

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE LAVELL
EDWARDS

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor legendary BYU football coach LaVell Edwards, who passed away December 29, 2016 at the age of 86.

During the 29 years he coached at Brigham Young University, Edwards transformed a team that had never been ranked or invited to a bowl game into a perpetual force in college football.

Best remembered for leading his team to a national championship in 1984, Edwards also racked up an impressive 257–103 win/loss record. His team won 20 conference championships and qualified for 22 bowl game appearances.

LaVell Edwards touched countless lives, including mine, in a profound and positive way. I feel so fortunate to be among the many young men Coach Edwards influenced and molded during his storied career at BYU. My life is forever changed by my experience as a place kicker on his team.

Upon retiring from BYU in 2000, Edwards and his wife Patti served a mission for the LDS Church in New York, where, in addition to his missionary role, Edwards was invited to put his talents to work coaching football to Harlem youth.

Coach Edwards leaves behind a legacy of success on the field and off. He was a man of integrity whose example his players all wanted to emulate. He is survived by his wife Patti and three children. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
DRINKARD

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a very special person and dear friend of mine, David Drinkard.

David was a former art teacher at Warren High School in Warren, Texas and a renowned wildlife painter. We have been friends since attending Forest Park High School and Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas. He was an expert at painting God's beautiful creations in nature. There is nothing prettier than a "David Drinkard sky." His paintings hang in homes, businesses and galleries all over, including my own home and dental office.

David was a devout Christian, a loyal husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a strong conservative and an active conservationist, donating many paintings for auction to the Coastal Conservation

Association and other groups to help raise funds for conservation projects and causes. He was an excellent hunter and probably ranked as one of the best fishermen with whom I ever had the privilege of casting a lure.

I am honored to have one of his paintings prominently displayed in my congressional office in Washington. It depicts David and me catching speckled trout on Sabine Lake in Texas. Some of my children and I even took art lessons from him in his hometown of Warren years ago. David Drinkard has a very special place in our hearts and we will miss him dearly.

David passed away on December 26, 2016. His wife Beverly and family will continue to be in our prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AVALOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Avalos for eight years of exemplary service on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. John has demonstrated remarkable leadership and collaboration in his efforts to improve the quality of life for all San Francisco residents and particularly those in District 11. He has been a tireless champion of affordable housing, social services, infrastructure and clean energy.

Representing District 11, one of San Francisco's most vibrant and diverse districts, John began his work on the board in 2008 at the height of the Great Recession. He served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee leading San Francisco through the daunting process of closing a billion dollar budget hole while saving jobs and essential services for seniors and children. His commitment to jobs didn't stop with those early years. One of his recent pieces of legislation provided thousands of living wage jobs to San Francisco residents, earning him the reputation as a protector of working-class families.

John also introduced legislation protecting tenants of foreclosed properties and providing rental assistance for low-income families. His bill creating a real estate transfer tax has brought in \$50 million in annual city revenue.

In his current role as the Chair of the Transportation Authority, Supervisor Avalos oversees the analysis, design and funding for long-term transportation planning for the city. In the City challenged by ever-increasing traffic congestion, John understands the impact on the quality of life and the necessity to create solutions. He is a staunch advocate of alternative modes of transportation and introduced the strongest employee bike access law in the country, the Bicycle Access and Safety Ordinance. It allows employees to bring their bikes into the office, creating an opportunity for thousands of people to ride their bicycles to

work easing congestion, cutting emissions, improving air quality, and maximizing public transportation.

It was at John's urging that the Employees' Retirement System divested almost \$600 million in holdings from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. He authored Citizens United Measure Prop G, a policy opposing corporate personhood which was overwhelmingly approved by voters. He has taken on financial fraud, launching an investigation in 2013 into the London InterBank Offered Rate fraud scandal and its impact on San Francisco.

Supervisor Avalos has been a fighter for justice, equality and fairness. As a third generation Mexican-American, one of seven siblings, and one of the first generation in his family to attend college, you can trace John's drive and ambition back to his early years. He moved to San Francisco in 1989 and immersed himself in education, organizing and protecting the rights of others. He earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University and began his career as a counselor through the San Francisco Conservation Corps and the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club. He then worked for Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth and for the Justice for Janitors Campaign of the Service Employees International Union.

During his time on the board of supervisors, John continued his work with many outstanding community groups in District 11 such as the OMI Community Collaborative, Excelsior Collaborative, Communities United for Health and Justice, and Coleman Advocates. He firmly believes that real change starts at a grassroots level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Supervisor John Avalos for his outstanding public service to the residents of San Francisco, in his district and beyond. This champion of the people may leave San Francisco City Hall, but he will no doubt continue to shape life in the City for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call vote 3 on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
"JIM" HOWARD SHAW

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of James "Jim"

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Howard Shaw, a remarkable Texan who passed away on December 27, 2016 after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Jim's family has deep roots in Fort Worth, having moved there to open Shaw Brothers' Dairy in the late 1800s. Jim was born on September 12, 1950 to Bill and Betty Shaw. He attended Paschal High School where he was a stand-out track athlete, earning himself a scholarship to Louisiana Tech University. Jim hung up his cleats for law school at Texas Tech and began practicing law in 1975, briefly as a prosecutor and then in private practice as a defense attorney—a role he continued through the final months of his life.

Over his 41 years as a defense attorney, Jim earned the reputation of being a staunch protector of his clients' rights, representing each within the full bounds of the law. His colleagues recall that he would often get hired on a Sunday, pick a jury on Monday, and earn a favorable outcome by the end of the week. Jim loved the art of trying a case. Anyone who watched him in action would agree he was a master of his craft, making lasting friendships and inspiring his peers along the way.

