

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT LAKES CENTER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Center (GLC). For more than half a century, the Great Lakes Center has worked to improve the quality of the environment by providing the best possible science to decision makers concerned with the health and sustainability of our freshwater resources, with a primary focus on the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

The Center was established in 1966 when Howard Sengbush formed the Great Lakes Laboratory. The Great Lakes Center's field station is located on SUNY Buffalo State's waterfront campus along the Black Rock Channel. It is a multidisciplinary research, education, and service institute focused on advancing our knowledge and understanding of the largest body of freshwater on Earth.

The Great Lakes Center is the only institution within the SUNY system with a research field station physically situated along the water. The Center maintains a large fleet of research vessels dedicated to specific types of research and educational functions.

Over the last eight years under the Direction of Sasha Karatayev, the GLC saw sustained activity and productivity: over 80 research papers published, 240 presentations given at various state, national, and international meetings and 35 funded projects totaling over 14 million dollars. This living laboratory dedicated to the investigation of the ecology of the Great Lakes and its tributaries is staffed by research scientists, educators, technicians and professors with the Biology department. The Center provides opportunities to obtain Masters of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science.

The Great Lakes ecosystem is complex, dynamic, and fragile. The work conducted at the GLC informs policy makers, educators, community leaders, and environmentalists—and contributes toward effective stewardship and decision-making. As part of the Great Lakes Observing System, the GLC operates the only operating observation buoy in eastern Lake Erie. The GLC continuously works to reverse the damage of decades of abuse neglect of the Great Lakes. The Center continues to explore opportunities to expand its educational programs within the regional community.

In February of this year, I was proud to speak on the House Floor during Great Lakes Day to demonstrate the importance of Congress to continue to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Since the creation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010, nearly \$1.6 billion has been invested in projects to clean up the Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system. Locally, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative supports a number of initiatives including the restoration of the Buffalo River.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to once again speak about the Great Lakes with pride in this visionary, vitally important and internationally renowned center whose home base is my alma mater, Buffalo

State College as its Gold Anniversary will be celebrated on April 15, 2016. Congratulations and deepest appreciation to all those who contributed to the past and present of this Center as the preservation, protection and promotion of the Great Lakes is of immeasurable importance to our future.

THANKING LANICE LAWSON FOR HER HUMANITY AND TENACITY

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Lanice Lawson for the support she has offered to the city of Flint and its residents during the Flint Water Crisis.

With nearly 15 years of experience in the nursing field as an RN, Ms. Lawson knew all too well the devastating effects of lead in the body. Although no longer a resident of Flint herself, she empathized with the struggles of those affected by the water crisis specifically the children. Out of concern for these children, she organized the Bottles for Babies initiative.

Ms. Lawson's original intent was to supply the school children of Flint with clean drinking water. The water in the Flint community schools had been completely shut off and the children were expected to bring their own bottled water to school each day. With the need for clean water being so great across the city, Bottles for Babies was later extended to include consistent home deliveries to the elderly and physically handicapped.

To date over \$65,000 has been raised by the Bottles for Babies GoFundMe fundraiser and over a quarter of a million bottles of water have been delivered to Flint residents. This is the type of direct support the people of Flint need. The type of support the city of Flint is still not receiving from its own State government.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Ms. Lanice Lawson and thank her for the service she has provided to the city of Flint.

HONORING JOE BORELLI

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Joe Borelli's dedication and leadership in serving the 51st Council District and the South Shore of Staten Island.

Born in Staten Island, Joe has always been very active in his community. He has been involved in the Staten Island Growth Management Task Force, the West Shore Light Rail Task Force, the Brookfield Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee, and helped spearhead the formation of the South Shore Local Development Corporation. Additionally, Joe was one of the key leaders in the successful fight to eradicate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from public school buildings. Joe has consistently proven himself to be a leader in the movement to reduce taxes, tolls, and fees in New York City.

As a volunteer, Joe currently serves on the Development Board of St. Joseph by the Sea High School, as well as the Friends of the College of Staten Island, an organization that raises money for scholarships. Additionally, Joe assists dozens of non-profit, veteran's, and community organizations in accessing governmental grants. Joe has also helped raise private money for equipment to support handicapped Children at Mount Loretto, and has worked with the Verdino Foundation to bring a top quality Little League facility to the South Shore.

