

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to Mr. Antonio Hinton, Sr., who currently serves as the leader of Eastern Star Lodge No. 13 and all the members of this historic lodge on the celebration of 150 years of continuous service to Hampton and the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is my profound hope that through their work, members of Eastern Star Lodge No. 13 continue to provide support and service to their community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
FALL-EN SOLDIER ARMY CAPTAIN
(CPT) RALPH JOHN HARTING III

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Army Captain (CPT) Ralph John Harting III, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 29, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. CPT Harting was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated by a suicide bomber as he was conducting a traffic-control-point inspection in Diyarrah, Iraq. Also killed was Captain Stephen W. Frank.

CPT Harting and CPT Stephen W. Frank were among an estimated 50 people who died that day in bombings carried out by insurgents trying to disrupt the newly formed Iraqi government. CPT Harting was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, which was attached to the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from Mississippi.

CPT Harting was born in Pontiac, Michigan and raised in Union Lake. Jay, as he was known to family and friends, applied to all four service academies and was accepted at each one. He enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. CPT Harting graduated with a mechanical engineering degree in 1998. CPT Harting and CPT Frank were classmates in college as well as Michigan natives.

At the time of his death, CPT Harting was survived by his wife, Jennifer, a 2-year-old daughter, a 1-year-old son, and an infant son who was born shortly after his death.

When the Frank family learned of the death of their son and CPT Harting, they invited the Harting family over to share stories.

"We talked about how we wished it was us to go first," Sue Frank told the Detroit Free Press. "We were glad that the boys were not alone when they died. It was a comforting conversation, and we had an immediate bonding over the most tragic thing that could happen in your life. It's good to know that the Hartings are only two miles away."

CPT Harting and CPT Frank are both buried at the West Point Cemetery which is on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

CPT Harting and CPT Frank will always be remembered for their devotion to our nation and for paying the ultimate sacrifice to protect America.

HONORING DIGNITY HEALTH'S
MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dignity Health's Mercy Medical Center in Merced as this year's recipient of the Merced College President's Medallion. Dignity Health is one of the largest health systems in the nation, with 400 care sites across a 22 state network, including 39 hospitals. Through teamwork, innovation, faith and compassion, they strive to keep every patient happy and healthy. The Mercy Medical Center in Merced has provided a resource for all its residents by enhancing and creating the health care system of the future.

Founded in 1831 by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland, The Sisters of Mercy promised to serve people who suffered from sickness, poverty, and lack of education. After arriving in San Francisco, California in 1854, eight Sisters began to care for residents of a city who were struck by cholera, typhoid and influenza and founded St. Mary's Hospital, which is the oldest continuously operating hospital in the city. These facilities later expanded and were renamed to Catholic Healthcare West in order to serve a growing population, while still maintaining their vow to serve the community, and keeping a respect for humanity at the forefront of modern medicine. In 2012, Catholic Healthcare West changed their name to Dignity Health, demonstrating the respect and promise to provide health care and helping everyone achieve healthy and meaningful lives.

Although Dignity Health's headquarters are in San Francisco, their commitment to provide health care for everyone and their compassion towards their patients continues to be demonstrated throughout the nation and in Merced. In the fall of 1999, two hospitals in Merced County began discussions with the intent of finding the best direction to meet the health care needs of their citizens. They agreed to build a single hospital, Mercy Medical Center, to support the addition of more advanced medical services that were not available locally. Thanks to this expansion, not only were they able to bring more resources to the area, but also recruit additional clinical and medical staff to the Merced region as well.

Mercy doctors, employees, and volunteers have consistently met the health care needs of all patients, regardless of their background or circumstances. With the newest Mercy Medical Center established in 2012, I look forward to witnessing the benefits that it will bring to Merced and its surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Dignity Health's Mercy Medical Center. Their long history has exhibited the dedication that they have in caring for all patients, and has demonstrated their commitment to enriching the lives of Merced's students in the future. For these reasons, it is fitting and appropriate that Dignity Health's Mercy Medical Center receives the President's Medallion from Merced College; one of their highest honors and most distinct privileges. I know the service they provide will inspire future generations who wish to work in the medical and health care field to deliver the same quality and excellence that

community members have come to appreciate, and rely upon.

MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL EX-
CELS IN WE THE PEOPLE COM-
PETITION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the students and teachers from Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Illinois who recently participated in the 30th Annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national academic competition and placed tenth in the nation. The We the People program is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and is the most extensive program in the nation educating students about the history and principles of U.S. constitutional democracy.

The national competition takes the form of a simulated congressional hearing during which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Independent studies show that We the People students benefit greatly from this experience. I would like to commend the teachers, Andrew Trenkle and Kevin Hansen, for their dedication and expertise in the classroom. The following are the names of the students from their constitution team:

Cardella Alison, Margaret Bono, Kathryn Boyce, Gracie DeRosa, Lily Dysart, Anna Ebacher, Maria Francque, Katherine Heyde, Maria Iatrides, Grace Janes, Ann Kapustiak, Julia Klages, Dominika Kolendo, Garrett Kreger, Alexander Krysl, Maura Lally, Catherine Martin, Sydney Mathias, Thomas Ng, William Olafsson, Marc Piarowski, Mary Pat Roche, Shannon Ryan, Jill Steffen, Daniel Touhy, Peyton Turner, Emerson Uhlig, Elaina Wilkens, Kristin Woo, Isis Zaki.

Mr. Speaker, with many reports and studies documenting a lack of education among the public of some of our most basic constitutional principles and institutions, the need for effective civic education programs in the schools is quite evident. The We the People program is an important part of the solution to this problem. I salute these young constitutional experts on their performance and wish them success in the years ahead.

HONORING DONNA & ABE
BARTELL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor two members of the community who have made some remarkable contributions to the Beth El Synagogue Center, Donna and Abe Bartell.

After being introduced on a blind date in 1993, Donna and Abe married in 1995. Having lived in Rhode Island and Bayside, Queens, Donna and Abe settled in New Rochelle in 2001 with their two-year-old daughter Hannah.

That same year, their twin sons Stephen and Jesse were born. When choosing a synagogue, Donna gave Abe no choices. They would join a Conservative shul, and since they lived in New Rochelle, they were zoned to attend a New Rochelle synagogue. The obvious and only choice was Beth El Synagogue Center. Beth El quickly became the family's second home, a home which shared and celebrated Jesse's and Stephen's bris and the children's bnei mitzvahs. Hannah, Stephen, and Jesse all attended the Beth El Nursery School, the amazing Day Camp, and, after spending Kindergarten through fifth grade at Schechter Westchester, they moved on to the Beth El Religious School and became active in Beth El's USY chapter.

Donna has served on numerous committees at Beth El. She has enjoyed working on youth activities and organizing meals when Beth El hosts the USY Kinnus. Donna has served as co-chair of the Membership Committee and Couples Club. She has also been on the Nursery School Board.

Abe has served as a member of the Nursery School Board, Day Camp Board, Religious School Board, and Board of Trustees. He has been a member of numerous committees and chaired several, including the Nominating Committee, Catering and Kiddush Committee, and the Youth Services Committee. He has co-led many High Holiday Junior Congregation Services and Havurah Services as half of the now famous Dan & Abe Show.

This year, Beth El is honoring Donna and Abe at their 63rd Annual Gala for all of their contributions to the Synagogue. They are most deserving of the recognition. Congratulations to Donna and Abe on receiving this wonderful honor.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GARFIELD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of the great town of Garfield as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary this Sunday, April 30, 2017.

March 15, 1898 was the day that Garfield broke away from the Township of Saddle River and first became a borough. The State Legislature set Garfield's boundaries which still exist today. Finally the big day on April 19, 1917, the borough became the City of Garfield which we have all come to know.

Today we like to thank Gilbert D. Bogart, the man who is credited as the founder of modern day Garfield. Since 1972, Garfield has been governed by a City Manager and five council members, one of who is selected by their Council colleagues to be Mayor. The residents of Garfield are some of the most involved citizens, and elect all members of the City Council.