When not in the courtroom, Jim could be found on the golf course at Colonial Country Club, behind home plate cheering on the Texas Rangers, or on a patio somewhere enjoying Mexican food. However, more than anything, Jim loved his family and spending genuine time with them. He is survived by his wife Carol; children James Shaw Jr., Ben Shaw, Tim Shaw, and his stepchildren Steven Prewitt and Aimee Plummer; 11 grandchildren; and his brothers Bill Shaw, David Shaw and Greg Shaw.

Jim Shaw's death leaves a great hole in the hearts of many, but his passion for the law and his kind heart will be felt for generations to come. Fort Worth was lucky to have him and is a better city because of his devotion to justice. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Jim Shaw. May he rest in peace.

HONORING KAREN ERVIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Karen Ervin who served on the Pacifica City Council for four years, including 2015 as the mayor of this picturesque coastal town of about 40,000 residents. As a Pacifica native and lifelong resident, Karen understands and feels the pulse of her town. Even before her time on the council, she always volunteered and gave back to the community. It has been my privilege to work with Karen and to call her a friend.

During her term on the council, Karen served as the liaison to the Economic Development Committee, the Beautification Committee, Pacifica School Volunteers, Emergency Preparedness Task Force, and the Pacifica Resource Center. She also served as a member of the C/CAG Legislative Committee and the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, an Association of Bay Area Governments delegate, and a member of the San Mateo County Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force.

One of her top priorities was to improve the fiscal health of the city. Her experience on the

Financing City Services Task Force helped her tackle the difficult task of balancing the budget and making it possible to fund numerous projects such as the acquisition of a property to finish the Devil's Slide Trail, the Pacifica Resource Center and the Pacifica Beach Coalition. An ERAF reserve fund was also essential in responding to severe damage Pacifica suffered during El Nino storms in the winter of 2015, damage that drew worldwide attention.

Karen loves her hometown and pursues every opportunity to improve the quality of life of all residents. She has been one of the main drivers to create a beautiful downtown along Palmetto Boulevard and to let the world know that Pacifica is a wonderful place to live, work, play, eat and thrive.

As in every small town, city council members serve because they are dedicated to public service. It requires countless hours of meetings, homework and visits in the community for very little compensation. Karen has always managed to make time for her council duties despite her very demanding full-time job as a Senior Research Associate and Project Manager at Genentech in South San Francisco where she has worked for 15 years. Her experience, work ethic and resourcefulness have continually benefited her colleagues and all residents of Pacifica.

On a sunny August Day in 2015 while Karen was mayor, traffic came to a standstill on Highway 1, Pacifica's major thoroughfare, for the entire day. Two car accidents and major roadwork by Caltrans brought out the worst in motorists who were stranded for hours. They crashed the city's Nextdoor page and jammed phone lines. Feeling her constituents' pain, Karen fielded calls on her cell phone and gave advice and updates from her personal Facebook page. She effectively became the communications center and traffic officer.

Before joining the city council, Karen volunteered her time and energy on PTO Boards and in classrooms for 15 years. She was one of the individuals starting the Ingrid B. Lacy and Terra Nova Crab Feeds supporting the schools' PTOs and Booster clubs. From 2006 to 2010, she served on the Pacifica School District Governing Board, and for the last five years she served on the Board of Directors of Pacificans Care, a non-profit that is essential in supporting social services organizations in the community. Karen is a member of the American Association of University Women and the co-chair of Tech Trek in Pacifica which sends three third grade girls to Stanford to experience college life. Somehow she still manages to find enough time to continue her volunteer work with the Pacifica Beach Coalition. You can often find her cleaning up beaches, trails or creeks.

Karen's family moved to Pacifica in 1965. She grew up in the back of Linda Mar Valley and attended Oddstead Elementary School, Ortega Middle School and Terra Nova High School. She earned her BS in Microbiology and Genetic Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

She married another Pacifica native, Mike Ervin, and they raised two now-grown children, Zach and Aly. After retiring from the council, Karen is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends, and running and hiking with her two dogs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House to join me in recognizing the contribu-

tions outgoing City Councilmember and former Mayor Karen Ervin has made to her beloved home town, Pacifica. The residents are very fortunate that she continually dedicated her passion and skills to improving the lives of all Pacificans.

HONORING DONALD J. HELLMANN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Donald "Don" J. Hellmann. Don is retiring from his position as the Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs in the National Park Service after 22 years of communicating the mission and goals of the National Park Service to Congress and working closely with our members and staff to advance the Service's legislative priorities. Don's vast knowledge of environmental law and policy, his expertise in drafting National Park Service legislation, and his exemplary dedication to public service will be greatly missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Don joined the National Park Service in 1994 as the Deputy Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs. He led a staff of legislative specialists in developing National Park Service legislation, advised National Park Service leadership on pending legislation, and served as a liaison with members of Congress on legislation affecting the National Park Service. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Director in 2009 by Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

Over the course of his career, Don drafted hundreds of bills and amendments affecting national parks, national heritage areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails that were ultimately enacted by Congress. He was instrumental in crafting all the major park-related legislative packages of the last two decades, including the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333), the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-391), the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229), the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), and Title XXX of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (P.L. 113-291).

Don also played a key role in the reorganization and transfer of National Park System-wide laws from title 16 to title 54 of the United States Code, enacted in 2014 (P.L. 113-287) which has made the drafting of park-related legislation significantly more streamlined. Most recently, he was the principal author of the legislative proposal, the National Park Service Centennial Act, that President Obama sent to Congress in 2015. Legislation based on that proposal passed the House on December 6.

Prior to working for the National Park Service, Don was Vice President for Conservation at The Wilderness Society, where he directed the conservation advocacy program and coordinated the litigation agenda of the organization. Before assuming this position, Don served as Legislative Counsel for the society. Don joined The Wilderness Society's staff in 1988.

