

Jackson County, Oregon, who passed away on May 9, 2017.

A resident of Eagle Point, Oregon, Hunter was a proud graduate of Eagle Point High School. Throughout school he displayed his tremendous leadership skills and commitment to serving others, even as a young man. Hunter served as class president at Eagle Point High and logged more than 100 hours of community service. He also led on the wrestling mat, where he won the Class 5A 160-pound State Championship for the Eagles in 2014. Long after graduation, he continued volunteering with the local youth wrestling program, inspiring others with his passion for the sport he loved.

That same tenacity and commitment to serving others motivated Hunter to serve his country in the Oregon Army National Guard.

He was assigned to Second Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion—186th Infantry Regiment, where he rose to the rank of Specialist and was preparing to attend Army Helicopter School.

Hunter's character left an impact on his fellow soldiers, and the local community. Over 100 military personnel attended Hunter's memorial service, which was complete with a military flyover.

Hunter's family, friends, neighbors, and total strangers touched by his story packed the stands of Eagle Point High School's football stadium to celebrate Hunter's life. At just 21 years old, this young man's life exemplified that of a community leader, star athlete, and American soldier devoted to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I offer my heartfelt condolences to Hunter's mother Lorelei and his father Kurt for the loss of their son.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SUPER-INTENDENT RICHARD McCORKLE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to Mr. Richard "Ricky" McCorkle, Superintendent of the Marion County School District, on his retirement after 30 years as an educator and civic leader. He will be honored at a retirement celebration on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Marion County Middle and High School cafeteria.

Before becoming an educator, Mr. McCorkle was an insurance salesman from 1977 until 1987. That year, he earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Georgia Southwestern College. He then became a history teacher and a basketball and baseball coach at Tri-County High School. In 1997, he earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from Troy State University. That year, he became the Tri-County High School principal. Within two years, he was elected as Superintendent of the Marion County School District.

Aristotle once said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Mr. McCorkle was an educator of both. He is rooted in the belief that children need constant love and encouragement. As such,

he was most known for walking through Marion County schools on a regular basis and talking with students from pre-K to 12th grade. He frequently visited teachers and staff to show his care and support for them as well.

Outside of his tremendous scholastic dedication, Mr. McCorkle is also very involved within the community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for South Georgia Technical College and is the Executive Director of Chattahoochee-Flint RESA. He is also a Board Member of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority and the River Valley Regional Commission. He is a member of the Buena Vista/Marion County Chamber of Commerce, Georgia School Superintendents Association, Georgia School Boards Association, and Georgia Association of Educational Leaders. He is a founder of Pastors Partnering with Education.

After retirement, Mr. McCorkle will enjoy spending time with his wife, Marie, and their two children and two grandchildren. His love for education was also instilled in his own children, both of whom are now educators and married to educators. Richard McCorkle has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Superintendent Richard McCorkle upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career spanning 30 years in education.

#### COMMENDING LOCAL 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE SIXTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 8 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Navy after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Navy.

Byer, Magalyana; Davis, Patrick; Deike, Iain; Phouminuh, Hongtavanah; Reynolds, Zachariah; Smith, Michael; Snyder, Walter; Thompson, Tyler.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 6th Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this

great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

#### RECOGNIZING GAINES CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate May 21st, 2017 as Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church's 100th Anniversary. As we celebrate its centennial, we celebrate the past while embracing all that the future holds for the congregation. On this occasion, I extend my gratitude to Claranne Perkins and Jeanette Hunter, Co-Chairs of this centennial celebration, and Pastor Cyrus Burns, the proud leader of this community.

Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church has grown tremendously from its 10 original founders in 1917, and has since become an integral part of the City of East Moline. It has undergone many transformations over the past 100 years—new church buildings replaced old, and many different Pastors have contributed their wisdom. But from its original organization in Campbell School, the church has prospered and always remained true to its mission and values. Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church has gone above and beyond to enrich our community through their youth programs and extensive charitable work.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church on their 100th Anniversary. I am proud to know that organizations such as Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church, are flourishing and strengthening our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KEITH BALLARD AND SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Ballard and Southwest Middle School's Music Department for their exceptional work and dedication in promoting the arts.

Southwest Middle School is located a few minutes from the international border and serves a large Latino population. The school has one of the highest poverty rates in San Diego County. According to Sweetwater Union High School District officials, Southwest Middle School previously had a struggling music program requiring immediate attention and assistance.

In 2010, Mr. Ballard was involuntarily transferred to Southwest Middle School. He was told that he had been assigned to improve a failing music program in need of immediate help. Unfortunately, the conditions of both the school and the program did not make this an easy task. Mr. Ballard worked tirelessly with administrators, parents and the community to