

Coke has strong roots in San Joaquin Valley and is the founding member of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and she has served as President of Board of Directors for twenty years. Most recently Coke was elected Chairman of the new San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust Board.

In addition to all her career accomplishments she also has numerous awards including the YWCA Business and Professional Women of the Year, the Fresno Arts Council Horizon Award, and the NSFRE Outstanding Philanthropist and Volunteer Fund Raiser. In 2002, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from California State University Fresno, and in 2005 she was selected by the Jefferson Awards Board to receive the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for "Outstanding Community Service Benefiting Local Communities."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me as we honor and celebrate Coke Hallowell for her dedication to the arts, her community, and education. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Coke and witness firsthand her giving spirit and commitment to causes near to her heart. She is a true steward of the San Joaquin Valley and we are grateful for her service and the lasting impact of her efforts in the Valley.

#### TRIBUTE TO EILEEN WIXTED

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Eileen Wixted, Owner and Principal for Wixted & Company for being named a 2016 Women of Influence honoree as CAPTRUST Woman Business Owner of the Year 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. Wixted has devoted her life to doing so many 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 nonprofit organization and being seen as a role model because of her lofty achievements and high ethical standards.

Eileen Wixted has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does. She is nationally recognized as an expert in strategic communication and crisis management. For over 20 years, Ms. Wixted has actively assisted clients manage potentially brand-damaging issues and prepared them for the media, shareholder meeting and government investigations. In all aspects of her life Eileen Wixted is an example of hard work and service who makes Iowans proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Eileen Wixted 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 Eileen Wixted on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing Ms. Wixted a long and successful career.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF KELLER HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL WINNING THE 6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Keller High School softball team, winners of the Texas UIL state championship in the 6A conference. The Indians defeated Pearland High School on June 4th with a final score of 5–0. This is the third state championship in the school's history. Keller ISD Athletics Hall of Fame teams also took home the state championship title in both 2003 and 2005.

Bryan Poehler, head coach of the Indians, was named 2016 All-Area Softball "Coach of the Year" by the Dallas Morning News. All spring, Coach Poehler pushed his team to prepare for the anticipated difficult season ahead. The advancements made in practice and during the course of competition resulted in players being recognized for their achievements at both the district and state levels.

Kaylee Rodgers, senior pitcher for the Keller Indians, was awarded numerous accolades throughout the season. She was recognized as a 1st team All-American pitcher, UIL State All-Tournament pitcher, Dallas Morning News All-Area pitcher of the year, Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State pitcher, and was named MVP of the state game after pitching a shut-out. In addition, Kaylee's teammate, senior catcher Shelby Henderson, was chosen as a 2nd team All-American for the 2015–2016 season, 1st team for the Dallas Morning News All-Area Team, and was awarded UIL State All-Tournament catcher. Other accolades granted to individual players included 2nd basewoman Camryn Woodall receiving the title as a 1st team All-American for the 2015–2016 season, UIL State All-Tournament 2nd basewoman, and 1st team Dallas Morning News All-Area Team. Additionally, Amanda Desario was awarded UIL State All-Tournament outfielder and 1st team Dallas Morning News All-Area Team.

Congratulations to the Keller Indian Softball team! The Indians were able ambassadors for Keller High School and effectively advanced the athletic achievements of Keller ISD. It is my privilege to represent such an outstanding group of student athletes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on

Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Weather across the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5578 and H.R. 3881.

#### LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST 13 YEARS OF THE CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

#### HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Ann M. Muscat retired on June 25, 2016 as president and CEO of the Catalina Island Conservancy, it is important to step back and look over her successful tenure. She has served as president and CEO for more than 13 years—the second longest tenure of any previous Conservancy president.

"Ann and the Conservancy have achieved a lot," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. "I've had the great pleasure of working with Ann and her team, all of them consummate professionals who are dedicated to getting things done."

"Under Ann's leadership, the Conservancy has become a living laboratory of innovation in conservation, education and financial sustainability for nonprofit organizations," said Catalina Island Conservancy Board of Directors Chair Stephen Chazen, PhD. "The Conservancy has significantly improved the Island's ecological health, greatly increased access to Catalina's wildlands and expanded and enhanced its educational programs to better serve students living in Avalon and visitors from the mainland."

Here is a look back at how the Conservancy and its stewardship of Catalina Island have flourished since Muscat joined the organization in 2003:

During Ann's 13-year tenure, and through its Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP), the Conservancy staff has completed vegetation mapping of the entire Island, including non-native and invasive plant species. It has controlled and eradicated numerous invasive plant species that were eliminating native and rare biodiversity. It also expanded the native plant nursery's scope to include landscaping initiatives on the Island, along with restoration, and significantly expanded the native seed collection.

The Conservancy has been a leader in removing non-native and highly destructive animal species from the Island, leading to the re-discovery of native plants previously believed to be extinct. It also brought the Catalina Island fox back from the brink of extinction and supported the successful recovery of the bald eagle.

Its wildlife biologists have implemented innovative social (repatriation) and scientific methodologies (contraception) for managing the bison herd. They also have conducted bird and small mammal surveys, discovering nesting sea birds on cliffs and nearby rocks, and implementing protective measures for bat populations.

In addition, the Conservancy has pursued research partnerships with universities and museums from across the country, including a multi-institution collaboration that resulted in a