

PFC Kyle M. Proffitt, PFC Scott H. Reeve, PFC Justin P. Robinson (2), PFC Nicholas A. Shivley, PFC Jonathan K. Steier, PFC Matthew E. Weaver, PFC Frederick R. Yap, PFC Sung B. Yoon, Ofc. Kenneth J. McNulty, Ofc. Matthew F. Schafer, Ofc. Stacey L. Wells.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING ANTHONY GIBSON II

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a multi-talented gentleman, Mr. Anthony Gibson II. Mr. Gibson has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to achieve.

Mr. Gibson graduated from Vicksburg High School, and now, he is attending Mississippi State University majoring in Civil Engineering.

He has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Society of Black Engineers, and American Society of Civil Engineers among others.

Anthony has a wide variety of engineering experiences including design, hydraulic/river research, geotechnical practices and project management.

Mr. Gibson had internships at J5 Broadus, the City of Vicksburg, and the Corps of Engineers (ERDC). Currently, he is a co-op student for Brasfield & Gorrie, one of the largest engineering/construction firms in the southeast. He is located in Birmingham where the firm is headquartered.

Anthony is the son of Patricia Brown and Anthony Gibson II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Anthony Gibson II for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Springfield News-Leader and its dedication to 150 years of excellence in journalism.

The Springfield News-Leader was first published on April 4, 1867, and has been a vital part of the Springfield, Missouri, community ever since. After 150 years, the Springfield News-Leader has reached almost 55,000 consecutive days of print, for both morning and evening newspapers.

In January of 1927, after several changes in name and ownership, the newspaper was officially known as the Springfield Daily News. 120 years later, in 1987, after printing both a

morning and evening edition, the afternoon edition of the newspaper was discontinued and consolidated with the morning edition to become the Springfield News-Leader.

Today, the Springfield News-Leader is combined with a number of other print publications, websites and digital marketing services as part of the News-Leader Media Group. This group is the largest multi-media marketing solutions company in southwest Missouri, serving the local and regional business community.

For 150 years, the Springfield News-Leader has caught the moments that have shaped our nation, Missouri and Missouri's 7th Congressional District. I am confident that in the next 150 years the Springfield News-Leader will continue to be the newspaper that keeps the people of the 7th District informed and up-to-date. Congratulations to the Springfield News-Leader.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARK V. DENNIS

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of fallen Navy Hospitalman, 3rd Class, Mr. Mark V. Dennis.

Mr. Dennis was born on September 21, 1946, to Charles and Vera Dennis of Miamisburg, Ohio, where he grew up with his brother and two sisters. He went on to serve in the United States Navy in a Marine unit as a medical corpsman during the Vietnam War. A man of strong faith, Mr. Dennis also served as acting chaplain for his unit, and had dreams of being a missionary after completing his service.

Sadly, those dreams would not be realized. He was killed in action when his helicopter crashed after taking enemy fire in South Vietnam in the summer of 1966. At such a young age, 19 years, Mr. Dennis made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

In 1970, a photograph in Newsweek magazine showed a Prisoner of War with an uncanny resemblance to Mark. Devastated by the loss, and plagued by nagging doubt, his family, led by his brother Jerry, began a quest for answers as to what happened to Mark.

Last August, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released a report determining through DNA testing that the remains from the deadly helicopter crash are those of Mr. Dennis. Thanks to the Dennis family's determination, and work by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, we now know conclusively that Mr. Dennis died while serving and protecting his country.

Mr. Speaker, the Dennis family has been through a lot over the years. I pray that they will now have the closure they so deserve. Mr. Dennis will soon be laid to rest alongside his parents at the Garden Sanctuary Cemetery in Seminole, Florida, with full military honors.

I am humbled to honor the life of this young man, and all of our servicemen and women who were taken from this Earth too soon. May he, and his family, now finally find peace.

RECOGNIZING EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S SENIOR GUARD MARK SMITH

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwardsville High School's senior guard Mark Smith, who is now better known as Mr. Basketball of Illinois for the 2016–2017 season.

Mark received the Mr. Basketball honor after a senior season in which he filled up the stats sheet. Over the course of the season, Mark averaged 21.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 8.4 assists, and 2.1 steals per game. He recorded double figures in 31 of the Tigers' 32 games, and had eight games in which he scored more than 30 points. In the championship game of the Ottawa sectional, Mark scored a career-high 45 points in Edwardsville's win over Danville.

Outside of Mark's individual statistics, the Tigers' boys basketball season was an unforgettable one in the Metro East, as the team finished 30–2 and played in the Class 4A Super-Sectional in Normal.

In addition to the Mr. Basketball honor, Mark was named the "Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year," and has scholarship offers from multiple Division 1 schools.

I had the opportunity to meet Mark at an event for the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities last month, and was truly impressed by this young man. I am proud to congratulate Mark on his spectacular senior season and receiving this honor, and look forward to continuing to follow his basketball career.

RECOGNIZING THE CLARKSON UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and skill of the Clarkson University Women's Hockey Team, who just ended their already impressive season by winning the NCAA Division I championship.