Don also worked here on Capitol Hill as Legislative Counsel to House Majority Whip Tony Coelho (D-CA) from 1985 to 1988 and as a Legislative Assistant and in other roles to U.S. Senator Walter D. Huddleston (D-KY) from 1977 to 1985. Don taught History and English to junior high school students in Kentucky from 1973 to 1976.

Don is a native of Kentucky who received a B.A. in History/Secondary Education from Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Kentucky, an M.A. in Politics from Catholic University of America, and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and holds a Life Certification as a Secondary Education Teacher from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A resident of Annandale, Va., his favorite national park is Maui's Haleakala, which is centered around a volcanic crater that he described as "like walking on the moon."

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his outstanding contributions to the National Park Service and to the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2017, my electronic voting card malfunctioned and I was not registered as recording a vote on H. Res. 5, "Adopting Rules for the 115th Congress." I wish to reflect my intentions on roll call No. 6, as a "NAY" vote.

HONORING GONZALO "SAL" TORRES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sal Torres, a departing member of the City Council of Daly City and a friend who has never ceased to serve the people of his community with distinction during his twenty years on the council. Sal Torres has, during these past two decades, become the symbol of this prosperous town filled with talented, industrious residents from around the world.

In 1996, Sal made history by becoming the first Latino to win a seat on the City Council of Daly City and, in 2000, became Daly City's first Mayor of Latino descent. This year he will be finishing his public service as Mayor.

It is difficult to fully describe the impact of Mayor Torres upon Daly City, but it has been enormously beneficial. Over his 20 years in office, the city changed from a typical suburban community south of a major U.S. city, into a thriving commercial center with major new office buildings adjacent to a regional mass transit station. Sal was part of a team that evaluated and approved the rebuilding of Westlake Shopping Center into a modern, thriving retail hub. Today, this center is so essential to the constituents of Mayor Torres and to surrounding communities that it's probably easier

to find a parking space in downtown Manhattan than in the garage and lots of Westlake Shopping Center.

Social justice is a core belief of Mayor Torres. Long before his ascension to the council, he earned recognition during his undergraduate years at UCLA for his outstanding contributions as a volunteer in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Throughout all of 1984, Sal worked with the Southwest Voter Registration & Education Project and helped to successfully register over 120,000 new Latino voters for the 1984 general election. He is still the only graduate in the history of the University of San Francisco School of Law to be awarded, in the same year, both the Judge Harold J. Haley Award given by the faculty for outstanding scholastic achievements and the Student Bar Association Award given by his peers for exceptional contributions made to and on behalf of the graduating class.

Sal was a founding member of the non-profit Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) of San Mateo, a provider of affordable home loans to community residents, and an advocate for new construction of affordable housing. Daly City has always played a vital role in providing affordable housing in San Mateo County. Sal understands the linkage between human dignity and housing and between economic security and owning a home.

Life is more than hard work and housing. If residents in north San Mateo wish to enjoy a summer afternoon, they can see a movie at a major metroplex that Sal shaped as part of a team that revitalized areas east of Highway 280. They can also play on city sports fields that he voted to support because he views recreation as vital to the physical and spiritual health of city residents.

With all of these public accomplishments, one might reasonably wonder if Sal Torres had time to earn a living. He certainly did. As an accomplished attorney, he's worked on behalf of the California School Employees Association, Arysta Life Science Corporation, LSI Logic, Marvell Technology Group, and Equinix, Inc., among many clients. He also hosted and co-produced a popular talk show on the UPN-TV affiliate, KBHK Channel 44, El Amanecer ("Daybreak"), which addressed social, political and cultural issues in the Latino community. In 2000, Sal was selected as one of California's "Top 20 Lawyers under the age of 40" by California Law Business.

At times through the year, the sun sets off the shoreline of Daly City and into the Pacific. It is a scene that is at once stunningly beautiful and yet a brutal reminder that we are transitory figures in history. Sal Torres has never been a public servant who sought immortality through public works with his name in concrete, nor has he been a flamboyant personality in the city's life.

However, as a humble servant of his community, he has shown a relentless dedication to public wellbeing. Whereas the Pacific erodes the city's cliffs and the freeway divides its corpus, Sal built its community spirit through a dedication to collegiality that created lasting bonds, and a love of Daly City by its residents, equal in strength to any steel and certainly more enduring than the boundary of the city with the sea. Sal will be missed at the dais, but ever-present in the hearts and minds of his community. In the end, this is a monument that is far more enduring than a name in concrete. Sal Torres loves Daly City, and Daly City treasures Sal Torres.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL RANDOLPH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Michael Randolph upon his retirement as Fire Chief for the City of Napa Fire Department. Chief Randolph is retiring after an impressive 27 year firefighting career, including serving as Chief for four years.

Chief Randolph completed his B.A. Degree in Information and Communication Studies and then began his career with the City of Napa Fire Department as a firefighter in 1989. He was promoted to a firefighter paramedic five years after that. He was subsequently promoted to Captain, Battalion Chief and Division Chief before becoming Chief in 2012. Chief Randolph has distinguished himself in his department as an excellent mentor, coach, co-worker and friend.

Chief Randolph is dedicated to our community and has provided leadership to many of our service and community organizations. He serves as Board Member and President of the California Fire Chiefs Operations Section, on the Paramedic Advisory Board for Napa Valley College, as the Chair of the Napa County Emergency Medical Care Committee and as a member of Life Healthy Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Randolph has had a dedicated firefighting career and is known for his strong, focused and determined leadership. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement with his wife, Wendy, and his children, Andrew and Hanna.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH BAGGETT, JAG CORPS, U.S. NAVY (RET)

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Joseph Baggett, JAGC, USN (ret), who is retiring after 46 years of combined active duty and civilian service to our nation with the United States Navy.

