

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT FALLS PARK

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the 50th anniversary of Great Falls Park. Established in 1966, this pristine natural reserve is situated on 800 acres along the banks of the Potomac River in northern Fairfax County. Great Falls Park has been home to many relaxing hikes, peaceful picnics, and family getaways throughout the years, and it will continue to be a destination for visitors from all over.

The hard work done by the men and women of the Great Falls Park Service has helped ensure an amazing outdoor space for many of my constituents to escape the pace of metropolitan living and reconnect with nature. The hiking paths allow countless people access to an enjoyable and healthy activity. Our coexistence with nature is a vital component to a sustainable ecosystem, and I am proud to have such a remarkable park in my District. The close collaboration of the constituents of Virginia's 10th Congressional District is crucial to preserving the diverse wildlife population located in Great Falls Park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Great Falls Park and thanking the many men and women who keep the park clean and enjoyable for the countless tourists who visit on a yearly basis. I know the park will continue to provide a natural escape to all who seek one.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH RANDLEMAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ruth Randleman, community leader and Mayor of Carlisle, Iowa for being named a 2016 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 17 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area. Ms. Randleman has devoted her life to confronting challenges which many others might avoid. She has spent countless hours on various boards while blazing a trail for others to follow. She was selected for the chosen field of expertise, the lasting impact on the community, involvement with civic or non-profit organization and being seen as a role model because of her lofty achievements and high ethical standards.

Ruth Randleman has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does and her exemplary work with her leadership for the city of Carlisle where she has been active on the City Council for 16 years. She serves on many area boards and commissions including past service as president of the Iowa League of Cities and the Warren County (Iowa) Economic Development Corporation. In

all aspects of her life, Ruth Randleman is an example of hard work and service who makes lowans proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ruth Randleman in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ruth Randleman on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Ms. Randleman a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
BLAKE G. KRİKORIAN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Blake G. Krikorian, a Silicon Valley icon who was taken suddenly from his family at the young age of 48, after an afternoon of surfing in the majestic Pacific Ocean south of San Francisco.

Blake and his brothers Adam and Jason grew up in the Bay area, and Blake attended UCLA where he played water polo. He was well known as the CEO of Sling Media, which he founded with his brother Jason, and he worked with many other companies. Blake's brother, Adam Krikorian, is the coach of the United States Women's Water Polo Team.

Blake Krikorian can be described in superlatives . . . savvy, ebullient, and friend to countless people. He was a mentor, a tinkerer, a supporter, an entrepreneur and an angel investor.

He's been described as a man with a near artistic capability to make unobvious connections among widely diverse things and ideas. He had a wonderful laugh, he was an amazing friend, a terrific man with child-like curiosity, brilliant, wise, creative, warm, personable, and always helpful.

Blake Krikorian adored his family and worshipped his wife Cathy and their two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire family of Blake Krikorian and in honoring his extraordinarily productive, generous, and all too brief life. We are a better people and a better country because he walked with us.

HONORING THE MARTINEZ  
BEAVER FESTIVAL

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martinez Beaver Festival, which for the past nine years has commemorated the broad public support and civic action that saved our local beaver population from trapping. This annual festival not only emphasizes the importance that beavers hold for our creeks and wildlife, but also is a celebration of our community and local government working together for this worthy cause.

The Martinez Beaver Festival is hosted by Worth a Dam, a local nonprofit dedicated to maintaining the beaver population in Martinez. Their many contributions to our community involve education, advocacy, and local events. The organization also aims to teach other cities about the importance of coexisting with this important species. Furthermore, Worth a Dam has increased public awareness on the importance of beavers to the ecological health of urban streams by providing exploration tours, promoting ecotourism in Martinez through various events, and awarding Beaver Scholarships to other cities learning to deal with their own beaver-related issues.

During its history, Worth a Dam and the Martinez Beaver Festival have provided exhibits and presentations to wildlife groups across our state, as well as in Utah and Oregon. Thanks to Worth a Dam's website dedicated to beaver information, people across our nation have access to data and resources needed to solve wild beaver issues and to develop a stronger appreciation for the importance of beavers to their local ecosystems. Worth a Dam has recently worked internationally with beaver advocates in Canada and Scotland to educate stakeholders and their communities to help resolve various beaver-related issues.

Mr. Speaker, the Martinez Beaver Festival is of tremendous value to our community, and its success has brought awareness to our community's wildlife conservation efforts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the Martinez Beaver Festival here today.

THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS  
NORTH CAROLINA JOINING THE  
NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the Town and Town Council of Granite Falls, North Carolina, to express their support of observance of the 15th Anniversary of September 11th.

The Town Council of the Town of Granite Falls passed a resolution that affirms that, together as a Nation, ceasing all work or other activity for a moment of remembrance beginning at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 11, 2016, in honor of the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks committed against the United States on September 11, 2001.

Nearly 3,000 innocent civilians were killed in the heinous attacks of September 11, 2001. Tens of thousands of individuals narrowly escaped the attacks at the Pentagon and World Trade Center and, as witnesses to this tragedy, are forever changed. Countless fire departments, police departments, first responders, governmental officials, workers, emergency medical personnel, and volunteers responded immediately and heroically to those horrific events.

Fifteen years later, the people of the United States and people around the world continue to mourn the tremendous loss of innocent life on that fateful day; and, thousands of men and women in the United States Armed