

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bonnie and the U.S. track and field team for a terrific performance in the Summer Games. Bonnie and her team have not only brought pride to the State of Connecticut, but to the entire nation.

ELDON LAIDIG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eldon Laidig for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

Known for his passion for education and community service, Eldon has been a pillar of the Jefferson County community for more than fifty years. Before becoming a financial planner, Eldon spent 42 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and 27 years working for Jefferson County Public Schools, 25 of which were spent as a middle school principal.

In 1990, Eldon started Personal Benefit Services Wealth Management, which has been recognized by 5280 Magazine and the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Eldon's involvement in the Arvada community is unparalleled. He was named the Arvada Sentinel's Man of the Year, has served as club president of the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities and Arvada Rotary Club and Friendship Force of Greater Denver, as well as vice president of the Arvada Historical Society. In his five decades in the Jefferson County area, Eldon has worked tirelessly to improve the City of Arvada through community service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eldon Laidig for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY AND DON GODFREY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ruby and Don Godfrey of Emerson, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 2, 1946 at Henderson Christian Church in Henderson, Iowa.

Ruby and Don's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Richard and Darrell, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories, may their commitment grow even stronger, and may they continue to love and cherish one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERSILIA MARIA ANTONIA VERONICA GHIRLANDA MONETT BALCAEN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge one of my constituents, Ersilia Balcaen, who will be turning 105 this upcoming September the 17th. Mrs. Balcaen's life has been a truly American story in that despite coming from far away, she made the United States her home. Facing some of the most uncertain times in American history, she not only endured, but flourished.

Ersilia was born in the small comune of Sesta Godano in Italy. She was only five years old when she made the dangerous journey to America with her family. She quickly proved her tenaciousness in her work ethic before she had even grown up through helping her family look after their animals and grow crops, and even held several jobs while studying in high school. She later moved to San Francisco and began work for an insurance company where she inspirationally fought to keep her job despite her recent marriage and did so successfully, only finally being let go after seven months of pregnancy.

Ersilia's tireless aspirations did not end there. She eventually showed her aptitude by doing a test for the civil service and was soon hired by the U.S. Army as a stenographer with the Army's Overseas Supply Division at Presidio, California. During her time in service to her nation, she was part of the first evacuations from Pearl Harbor while attempting to bring back the wounded from the attacks. Her career eventually took her back to California where she helped many veterans and civil servants find work following the end to the war. She was heavily praised for her selfless efforts in caring for all those who worked for her. Despite some levels of discrimination she received, she endured and persisted, leading a highly notable career which she retired from in 1972, after 31 years. Her public service did not end upon retirement. Mrs. Balcaen continued to serve her community through her involvement in local charities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a woman of extreme courage and fortitude, whose tireless efforts in spite of discrimination and difficulties, serves as an inspiration to all. She has spent nearly her entire life in service to others and her selflessness should be acknowledged for all to witness. I would ask my fellow members to stand with me and applaud Mrs. Balcaen and wish her well.

BEAUTY BEHIND BARS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a wonderful event that 94 FM the Fish hosted called Beauty Behind Bars. This event took place on July 30th of this year at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center. It was an excellent opportunity for women in the community to be transformed, inspired, and empowered.

Beauty Behind Bars is an organization designed to help women and girls break away from mental incarceration and self-imprisonment of low self-esteem, doubt, depression, suicide, and dream killing. They also teach the importance of forgiveness, accountability, and the significance of loving self from the inside out. They educate the community by providing seminars and conferences.

I commend Beauty Behind Bars and 94 FM the Fish for their willingness to host a free training workshop that will continue to influence and change women for the rest of their lives. They have set an excellent example of what it means to "set the captives free." My hope is that they will continue to bring freedom to women of all ages and for generations to come.

MR. SHAYAK SENGUPTA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shakak Sengupta of Sugar Land, TX for receiving a Fulbright award for his energy research in India during the 2015 through 2016 academic year.

Each year the Fulbright Program grants students with the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships. Shakak graduated from Hightower High School and attended Rice University. Under the Fulbright program, he studied the effectiveness and cost of air pollution control technologies in Indian coal power plants.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Shakak Sengupta for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRESNO POLICE CHIEF JERRY DYER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Jerry Dyer of Fresno, California. Chief Dyer is being honored by the Fresno Police Department in appreciation of his 15 years of service as Police Chief. The Fresno community is fortunate to have someone who has devoted his career to serving as an advocate for our city.

Chief Dyer attended California State University, Fresno where he would receive his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. He would go on to obtain a Master's Degree in Management from California Polytechnic University at Pomona and graduate from the California Command College for law enforcement leaders. He began his service with the Fresno Police Department in 1979.