Captain Baggett was born into a military family. The son of a career enlisted Marine, Captain Baggett grew up in the presence of the United States Navy in such diverse locations as Naval Air Station Pensacola, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and the United Kingdom. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Tulane University in May 1971. He later earned a J.D. from Tulane University School of Law, and an LL. M. in Ocean and Coastal Law from the University of Miami School of Law. A longtime resident of Herndon, Virginia is his home.

In 1971, Captain Baggett began his dedicated service to our nation as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. During the next 30 years, Captain Baggett served on active duty in a wide variety of roles, traveling throughout the United States and overseas. His assignments included two tours as a Supply Corps

officer, including service onboard USS *Rich* (DD 820); Naval Legal Service Office, Jacksonville, Florida; Commander, Middle East Force; Commander, Iceland Defense Force; Commander, Sixth Fleet; Navy Office of Legislative Affairs; and the Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. Later in his career he served as Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General for International Law; as Counsel for National Security to the Deputy Attorney General of the United States; as Staff Judge Advocate for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; as Commanding Officer, Naval Legal Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia; and as Director of the Legislation Division in the Office of Legislative Affairs.

Following his retirement from active duty in December 2000, Captain Baggett continued his superlative service to the Navy as a civilian, serving for another sixteen years as Deputy Director of the International and Operational Law Division in the Office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon. In that role, he has been a constant champion of our national interests in the areas of law of the sea and freedom of navigation.

His support to our national security cannot be overstated. Captain Baggett's expertise and understanding of the complexities of the law of the sea and the law of armed conflict are without equal in the U.S. government. As the Armed Forces confronted myriad diverse challenges, he delivered sage counsel to the Department of the Navy, facilitating our ability to conduct naval operations. His profound knowledge and experience directly improved the ability to the sea services to fulfil their missions throughout the world.

For his outstanding service to our nation, Captain Baggett earned numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, and Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in commending Captain Baggett for his commitment to our country and the sacrifices he made on its behalf. On the occasion of his retirement from the federal service, I thank him and his family for his honorable service to our nation and wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career.

HONORING MARINA FRASER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marina Fraser for her 13 years of exemplary public service on the Half Moon Bay City Council, including three years as mayor of this picturesque coastal town that I am very proud to represent in Congress. Marina has been a tireless advocate for coastside residents, in particular children and seniors. I am honored to have worked with Marina for more than a decade and to call her a close friend.

During her tenure on the council, she served on the San Mateo County Council of Cities, the San Mateo County Joint Powers Authority, the San Mateo County Congestion

Relief Alliance, the San Mateo County City-County Association of Governments, the San Mateo County Emergency Operations Center, and the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside.

Marina was instrumental in restoring Half Moon Bay's fiscal health. The Great Recession combined with a multi-million dollar land use settlement put the city at the brink of bankruptcy. Through strategic decisions, collaboration and meticulous work, Marina and her fellow councilmembers managed to balance the budget and placed the city on solid financial footing. Today, Half Moon Bay is a thriving community and destination for people from all over the Bay Area and the country. Main Street is filled with a wide variety of small businesses and restaurants. It even features bike racks to make it user-friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Marina deserves credit for obtaining the funds for the racks.

Soon, Half Moon Bay will have a state-of-the-art library, thanks in large part to Marina's tenacious work. First considered in 2000, Half Moon Bay finally celebrated the library's ground breaking this summer. It will provide much needed community space and bring Silicon Valley technology to the coast to prepare the next generation for 21st century jobs. It may be called the Half Moon Bay library but in my mind it will also be called the Marina Fraser Half Moon Bay Library.

Marina also worked hard with my office and state and local agencies to replace the crumbling Pilarcitos Creek Bridge with a beautiful aluminum and cedar plank bridge in the winter of 2015 while she was mayor. She was one of many important negotiators in a very creative and complicated program that became locally known as the Three-Way Land Swap. It involved an exchange of properties between the City of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County and Peninsula Open Space Trust and resulted in restoration of a recreation field, the creation of affordable senior housing, and the preservation of bluff tops as open space.

You can surmise from these accomplishments that Marina, a learning and development consultant by training, is not afraid to take on difficult and large projects and to see them through. Marina is a person who doesn't give up. Even if she is defeated, she will try again. She first ran for the city council in 2001 and lost. I wrote her a letter encouraging her to run again, reminding her that Abraham Lincoln ran and lost many times before he succeeded. Sure enough, she won her seat on the council in 2003 and has served the residents of the coastside very well.

In addition to her council duties, Marina is always looking for ways to give back to the community and improve the lives of others. She has created activities and services for youths and seniors and volunteered with Friends of the Library, the Half Moon Bay Spanish Town Historical Society, and the Cougar Boosters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the public service of Councilmember and Mayor Marina Fraser on the Half Moon Bay City Council. While she may be leaving the council, her contributions will continue to shape life on the coastside for years to come and I have no doubt that she will remain an important voice in our community.

CONGRATULATING ERIC STARNES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Eric Starnes on his well-earned retirement from the Euleless Police Department in the city of Euleless, Texas, after twenty-three years of dedicated service.

Starnes' distinguished career with the Euleless Police Department began in 1993 after completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Academy for his police certification. Additionally, while serving as an officer, Starnes was able to pursue a number of advanced degrees and certifications, including a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Texas and a Juris Doctor degree from Texas Wesleyan School of Law. Starnes is also a member of the State Bar of Texas.

In his time as an officer, Starnes has served as a Field Training Officer, K-9 Officer, and a member of the Euleless Police Tactical Unit. He has received over 2,500 hours of in-service police training which consisted of a variety of courses in patrol, criminal investigation, K-9 criminal interdiction, police instructor training, and police supervision. He received his Basic Police Certification in 1993, Intermediate Police Certification in 1998, Advanced Police Certification in 1999, and his Masters Police Certification in 2001. In addition to these certifications, Starnes has received over forty commendations for professionalism and exemplary service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts that Lieutenant Eric Starnes has made in contribution to the safety and security of the City of Euleless. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Eric Starnes on his many years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO THELMA SIAS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thelma Sias, Vice President of Local Affairs for WE Energies, who is retiring on January 4, 2017. She has served the organization with distinction for over 31 years, beginning in 1986.

