courage of first responders, from the September 11 attacks to the Boston Marathon bombings and at last week's deadly shooting in San Bernardino, California. We see it every day all over our nation.

I've been incredibly proud to support first responders as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and I want to thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her work to bring the FRIENDS Act to the Floor. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support for this legislation in committee and in the full House.

TRIBUTE TO R. KELLY BRYANT, JR.

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., a friend and constituent who passed away on December 6, 2015 at the blessed age of 98 years old. It is worth noting that his date of death was the 150th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which legally abolished slavery in America.

Mr. Speaker, Kelly Bryant enjoyed a full life. He graduated from Hampton University, with a concentration in accounting. Following gradua-

tion, Mr. Bryant worked for historic North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company from the 1940's until his retirement in 1981. His true passion, however, was documenting the history of African American citizens in the City and County of Durham.

Mr. Bryant's contribution to the Durham Community is boundless. He worked tirelessly in many endeavors, including obtaining a historic marker at the site of the Royal Ice Cream sit-in in 1957, saving Geer Cemetery (one of Durham's oldest African American burial grounds) and the completion of a pedestrian bridge over the Durham Freeway, in order to connect black neighborhoods that were separated by the highway. The bridge was later named in honor of R. Kelly Bryant, Jr.

Mr. Bryant believed strongly in preserving Durham's African American history. He collected over 2,500 funeral programs, obituaries, and birth announcements. His archive is so valuable that the Durham County Library currently hosts the R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. Collection as an online exhibit.

In addition to his work as the local historian, Kelly Bryant was a leader in his community, serving the Durham Business and Professional Chain for 49 years; charter member of the Durham Human Relations Commission, served 37 years as a scoutmaster, and was a member of the Durham chapter of the NAACP. One of his greatest passions was his membership and active participation with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelly Bryant also devoted his life to historic White Rock Baptist Church (founded in 1866) in Durham, North Carolina. He was very spiritual in all of his endeavors and embraced the teachings of our Heavenly Father. He served as a Church Trustee for 55 long years.

Mr. Bryant's work did not go unnoticed, he was recognized with many awards and honors, including certificate of acknowledgment and congratulations for his many activities from the North Carolina House of Representatives, NAACP "Freedom Fund Dinner Award", Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for "Distinguished Service to Boyhood", the first African American recipient of the Bartlett Durham Award, and an appointment as the honorary grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction.

Finally R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. is survived by his son, R. Kelly Bryant, III; his daughter, Sandra Artelia Bryant-Yubwannie, of Durham, North Carolina; a sister Maggie Bryant (age 100) and five wonderful grandchildren, Keith Bryant, Corey Bryant, Mykel Bryant Moore, Yohanna Yubwannie and Raevin Bryant. Mr. Bryant was preceded in death by his spouse of 69 years, Artelia Melba Tennessee Bryant, who was his co-worker at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and was the matriarch of their family. Mrs. Artelia Bryant was the descendant of the legendary Darden family of Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding American legend. His legacy will live on for generations.

EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO HIS MAJESTY: KING BHUMBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in extending my warmest wishes to King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 88th birthday on December 5, 2015. During his nearly 70 year reign so far, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has remained a steadfast leader through his commitment to democracy, economic development, and Thai prosperity.

I am grateful for his continued commitment to a strong and long-lasting relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. Having had the distinct honor of meeting with King Bhumibol, I have admired his efforts to bring peace, prosperity, and stability for the Thai people.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day and wishing King Bhumibol Adulyadej a long life of good health and happy 88th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, December 10, 2015 as I was attending a funeral in my district. On Roll Call Vote Number 687, on the bill H.R. 3578, the DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015, had I been present I would have voted yea.

On Roll Call Number 689, on H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act, had I been present I would have voted yea.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR OF IOWA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Governor Terry Branstad for his service to Iowa. On December 14, he will break a 200 year-old record, set by Revolutionary War General and New York Governor, George Clinton, becoming the longest-serving Governor in American history.

Born and raised in a small town in rural Iowa, Governor Branstad's roots in our state run deep. He has spent his life immersed in Iowa politics and elected office. His storied political career stretches back five decades. It began in 1973, when he was first elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. Governor Branstad served in the Iowa House until 1979, and then a single term as Lieutenant Governor before winning the gubernatorial election in 1982, at the age of 36.

