

Clearly, the \$468,000 increase in funding for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways will result in real returns for the American economy, an enhanced quality of life for the American people, and a healthy ecosystem which supports endangered and threatened species. I thank Chairman CALVERT and my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.  
JOE OSCAR ERNI

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Mr. Joe Oscar Erni, who passed away last summer at his home in Sun City Center, Florida. Joe lived the quintessential American story—one that personified the Greatest Generation.

Joe was raised on an Indiana dairy farm and studied at Purdue University. When World War II broke out, he traded in his textbooks for a uniform, serving in the Pacific as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Joe served his country with distinction as an aerial spotter for field artillery, having been awarded the Air Medal, with four bronze oak leaves, for his service in combat operations.

Following the war, Joe completed his education at Hanover College, and soon went on to marry the love of his life Elizabeth “Betty” Rodgers in May of 1948. Joe became a venerable part of his community while managing the New Albany Inn for 25 years, which led to his title of President of the Indiana Hotel/Motel Association. He cared deeply for his community and led many philanthropic efforts. He became the 1956 Chairman of the Floyd County March of Dimes, and served on the Floyd Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. Joe was a humble man whose life impacted everyone he touched in an extraordinary way. He cared deeply for so many people, especially his wife Betty, his three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Everywhere Joe went, he made friends with ease due to his gentle and generous spirit. Joe will be remembered for his exceptionally kind heart, his loving personality, and his tremendous service to his community and our country. I was proud to call Joe a friend and a relative, and I will miss his presence in our family.

Thank you, Joe, for your years of dedication and service. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps bet-

ter than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to six extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Stephanie Gomez from the University of Houston; Bunyad Bhatti from the College of New Jersey; Sara Ali from the University of California at Berkeley; Ashley Hogan from Texas Tech University; George Brewster from Texas Southern University; and Jeremy Dang from Georgetown University.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful, committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING MR. TIM TESCONI

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tim Tesconi upon his induction into the Sonoma County Farm Bureau’s Hall of Fame for his 43 years of service to our local agriculture community and commitment to preserving agricultural land throughout our county.

A third generation Sonoma County resident, Mr. Tesconi grew up on a dairy farm in Santa

Rosa and was a Future Farmer of America (FFA) during his time at Santa Rosa High School. He later went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Chico and completed graduate work in Journalism at the University of Missouri, Columbia before dedicating his professional life to Sonoma County’s agriculture community.

Mr. Tesconi has held a number of positions during his impressive career that spanned over four decades. For 33 years Mr. Tesconi worked as an agriculture reporter for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. Mr. Tesconi’s outstanding coverage of the North Bay farming community made him a household name and led to his appointment to multiple local boards including the 4-H Foundation of Sonoma County, Sonoma County Farm Trails, and the Santa Rosa Junior College Ag. Trust. For the last 10 years of his career, Mr. Tesconi worked as the Community Relations Coordinator and later the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. His dedication to our agricultural and wine communities has strengthened our Sonoma County community as a whole.

Mr. Tesconi is admired by his peers for his unrivaled depth of knowledge, passion, and unwavering advocacy on behalf of our agriculture community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tesconi has spent his entire career working to strengthen and preserve agriculture’s role as the backbone of our local economy, natural landscapes, and way of life in Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED LOMELI

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Contra Costa resident, Mr. Alfred Lomeli.

At an early age, Al committed to his passion for serving others by making his first attempt to join the Armed Forces. When he was turned down for being too young, he returned at the age of 18, after his graduation from Alhambra High School, and joined the Marines. Upon joining the Marines in September 1944, Lomeli and his division were the first to land on Peleliu, a tiny island in the western Pacific Ocean. While the mission was expected to only last a few days, the fighting dragged on through November and led to heavy American casualties. Al and his brother Raul’s experiences in the Pacific Theater are the subjects of a book written by Al’s daughter Rhonda entitled “Semper Fi! Marine.”

Al’s time in the Marines further shaped his commitment to service and to those he loved. After meeting his wife Guadalupe and settling in the Bay Area, Al began his career in finance that ultimately led him to the county treasurer-tax collector’s office, which he was to in 1978. He also served as president of the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers and the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors.

Al’s dedication to his job, his family, and his community was admirable. Al passed away on June 26, 2016. He will be missed sincerely by

those who had the pleasure of knowing him, including his wife Patsy; daughters Celine, Gisele, and Rhonda; sons Jeffrey, Charles, and Lawrence; and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW BETHEL  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH INCORPORATED

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate 142 years.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1874; 87 years after Richard Allen organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787. It is believed the church seat was moved several times from 1874 to 1927. It is recorded that within the 53 years less than 20 pastors were appointed to Bethel. During the years of 1927 to 1930 the membership of Bethel ranged from 50 to 80. By the year 1932, the church membership had increased to 220.

