Lauren Baker has been recognized for her work including Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) where she earned a Master of Science Degree in Administrative Leadership and Educational Supervision. She was honored in 2003 as a Woman of Influence. In 2010, Lauren was invited to the White House as a part of a small group advising the Obama Administration on equity in technical education for the National Educate to Innovate Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Lauren, her husband John Drew, a UW labor leader and adult son, Nick, my friends. She has left a legacy of advocacy and compassion and is a true trailblazer. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lauren Baker, and wish her the best as she transitions into a new phase of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on September 5, 2017 because my flight from Oregon was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2864, the Improving Access to Capital Act, and H.R. 3110, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE NOR- TON AND HIS SERVICE AS EXEC- UTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CENTER FOR PUB- LIC POLICY STUDIES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER
OF NEW HAMPShIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Norton as he moves on after twelve years from his role as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies.

As Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, and previously as director of Medicaid Service for the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, Steve made invaluable contributions to our community and our state. Through his commitment and compassion, he helped improve the lives of countless families and communities in need, and his vision has helped to create a better future for the Granite State and its residents.

On behalf of New Hampshire’s Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Steve’s work, I thank him for all he has done for our state, and I wish him the best of luck in his next step. I look forward to our continued work together to make New Hampshire be an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RON ARMSTEAD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead, the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

Mr. Armstead began his career in public service as the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, a role he has served in since the program’s inception. Since then, he has served under various members, including former Representative Charles Rangel and Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Currently, Mr. Armstead serves under Representative SANFORD BISHOP Jr. In addition, Mr. Armstead also served as a consultant to the late Secretary Jerry Brown’s Veterans Affairs’ Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Mr. Armstead holds a Master’s in City Planning with a concentration in Affordable Housing and Community Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is also a licensed social worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead for his hard work with the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

HONORING SCOTT FRANZGROTE FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERV- ICE AS FIRE CHIEF OF THE ROLLING MEADOWS FIRE DEPAR- TMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Scott Franzgrote on the occasion of his retirement. On September 29th of this year, Mr. Franzgrote will conclude his loyal service as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

Chief Franzgrote has served the community for a total of 27 years, including the last six years as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department. Since joining the department in 1990, his extraordinary leadership has earned him great respect among colleagues and members of the community.

During his tenure, Chief Franzgrote led a consolidation effort for services with the Palatine and Palatine Rural Fire Departments. The “Rural Palatine Meadows” initiative has led to shared equipment, standardized training, streamlined responses to incidents, and has already saved the city of Rolling Meadows hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing Chief Franzgrote every happiness in the well-deserved respite of his retirement.

DISCUSSION ABOUT REMOVING A PLAQUE ON THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks by Peter Onoszko, President of the Jefferson County Commission:

“With malice toward none and charity for all” thus said President Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address in 1865. Even though the Civil War raged through the land for several more months before the final victory over the Confederate States, President Lin- coln was already setting the course on the path of reconciliation. Regardless of the military victory, the President knew that unless there was a reconciliation the military victory would be meaningless.

The path of reconciliation has been slow and tortuous. However, in the decades following the Civil War all but the most senor of the former Confederates had already started the process of reconciliation with the United States. The current Congress has several bills dealing with reconciliation in several areas of law and politics.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead, the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, for his long and distinguished service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lauren Baker, and wish her the best as she transitions into a new phase of her life.

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Unfortunately the full acceptance of black Americans was legally obstructed in many