

TRIBUTE TO PINELLAS SUNCOAST
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority for the solidarity they expressed in their efforts to help Orlando.

The PSTA is giving free bus passes to individuals who wish to donate blood across Pinellas County in aid of the victims of the Orlando shooting. This is just one of the many ways in which Pinellas County has stood with Orlando in the wake of the attack to express our support and sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the PSTA for helping the Orlando victims and coordinating a county-wide effort for residents to donate blood. I ask that this body join me in recognizing the efforts of PSTA and in praying for all the families of those affected in Orlando. God Bless.

HONORING MANTECA CITY FIRE
CHIEF KIRK WATERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Manteca City Fire Chief Kirk Waters, who has announced his retirement after 29 years of service.

Kirk always sought a career that allowed him to be of service to others, and ultimately received a degree from Pruitt College of Respiratory Therapy. After becoming a state-licensed respiratory therapist, he began working for the Modesto City Hospital.

In keeping with his devotion to service, Kirk applied for a position with the Manteca City Fire Department in March of 1986. Being the son of a firefighter, Kirk was captivated by the idea of following in his father's footsteps. He began his work in June of the following year, and quickly proved himself to be an invaluable member of the Department. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Firefighter Engineer in November of 1990. Due to his strong work ethic and desire to improve the community, Kirk was named Acting Captain in July of 1995. He was subsequently made Fire Captain the following year. He continued this trend of advancement by being named Fire Division Chief in February of 2005 and Fire Chief in November of 2009.

During his tenure as Chief, Kirk was responsible for speeding up response times in spite of a 40 percent increase in emergency calls. Furthermore, he orchestrated a plan to improve response efficiency at large structure fires through the strategic positioning of fire trucks. These are only two feats among the many innovative measures Chief Waters spearheaded during his tenure. He undoubtedly went above and beyond in his duty to improve public safety in the community.

Fire Chief, however, is not the only capacity through which Mr. Waters sought to benefit his community. In fact, Kirk serves on the Board of Directors for the Manteca/Lathrop Boys and

Girls Club, the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Raymus HOPE Family Shelter. Along with all of these honorable commitments, Kirk makes time to coach youth basketball for the Manteca Parks and Recreation Department. It is clear that he has dedicated his life to service for others.

Kirk and his wife, Shelly, have 6 children, are very involved with their church, and enjoy remaining healthy and active. Following his retirement, Kirk will return to his roots as a respiratory therapist and help sick newborns at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire services in the city of Manteca by Chief Kirk Waters, and wish him continued success in his retirement and future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEIGH ANNE MOHLER

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Leigh Anne Mohler's achievements in winning the award of General Manager of the Year for Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Ms. Mohler has over 12 years of experience in sales and management. In September 2013, she joined the Fairfield Inn & Suites Clearwater team and has sought to take every business opportunity possible since. She has been able to successfully close 24 new accounts and increase their corporate occupancy through her exemplary work ethic and consummate drive.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Mohler for her tenacious business ethic in Pinellas County. Her hard work only serves to increase the amount of opportunities for our county and I ask that this body join me in recognizing Ms. Mohler for her incredible efforts.

IN CELEBRATION OF MR. ALBERT
"BARNEY" LAROCHE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Albert "Barney" LaRoche in celebration of reaching his 100th birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past one hundred years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on New Hampshire.

Mr. LaRoche was inducted into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey Hall of Fame on February 17, 2002 for all of his contributions to hockey in the Granite State. As a player for twenty two years, most notably with the Berlin Maroons, and as a coach for Notre Dame High School and later his beloved Maroons, Barney helped achieve impressive records for all the teams he worked with. His dedication to the sport of hockey and skill as a competitor and mentor have not been forgotten to enthusiasts in the Granite State and I

know they all join with me in wishing him a happy birthday.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. LaRoche on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,360,176,741,617.54. We've added \$8,733,299,692,704.46 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LACEY EKBERG

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Lacey Ekberg for being named the new president of Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Ekberg has been named the new chamber president, but such a role is not alien to her. She previously served as the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce President with a self-proclaimed "call-it-as-I-see-it" attitude. She is determined to put the town on the map and I know she will work hard with business owners and the government to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Ekberg for her tenacity in her work for Tarpon Springs and Pinellas County. She has an admirable and diligent work ethic and I ask that this body join me in congratulating Ms. Ekberg on her new position.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 368 (Rep. Ellison amendment).

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 368.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY
BIGHAM

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Larry