

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.

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 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 Dylan for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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.

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.

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 Iowans 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.

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, Rebehka, 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.