

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

in honoring the service of Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) Walter K. Robinson, Sr. Tomorrow, I will welcome Mr. Robinson and his family to my office to celebrate his extraordinary service.

Walter K. Robinson, Sr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1920, the second son of Dr. John C. Robinson and Mrs. Clara Denning Robinson. In 1941, while attending Howard University in Washington, D.C., he volunteered for the Army Air Corps. He was sent to Camp Lee in Virginia, Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, and finally to Tuskegee Army Air Base in Tuskegee, Alabama. He began training at Tuskegee Institute for Basic Ground School, and after three months, continued in Pre-Flight, Primary, Basic, and Advanced Flight. During Primary Training, he had an accident in which he severed his Achilles tendon and was hospitalized for a year, enduring six operations and extensive physical therapy. When he was eventually able to return to full duty, he completed training, and while there, World War II ended. On November 8, 1945, Mr. Robinson returned to civilian life, a few years after marrying his high school sweetheart, Edmonia Bailey.

After his honorable discharge from the military, Mr. Robinson and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. in 1959. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service and retired after 35 years of service, rising through the ranks of the Post Office as Clerk, Station Manager and the second black Manager of Delivery and Collection for D.C. The Robinsons had one son, Walter K. Robinson, Jr. Sadly, Mr. Robinson's beloved wife, Edmonia Bailey Robinson, passed away in 2000, after 59 years of marriage. Today, Mr. Robinson still lives in Washington, D.C. and is a very active member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen (ECCTAI, Inc.). Members of ECCTAI and the Tuskegee Airmen were well-deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal they collectively received in March 2007. It is an honor to have a Tuskegee Airman still living in the District, and I very much look forward to meeting and welcoming him and his family to my office tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring the service of Walter K. Robinson, Sr. and the extraordinary service and sacrifice also made by his brothers and sisters in World War II.

HONORING MICHAEL AND TABITHA MARQUARDT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituents, Michael and Tabitha Marquardt, on his upcoming retirement after more than 20 years of service with the United States Navy.

Michael's tireless dedication to duty, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he worked to be the best. His numerous commendations and awards, including the Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and several others, are

a testament to his courage, work ethic and character. His enduring legacy of service to our Nation truly is commendable.

Michael would be the first to admit, however, that his service at home and around the world—to include the Persian Gulf and Mexico—would have been impossible without the sacrifice and service of his wife, Tabitha. Like thousands of other military spouses, her strength and perseverance played a critical role in our Nation's defense as she managed the family's affairs at home, which allowed Michael to focus on critical missions before him. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude for the service of our military families.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Michael and Tabitha Marquardt on his retirement and for their family's service to the United States of America.

HONORING MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 67 high school seniors in Florida's 21st District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of the 67 from my district, 25 have joined the Army; their names are the following: Amon King, Anne Kwarteng, Ola Selwyn-Dudoit, Nicole Thornton, Alejandro Abrego, Jonathan Abresch, Jordan Amoedo, Lashawndra Bryant, Calvin Castro, Emilio Constante, Jordan Edwards, Kamron Flar, Jameal Hutchinson, Dexter Knowles, Jorge Lopez, Kamaal Matthews, Skyler Podhurst, Widmania Registre, Aaron Rodriguez, Andrea Santana, Sameh Sedrak, Matthews Silva, Sabrina Silver, Gregory Westpfahl, and Nicholas Whittington.

Twenty-seven have joined the Marines; their names are the following: Abbey Teitelbaum, Cherilyn Kranenberg, Kyran Russell, Erik Bruce, Daniel Mass, Cesar Bermudez, Ray Smith, Steele Holman, Ethan Brake, Climineda Charles, Clayton Shellard, Jake Sollecito, Michael Mero, Kaudriel Valce, Bernardo Rodriguez-Tomas, Manuel Reyes, Joel Pena, Raymond Findieson, Jaheym Hendrickson, Thai Tran, Jeremiah Brown, Lazaro Figuero, Kristiana Lombardi, Greson Ramos-Artiga, Ian Sorenson, Anthony Torres, and Jacob Smith-Mullaly.

Two have joined the National Guard; their names are the following: Shelby Cochrane and Emilie Ortiz.

Eight have joined the Navy; their names are the following: Jasmine Oliver, Edwin Velazquez, Maxwell Mulford, Benjamin Johnson Jr., Myles Jackson, Kenny Zamor, Richneider Blaise, and Marjorie Galvez.

Five have joined the Air Force; their names are the following: Dylan Delmastro, Anthony Camposeco, Roland Kupoluyi, Eric Reid, and Brian Bickle.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country.

On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's 21st District, we thank them for their service, and wish them best of luck as they pursue this challenging endeavor.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT CAROLE A. MCCOY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman who has shown strong dedication to serving New York's 21st District.

Carole McCoy first came to Watertown, New York, in January 2007, when she was appointed as the fifth president of Jefferson Community College. During her ten years of service, Ms. McCoy has continually demonstrated her commitment to the students of the North Country. Under her leadership, the college saw the construction of a Collaborative Learning Center for the purpose of fostering academic curiosity and encouraging cooperation among students. Additionally, since 2007, enrollment at Jefferson Community College has increased by nearly 21 percent, seven times the typical growth rate at community colleges across New York State.

Ms. McCoy also received the 2016 ATHENA Award, which celebrates remarkable women as valued members and leaders of the community. She was recognized for professional excellence, providing valuable services to her community, and for supporting women to realize their potential.

In the 21st District of New York, we are proud of Carole McCoy's commitment to service and academia, and we honor the legacy she will leave at Jefferson Community College.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 222 and 223 Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, I was not present for roll call vote 223. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Yea on roll call vote 223.