

century classroom. He also initiated the first student-built energy alternative project in Indiana on a school roof. Chancellor Thomas Keon, Ph.D., led the unification of two college campuses into a single university, Purdue University Northwest, which is one of the first innovative educational mergers in Indiana. The merger creates more choices for students, promotes regional identity, and contributes to economic development in Northwest Indiana. Elizabeth Lynn, Ph.D., is the director and founder of Valparaiso University's Center for Civic Reflection (CCR). A truly innovative learning center, the CCR is nationally recognized and applies the use of humanities and civic conversations within communities in America. The center has trained more than 7,000 facilitators and led more than 20,000 people in public, community, and workplace dialogues. Sandra Chimon-Peszek Rogers, Ph.D., is the director of Calumet College of Saint Joseph's Biophysical Chemistry Department and a researcher of Alzheimer's disease. She developed an innovative curriculum combining lecture and hands-on learning that is especially helpful for struggling students. This award winning program has thrived and is a source of pride for the college. Mayor Joseph Stahura, of Whiting, Indiana, led the city's transformation into a flourishing 21st century destination. He has put life back into the community by re-establishing and beautifying the Whiting lakefront, revitalizing the downtown area, and bringing the National Mascot Hall of Fame to Whiting, to name just a few of his major accomplishments. Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins is the Superintendent of Michigan City Area Schools. Under her leadership, the school system has flourished due to the collaboration of the community and county. Among her achievements, she launched the first NIPSCO Energy Academy in Indiana, the first STEM public elementary school, and the first construction technology program in Indiana.

Urschel Laboratories received the Greatness Award for Team Innovation, presented to Rick Urschel, President, for the company's inspiration to create future innovation. Urschel is now owned by its employees and recently completed a new \$100 million, 350,000 square foot manufacturing facility and headquarters.

The Chanute Prize for Team Innovation was presented to the Grand Calumet River Partners in Restoration. Collaborating with eight companies and working with regulatory agencies, the clean-up and transformation of the Grand Calumet River has been astounding, with more than 80 percent of the river being revitalized over the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these noteworthy, inspiring innovators. The contributions each has made to society here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, these recipients are worthy of the highest commendation.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTERS
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ON THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an organization in my district, Centers for Children and Families, on the opening of their new facility.

Since 1957, Centers has helped strengthen individuals and families throughout West Texas by providing counseling for those who would otherwise be unable to afford these services. In addition to counseling services, Centers also provides assistance with life management skills, parenting classes, post-adoption support, and programs that help children have safe and positive supervised parental visits.

As a prior Chairman of the Board for Centers, I have been fortunate enough to see firsthand the great work that this organization does for the Permian Basin community. With the opening of their new facility, Centers will have quality space to carry on their long-standing legacy of helping people get through the difficult times they may be facing. I wish them best of luck in their future endeavors.

UNITED STATES GREEN BERET
JAMES "JIMMY" MORIARTY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2016, a military base in Jafr, Jordan was attacked. A hail of gunfire suddenly rang out while three American soldiers were returning to base. The reason for the shots fired is still publicly unknown. Three Green Berets from the 5th Special Forces Group were killed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

One of these heroic men was Staff Sergeant James "Jimmy" Moriarty (27). SSgt. Moriarty was a Texas native, one of Houston's own. He was scheduled to come home to spend the holiday season with his family. His chair was empty at the Thanksgiving table this year. His voice was missing from the conversation. But he will not be forgotten.

Jimmy was unquestionably one of the best. Growing up in Houston, he earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Texas and spoke fluent Arabic. As part of the 5th Special Forces Group, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., he was more than three months into his third tour in Jordan.

Upon graduation from the University of Texas, Jimmy made the choice to serve his nation in the United States Army. Jimmy was a proud member of the United States Army Special Forces. He was a special breed, one of the few who met the requirements to be among the highest ranked military professionals in the United States, the Green Berets.

During his service, he earned the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service

Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon and an Army Service Ribbon.