Ephesians 4:16 states "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Through the blessings of God, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has grown spiritually, numerically, and materially, for the last 62 years.

In 1954, a new building was assembled under the leadership of Rev. R. L. Tyson (deceased), thus Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. As the church's congregation grew in numbers and in spirit it also grew in size. Between the years of 1965–1998, God blessed New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church with several architectural additions to the church, to help accommodate its growing flock. By the grace of God, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was bestowed the honor of hosting the 92nd Session of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference, in 1988.

New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has been blessed to have several anointed guests, and guest preachers such as the first female minister, Rev. Varnette Green (deceased), who served as the guest Revivalist at the Youth Revival, in 1987, and Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming, who preached the unadulterated word of God in June 1993, at the church's first family and Friends Day. In June 2002, under the righteous leadership of Rev. Bruce Francis, New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated its 127th Church Anniversary and some of the distinguished guests in attendance included Congressman SANFORD BISHOP and spouse, Mrs. Vivian C. Bishop, District Staff Member, Mrs. Elaine Gillispie and Councilor Evelyn Woodson.

It gives me great honor to recognize New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a holy vessel guided by the exceptional leader-

ship of Rev. Richard A. Yancey. Like myself, Reverend Yancey is a distinguished member of Kappa Alpha Ksi Fraternity Incorporated. He is also an influential figure in the Columbus community, who has dedicated the last 26 years of his life to teaching the word of God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife and me along with the 730,000 citizens of the 2nd Congressional District in congratulating and honoring New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for 142 years of faithful service to God and humanity.

RECOGNIZING KAYLEE GRANT,  
SPENCER LONG, RYAN TILLMAN,  
AND DOUGLASS QUIRK

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaylee Grant, Spencer Long, Ryan Tillman, and Douglass Quirk for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Summer 2016 session of Congress.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they will have a bright future ahead of them. They learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process and served as tour guides and interacted with constituents. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to them and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

Kaylee, Spencer, Ryan and Douglass plan to continue pursuing their college degrees at the end of their internships and I wish them the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Kaylee Grant, Spencer Long, Ryan Tillman, and Douglass Quirk for their service this Summer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 448, on July 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on an amendment offered by Rep. KING (R-IA) to H.R. 5538.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. PHYLLIS  
ROULLIER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phyllis Roullier, a longtime resident of Belleville, Michigan and an original Rosie the Riveter. Phyllis was born on August 24, 1924 and has lived her full life as the cher-

ished matriarch of her family, and an American hero.

Phyllis was among the trailblazing women who stepped up during World War II to fill the industry positions traditionally held by men. Collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter", these inspiring women entered the workforce with grace and gusto to build planes, tanks and other armaments that sustained the war effort and kept American industry afloat. Phyllis was 18 when she started working at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti dimpling airplane skins. She recalls carpooling to work with other women from Detroit and having to pool gas stamps in order to make it to work every day. To this day, Phyllis proudly recalls the remarkable contributions of the Rosies at Willow Run, who produced more aircraft every month than Imperial Japan did in a year, earning Willow Run, and the area surrounding southeast Michigan, worldwide fame as the center of America's "Arsenal of Democracy".

The contributions of Phyllis and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story. They instilled a newfound hope in their communities, embodying positivity in a time of great turmoil and uncertainty, and inspired a social movement that forever redefined the role of women in the workplace. The number of working women in the United States increased to 20 million in 1944, and has never since fallen to pre-war levels. Phyllis and her fellow Rosies paved the way for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Phyllis Roullier for her contributions to the war and her role in inspiring generations of American women. Her story is one that embodies the best of American values and spirit and one that we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for decades to come. The values that Phyllis and the Rosies embodied—patriotism, bravery and resolve—are ones we all must strive to emulate. We salute the Rosies for their contribution to American history. Their legacy will forever remind us that we all have the power to do something more for our community and our country.

RECOGNIZING 2016 "PAUL BUNYAN  
SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD"  
YOUTH WINNER FONG MOUA

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Fong Moua of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional commitment to our community.

Mr. Moua is the youth recipient of the Wisconsin 7th Congressional District's 2016 "Paul Bunyan Service Above Self Award," which seeks to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to serve their community. I am privileged to award this young man in recognition of his unparalleled service to our district.

Mr. Moua was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. He called that camp home until his parents made the journey to the United States when he was seven years old. He began