

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.