The brave men of the Green Beret are our nation's warriors. They take on the toughest missions that our nation faces. They are the absolute best that America has. These men are the forces who deter enemies who seek to harm the United States. They respond to terrorist activities to keep the United States safe. Proudly wearing silver wings on their chests they are without question America's finest.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of Marcus Luttrell, "In times of uncertainty there is a special breed of warrior ready to answer our Nation's call; a common man with uncommon desire to succeed. Forged by adversity, he stands alongside America's finest special operations forces to serve his country and the American people, and to protect their way of life." Jimmy Moriarty was one of these men.

Jimmy's father, U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, James R. Moriarty wrote, "This is a young man who loved serving in the Army, was where he wanted to be, doing what he wanted to do." Moriarty was loved by his two sisters who incessantly saw to it that their younger brother would be a well rounded young man. It is without a doubt that this distinguished soldier will be missed by his family, friends, and community.

We grieve the loss of this American warrior, but we celebrate and honor his life and his service. We are fortunate to have a Green Beret like Moriarty standing in support of our country. We are fortunate that a man like Jimmy served our great nation. He stood for the best of those American ideals and values exemplified in Special Forces. He is a son of liberty. He epitomizes everything that America stands for. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

At noon on December 5, 2016 taps will be played for the last time as Staff Sergeant James Moriarty is surrounded by his family and friends and will be buried in Arlington National cemetery next to thousands of other warriors who died for America.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #588 on H.R. 5422, To ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
MADE BY CHARLES
OGLETREE JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions that Professor Charles Ogletree Jr. has made to the County of Merced. Professor Ogletree has positively impacted the lives of many people in Merced and throughout the nation. His

efforts to transform the educational experience of underprivileged youth in Merced have created new pathways of opportunity for students.

Professor Ogletree has used his career experience as a Professor of Law at Harvard to give back to his hometown. Born in Merced, California, Professor Ogletree attended public schools and earned admission to Stanford University. He earned his Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Political Science. Upon receiving his Master's degree, Professor Ogletree earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. To list the publications authored, awards received, and lives changed by Professor Ogletree would present a task comparable to the writing of a small novel. Professor Ogletree's passion to promote equality of law under the constitution is a theme that has persisted throughout his entire career.

From 2002 to 2007, Professor Ogletree established a scholarship program with \$50,000 in Merced. The scholarship offered low income youth a chance to work in recreation programs over the summer for up to 100 hours, making \$7.00 an hour. Professor Ogletree has extended numerous scholarships to high schools in Merced County, including Golden Valley High School, Merced High School, and El Capitán High School. The tens of thousands of dollars he has offered to students in memory of fellow educators, family members, and friends, have substantially altered future education for Merced students around the country. To this day, the Charles Ogletree Family Scholarships are still offered to high school students in Merced.

As a Professor of Law and Founder and Executive Director of the Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Professor Ogletree will continue to promote the cause of equality. His unfailing willingness to give back to the people of Merced reminds us that his career is not one that has forgotten its humble roots.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Professor Ogletree continued success in his remarkable career as an academic and advocate for equality and justice. His life is a reminder of the success that follows an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and the charity that can come in its wake.

HONORING BERNICE SPRECKMAN

HON. ELIOT L. EMGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing public servant and an even better friend, former Westchester County Legislator Bernice Spreckman, who recently resigned after serving for 20 years as the Representative for the county's 14th District.

A longtime resident of Yonkers, Bernice was first elected in 1995 to the 14th district's legislative seat where she proudly represented and passionately advocated for the hard-working taxpayers of Yonkers and parts of Mount Vernon. Prior to becoming a county legislator, she served in several posts in Yonkers City government, including three terms as 2nd ward Council Member, Council Member-at-large, Vice Mayor and Chair of the City Council's Committees on Rules and Real Estate; she was also elected the first female President

of the New York State Councilman's Association.

As County Legislator, Bernice was a tireless advocate for senior citizens, working to expand the epic program; organized an annual lobby day in Albany; worked in a bi-partisan manor to pass universal design legislation to benefit senior citizens and the disabled community; co-hosted an annual legislative speakout; and worked with State representatives to enact new "independent living" legislation to help protect seniors from being wrongfully displaced.

