

and individuals for their many contributions to our region's economic success and quality of life. Their contributions are among the many reasons why Fairfax County is one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. I commend them on their awards and wish them great success in all future endeavors.

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**BCER GROUP**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the BCER Group for receiving the Colorado Companies to Watch Award, an awards program honoring second-stage companies for the important role they play in Colorado's economy and entrepreneurial community.

The BCER Group is a consulting engineering firm which provides creative and state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical, fire protection, life safety, and technology engineering services for commercial, institutional, industrial, and government projects nationwide. Founded in 1994, the BCER Group has grown to three offices and 88 employees. Today they are known for their ability to make quick decisions, take necessary risks, and evolve with the ever-changing industry in order to provide growth opportunities for their employees, clients and community.

The BCER Group was founded on several guiding principles such as fostering a fun, friendly company environment while still focusing on the serious nature of its work. This founding principle as well as its leadership and commitment to the community remain at the heart of BCER's culture. The company supports a variety of charitable organizations including the Santa House, The Salvation Army, Caruso Charities, Whiz Kids Tutoring Program, and the Children's Hospital Burn Camp.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the BCER Group for this well-deserved recognition by Colorado Companies to Watch and wish them continued success.

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**IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF JIM MILLER**

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Miller on the occasion of his retirement as Federal Liaison for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

For well over fifteen years, Jim diligently worked as an advocate for Ohio's public pension system. By utilizing his unique knowledge and experience, Jim proved himself to be a remarkable asset to both Ohio's public employees and elected officials.

It has been said that Jim has never met a stranger. His quick wit, comfort with people and passion for his work played a large role in his tremendous success. Whether he was speaking with the most senior member of Congress or a junior staff member, Jim was

able to relate and connect with them. This candor allowed parties to come together in an effort to garner meaningful results for beneficiaries and taxpayers alike.

As Jim transitions to his next stage in life, his knowledge and guidance will truly be missed, yet few are more deserving of a peaceful and relaxing retirement. On behalf of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to thank Jim Miller for his many years of service and wish him a happy retirement.

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**HONORING COLONEL SONG LENG  
XIONG**

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Colonel Song Leng Xiong. Colonel Song Leng Xiong passed away peacefully in the presence of his loved ones on September 28, 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 14, 2017 would have been his 78th birthday.

Colonel Song Leng Xiong was born in 1939 in the village of Ban Xoun, Mouang Ped, in the Xieng Khouang Province in Laos. He began his distinguished military career at the age of just 14, when he enlisted in the French Army and was selected to attend training in South Vietnam, serving as a radio operator from 1953 to 1954. From 1956 to 1960, he was assigned a battalion to guard Route 7 in Muang Xoun, and later led the building of the Phou Vieng airfield in his home province.

After being specially selected to further his training in Thailand, in June of 1960, Colonel Song Leng Xiong was tasked with selecting nearly 600 new recruits to receive special training as part of the United States Central Intelligence Agency's Special Guerilla Units. Through this program, the CIA recruited thousands of Hmong soldiers and military leaders like Colonel Song Leng Xiong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos, working as surrogate soldiers of the United States Armed Forces. As many as 100,000 Hmong were recruited and trained to serve as these secret warriors, bravely battling the North Vietnamese Army for our country's cause.

Colonel Song Leng Xiong fought in many battles for our country. In addition to leading his own battalion, he personally rescued and retrieved over seven American pilots who were shot down over Laos. His is one of countless stories of Hmong service-members and military leaders who protected our country through conducting guerrilla actions, guarding key installations, gathering intelligence, and undertaking rescue missions—all in the name of freedom.

While the Secret War in Laos ended in 1975, Colonel Song Leng Xiong's service to his people and our country did not. Many refugees of the Secret War sought a better life here in the United States. Colonel Song Leng Xiong, a refugee himself, chose to stay behind and continue helping his fellow refugees in the transition. He immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1993 after the United Nations closed the Ban Vinai refugee camp. In Minneapolis, Colonel Song Leng Xiong became a leader in our community through his service as Chair of

the Lao-Hmong American Coalition chapter of Minnesota. In this role, he and his wife, Manichan Xiong, worked to share the stories of their community so that all Americans never forget their sacrifice.

I am honored to recognize my constituent Colonel Song Leng Xiong for his tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country. We are all better off due to his life of service. His dedication to freedom and to this country will never be forgotten. Thank you, Colonel Song Leng Xiong, for protecting our country with such great distinction, and for the legacy you leave of continuing the fight for freedom.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE 187TH AIR  
NATIONAL GUARD FIGHTER WING**

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Alabama is a state rich with tradition and legacies of excellence. Yet, one that stands out is the legacy of military excellence exhibited by the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing, located at Dannelly Field in Montgomery, Alabama.

The 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing has an unparalleled legacy of excellence worthy of praise and worth protecting for the future. Currently, the guard unit is a prime candidate to fly the new F-35A Lightning II fighter jets, known as the Joint Strike Fighter. The 187th currently flies the oldest F-16s in the U.S. Air Force's inventory; however, it is among eighteen Air National Guard units competing for the coveted new aircraft.

The Alabama delegation in Congress is unanimous and steadfast in our support of the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing winning this new assignment. Nothing helps us make the case more than the long history of outstanding military service that has been the proud legacy of the 187th.

The 187th Fighter Wing has a proven combat track record and an unparalleled military heritage. It is home to the 100th Fighter Squadron—the famed “Red Tails.” This squadron's lineage traces back to World War II and the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black military pilots and support personnel.

The 187th benefits from being a key strategic resource—only five miles from Maxwell Air Force Base, and twenty-five minutes flying time from Eglin, Tyndall, Hurlburt, and Moody Air Force Bases. This presents numerous opportunities for joint air-to-air and air-to-ground training. F-35 pilots of the 187th may also utilize the electronic ranges on Eglin AFB. This is all contingent, however, on the unit being outfitted with the new fighter jets. During my tenure in office, I have been and will continue to be a stalwart advocate for this vital national resource located in my district.

As a Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that confront our nation. I am also keenly aware that the world we live in is filled with potential threats that are constantly developing and changing. We have to remain ever vigilant and be prepared to not only confront ongoing threats but those emerging as well. A