

She began her career in Loudoun County in 1999 as an Assistant County Attorney. In this position, she was responsible for handling a wide range of legal affairs and provided legal guidance to county attorneys and council members. Given her strong work ethic and dedication to her community and the law, Mrs. Plowman became the Town Attorney for the Middleburg Town Council in 2012. In this role, she worked in close collaboration with the town council and represented Middleburg's interests thoroughly.

In addition to practicing law, Mrs. Plowman has exemplified her dedication to our Loudoun County community by serving in a leadership role as a board member of the Loudoun Habitat for Humanity—an organization that builds homes for those who are in need in the 10th District.

Mrs. Plowman lives in Loudoun along with her husband Jim, our Commonwealth Attorney for Loudoun County, and their three children. She will continue to practice law in the area and plans to remain very involved in local affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Plowman's years of public service. Today, we honor and celebrate the contributions she has made to the town and all its citizens. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING WILTON A. LANNING

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilton A. Lanning of Waco, Texas, who upon his retirement from the Waco Business League, received the Waco Business League Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was established in 2009 to honor individuals in the Waco community that embody the exemplary ideals and values of society, and have had a substantial impact on the community.

As Executive Director of the Waco Business League, Wilton Lanning utilized his wealth of experience and his love for the city of Waco to support local businesses, grow the economy, and foster opportunity. He also serves as a member of the Board of the Brazos Higher Education Service Corporation, where he furthers their goal of providing students and families with resources they need to make informed decisions about financing their higher education and building a better life.

Some of Wilton's notable past contributions to the Waco business community include serving on the boards of Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, the Waco Industrial Foundation, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation. Wilton is a past Chairman of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, member of the Board of the Vanguard College Preparatory School, and past Chairman of the Board of the YMCA.

Though transcending his influence in the business community, Wilton has built his life on a foundation of serving and giving back to others—a value he learned as an Eagle Scout and certainly reinforced by his father who served as a captain in the U.S. Army. Wilton has been a life-long supporter of Baylor University and an active member of the Baylor Alumni Association. In fact, his family has re-

ceived the Baylor Alumni Association's First Family of Baylor Award. He has received the National Philanthropy "Lifetime Achievement Award" and the Waco Junior Chamber of Commerce has recognized him with their "Distinguished Service Award."

Mr. Speaker, Wilton A. Lanning worked tirelessly to better the Waco community. From his 40 years at Waco's then-oldest business, Padgett's, to his time with the Business League, Wilton has certainly left an enduring impression on Central Texas. He will always be known as a great philanthropist and businessman; but I am confident that above all else he would want to be known first as a husband to LaNell, father to Bill and Robert, and servant of Christ through his leadership at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

Today, I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor the many contributions of Wilton A. Lanning.

As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSH AIRHEART'S SERVICE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 59

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Josh Airheart for his service to Boy Scout Troop 59 in Concord, North Carolina. Mr. Airheart has served as Scoutmaster of Troop 59 for 15 years and will soon be retiring from the position.

Having lived in Cabarrus County his entire life, Mr. Airheart has established himself as a staple of our community. He is a lifetime member of New Gilead Church, home of Troop 59, where he began his own scouting career many years ago. In 1987, Mr. Airheart earned the rank of Eagle Scout, showcasing his own commitment to service.

Beginning in 2002, Mr. Airheart returned to Troop 59 as Scoutmaster. Recognizing the significant impact scouting had on his own life, he began to share his passion with the young men of the troop. The troop then continued to blossom under his guidance as he helped an impressive 26 members achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. In 2015, he was recognized for his efforts by the Central North Carolina Council as Scoutmaster of the Year.

Along the way, Mr. Airheart has been a living embodiment of the Scout Oath, showing the young men of the troop how to integrate it in everything they do. While he may be leaving his official capacity with Troop 59, I know he will continue to be a role model for all of those in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Mr. Josh Airheart for his dedication and commitment to service as Scoutmaster of Troop 59.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. LUZ GAMBOA RANGEL

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 107th birthday of Luz Gamboa Rangel of Crystal City, Texas.

Luz was born on the Texas-Mexico Border on February 8, 1910 and moved to Texas with her mother and brother in 1914. She has lived in South Texas for the past 103 years. Most of those years have been spent on the same piece of land in Crystal City, Texas—a gift from her husband after they married. Today Luz loves spending time with family and making use of her good sense of humor. Luz has seen more in her lifetime than many of us likely ever will and I have no doubt that we could all learn a thing or two from her. Luz's family and community are blessed to have her as part of their lives.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Mrs. Luz Gamboa Rangel on turning 107 years old, and may she celebrate many more.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE FINAL RULE OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO THE USE OF COMPENSATORY MITIGATION AS RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 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 27, 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 THE WORK OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the work of the Metropolitan Police Department, in particular the Second District, and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. Representatives from these agencies worked closely with D.C. residents on Belmont Road NW and the leadership of the Islamic Center of Washington to forge a remedy to a life-threatening situation that had hate-crime implications.

