Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Morgan Atkinson. Morgan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Morgan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Morgan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Morgan contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Morgan Atkinson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID LUIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of David Luis, former battalion chief for the Ripon Consolidated Fire Department. He passed away on November 24, 2016, surrounded by loved ones.

Over 26 years, David dedicated himself to the Ripon Consolidated Fire Department. He advanced from firefighter to captain to battalion chief. He had a passion for helping people, which was reflected not only in his professional career, but also in his personal life.

When David was not working, you could find him coaching youth football or helping FFA members with their projects. He also served as a member of the Ripon High School Ag Advisory Board. His selfless service has left an impact on multiple generations.

An inspiration to his family, friends and community, David brought out the best in people. His life embodied simple principles of authenticity, kindness, loyalty, humility, hard work, integrity, and above all, service. Our community will greatly miss David’s presence, but his legacy will live on.

David leaves behind his wife Clarice, three children, Josh, Kaleigh, and Courtney, as well as his father, brother, sister, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Dave Luis and thanking him for his many years of outstanding and heroic service to the Ripon community. God bless him always.

HONORING MORGAN ATKINSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

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TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2016 recipients of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations—NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation’s immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today, creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. 2016 marks NECO’s 30th anniversary. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a re-commitment by the leaders of the organizations. The dedication of honoring diversity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

Since the Medals’ founding, more than 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including six American Presidents, 50 Members of Congress, 40 Olympians, 400 NASA Astronauts, 1,200 World War II Veterans, over 100 Nobel Laureates, Legends of Sports, 50 Filmmakers, 250 Musician, 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today, creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. 2016 marks NECO’s 30th anniversary. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a re-commitment by the leaders of the organizations. The dedication of honoring diversity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

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