

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.