

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 by Business Journal 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 UAW 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 NORTON AND HIS SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CENTER FOR PUBLIC 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 SERVICE AS FIRE CHIEF OF THE ROLLING MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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 would continue for several more months before the final victory over the Confederate States, President Lincoln was already setting the country 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 senior of the former Confederate military and civilian leadership had their United States citizenship restored by Congress. The post-War careers of Confederate general officers is illustrative of the reconciliation. Depending on how one counts, there were between 425 and 562 Confederate general officers. Of these numbers, 3 were recalled to active duty during the Spanish-American War and served in the United States Army. 51 were appointed to various federal civilian positions ranging from US ambassadors to foreign governments to US marshals to membership on various federal commissions to postmasters and so forth. 45 were elected to the US Congress as senators and representatives and at least one was appointed to a federal judgeship.

What of the ordinary soldiers and how they felt? In 1905 on the 40th anniversary of the Civil War, Congress authorized the first campaign medal ever awarded to members of the Armed Forces and this was the Civil War Campaign Medal awarded to all who had served honorably in BOTH the Union and Confederate armies. Perhaps the most poignant demonstration of reconciliation was the Battle of Gettysburg Reunion of 1913 marking the fiftieth anniversary of that great battle. Thousands of surviving veterans from both the North and the South gathered at the site of the battle. During several days of the reunion, Confederate and Union veterans toured the battlefield walking arm in arm as they revisited the site and reminisced with each other, recognizing that there was an unbreakable bond that had risen among all who had participated.

By 1978 the United States Congress had restored US citizenship to all of the senior leadership of the Confederacy, in some cases posthumously. The last was Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, who posthumously had his US citizenship restored by an act of Congress in 1978. In signing this act President Jimmy Carter observed that this was the final act of reconciliation.

Paralleling the reconciliation of "the Boys in Blue and the Boys in Gray" was the reconciliation between white and black Americans. This also followed a tortuous path. Starting with the Emancipation Proclamation promulgated in 1863 and continuing with the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution between 1864 and 1870, slavery was abolished and black Americans were recognized as full citizens of the United States with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

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