Thelma was born in rural Mayersville, Mississippi, growing up during the civil rights-era. Her father was a farmer. Her mother was a schoolteacher, farmer, and restaurateur. She is one of 11 children, all of whom graduated from college or technical college. Thelma Sias received an academic scholarship to Clark College in Atlanta where she ultimately received her degree. In 1976, Ms. Sias came to Wisconsin to work as the Supervisor of the Ethnic Heritage Recruitment Center for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, making the Badger State her new home.

Ms. Sias spent most of her career making an extraordinary impact on people in Wisconsin by seeking common ground and finding

solutions. Over the years, she has sat on at least a dozen boards, including the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, Children's Hospital and Health System Foundation, Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board. Thelma was paid to do what naturally was a part of her core: making connections and fostering relationships. It is also why she has been such an asset to WE Energies in serving their interests in a manner that supports the communities dear to my heart. In her position, she was able to help establish connections between people in need and those who can help through the corporation's separate, nonprofit arm, Wisconsin Energy Foundation, which has invested \$130 million into Wisconsin and Michigan communities since 1982.

Ms. Sias has a natural gift for connecting people, which she has to move the powerful to invest both financially and emotionally in economically distressed communities in a way that fosters sustainable solutions to problems. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with her for so many years. Thelma is political, but, more importantly, she is knowledgeable and she cares. She has remained an integral part of the community, maintaining her residence and remaining deeply committed to the Johnsons Park neighborhood community in central city Milwaukee. In addition to all her work with the Foundation and the community, she has found time to be a fixture in every presidential campaign from Carter to Obama. I join her friends and husband of over 30 years, Stephen Adams, in congratulating her on her well-earned retirement. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Thelma Sias and I am proud to call her friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. Thelma, I thank you for all that you have done. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Thelma Sias.

HONORING JOSEPH SILVA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Silva for his 20 years of service on the Colma City Council, two of them as vice mayor. At 1,400 residents, Colma is the smallest town in San Mateo County on the San Francisco Peninsula. While Colma is best known as the City of Souls because it is home to 16 cemeteries, locals will point out its architectural charm created by Spanish-Mediterranean motifs, its modern infrastructure, including a BART station, and its central location that makes it easily accessible from anywhere in the Bay Area. Colma is a small town where residents and businesses happily coexist.

Joe Silva has been instrumental in creating or restoring the town's iconic buildings and structures. During his tenure, the town built the 5,500 square foot Colma Community Center that houses the restored historical museum and railroad depot, the Sterling Park Recreation Center and the Colma Police Depart-

ment. He is also heavily involved in keeping the current renovation of the historic Town Hall on track.

Councilmember Silva and his fellow councilmembers are always striving to maintain a harmonious balance between old and new. Brick paved residential streets with ornamental street lights coexist with Interstate 280. The historic Town Hall and Community Center coexist with the modern Metro Center and Serramonte Shopping Center.

While on the council, Joe served on the Grand Boulevard Task Force, the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors, and the C/CAG Board of Directors. He cares deeply about his community and improving the quality of life for everyone.

Joe has a "roll up your sleeves" and "can do" attitude. This was evident during the recession that started in 2008 when he helped strengthen the town's retail base by finding ways to entice people to shop at Colma's businesses and car dealerships. He collaborated with the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce to think outside the box and come up with creative ideas. Joe's optimism and determination were instrumental in guiding his home town through one of the most challenging times since the Great Depression.

Joe also finds time to volunteer for good causes such as the Lutheran Hope School in Daly City, Habitat for Humanity, the North Peninsula Food Pantry and Dining Center of Daly City, and Club Dust, an organization building homes for extremely poor families in Mexico. He has participated eight times in the AIDS/LifeCycle Ride to End AIDS, a seven-day, 545 mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles that raises money and awareness for HIV and AIDS. If you do the math, that's 4,360 miles. For his continued dedication to the AIDS ride, he received the distinguished San Mateo County Mayors' Diversity Award in 2012.

Joe grew up in the Bay Area and attended Jefferson High School in Daly City. He moved to Colma 30 years ago and has lived here ever since with his wife, Cynthia. They have raised two daughters, Sandra and Nicole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Councilmember Joseph Silva for two decades of service to the residents of Colma. While he is leaving the council, I have no doubt he will remain an active member of our community for many years to come.

RETIREMENT OF CALMAN COHEN,
PRESIDENT OF THE EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN
TRADE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Calman Cohen on his retirement after a distinguished and productive career. Dr. Cohen built on his public service at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Senate by leading the Emergency Committee for American Trade for many years, an organization of leading U.S. companies with a mission to support economic growth through the expansion of international

trade and investment. He has effectively represented his member companies by working with Members of Congress and many Administrations on a broad range of trade and investment issues, including all major trade agreements during his tenure as well as Trade Promotion Authority. He has vigorously defended the needs of U.S. companies and their employees as they strive to compete in today's global marketplace, achieve market access for their exports, and create jobs here at home.

I send my best wishes to him, and his wife Susan, who is always by his side, during his retirement.

HONORING SUN VALLEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sun Valley Elementary School which was selected as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition for its Exemplary High Performance as one of the top schools in the nation as measured by state and national assessments. This highly competitive award reflects outstanding academic achievement and the highest caliber of professional service, and family and community engagement.

With over 500 students from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, Sun Valley Elementary School offers comprehensive educational programs that academically challenge and instill a joy of learning in its students and ensures every child has the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, this hard-earned distinction reflects a true community success. From the "Super Star" students and their families, to the staff and administrators and the extended community, Sun Valley Elementary School has developed an education model for the state and nation, empowering students of today to be the problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers of tomorrow. Please join me in congratulating Sun Valley Elementary School on this impressive achievement.