Governor Branstad served four consecutive terms and guided Iowa through one of the

toughest times in our state's history—the 1980's Farm Crisis. During this time, Governor Branstad worked to diversify Iowa's economy. Today, Iowa's economic strengths include agriculture, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, technology, and financial services, among other things. By the time he left office in 1999, Iowa's unemployment rate was at an impressive low of 2.2%.

After leaving office, Governor Branstad entered the private sector, becoming President of the Des Moines University in 2003. In October 2009, displeased with the condition of the state, Governor Branstad felt called to serve once more. He won the 2010 election, and got to work balancing the state budget, lowering the unemployment rate, improving Iowa schools, increasing government transparency and accountability, and enhancing opportunities for Iowans.

Governor Branstad has dedicated his life to serving Iowans. He unapologetically promotes Iowa and he is a true leader—willing to make tough decisions and fighting for what he believes is best for our state. He is a man of integrity and keeps his promises to Iowans. Governor Branstad's strong work ethic, down-to-earth demeanor, and accessibility are reasons Iowans admire him. Since he was first elected Governor of Iowa, he has visited all 99 counties in our state, every year, to hear directly from Iowans about their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Branstad has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Iowans. It is with great honor I recognize him for reaching this historic milestone. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Governor Branstad for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEQUANNOCK ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Pequannock Engine Company No. 1 located in the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey.

On April 2, 1915 at the Mandeville Inn, the de facto town hall, a formal fire department was proposed. A few weeks later, 13 men had signed up to form the organization. Through chowder parties, card games, the issuance of

\$5 bonds culminating in a raffle where the first prize was a pig, the fire department had enough funds to purchase a barn to act as headquarters. Unfortunately this barn caught fire and destroyed much of the fire department's equipment. The volunteers rebuilt the firehouse at its current location on Jackson Avenue. Since its rebuilding, Engine Company No. 1 has been serving the town without pause.

In 1938, Engine Company No. 1 responded to a call at the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, one of the oldest churches in the nation and one where George Washington prayed with his troops during the Revolutionary War. Even without fire hydrants and water mains, Engine Company No. 1 was able to save the stone walls of the church. In 1957, Engine Company No.1 spent a week fighting a fire at the factory complex of the Pequannock Hard Rubber Co. in Butler, NJ. The fire company has transformed into one that is equipped to handle a multitude of disasters. As the world has evolved, Engine Company No. 1 has kept pace. With Pequannock's location in the flood plains, the engine company is well prepared for flood rescues and evacuations as well as heavy rescue situations. Firefighters are also trained to handle chemical and biohazard situations.

Along with training programs geared towards our 21st Century world, Pequannock Engine Company No.1 has recently acquired a new 2015 Pierce Quint ladder truck and pumper to replace a 20-year-old truck. This truck will provide much needed flexibility and will allow the engine company to better serve the needs of the town in times when there are a limited number of fire fighters available. Engine Company No. 1 has continued to rise to the occasion over the years, keeping up with the latest training and necessary equipment.

Pequannock Engine Company No. 1 has been able to maintain a high standard with the help of the Pequannock residents. For its 100th Anniversary the engine company has planned a "wet down" for the new truck, and an open house for members of the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Pequannock Engine Company No. 1 and its firefighters for 100 years of dedicated service to the Township of Pequarmock.

COMMENDING THE RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Radford High School girls volleyball team, which recently captured the Virginia High School League 1A state title. The Bobcats rallied from behind for the win, sweeping the last three games in order to beat a valiant team from Auburn High School in Montgomery County by one game.

According to the Roanoke Times, this is Radford's first volleyball state championship since it won the AA title in 1984. I applaud the hard work by all members of this year's Radford High School girls volleyball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would note the efforts of coach Robert Morris, who announced after the match that he is resigning with the completion of this season. Congratulations on a great end to this season.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF COUNCILOR SIDDHI SAVETSILA

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Siddhi Savetsila, a great steward for the Thai people and a long-time friend of the United States. I am deeply saddened to hear about his passing last week at the age of 96. I extend my condolences to his family and the Thai people. Thailand has lost an honorable public servant.

His leadership as a Royal Thai Air Force officer, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister, and member of King Bhumibol's Privy Council was a testament to his commitment for the betterment of the Thai people. Moreover, the honor of his appointment to the Privy Council by the king highlighted the respect he has earned.

On behalf of my wife Rhonda and me, and my colleagues who have had the privilege of knowing Councilor Savetsila, I extend my most sincere condolences to Councilor Siddhi's family and the people of Thailand. May you find comfort during this difficult time.