The 1,333 acres of land that make up Garfield are arguably the most diverse acres in the 9th congressional district. With over 20 places of worship, a YMCA, Boys and Girls club, Senior Citizen centers, and a public library the City of Garfield is a place for anyone to feel accepted and welcomed.

The City of Garfield has been essential to the growth and development of Bergen County

and the State of New Jersey overall. In fact, Garfield has experienced many of the major milestones in our nation's history: including the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Today, the City of Garfield is led by City Manager Thomas J. Duch, and Mayor Richard Rigoglioso, both lifelong residents, who have spent most of their lives dedicated to Garfield.

I have the great honor of representing the residents of Garfield in Congress. This is a city where people work hard to support their family and their community, a town where the history is long and storied.

Since 2012 when I started representing Garfield in my congressional district I have learned so much about the City. When I visit Garfield I see some of the most hardworking, caring, and welcoming people that I have ever met. I know I can always count on the City of Garfield to be one of the friendliest communities in the 9th district.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating 100 years of history in Garfield, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues to celebrate 100 years of service, dedication, and excellence from the residents of Garfield.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. JOSEPH A. OVICK, ED.D

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Dr. Joseph A. Ovick, former Superintendent of Schools for Contra Costa County.

Dr. Ovick was an educator for 45 years. He began his career as a special education teacher in Santa Clara County which was followed by serving in the county as a public school assistant principal, principal, and director of special education. He later joined the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE), where he worked as director of special education, assistant superintendent for student services, and associate superintendent for business.

In 1996, he was elected county superintendent of schools. He was well-known for developing strong coalitions of educators, community members, and legislators in support of public schools, while always making it a point to visit countless classrooms throughout the county.

Dr. Ovick's achievements in and out of the classroom did not go unrecognized. In 2005, Dr. Ovick was awarded the President's Circle Award for Outstanding Service to Education and the Community from the Diablo Valley College Foundation, as well as the Government Service Award in Recognition of Outstanding Community Service from Congressman George Miller. In 2008, the East Bay Leadership Foundation named Dr. Ovick Citizen of the Year, East Bay Awards. In 2006, he won the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 6, Superintendent of the Year Award, and in 2010 he earned the ACSA, Region 6, Ferd Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Service Award.

Additionally, in 2008, the Contra Costa County Board of Education unanimously voted to honor Dr. Ovick by dedicating CCCOE's community school in Brentwood as the "Joseph A. Ovick School" because of his long-time advocacy for the needs of all students—especially those most at risk and with special needs.

Community service was also an important part of Dr. Ovick's life. He was an active member of the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club, and served as a member on both the local Boys' and Girls' Clubs and Junior Achievement USA.

Dr. Ovick was an inspiration and a friend. He passed away unexpectedly on March 30, 2017. I and the community will miss him greatly.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN BROWN FOR HIS RETIREMENT AND SERVICE TO ROCK ISLAND

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Brown, who is retiring as the Rock Island County Deputy Clerk. Mr. Brown has honorably served Rock Island County in various levels of government and public service for the past 40 years and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Brown began his career in public service as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman in 1978. Since then, he has served as the Deputy County Clerk under Karen Kinney, Dick Leibovitz and John Gianulis, in addition to serving as the Rock Island Township Supervisor from 1997 to 2013.

Mr. Brown has dedicated his career to ensuring our local institutions are accessible, and striving to improve the lives of all individuals within our community. He has lead projects to improve early voting locations and accessibility, same day voter registration, as well as created initiatives to hire bilingual individuals to ensure all of our constituents are able to be heard. All the work Mr. Brown has done to improve our county and his passion for helping people will be not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Brown for his commitment to public service and for all of the work he has done to better our community. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE CORPS MASTER SERGEANT (MSGT) SCOTT EUGENE PRUITT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Corps Master Sergeant (MSGT) Scott Eugene Pruitt who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 28, 2012, during Operation Enduring Freedom. MSGT Pruitt was killed in action by enemy fire when his vehicle was struck