

of the Fourth & Eighth Congressional Districts of Michigan, we are honored today to recognize Tori Jankoska for her lifetime of work on and off the court and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANA SKIDMORE OF TWOFOOT CREATIVE FOR RECEIVING THE ATHENA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ana Skidmore, entrepreneur and founder of TwoFoot Creative, for receiving the ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award. Ana has achieved business success through her hard work and vision in founding TwoFoot Creative, a wedding and event planning organization that has successfully served the community for 10 years.

Founded in 2007 by Ms. Skidmore, TwoFoot Creative has established a reputation as a premier wedding and planning organization that effectively serves its clients. The organization offers full service wedding planning services, including negotiating contracts, invitation design and comprehensive scheduling of the wedding week for clients. TwoFoot Creative has received many accolades for its outstanding service, including being named a Knot "Best Of" wedding planning company for seven years in a row. In addition, colleagues have named TwoFoot as having the "Best Team" at the wedding industry's Event Professionals in Class Awards that are held annually in Metro Detroit. These awards and distinctions speak to the high quality of work and effective service that the organization provides to its clients.

The success and acclaim of TwoFoot Creative speaks to the vision and tireless efforts of Ms. Skidmore and the other team members. Starting a successful company requires a unique combination of entrepreneurial spirit, vision and leadership that few possess. Having created an award-winning organization that consistently wins praise from its clients and other industry professionals, Ms. Skidmore has proven to exemplify these values. I am proud to recognize Ms. Skidmore and TwoFoot Creative for their success, and it is my hope that they continue to grow and serve the community in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ana Skidmore for her outstanding entrepreneurial success. The acclaim and business success of TwoFoot are inspiring and deserving of the ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 68.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE FINAL RULE OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO MITIGATION POLICY

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation disapproving of the Compensatory Mitigation Policy (CMP) rule finalized in the final days of the Obama administration. On December 23, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released its final Endangered Species Act (ESA) CMP, which violates existing environmental law and puts future economic development across the country at risk. This rule establishes policies that are a significant departure from existing practices regarding compensatory mitigation and limits private-sector, voluntary involvement in developing compensatory mitigation plans. My legislation utilizes the Congressional Review Act to block this dangerous rule and will prevent the potential catastrophic impacts it would have on our nation's economy.

The CMP exceeds USFWS' statutory authority by adopting the mitigation goals of "net conservation gain" and "no net loss," which are not grounded in federal statute. This directive is a significant departure from existing practice and runs counter to current law. The policy will lead to an extensive, time-consuming valuation process in which development projects are required to initiate an assessment process, as well as undertake advance mitigation that could tie up many economic projects in burdensome, costly procedures.

This overbroad policy could jeopardize an extensive range of economic development activities in every corner of the U.S., while also impacting a wide-range of industries, including: agriculture, forestry, mining, natural resource development, energy production, conservation projects, and building and road construction. The final CMP will also have significant strategic, legal, and financial implications for development projects large and small, while ensnaring future economic growth in a maze of permitting setbacks and bureaucratic red-tape.

We must protect our country's economic future and ensure burdensome rules and regulations promulgated by a bloated bureaucracy do not threaten desperately needed job creation and economic growth. The integrity of the law is threatened by misguided federal policies like the USFWS's CMP rule, and I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation to block yet another oppressive and overreaching regulation promulgated by the previous administration.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT GRAVES

**HON. DAVID ROUZER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, Scott Graves will soon be leaving his post as staff director

for the House Agriculture Committee to pursue new opportunities, and it is my privilege to recognize his many contributions over the years to farm and ranch families all across America.

Scott has served as a trusted advisor to Chairman MIKE CONAWAY for nearly twelve years. His start as an intern is a familiar one to many Capitol Hill staffers. In Scott's case, he started out as an intern for the House Agriculture Committee in January 2005. It was at that time when I first met Scott. I was a staffer myself back in 2005, working for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole.

Scott's knowledge, sound judgment and strong work ethic eventually elevated him to staff director of the Committee where he has led efforts to increase innovation in agriculture, improve markets, strengthen our farm economy, reform the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, repeal the Country of Origin of Labelling law and much more. Without question, Scott has been a vital contributor to the many legislative successes of the House Agriculture Committee.

There's no doubt Scott will continue to have great success in his new endeavors. On behalf of the fine farm families and consumers all across North Carolina, thank you, Scott, for your hard work and dedication to America's farm and ranch families and our rural communities. You will certainly be missed.

HONORING BRUCE DEPUYT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bruce DePuyt, who will be leaving NewsChannel 8 this week after over two decades of outstanding journalism and service to Washington, D.C. and the national capital region.

