

Neutral Platinum Zero Waste manufacturing center, demonstrating leadership in the cause of sound environmental stewardship.

The Vlahakis' dedication to a healthier and happier planet applies not just to their corporate philosophy, but to their community. They have created good jobs and voluntarily implemented a \$17 per hour company-wide minimum wage, one of the highest in the nation. They also bring interactive educational programs directly to kids in schools, and host field trips at their facilities.

Although Van Vlahakis passed away in 2014, his legacy lives on under the leadership of his daughter and my friend, Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks. Kelly is a champion in the Greek-American community and she has been an inspiration to those in the green movement.

Fifty years after Van Vlahakis had the foresight to make products with safe ingredients and sustainable practices, much of America has caught up to his vision. We now expect the goods we purchase to be both effective and safe and we demand that companies not exploit the environment in pursuit of profits.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks and Earth Friendly Products as they celebrate this momentous anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MARK MARINI

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Mark S. Marini, Sr. for his dedicated service to our Country, the United States Army, and the Connecticut National Guard.

This week, Mr. Marini retires from the Connecticut Army National Guard after 42 years of uniformed service. For over four decades, Mr. Marini has served the State of Connecticut and our Country with the utmost dignity and respect, and it is my profound honor to recognize him as he retires this Thursday from his position as the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

CW5 Marini's accomplishments while serving at home and with his unit deployed into harm's way are extensive—his full engagement, leadership and contributions have had a significant and long lasting impact upon the numerous formations that make up our Connecticut National Guard. His dedication to his country, the National Guard, and the men and women of the state is unparalleled.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CW5 Marini upon his retirement, and extend my appreciation to him for enduring so much for so long on our behalf.

ISRAELI HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Israelis commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day. Carrying out what they

called their "final solution" to the "Jewish problem," the Nazis gassed millions of Jews at Auschwitz, and then collected their corpses like waste to be burned in the camp.

Mr. Speaker, this happened just 72 years ago, though many seem to forget. From the ashes of Auschwitz the Jewish people returned to their ancient homeland and established the sole democracy in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, the Jewish people of Israel are again targets of elimination. Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and a growing list of others have openly called to "eliminate" the Jewish state and "wipe it off the map."

We must honor the memories of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis by vowing that Jews will never again stand alone before those seeking their extermination. The American people stand with Israel and with Jews everywhere remembering those that perished.

We remember. And we vow: never again.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE CLAY COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pause to thank and honor the Clay County Sheriff's Office for their efforts in serving Smithville following the March 6, 2017 tornado.

The EF-2 rated tornado left a trail of destruction up to 1,000 feet wide and 18 miles long. In Smithville, over 60 houses were damaged with several completely destroyed, resulting in over 65 tons of debris. Miraculously, no injuries were sustained during the storm.

After the storm, officers from the Clay County Sheriff's Office helped set up a perimeter, went door-to-door making sure residents were safe, and helped protect the neighborhood with a 24/7 presence in the days that followed. Their experience and training in emergency management was crucial as the city and residents began to put their lives back together. The effect of the Sheriff's Office on the neighborhoods affected by the tornado cannot be understated, whether through making the victims feel safe from scroungers or looters or by helping residents with their physical needs throughout the recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the community of Smithville in thanking Sheriff Paul Vescovo and the officers and staff of the Clay County Sheriff's Office for their service following the March 6 tornado and wishing them God's blessings and protection in the years to come.

A BOW TO A LAWYER WITH AP-  
PEALING SKILLS—JOAN O'HARA  
JOINS VICE PRESIDENT PENCE'S  
'RIGGEROUS' NATIONAL SECUR-  
ITY CREW

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of gratitude for the service and friendship of

Joan O'Hara—formerly my General Counsel for the House Homeland Security Committee—who now holds the post of Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence.

Joan would tell you she owes her professional success not to the Halls of Congress but to the skulls and shells of crew. In fact, the first 15 years of Joan's adult life were dedicated to competitive rowing—not law or politics. She approached rowing as she has since approached any obstacle or opportunity in her life: with genuine curiosity and an undeterrable will for success.

Joan took up rowing in her senior year at Loyola College in Maryland. Shortly thereafter, she won a national championship in the single scull competition and was part of a winning team in a quad scull. The former is a testament to Joan's individual determination and perseverance, the latter—her leadership and teamwork. Both of these qualities have since expressed themselves explicitly in Joan's political career.

After her own competitive career was over Joan coached rowing at the collegiate level. As a mentor to young women, she shared her personal experiences and insight to help others better themselves. Joan taught that it is not just the strength of one's back that contributes to rowing success but a cognizant awareness of the route to the finish line and humble understanding of what it takes to get there; and that when there are multiple people in the scull, it is not about how well any one person rows but how well they row as one.

This same mentality has guided her political career. In 2007, Joan noticed a political fervor at the grassroots level that she had never seen before. With her interest sparked, she decided to pursue a law degree and career in public service. Similarly to rowing, Joan excelled at an impressive rate. She joined the Homeland Security Committee as a legal intern and was hired on as a counsel—quickly ascending to General Counsel.

In her tenure as my General Counsel, she was a trusted advisor and close confidant. She positioned herself at the forefront of the encryption debate by drafting legislation to create a national commission to provide recommendations balancing privacy and security. She also played an integral part in facilitating the first congressional agreement to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security.

Joan's insight, professionalism, and leadership are missed as she departs this Committee. She will be an outstanding advisor to the Vice President, and I am excited to see what she makes of this new opportunity. It will be a pleasure to watch Joan as she once again embarks on a new adventure and accepts nothing less than excellence along her journey.

HONORING DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL  
TUSKEGEE AIRMAN WALTER  
K. ROBINSON, SR.

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me