Led by Coach Matt Desrosiers, the Golden Knights defeated the number one seeded Wisconsin Badgers for the championship title. This is the team's second Division I title, with the Golden Knights being the only team outside of the Western Conference to ever win the championship.

Under the leadership of seniors Corie Jacobson, Jessica Gillham, Genevieve Bannon, McKenzie Johnson and Carly Mercer, the team was able to regroup from a rough early season and achieve this impressive victory. Junior goaltender Shea Tiley was an instrumental part of this victory, allowing zero points against the strong Wisconsin offense.

In New York's 21st District, we are incredibly proud of all of these women and their incredible achievements. I hope that their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

NICOLE WICKERSHEIM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nicole Wickersheim for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Nicole Wickersheim is a 12th grader at Adams City High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nicole Wickersheim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nicole Wickersheim for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 TOWN OF
HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medals of Valor.

Five members of the Town of Herndon Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

Corporal Damien Austin
Senior Police Officer Ronald Eicke

LIFESAVING AWARD

Corporal Andrew Perry
Private First Class Chad Findley
Private First Class Davin Royal

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on

behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING ADAMANTIA KLOTSAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Florida's Consul General of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. Adamantia Klotsa, a model foreign representative and distinguished member of the Greek community in my district.

Ms. Klotsa was recently honored by the Federation of Hellenic American Educators for her "continuous effort to execute professional and outstanding duties towards the language, the culture and services for the Greek community of Florida."

Before her diplomatic mission in Tampa, Ms. Adamantia Klotsa was born in Athens. She holds B.A.s in both Archeology and Law as well as an M.A. in Prehistoric Archeology from the University of Athens. Ms. Klotsa entered the Diplomatic Service of the Hellenic Republic in 1998. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, she served in the Office of the Secretary General, the NATO Department, and the Personnel Department. As the co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance and a former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I deeply appreciate the hard work and consummate professionalism displayed daily by our foreign diplomats, especially Ms. Klotsa.

As a proud Greek-American, I am thankful that Ms. Klotsa in her official capacity has encouraged Greek-Americans fully appreciate the diversity of their heritage. As a young boy, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles instilled in me an appreciation for our beautiful culture, which focuses on family, community, and faith, and it is with great pride, that I continue to uphold these values today.

Ms. Klotsa's current diplomatic mission in Tampa has also served to reinforce Florida's possession of remarkable Greek cultural treasures like Tarpon Springs in my district, home to the largest Epiphany celebration in the Western Hemisphere and world renowned Sponge Docks, and St. Augustine which boasts the earliest colonization of Greeks in the New World. Additionally, she recently introduced the application of a Sisters City relationship with the city of St. Augustine and Koroni, Greece. Initiatives like these will continue to contribute to the rich cultural and economic success in Florida's Twelfth Congressional District for years to come.

I commend the Federation of Hellenic American Educators for recognizing the contributions of Ms. Klotsa, and I hope every foreign diplomat can learn from and emulate the dedication of this Greek public servant to peace and prosperity between our nations.

HONORING DR. MARY M. WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Dr. Mary M. White, who is a pioneer and innovator in the academic, entrepreneurial and service communities.

Dr. Mary M. White is the Inaugural Chairperson of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Professional Development in the College of Business at Jackson State University. She spearheaded the creation of a new BBA Degree in Entrepreneurship in 2005. Upon obtaining IHL Board approval, this degree program became the first of its kind in the state of Mississippi and among HBCUs. She is a Fulbright Fellow and Sam Walton Fellow, recognized as one of America's leading educators and has been a Price-Babson and LLEP Fellow in Entrepreneurship as well.

Dr. White's commitment to entrepreneurship led her to co-author the book, "The Engrossed Entrepreneurial Campus: What Our Economy and Our Academy Needs Now." Dr. White's passion for entrepreneurship and business extends internationally to South Africa, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Romania, India, and France and throughout the United States by providing guidance on entrepreneurship as a means to enhance economic development.

Dr. White represents Jackson State University on the Women Owned & Managed Enterprise Network National Advisory Council (W.O.M.E.N) with Morgan State University, HBCU/Babson Entrepreneurship and Engineering consortium, Capitol City Convention Center Procurement Outreach Advisory Board and the Mississippi Entrepreneurial Alliance.

Dr. White's an active board member of the Community Financial Services Association (CFSA), Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnership Consortium (Vice President), Society for Financial Education and Professional Development, Katherine Murriel Education Foundation and Clinton Alumnae Delta Enterprise Foundation. She has successfully directed the 2009 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), 2005 Women of Color Entrepreneurs Conference and the 2004 Minority Serving Institutions Conference. In 2006, Dr. White secured funding for the Business Entrepreneurial Scholars Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Small Farmers Training Initiative. She also directs the SIFE "I Choose" grant, guiding at-risk high school students in entrepreneurship and free enterprise.

Dr. White received the Doctor of Education at Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Mary M. White for her dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 3, 2017, I was absent because of travel delays due to weather related activities.