For 23 years, Washingtonians have turned to Bruce for insight and in-depth reporting on local and national news. Bruce had a talent for bringing local and regional voices together—from elected officials and police chiefs to community leaders—to speak and inform D.C. and area residents on a host of topics important to this region and the nation. Even before arriving at NewsChannel 8, however, people could turn to Bruce for trusted journalism wherever he was reporting.

A graduate of the University of Maryland in 1984, Bruce got an early start in journalism as a college radio station student-host calling women's basketball. After graduating, he went on to work as a reporter and anchor at WVIR in Charlottesville, Virginia, and produced an award-winning weekly talk show, "21 This Week," on Cable News 2 in Montgomery County, Maryland, where he won a Cable Ace award. In 1993, Bruce joined the team at NewsChannel 8, where he has been ever since.

Bruce's career at NewsChannel 8 has been marked by smart commentary, excellent reporting, and penetrating questioning. In 2013, he was named the Best TV Personality by the Washington Blade magazine, and Washington City Paper readers named him the Best Newsmaker in 2010. For his brilliant reporting, Bruce was also awarded the Cronkite Award

by the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Since 2002, Bruce has been the host of Newstalk, a daily mid-morning news show, where he has hosted more than 11,000 guests over 3,300 episodes. Bruce continues to be an active and beloved member of both his community and his church, the All Souls Unitarian Church, where he was a former trustee. For his work, Bruce was given the Pillar of Faith Award by the Howard University School of Divinity.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are familiar with Bruce's excellence here on television. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bruce DePuyt for 23 years of extraordinary work and service as news anchor and reporter with NewsChannel 8 and as a favorite of the national capital region.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 30, 2017, I was not present for votes due to illness. Had I been present, on Roll Call vote 66, I would have voted YES, and on Roll Call vote 67, I would have voted YES.

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IN RECOGNITION OF SUE SCHOONER OF GIRLS' GROUP FOR RECEIVING THE ATHENA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Schooner, founder of Girls' Group, for receiving the ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award. Sue has leveraged her background in management to create a first-class organization that helps girls in need.

Ms. Schooner founded Girls Group in 2003 to provide support for young women to achieve self-sufficiency by becoming first-generation college graduates. The group supports

approximately 300 middle school through college age girls through a variety of programs. These include in-school programs in participating middle and high schools that promote academic and college planning, as well as one-on-one mentoring and homework support groups to provide further academic assistance. Girls Group also offers College Prep tours to historically black colleges and universities as well as other colleges in the Midwest. This comprehensive offering has been integral to providing young women with access to opportunities and establishing support networks to help them succeed academically and professionally.

The growth and success of Girls Group is a testament to Ms. Schooner's hard work and dedication to the organization. Through the work of Girls Group staff and volunteers, hundreds of young women have been empowered to pursue their dreams. The group has also played a pivotal role in helping the girls' emotional and life skills development, and the record of success in improving these girls' lives speaks to the impact that Girls Group has had. The organization and staff continue to inspire, and it is my hope that the organization continues to be a positive force in the community in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sue Schooner for her work with Girls Group. The group has enabled young women in southeast Michigan to achieve their academic and life goals through its multifaceted academic and support programs.

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CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. CHESTER ZAWADSKI OF PACIFIC, MISSOURI

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Chester Zawadski, who celebrated his 80th birthday in November 2016. His family is looking forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with him in February of this year.

Mr. Zawadski bravely served our nation in the Army during the Korean War. His years of service included time at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri and also in Germany.

Hammond, Indiana is where Mr. Zawadski was born and raised. He and his wife Beverly lived in Indiana until his retirement from serving as a Lake County Probation Officer in 2009. At the time of his retirement Mr. and Mrs. Zawadski moved to Pacific, Missouri to live closer to their grandchildren. Chester and Beverly were married for 40 years until her passing.

Throughout his life Mr. Zawadski has enjoyed staying up to date on current political events, spending time with his grandchildren, raising chickens and reading. He has also been involved with Toastmasters and the Knights of Columbus.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Chester Zawadski on the celebration of his 80th birthday.

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PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DISGRACEFUL EXECUTIVE ORDER

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to President Trump's disgraceful Executive Order indefinitely suspending the settlement of Syrian refugees and banning anyone from six other Muslim-majority countries from coming to America. This ill-conceived and unconstitutional action is immoral, un-American, and a threat to our national security.

The refugees President Trump is turning away are in desperate circumstances. Like the millions of American Immigrants who came before them, they are searching for a better future for themselves and their families. By banning their entry, the Trump Administration dishonors the commitment we made to countless women and children from Syria who have successfully complied with our strict vetting process. This irresponsible executive order does little to protect us from terrorism, but it does institutionalize a prejudice against Muslims. Moreover, it makes us more susceptible to home-grown terrorism. In a nation founded by immigrants, it is our duty as Americans to call upon President Trump to rescind this executive order.