

IN HONOR OF VINZ KOLLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable public service of Vinz Koller, who has worked tirelessly to strengthen and improve the American democratic process, both nationally and in Monterey County, California. As an immigrant who chose to be an American, Vinz embodies the core civic values of our nation's citizenship. Those of us who have had the great good fortune to have known Vinz over the years have all been touched by his tremendous integrity and boundless determination. So it is my pleasure to join with my Monterey County Democratic Party friends in recognizing Vinz for his invaluable support for strengthening democracy.

Vinz came to Monterey County to study at the Monterey Institute of International Studies after earning a BA in political science and English from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. Professionally, he is Director of Training and Technical Assistance at Social Policy Research Associates and is in frequent demand as trainer and facilitator on a wide range of workforce development related topics for the U.S. Department of Labor and state and local agencies. Vinz likes to hike the Big Sur coastline, paddle on the bay in his kayak, climb Sierra peaks on skis or ride the bike trails at the former Fort Ord. He is a passionate bread baker and for ten seasons has been singing in the Carmel Bach Festival chorus.

Vinz played an active role in the 2004 presidential campaign at the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC, as well as Arizona and Oregon. This experience energized Vinz to improve the community level Democratic Party infrastructure in his home community. In 2004 and 2005, he was a vital member of the "Boots Camp" team that designed an ambitious new strategy that would establish the Monterey County Democrats as one of most effective central committees in California.

Later, Vinz set up a countywide precinct program for the Monterey County Democrats, managed the 2008 presidential and 2012 special election campaigns, and is currently working the 2016 campaign. Vinz chaired the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee from 2006 to 2016. In that capacity he led the way in executing and refining strategy as the local Democratic party helped elect a list of great Democratic candidates, train hundreds of volunteers, and establish a culture of excellence and integrity, which in turn has been instrumental in attracting many new members. He is currently the Campaign Coordinator for the Monterey County Democrats and Chair of the Democratic 27th Assembly District Committee and is on the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Vinz for his dedicated civic involvement. The strength of our Republic depends on the tireless efforts of the women and men like Vinz who make our democracy vibrant and representative.

RECOGNIZING DEB NEYMAN FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deb Neyman, one of the winners of the 23rd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Deb has earned that distinction.

Deb suffered a stroke in June of 2015 that affected her speech and body. It wasn't long after, in July of 2015, that she then suffered a second stroke. In August of 2015 she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and underwent surgery for a Hysterectomy in September of the same year. At only 47-years-old and working as an educator, with two school-age children living at home, Deb faced a tragic sequence of events that would have stunned even the bravest among us. Yet, through all of these troubles, Deb, with the boundless support of her husband, has approached her situation with a positive and cheerful attitude.

Today, she has made an amazing recovery with the strong support of her friends and family, and has regained much of her previous routine, even managing to return to educating for the Glendale School District.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Deb has made. Her strength and positivity in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Deb the best as she continues to reclaim her health and life.

CONGRATULATING BOB MARIANO
ON RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor an innovator, entrepreneur, and business leader from the 6th District of Illinois. Bob Mariano has dedicated the last 49 years of his life to the grocery industry and on September 1st, he retired. After an iconic run as a leader in grocery retailing in Chicagoland, Bob has earned his rest and relaxation.

Bob started his career in the grocery industry in 1967. At the ripe age of 17, he worked as a part-time deli clerk at Dominick's Finer Foods. He rose through the ranks, holding various roles including Senior Vice President, before being named President and CEO of Dominick's in 1995. Bob led Dominick's through an initial public offering in 1996 and its eventual sale in 1998.

In 2010, equipped with years of expertise, Bob started a new venture—he opened his own grocery store. The first Mariano's opened in 2010 in Arlington Heights, bringing a new model of affordable, upscale groceries with a focus on in-store restaurants, sushi offerings,

and other freshly prepared amenities. Since then Mariano's has had a mercurial rise, adding another 36 stores in just six short years. None of that would have been possible without Bob's expertise and vision. It is no surprise that other leaders in the grocery field praise his work. Chairman and CEO of the Kroger Co., Rodney McMullen, which recently bought Mariano's, stated, "Bob is an innovator and his legacy in the grocery industry will be celebrated for many years to come. More importantly, Bob is a great friend to all of us here".

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in congratulating Bob Mariano on an accomplished career and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CALEB JAMES KOKER REMARKS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Sergeant Caleb James Koker for his many accomplishments in his service to the U.S. Army National Guard in Marion, IL. Caleb is a Fairfield, IL native who attends Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Caleb has a remarkable service record. He finished at the top of his class in all of his military training, and he also proved to be a proficient marksman by passing his M4 rifle training with a perfect score of 40/40. Caleb then joined Unit HHC2-130 INF of the U.S. Army National Guard in Marion, where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at only 20 years old. That made Caleb the youngest soldier to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the history of his unit. Since then, Caleb has gone on to earn three Army Achievement Medals while serving in his unit.

The fact that Caleb has balanced a distinguished service career with a stellar academic career makes his accomplishments even more impressive. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his undergraduate education at SIUC, and he will travel to Pennsylvania to train as a Multitrans System Operator in the next few weeks. Caleb will earn a degree in Criminal Justice when he graduates from SIUC this December, and he will enlist as an active duty member of the U.S. Army upon graduation. After that, Caleb plans to continue to serve our country by pursuing a career in Federal Law Enforcement.

I offer my congratulations to Sergeant Caleb Koker for his accomplishments while serving in the U.S. Army National Guard and while pursuing his college degree, and I wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve our country with pride.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Number 492 through 504, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.