As an elected official, Joe previously represented his South Shore constituents in the New York State Assembly. He was the ranking minority member of the Assembly Cities Committee, and he also served on the Health, the Housing, the Transportation, the Mental Health, Banks, Education, and Energy Committees. From his time in the State Assembly to his current role as a city councilman, Joe has consistently been a staunch advocate against energy cost increases, as well as the common core curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Borelli has a remarkable history of dedication to serving the people of Staten Island. I thank him for all of his great work and I am proud to honor this great man who has consistently put others before himself, and continues to be such a positive influence on our communities.

HONORING DR. RUBEN ARMIÑANA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative HUFFMAN, rise to honor Dr. Ruben Armiñana as he prepares to retire after serving as the president of Sonoma State University for over two decades. We wish Dr. Armiñana and his wife, Marne Olson, a happy retirement with time to spend with their children and grandchildren.

Born in Cuba, Dr. Armiñana came to the United States as a child with the American-sponsored Operation Peter Pan, and settled in Texas with his aunt and uncle. He earned his Associates Degree from Hill Junior College in Texas, before going on to complete his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Texas at Austin. After completing his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of New Orleans, he joined Tulane University's administration. While living in New Orleans, Dr. Armiñana also worked as a news anchor and consultant for a Spanish-language news program. Dr. Armiñana's career in education brought him to California in 1988, and, in 1992, Dr. Armiñana was appointed President of Sonoma State University.

While California State University presidents serve five years on average, Dr. Armiñana has served Sonoma State University for 24 years—an impressive tenure in which he has supported great developments for the university. While serving as President, Dr. Armiñana oversaw the expansion of the school's curriculum and student body, making Sonoma State University one of the most sought-out campuses in the California State University system.

Dr. Armiñana's work also led to many additions to the campus during his tenure. The Environmental Technology Center, completed in

2001, used sustainable materials and building techniques and serves as a model for innovative architecture. To accommodate a growing student body, Sonoma State University doubled the capacity of residential housing, offering students diverse housing options. Through Dr. Armiñana's vision, the University opened the Donald & Maureen Green Music Center and its acoustically-perfect Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall.

An enthusiastic community servant, Dr. Armiñana shares his educational expertise by serving on the North Bay Leadership Council and the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, and maintains memberships in the Hispanic Association of College and Universities and the Santa Rosa Chamber Business Education Leaders Committee. Dr. Armiñana has championed Sonoma State University's commitment to diversity with the President's Diversity Council, and established the successful Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to expand services for students over the age of 50.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Armiñana has dedicated over two decades to ensuring the success of Sonoma State University. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### HONORING WHITE'S CHAPEL M. B. CHURCH

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor White's Chapel M. B. Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

The White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was organized under the pastorage of Rev. D. J. White, in the home of sister Julia Taylor located at 734 South West Street in the year 1920. The officers were: Bros. Smith, Belt, Jones, Johnson, Outlaw, Jackson, Taylor and Carter. The mothers board was composed of the following members: Sis Julia Taylor, Sis Viola Taylor and Sis Viola Ward. After four years of hard work, by a group of dedicated members, their dream to build a church became a reality. After the resignation of Rev. White, Rev. Grove served until Rev. Caesar was called.

In 1934, Rev. R. W. C. Smith was called to pastor the White's Chapel Church and served for 36 loyal years. The following officers served under Rev. Smith's leadership: Brothers Seaton, Sparkman, Nelson, Sutton, Shear, Dorsey and Williams. Rev. Smith gave his all to pastoring the church.

After the passing of Rev. R. W. Smith in 1970, Rev. James A. Washington, Sr., was called to pastor the church in the year 1971. Under his pastorship and God's divine leadership the church grew bountifully. While he pastored, members of the Deacon and Trustee Board included: Deacon Shears, Dorsey, Williams, Caston, Jennings, Mix and Trustee Robert Morris.

Under the pastorship of Rev. James A. Washington, they were blessed to have moved from 728 South West Street to their present location, where they have been for the past three years.

Rev. Washington resigned in December of 1982. After weeks of prayers the Lord saw fit

to send to them in February of 1983, the Rev. Nathaniel V. Booker, a great Pastor and Leader. Under his leadership present members of the Deacon Board include: Deacon Hillman Shears, Robert Dorsey, Lewis Williams, Tillman Caston, Charlie Jennings, and Ronnie Mix.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing White's Chapel M. B. Church.

#### RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD AND ERMA CAMPBELL

#### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clifford and Erma Campbell of Bucyrus, Missouri on receiving this year's Century Farm Award. Receiving this honor is no easy task, and the Campbells have exemplified hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the community throughout their lives. The farm was originally owned by Clifford's grandparents, Edward and Ethel Campbell. The farm was purchased in 1910 and has been in the family for 106 years.