HONORING DAVID CANEPA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Councilman David Canepa who is leaving the city council of Daly City to assume a new position as a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors from District 5. David's service to Daly City began in the fateful year of 2008 when he was first elected to the council.

As we all know, 2008 and the next few years were financially difficult for many Americans. The budget of Daly City was not spared this stress. Working with his colleagues, David helped craft budgets that were balanced and that included difficult choices, including a reduction in city hall work days, while preserving essential life, health and safety services.

As a C/CAG representative, David Canepa represented Daly City as cities throughout San Mateo County joined together to resolve issues involving transportation funding, congestion management, and storm water management. C/CAG also establishes the public policy position of 21 cities and the County of San Mateo.

While serving as Vice Chair of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, Councilman Canepa helped prioritize hundreds of millions of dollars in transportation projects throughout San Mateo County. This responsibility went hand-in-hand with his service on the Bay Area Regional Air Quality Management District where he again represented county cities in deliberations over air quality regulations and violations of the law by emitters.

David Canepa served as mayor in 2014 and was overwhelmingly re-elected to the city council in 2014. He is a fourth-generation resident of San Mateo and was born in Daly City. He graduated from nearby Skyline College and the University of San Francisco. He and his wife, Ana, live in Daly City.

In his early career, he served as an aide to a state legislator. Through his work with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) and Housing our People Effectively (HOPE), Councilman Canepa has worked to create affordable housing for San Mateo County residents, many of whom are in a crisis because of skyrocketing rents and wages that cannot keep pace. He also served as a director of the North San Mateo County Sanitation District. In Daly City, he is known for his efforts to improve public safety, spur economic development, and to preserve both neighborhoods and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, Daly City is a remarkable place in San Mateo County. Its residents are friendly and the city has always been family oriented. Daly City is now losing a leader in local government, but it will gain an advocate at the county. The interests of the city will be joined to those of South San Francisco, Brisbane, Colma, Broadmoor and San Bruno which together with Daly City form District 5. From criminal justice to healthcare to environmental protection to transportation and dozens of other quality-of-life concerns, District 5 will have an important voice for residents in David Canepa. I wish him well as he seizes the opportunities to serve his constituents in the years ahead.

HONORING INVESTIGATOR MAGGI HOLBROOK WITH THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Investigator Maggi Holbrook with the Vancouver Police Department, and recognize her contributions to Southwest Washington during 16 years of public service.

Investigator Holbrook's dedication to the community can be seen through her long service to the Vancouver, Washington, Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon areas. In the Vancouver Police Department, she established a Digital Evidence Cybercrimes Unit

that has worked on or assisted all levels of crimes. In addition, Investigator Holbrook was an invaluable resource for the Washington State Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and the Seattle Police Department. Her efforts of the task force to investigate, prosecute and convict those individuals who would harm vulnerable children are admirable.

As one of the first investigators in Washington certified in Peer to Peer child pornography investigations, Investigator Holbrook brought her proactive approach to child sexual exploitation investigations. She quickly became proficient in the very technical and labor intensive methods for identifying Internet Protocol addresses of offenders offering to share child pornography files across the Internet. Through these cases, she identified one child sexual-abuser after another and used the expertise and credibility she'd developed to convict them in court. Investigator Holbrook is considered a leading expert in these types of investigations, has certified hundreds of other investigators in the use of Peer to Peer investigative technology and assisted many more with investigations.

Due to Investigator Holbrook's hard work and collaborative nature, she paved the way for the Vancouver Police Department to become an Affiliate Agency for the Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Washington State. Through this task force, Investigator Holbrook has made hundreds of referrals to agencies statewide and internationally that have resulted in the arrest and conviction of numerous Child Sexual Exploitation offenders.

For example, Investigator Holbrook was called to conduct the forensics on a particularly difficult child pornography case where proving possession was critical to obtain a successful prosecution. Investigator Holbrook initially identified a Peer to Peer user sharing child pornography and forwarded this information to Cowlitz County authorities for investigation. The resulting search warrant led to the identification and seizure of 13 child pornography files on the defendant's computer. Further investigation, however, revealed the defendant had successfully deleted hundreds of files that he had been sharing over the course of eighteen months. Holbrook assisted the Assistant U.S. Attorney Grady Leupold and the team who successfully litigated the perpetrator. Investigator Holbrook's selfless dedication to an investigation far beyond her case responsibility played a pivotal role in bringing this person to justice.

Over the years, Investigator Holbrook has been a tremendous and valuable partner to law enforcement agencies across the state as well as many federal partners: Department of Homeland Security Child Exploitation Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshals Service, the United States Postal Service and the U.S. Secret Service.

Holbrook has had an outstanding career that has been dedicated in not only the successful criminal investigations and rescues of children, but in building resources to assist others in their efforts. Her work have contributed to training the next generation of investigators, forensic examiners and even prosecutors to carry on this extremely necessary and valuable work.

Southwest Washington is proud to have had such an extremely talented and dedicated indi-

vidual as Investigator Holbrook. Her contributions and accomplishments in support of the Washington State ICAC Task Force mission will positively impact Southwest Washington for generations to come. I want to thank Investigator Holbrook for her tireless work and congratulate her on her retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOBAR, INC.

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to Lobar, Inc. on its upcoming 50th Anniversary on January 19, 2017.

Lobar, Inc. is one of Central Pennsylvania's largest construction services firms. Family owned, Lloyd and Barbara Eichelberger started Lobar, Inc. in 1967 and quickly built a reputation for reliability. Today, Lobar Inc. is a multi-million dollar business that offers construction services throughout Pennsylvania.

