

Many of our members have achieved and maintained high and enviable standards of conduct and we believe you qualify with the best.

We gather annually since November 25, 1932 to celebrate God's blessing of family harmony and unity. There are no dues and we are not autograph collectors . . . we are simply proud of our family and wish to include you in this honorary capacity.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. LEWIS Jr., *Esquire.*

RECOGNIZING DR. MARIO POON 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 Dr. Mario Poon, 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, Dr. Poon has earned that distinction.

Dr. Poon has been serving the community as a Cardiologist for the past 23 years. In this capacity, Dr. Poon is known for his tireless efforts to care for his patients. However, an unfortunate stroke landed him at the HealthSouth Rehab Hospital in July 2015. Dr. Poon began his rehabilitation requiring extensive assistance with activities like speaking and standing. But with hard work, he earned the freedom to return home.

Once transitioning to outpatient status, Dr. Poon maintained a great attitude and work ethic, as he focused on recovery. Along with his tenacious efforts, Dr. Poon has had the support and care of his wife, Amy, family, and friends. These factors have enabled him to regain his ability to walk without any devices. As such, he is back to traveling with his wife while still maintaining a commitment to his wellness program.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Dr. Poon on his successful progress. His accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work and persistence, we can overcome any hardship. I honor him for his perseverance, and I wish him the best as he continues to overcome this setback.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote 496. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Aye on roll call vote 496.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House September 12 through 13, 2016, due to prior family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call Number 496: Yea; Roll Call Number 497: Yea; Roll Call Number 498: Yea; Roll Call Number 499: Yea; Roll Call Number 500: Yea; Roll Call Number 501: Aye; Roll Call Number 502: Yea; Roll Call Number 503: Yea; Roll Call Number 504: Yea.

TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, modern day slavery is happening all around us, and it occurs in the form of human trafficking. Victims are sold into sex slavery, drugged, beaten, threatened and forced to engage in horrifying acts at the demand of their captors. While many Americans are aware that human trafficking occurs, most think it exists primarily in faraway countries. This assumption however, is wildly mistaken. Many of us do not realize that in this nation, and in our very own backyards, individuals are held against their will, their bodies sold repeatedly day in and day out. In every state, city and suburb traffickers prey upon the most vulnerable and chain them to a life of unimaginable misery. As Americans, we cannot turn a blind eye to this fact any more.

Human trafficking victims are constantly moved around by their traffickers, whether that's across our borders or around the country. This movement helps them evade law enforcement and increase profits by shuffling victims from buyer to buyer. With traffickers constantly on the road, who could possibly find and rescue these victims? Kylla Lanier asked herself that exact question several years ago when she set out to battle the scourge of human trafficking. It seemed insurmountable. Trafficking was everywhere, but then again she thought, so were truckers.

Kylla, her mother and three sisters went on to pioneer the anti-trafficking group, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). At 3.5 million strong, American truckers are an ideal ally in the war against trafficking. They have eyes and ears everywhere, from 12-lane freeways to dark back alleyways. The idea is simple. TAT trains truckers to spot potential trafficking operations or victims and report to a 24-hour hotline. These tips have already freed hundreds of trafficking victims, and as TAT continues to educate more truckers, we expect that number to rise. Due to the simplicity and success of this strategy, many trucking schools now teach trafficking prevention as part of their core curriculum.

I wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of Kylla and her family, as well as those of all the truckers who have joined this fight against trafficking. We should all learn from this success story, but truckers cannot do this alone. We

have a long road ahead of us in order to eradicate our country of modern day slavery. We must continue to raise awareness across all fields and in all parts of our society. The only way to defeat the evil of human trafficking is by banding together and working as one.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call Number 496, "yea."

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF JOSEPHINE COVELLI

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary woman. Josephine Covelli will celebrate a 90th birthday on September 30th, 2016. Josephine, or "Jo" as she is known to her family and friends, has been a fixture in her community for many years. Her passionate service has extended to the Trumbull Mobile Meals program, children's rehabilitation in Warren, Ohio as well as the Hibiscus House in Stuart. Beyond that Josephine has been heavily involved with her time, as well as through generous financial contributions in all children's services at Blessed Sacrament and JFK.

Along with service to her community, Jo knows how to relax. She has won more awards than anyone else in the history of the Trumbull County Country Club and has been highlighted in the papers for winning more tournaments than anyone else in the Valley—including two wins in the Amateur Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Josephine is loved by her family and all those who are lucky enough to know her. In addition to thanking her for her service to our community, I would like to wish her the most wonderful 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends. We are a better community because of the great work of Josephine Covelli.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,484,660,626,765.52. We've added \$8,857,783,577,852.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.