Qualifying to be a Century Farm is a great feat. The farm must be in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and the original tract of land has to be more than 40 acres. These farms represent an important part of American heritage, feeding generations upon generations and greatly improving the quality of life of Missourians. Their integrity and determination serve as an example of the great work that farmers do for our country.

I applaud the hard work and achievements of the Campbells and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future. It is my pleasure to recognize the Campbell family before the House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING NICKI GROSSMAN ON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a woman whose work has greatly benefited the South Florida community. Nicki E. Grossman served for 21 years as the head of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau and, before that, served as a commissioner to both the Broward County and Hollywood Commissions.

During her tenure at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Broward County hospitality industry grew to employ more than 168,000 people and in 2015 generated \$14.1 billion in revenue with over 15 million visitors.

Under her leadership, the tourism bureau won accolades for its innovative marketing campaigns and efforts to attract LGBTQ visitors. Nicki personally received awards recognizing her outstanding work in the tourism industry and her commitment to diversity.

In honor of her retirement and years of service to her community, I am pleased to recognize Nicki Grossman and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONOR FLIGHT OF NORTHERN COLORADO

#### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, in honor of America's heroic veterans, the Honor Flight Network conducts a twice annual Honor Flight ceremony to Washington D.C. in order to give our nation's heroes a day to visit and reflect at their war memorials. I am pleased to recognize that an Honor Flight took place on September 13, 2015 to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans of Northern Colorado.

Honor Flight Northern Colorado was founded in 2008 by retired Army Colonel Stan Cass, and recently held its 15th Honor Flight. Honor Flight Northern Colorado shares the Honor Flight Network's philosophy that America felt it was important to honor our veterans with dedicated memorials, and it should be equally important that these courageous veterans experience their memorial in person. We honor the brave men and women who were willing to lay down their lives in service to America, and Honor Flight Northern Colorado is part of that ongoing effort.

Mr. Speaker, those who participated in this flight are as follows:

From World War II: Paul Bechthold, Floyd Cooper, Raymond Ernest, Charles Hoelscher, Joseph Isley, Carl Johnson, Frederick Kaehler, Rex McFadden, Allan Meenen, William Ramsey, Donald Stephens, John Ulvang, Ceylon Weller.

From the Korean War: Robert Ault, Adolfo Benavides, Henry Bjorklund, Edwin Bowker, Albert Cain, Kenneth Creamer, Robert Crouch, Gerald Donnelly, Robert Eckhardt, Gary Eyre, William Ferguson, Elmer Fortin, Glen Geilenkirchen, James Gribben, Kent Grimsley, Walter Harris, Warren Hawkins, Carl Heufel, Eugene Hitchman, Neil Hoffman, Frank Hummel, Harold Jochum, Eldon Johnson, Roy Johnson, Michael Kennedy, Jimmie Kramer, Burman Lorenson, Robert McCauley, Gerald Meis, Robert Plick, Donald Reininger, Earl Reynolds, William Richardson, Royal Ryser, Merle Sapp, Raymond Schmitz, Ralph Sherman, Ned Steel, Vernon Sterkel, Richard Vandewalker, Richard Weinmeister, Donald Wiseman, Paul Zimmerman.

From the Vietnam War: Walter Amack, Ernest Anderson, Bruce Avery, Allen Brink, Wayne Burris, Gary Cain, James Christopher, Richard Cobb, Harold Colaizzi, Harold Collins, William Deivert, Russell Emmons, Michael Ferrell, Osia Fox, Robert Goodwin, Jerald Gossel, Josef Gruenwald, David Hallahan, Charles Ham, Calvin Hamilton, Jr., Arnold Hart, Leland Haskell, Charles Hixon, Michael Jacomet, Dale Jenkins, Doyle Jenkins, Jimmie Johnston, Patrick Kistler, Edward Lobb, Danny Lynn, Thomas Marlo, Manuel Martinez, John McCarthy, Edward Meikel, Marilyn Miyaima, Royce Modisette, Stephen Mulvihill, Charles Munroe, Rueben Olivas, Jr., Edward Olson, Ralph Otte, Stephen Pangrac, Jerry Park, Linda Plick, Thomas Pusel, Phillip Rangel, William Rhodes, John Robley, Rodney Rodriguez, Christopher Romero, Rueben Sanchez, Kenneth Sheppard, Wayne Shortridge, Walter Silva, Dennis Sindelir, James Spears, Thomas Steinbach, Robert Stolz, David Stout, Raymond Stroot, Floyd Taladay, Dennis Teter,