Lobar Inc. has earned a reputation for excellence in customer relations and quality of work. Their mission statement sums up perfectly the reason for their success: "To provide superior construction services for our customers at fair prices and at the same time, have our customers enjoy working with Lobar, Inc. Our goal is to have our customers want Lobar, Inc. to do their construction work."

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate the employees of Lobar, Inc., both past and present, on their 50th Anniversary and wish them continued great success in the years to come.

HONORING JOHN MULLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Muller, better known as Farmer John, for his 10 years of public service on the Half Moon Bay City Council, including one year as mayor. As a farmer, John has deep roots in the community and always strives to nurture the quality of life of all residents of the coastside. I am very grateful to have worked with him for more than three decades and to call him a dear friend.

While on the council, Councilman Muller served on the Chamber Government Affairs Committee, the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, the League of California Cities Coastal Cities Issue Group, the San Mateo County Airport Land Use Committee, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the City County Association of Governments.

John was instrumental in restoring Half Moon Bay's fiscal health. The Great Recession combined with a multi-million dollar land use settlement put the city at the brink of bankruptcy. Through strategic decisions, collaboration and meticulous work, John and his fellow councilmembers managed to balance the budget and placed the city on solid financial footing. Today, Half Moon Bay is a thriving

community and destination for people from all over the Bay Area and the country. Main Street is a colorful collection of artisan stores, sustainable restaurants and small hotels. Signature events, such as the Pumpkin Festival, Farm Day, Nights of Light, the Seafood Festival, and Pacific Coast Dream Machines, show off the best that Half Moon Bay has to offer.

In addition to his duties on the council, John served on the Regional Water Quality Control Board for 21 years, 13 of them as chair, having been appointed by four California governors. He is also a former member and chair of the Coastside County Water District Board, former chair of the Society of American Florists Government Relations Committee, former member of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Committee to streamline management of the USDA, and a past president and current member of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. He still serves on the U.S. EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Fruits and Vegetables, and the California Agricultural Education Foundation.

With his council duties and the additional volunteer work, it is somewhat of a miracle that Farmer John still manages to do his day job. He is the owner of Daylight Farms and John's Pumpkin Farm in Half Moon Bay. He and his wife of 47 years, Eda, are also fixtures at the Half Moon Bay Farmers Market every week. I've had the pleasure of seeing John's connection to the land when he is tending to his pumpkins, produce and chickens in his fields. Not only does he grow beautiful decorative pumpkins that my office purchases for my annual senior conference, he also grows monster pumpkins that he enters into the World Champion Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay.

John and Eda are true stewards of our planet. They were honored with the U.S. EPA's Presidential Volunteer Service Award for their leadership in sustainable, urban agriculture and with the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance award for exemplary efforts to protect water quality within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

John was born in Palo Alto in 1946 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1966. He graduated from the FBI Citizens Academy in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing John Muller for his dedication to public service and his lifelong commitment to our community and country. John is a man with a big heart who loves to share. He deeply cares for all the people on the coast and quietly and with great humility helps them out in any way he can—no fanfare, no attribution. He is a true Good Samaritan and a one of a kind leader. How lucky we have been to have him in elected office for a decade. I admire him and Eda more than they will ever know.

HONORING STEVEN KINSEY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Steven (Steve) Kinsey as he re-

tires from the Marin County Board of Supervisors after serving the people residing in the Fourth District, and Marin County, with exceptional distinction for nearly 20 years. Throughout his tenure, Supervisor Kinsey has been steadfast and passionate in his pursuit of social equity, protection of the agricultural landscape and historic ranching community in West Marin, and improved transportation infrastructure and services, among many other noble causes. Most importantly, he has been productive through the decades, accomplishing many victories for the people and places of Marin.

Born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1952, Supervisor Kinsey earned his B.A. in Architecture from Arizona State University. He moved to Forest Knolls in 1978 where he raised a family, owned and operated his own design/build business for 18 years, and volunteered in the community. As a member of the Marin Conservation League Board of Directors, he was recognized for promoting water conservation strategies and advocating for a Bayland Corridor to increase protections for bayside wetlands. A stalwart public school advocate, he secured for the Lagunitas School District funds for facilities improvements and school-based health and support services for its students and families.

Elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996, Supervisor Kinsey took office on January 7, 1997, and served for five terms, representing all of the coastal areas of Marin County as well as several bay side communities. As an elected official, including five times as Board President, he focused on watershed and fishery restoration, sustainable agriculture, the integration of transportation and land use planning, and sound fiscal management. He championed the needs of children and families, and has worked closely with communities of color to reduce the barriers to equal opportunity.

He served on the boards of numerous organizations including the Board of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Marin Transit, and the Transportation Authority of Marin, which he chaired from 1998 to 2011. He joined the California Coastal Commission in 2011, was its chairman three times, and served on the board of the California State Coastal Conservancy.

Under his leadership, Marin has become a national leader in biking and walking, including Safe Routes to School, and established the Bay Area Ridge Trail. During thirteen years as Chair of Marin's Transportation Authority and Congestion Management Agency, Supervisor Kinsey led Marin's efforts to improve mobility along the 101 corridor and throughout his district. Drawing on his consensus-building skills, he secured community support and funding for voter-highway improvements in the Twin Cities area, and extending the Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit (SMART) train to the ferry.

It has been my honor and pleasure to join with Supervisor Kinsey to solve significant and complex community issues. From defeating the proposed expansion of Death Row at San Quentin State Prison in 2011, to procuring affordable housing in surplus U.S. Coast Guard facilities in West Marin, to crafting a long-term solution to traffic congestion in Muir Woods and Muir Beach, to fighting to protect continued historic ranching families in Point Reyes National Seashore, and to ensuring the upcoming SMART system reaches its in-

tended breadth of service up and down the line, Supervisor Steve Kinsey has been a tireless strategic and practical thinker, and an effective civic representative.

