

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Mark on his induction into the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mark and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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RECOGNIZING GREG MARIUS

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**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 2017*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Greg Marius.

Known affectionately as “the Commissioner”, Mr. Marius founded the Entertainer’s Basketball Classic (EBC) at Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem in 1982. Originally conceived of as a way for rival hip-hop crews to establish blacktop bragging rights, the EBC has evolved into the world’s premier streetball basketball showcase.

A highlight on the City’s summer calendar for decades, the EBC pits playground standouts against the country’s most talented professional players, all provided free of charge to the delight of thousands of exuberant fans. NBA stars like LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Vince Carter have all played in the tournament, facing off against the best streetballers Harlem has to offer.

As one of the first people to connect basketball and hip-hop music, Mr. Marius created an all-inclusive atmosphere that celebrated the game, its culture, and its fans. Through his aggressive promotion, Mr. Marius enlisted hip-hop stars like Jay-Z, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Fat Joe, and others to sponsor teams, helping to attract corporate sponsors like Reebok and Gatorade and raise the profile of the EBC to an unprecedented level.

By remaining committed to keeping the EBC in Harlem, Mr. Marius had a far-reaching impact on our community. A lifelong Harlem resident, he often spoke of how fortunate he was to create memories in the neighborhood where he grew up. He also prided himself on keeping alive the legacy of Holcombe Rucker, the park’s namesake who founded his own tournament in 1946 that provided neighborhood youths a positive outlet to keep them off the streets.

Further, by taking a touring version of the EBC on the road to other cities Mr. Marius played an integral role in broadening streetball’s audience. Without Greg Marius, it is safe to say that New York City, specifically Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem, would not be the international symbol of basketball prowess that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay remembrance to Mr. Marius and ask that we continue to carry along his legacy and love for streetball in Harlem.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE AND LOUIS  
STORTENBECKER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rose and Louis Stortenbecker of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 2, 2017.

Rose and Louis’ lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

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IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL  
MCGONIGAL

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Daniel McGonigal of the Springfield Township Fire Company. Daniel joined the Company in 2013. Two years later, he decided to also answer the call to service for his country and joined the U.S. Navy. Despite his full-time service to the nation, Daniel does his most to help the Fire Company and his community when he returns home on leave.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Daniel has rightly been nominated as VFW Firefighter of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Daniel for his service.

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HONORING THE DEFENDERS OF  
BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR AND  
REMEMBERING THE FALL OF  
BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR IN  
MAY 1942

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 2017*

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor in remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in May of 1942. From December 8, 1941 until May 6, 1942 American soldiers, marines, sailors, nurses and airmen fought along-side the members of Philippine army in defense of the Philippine Archipelago.

On December 8, 1941, a day after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, bombs were dropped on Clark Field, starting what would become known as the Philippine Campaign or the Battle of the Philippines.

On April 9, 1942, after fighting for four months without reinforcements and supplies, Major General Edward King, Jr. surrendered the forces under his command on the Bataan Peninsula. Upon surrender of the American and Filipino forces, the Japanese encountered twice as many captives as reports had estimated, thus creating an enormous logistical challenge—the transport and movement of over 60,000 starving, sick, and debilitated prisoners and over 38,000 equally weakened civilian noncombatants that had been caught up in the battle. The prisoners and refugees had to be moved north to get them out of the way of the final Japanese assault on Corregidor, but there was simply not enough mechanized transport to move the masses of wounded, sick, and weakened prisoners. The Japanese solution was to force march the 60,000 prisoners north from Mariveles to San Fernando and from Capas to Camp O’Donnell—a distance of approximately 66 miles.

This has become known as the Bataan Death March. Starting on April 9, 1942 and lasting for seven days, credible sources report widely differing prisoner of war casualties—from 5,000 to 18,000 Filipino deaths and 500 to 650 American deaths—that resulted. Forced to march without food or water, many simply could not continue. Prisoners were bayoneted, shot or buried alive if they could not walk. If any tried to escape they were shot.

The final assault on American and Filipino forces in defense of the Philippines came on May 5, 1942 with an assault on the island of Corregidor and ended on May 8, 1942—when General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered forces under his command to the Japanese commander, Lt. General Masaharu Homma of the 14th Japanese Army, thus ending the Battle for the Philippines.

For the next three and a half years Americans were held by the Japanese in the Philippines, Formosa, Korea, China and Japan in POW camps and forced to work for Japanese companies in support of the Japanese war effort. When Japan finally surrendered, American forces sent to Japan found these men and women emaciated—some weighing as little as a third of their normal weight. Suffering for three and a half years, these men and women endured unspeakable hardships and atrocities at the hands of their captors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering those who suffered so much in the name of freedom during World War II on this, the 75th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and the Battle for the Philippines. We are eternally grateful for men such as Ed Jackfert of Wellsburg, West Virginia—who is still with us—as well as those who have recently passed such as Joe Vater, Abie Abraham and Lester Tenney. These men were part of the Greatest Generation and fought in defense of their country during World War II.

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BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 2017*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of Building Safety Month, and I would like to recognize the men and women of