Chief Dyer has been committed to community policing since becoming the Chief of Police on August 1, 2001. He has made it a priority of the Department to build strong relationships with the community, and instill trust between the officers and the people they serve. These efforts have even been recognized nationally for their effectiveness. Under Chief Dyer, the Department's block parties, forums and numerous community events have helped build trust between the residents and the officers.

Under his leadership, the Fresno Police Department has been in the forefront of implementing the reforms proposed by President Barack Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. By employing new technologies, Chief Dyer has made the Fresno Police Department more effective than ever before.

During his time as the Chief of Police, Dyer and the Department have been acknowledged on many occasions for their achievements. In 2005, Chief Dyer was awarded the Excellence in Public Service Award, which is sponsored by The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council, and the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno. That same year, the Department would become nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies; something only fourteen other agencies in the state have achieved. The Department was also granted the prestigious California Highway Patrol Commissioner's Award for its traffic safety efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Jerry Dyer in celebration of this great achievement. It has been a pleasure to work with Chief Dyer in serving the community we both love. We are lucky to have someone who has put in a great effort to make the Fresno Police Department one of the state's top law enforcement agencies. I ask that you join me in wishing Chief Dyer continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2016, I was away from the Capitol and was unable to vote on any legislative measures on this date.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5578, the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act, Roll Call Vote Number 479, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3881, the Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act, Roll Call Vote Number 480, had I been present I would have voted yes.

DAWN BAUER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dawn Bauer, a teacher at the Carson Elementary School in

Denver, CO, for her 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The PAEMST program, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Dawn has been an active teacher at the Carson Elementary School and now in the College and Career Readiness Office at Denver Public Schools has played an integral role in ensuring her students are prepared with critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are vital to their future success.

Dawn's dedication to teaching and commitment to her students serve as a role model for other teachers and is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dawn Bauer for her PAEMST Award and for representing the great State of Colorado on a national level. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER CHOU VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Chou Vang who passed away May 4, 2016. He was 82. Vang Chou was a respected leader in the Hmong American community, whose contributions spanned decades.

Vang Chou was born on April 5, 1938 in the Phac Lac village of Laos to Xia Chong Vang and Xay Lo. Vang Chou completed primary education and went on to receive his Certificat d'Etudes Primaires Complémentaires (French High School Diploma). From an early age he was known as a benevolent man, providing for many members of his extended family. Vang Chou made the decision not to pursue his education further, due to his family's financial hardship and in order to help his mother provide for his seven half siblings. At the age of 20 he became a national police officer in Laos.

1961 was an eventful year for Vang Chou. He began his service as a first Air Guide officer for the CIA and married his wife May Yang. Vang Chou's intricate knowledge of the terrain led to his service as a guide for aerial missions during the Vietnam War. His flying career included 116 aerial missions. In 1968, he was wounded in battle, leaving him partially paralyzed in his right arm. Vang Chou then became the commander of the joint operation center at Long Tien Air Base. He quickly earned the respect of his Hmong, Thai and American counterparts.

Following the end of the war, Vang Chou and his family arrived in the United States as refugees in 1976. The family relocated to Santa Ana, California before eventually settling in Merced County. He initially found work as a machinist, before joining the program to assist newly arrived refugees with resettlement. He was one of the founding members of

Merced Lao Family Community, Inc.—an organization that was founded to serve the Southeast Asian immigrant community. He was instrumental in founding similar organizations in California and the Western United States. According to historian Noah Vang, he was a significant member of the community and played a role in building the strong and thriving Hmong community we know today.

Vang Chou is survived by his wife, May Yang Vang; their children, Maly, Wayne, Maykou, Bee and Mayko; twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me on this day in a moment of silence in memory of the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Chou Vang. He will be remembered as a hardworking man, who went above and beyond in the service of his community. His leadership and dedication to the Hmong community will be missed.

IN HONOR OF LOUDOUN COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE TOM HORNE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the tremendous work of my constituent Tom Horne, a 2016 honoree at the Loudoun Laurels Gala. Judge Horne exemplifies the very best of the traditions of public service, stewardship, and personal contributions to the life and history of Loudoun County. His dedication to a high standard of conduct allowed him to remain honest and loyal while making a positive impact in the legal community.

Mr. Horne graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1965, and went on to attend the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. He served as a Commonwealth's Attorney for three years before taking the bench in 1982. Chief Judge Thomas D. Horne retired after over 21 years, having served longer than any other judge in the Loudoun County Circuit.

In addition to his long and distinguished legacy as a judge, Judge Horne was a driving force in education as well. He established the 20th Judicial Circuit's Law Camp, a landmark educational experience of young people considering a career in the law. The Law Camp gives students interested in the legal sphere an opportunity to interact with professionals in both a classroom lecture and moot court setting.

Judge Horne is a keen preservationist and has diligently protected and served Loudoun County's historic courthouse building in Leesburg. He is also a member of the Board of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Judge Thomas Horne for the outstanding services he provided to the United States throughout his long-lasting career. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.