But for all of her great accomplishments, Bernice's greatest joy in life was always family. She has enjoyed the love and support of her wonderful family; her late husband Harry, who was her constant companion and champion supporter; her devoted sons Alan, and his wife Jill, Rory, Howie, and his wife Dana; she is the loving grandmother to Andrew, Evan, Jake, Jaclyn, Brian, Craig, Mason, Jackson and Julianna.

Though we never sat on the same side of the aisle, I always knew I could count on Bernice when it came to working together on behalf of our shared constituents. She was a tremendous force for good in the community, and I want to congratulate her on a remarkable career.

HONORING JOHN MONTY "JACK"
ALLEN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of John Monty "Jack" Allen, who passed away on September 11, 2016. Jack was a wonderful friend and beloved member of our community whose passing is deeply felt. I have known Jack for all his life, and he will be greatly missed.

John Monty "Jack" Allen was born in 1946, the eldest of two children. Although an avid traveler, Jack lived his entire life in San Jose, California. Jack's family, the Aiellos, settled in Santa Clara Valley in Delight, Contadina Canning Company. Jack's father, Pete, owned a furniture store in Downtown San Jose for more than 50 years, was one of the founders of the Century Club, and was a mentor to me. His uncle, Jack, owned Paolo's Restaurant, a popular destination for local celebrities, including Joe DiMaggio and many elected officials. In fact, my husband, John, proposed to me at Paolo's.

Jack attended Trace Elementary, Hoover Junior High, and Lincoln High Schools, all within walking distance of his family home. He was indoctrinated into local politics from a very young age through his parents' involvement with the Democratic Party, and he volunteered for Democratic candidates and causes throughout his life.

Jack graduated from San Jose State University and became a Certified Public Accountant, a role that he held for the last forty years of his life. At any time, he served more than 400 clients, from small businesses to family members to corporations and trusts. He was known by all as a generous, efficient, and dedicated accountant, as evidenced by the loyalty of his clients.

Jack married Janice Paul in 1974, and they settled in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose in 1976, raising three boys—all of whom attended local schools and shared Jack's passion for politics and history.

Jack was a curious and well-traveled soul, having crisscrossed Europe on a number of occasions, not to mention extensive domestic travels that took him to nearly all 50 states. His wife, Janice, was his favorite travel companion, even after their divorce. (Indeed, they had trips in the works at the time of his sudden passing.)

Jack was also dedicated to serving others and volunteered his time as treasurer and board member for local clubs and charities, from the San Jose Library Foundation to the Democratic Century Club and many more. He could always be counted on to be there for a friend—or a total stranger—in need and would never hesitate to help those who could not help themselves.

For all of this, Jack never sought fanfare, nor acclaim. His reward was the action itself and the knowledge that he made his corner of the world a little brighter for having been there.

He is survived by sons Peter, Chris, and Danny; their mother, Janice; sister, Judy; nieces Corinne and Tina; cousins Carolyn, Jenny, and John; dog, Cooper; and countless friends.

Mr. Speaker, our San Jose community mourns the passing of Jack Allen, but we are grateful for his life, his generosity, and his contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH ORR
AND MARTIN CONTRERAS FOR
THEIR COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Orr and Martin Contreras, two Ann Arbor LGBTQ businessmen and activists, on the date of UNIFIED—HIV Health and Beyond's 13th Annual Wine Cellar fundraiser. Mr. Orr and Mr. Contreras are successful business owners who have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and provide resources to the LGBTQ community in southeast Michigan.

Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr have played a crucial role in building the LGBTQ community through their business and philanthropic initiatives. In 1995, they founded /aut/Bar, a gay bar and restaurant that today serves as a key pillar of the LGBTQ community in the Ann Arbor area. The couple also runs Common Language Books, an LGBTQ bookstore that also hosts authors, forums and serves as a social center for the gay community. Additionally, Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr have been involved in many charitable causes, including UNIFIED—HIV Health and Beyond, which provides care, prevention and outreach services to individuals affected by HIV in southeast Michigan. Their sponsorship and support has been critical to the growth and development of UNIFIED and has allowed the organization to provide better care throughout the region.

Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr's involvement in the LGBTQ and greater Ann Arbor area has helped make the city a great place to live and