These individuals provided extraordinary guidance and intervention in bringing closure to a situation that had exposed D.C. residents to racial and homophobic slurs, as well as threats of bodily harm, for more than five years.

I therefore rise with pride to salute police officers Lt. Jerome M. Merrill, Sgt. Brian H. Brown, Sgt. Miguel Rodriguezgil, and Mr. James T. Towns, Community Engagement Director, with the Office of the Attorney General. In particular, I applaud the leadership efforts of Dr. Khouj, Imam, and Abassie Jarr-Koroma of the Islamic Center of Washington, and A. Mario Castillo, a resident of Belmont Road, who coordinated the teamwork on this matter.

This civic success story brings to mind a fitting quote attributed to the great American poet and writer Maya Angelou, "It's good to remember that in crises, natural crises, human beings forget for a while their ignorance, their biases, their prejudices. For a little while, neighbors help neighbors and strangers help strangers."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding my constituents and the law enforcement officers.

HONORING MILTON BRONSTEIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, there are so many ways to describe Mr. Milton Bronstein. He is a kind and generous person, who is always willing to lend a hand when he sees a friend in need. He is a committed and hard-working public servant who puts service above self. He is a capable and respected labor leader who dedicated much of his life to improving conditions for Rhode Island workers. He was a devoted husband to his late wife, Claire. He is a wonderful father to Harvey, Andrew, and Cindy.

And to me and to so many other Rhode Islanders, Milton—who today turns 100 years old—is a steadfast and dependable friend.

Milton's career started in the Department of Treasury, where he would remain for three decades. He is perhaps best known, however, for his work as a labor organizer, serving as the first president of Rhode Island's AFSCME Chapter, Council 94. Countless laborers in my home state of Rhode Island are better off thanks to his tireless work, and when you speak to labor organizers today, it is clear that Milton has set the gold standard of how to effectively lead. After stepping down as Council 94 president, Milton jumped right back into action, serving as the retiree chapter's vice president until he retired just last year at the age of 99. Even today, at 100 years old, Milton remains a trusted mentor and adviser to many in the labor movement and in public service.

I want to wish a very happy birthday to Milton as he celebrates 100 years of a life well lived. Milton, has been a changemaker in our state and in the lives of those of us who have been lucky enough to know him and work with him. I cannot thank him enough for his service and for his support through the years. Rhode Island owes him a debt of gratitude. Happy birthday.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL MILESTONE OF MR. JOHN FIORE, DISTINGUISHED RESIDENT OF SCHENECTADY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial celebration of John M. Fiore of Schenectady, New York, who turns 100 years old today, February 2nd, 2017.

John was born on February 2, 1917 to Vito and Maria Fiore. He graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1934 and was the first freshman in the class when it opened in 1931.

After graduating John worked for GE as a Production Specialist with more than 45 years of service.

John went on to serve his country in World War II from 1942–1946, and received an honorary discharge as a Corporal.

In 1953 John married Mary Gerardi who passed away in 1972 after a long battle with illness.

He takes great pride in his family. John's parents came from Italy penniless and raised seven children, all of whom lived into their 90s and were outstanding citizens.

John is known to friends and family for his gardening, and shows a generous spirit in sharing fresh produce with his family and friends. Earlier in life John was also an active bowler, golfer and in later years took up duplicate bridge playing three times a week.

John is also a sports fan. He is a longtime fan of the New York Yankees and New York Knicks. One of his greatest joys is rooting for Union College, Notre Dame, and the University of Connecticut, all schools attended by members of his family.

John's greatest role has been that of doting father. He took an active role in his son Nicholas's activities, including Carmen Little League, Babe Ruth, CYO Basketball and Pop Warner Football. Later, he watched his grandson Nicholas, Jr. play recreational basketball. He was also a player agent for Carmen Little League and later served as Commissioner of Rotterdam Babe Ruth.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful yesterday to join my friend, Congressman STEVE KING, to introduce the National Right to Work Act.

At least 80 percent of Americans favor barring the forcing of employees to pay dues as a condition of their employment, and this bill would protect workers by eliminating the forced-dues clauses in federal statute. It still allows workers to unionize if they chose to do so—but makes membership voluntary, not mandatory.

Right-to-work states, like South Carolina, have seen first-hand that job creation and economic growth comes from expanded freedoms. Right to work was crucial for South Carolina becoming the leading manufacturer and exporter of tires, with Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, and Giti, while also being America's largest exporter of cars with BMW and soon Volvo.

I appreciated joining Congressman STEVE KING, with Mark Mix, President of the National Right to Work Committee, on this important issue that will positively promote jobs.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

BOND COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this year, beautiful Bond County, located in the southeastern part of Illinois, celebrates its bicentennial—200 years as a county is a great honor.

Bond County was one of the state's original 11 counties when Illinois applied for statehood