

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.