Steve Kinsey's legacy is one of dedicated service to the environment and health and well-being of Marin County. Please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, expressing deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career and outstanding contributions throughout the County, and wishing him well in his next adventure.

HONORING OUR NATION'S
VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. RALPH LEE ABRAHAM

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, in honor of our Nation's and the State of Louisiana's Vietnam veterans, I introduce Louisiana House Concurrent Resolution 43.

This resolution recognizes November 13, 2013 through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is important that we recognize our Nation's heroes who served with valor and honor through this long war, which in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans. By the end of the Vietnam War, nearly 3 million American servicemen and servicewomen had served within the borders of Vietnam in some capacity. We would like to take this time to honor all Vietnam veterans and, especially, the more than 58,000 patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period of war.

Of the millions of Vietnam veterans who served our country, over 106,000 reside in my home State of Louisiana. Though we remain thankful for all of those who have served our great Nation, we would like to take this time to remember the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is important that we honor our veterans while they are still alive so that they can take honor for the sacrifices and know that they do not go unnoticed.

HCR NO. 43 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Whereas, in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, it is important as a nation and state that we reflect upon the valor of a generation that served with honor and although long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans; and

Whereas, although American involvement in the conflict of Vietnam spanned several decades and presidencies, the ground offensive officially began in March of 1965, with the deployment of 2,500 Marines and by the end of that year, nearly 200,000 American troops were in Vietnam. The strength of the Allied Armed Forces peaked at 543,482 troops during the Vietnam war; and

Whereas, we draw inspiration from our Louisiana heroes who suffered unspeakable tragedies. Approximately 153,303 veterans suffered nonmortal wounding, 14 were held as Prisoners of War, and 24 remain unaccounted for; and

Whereas, by the official end of the Vietnam War in April of 1975, nearly three million American servicemen and women had been on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and

at sea within Vietnam's borders serving in some capacity during the conflict. As a grateful nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period; and

Whereas, of the 7,391,000 Vietnam veterans, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that roughly 106,148 reside in Louisiana. In the half century since the official beginning of the Vietnam War, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet, we remain thankful to those who fought in this conflict and honor the legacy of service that they built; and

Whereas, the freedom and liberties we are blessed to enjoy today are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces. We are grateful for their brave service and draw inspiration and pride from all that they are; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

HONORING MARY ANN NIHART

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mary Ann Nihart for her eight years of service on the Pacifica City Council. Her tireless commitment to her community has improved this wonderful coastal town for residents and visitors alike. Her service even helped shine a national spotlight on Pacifica. I am proud to count Mary Ann as a constituent, colleague and friend.

Mary Ann was first elected to the council in 2008 and served as mayor in 2011 and 2014. She was also the C/CAG representative to Pacifica, the Fog Fest Liaison, and she served on the North Coast County Fire JPA. Her council committee assignments included the Financing City Services committee, Economic Development, the Beautification Advisory Committee, and the Articulation Committee. Pacifica's quality of life was greatly improved through her representation on the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and at the Association of Bay Area Governments.

As mayor, Mary Ann re-instituted Mayor's Walks to personally connect local business owners with the city government and city staff. She also reinstated the Economic Development Committee to develop an economic plan for Pacifica. She helped her town receive transportation funding for shuttle services and street paving. She initiated and led the Beautification Task Force which designated 25 sites for make-overs. To date, nine of them have been completed. Among her proudest accomplishments was a city-wide effort to have Pacifica designated as one of the most scenic cities in America. The town was one of six finalists in the country.

Another of Mary Ann's priorities has been environmental protection. She initiated the process to designate Pedro Point Headlands as a priority conservation area and worked to complete the coastal trail from Pacifica to Devil's Slide, a San Mateo County Park with some of the country's most phenomenal ocean bluff views. She helped ban plastic bags and foam containers in Pacifica and supported protections for the Western Snowy Plover, a tiny shore bird listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

During her tenure, Mary Ann continually strove to bring community members together and to heal divides. This may be explained by the outstanding professional experience she brought to the council. Mary Ann is the Clinical Director and Chief Nurse of Mental Health Services at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System. She holds a BSN and two Masters degrees in Nursing and in Clinical Psychology. Her passion to help veterans is noteworthy. There are thousands of veterans who owe their mental health in part to her management of outstanding psychiatric mental health treatment at our VA. Through her efforts and those of her colleagues, lives are saved each year. Mary Ann is also an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and a past president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association which honored her with the Psychiatric Nurse of the Year Award in 2012.

Mary Ann speaks nationally and internationally on the integration of biology into psychiatric nursing care, crisis intervention and de-escalation. She brought those skills to the coast after two tragic police shootings of mentally ill individuals in Pacifica and neighboring Half Moon Bay. She worked with local law enforcement to provide additional education and to amend the training for officers encountering mentally ill individuals in violent situations.

As you can surmise from this long yet incomplete list of accomplishments, Mary Ann Nihart is incredibly capable and gets things done. She will retire from the city council due to a flaw in federal law that I intend to fix. I for one will miss working with her on issues that connect local and federal jurisdictions, such as human trafficking, sea level rise and veterans' health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring an outstanding professional and public servant who has left her mark on the community she loves. A leader with a big heart and a welcoming smile, Mary Ann Nihart's work is tightly woven into the fabric of Pacifica, a coastal community that I am very fortunate to represent.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate com-

mittees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine civilian control of the Armed Forces. SH-216

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeff Sessions, of Alabama, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice. SR-325

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine backpage.com's facilitation of online sex trafficking. SD-342

JANUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of Jeff Sessions, of Alabama, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice. SR-325

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Betsy DeVos, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Education. SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Elaine L. Chao, to be Secretary of Transportation. SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General John F. Kelly, USA (Ret.), to be Secretary of Homeland Security. SD-342