

changing support and services. From daily meals and medical screenings, to a variety of social events and activities, the Center undoubtedly enhances the quality of life for so many of our seniors.

During the celebration, the Annual Millennial Roundtables will gather seniors aged 84 and above for an opportunity to socialize with each other. Together, the seniors who take part in this cherished tradition have a combined age of over 1,000 years.

I would like to send my deepest gratitude to all those who support and work with BCA's Eighth Avenue Senior Center. Thanks to your hard work, we can all take pride in the many accomplishments this community hub has achieved over the last two decades. My best wishes for a successful event.

CONGRATULATING NATHAN HITE  
ON EARNING 143 MERIT BADGES

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eagle Scout Nathan Hite of Elkhart, Indiana, on completing all 143 merit badges this year.

Since 1910, Boy Scouts of America has been a pillar in youth development throughout the country. In the generations since, millions of Boy Scouts have gone on to make lasting impacts in their communities and learn important skills and life lessons that helped them make the future brighter. Instilling the characteristics of strong citizenship—such as courage, determination, and compassion for others—Boy Scouts of America has allowed young men like Nathan to challenge themselves to be better and make positive contributions in the world around them.

Nathan has distinguished himself among his peers and now joins the ranks of Boy Scouts who have completed all merit badges available to them at the time of their service. In fact, because there are more merit badges available now than ever before, Nathan has earned more than any previous Scout. At the young age of 13, Nathan achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and pushed forward in his quest to complete all the available merit badges. I have no doubt Nathan will continue to aspire to excellence and meaningful accomplishments in all his future endeavors.

Under the guidance of the Boy Scouts of America LaSalle Council and New Paris Scout Troop 12, Nathan has learned skills that will stay with him for the rest of his life. He exemplifies the character that we all strive to attain, and through his participation in Boy Scouts, Nathan has become a well-rounded leader and a role model for others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District I am grateful for the exceptional opportunities Boy Scouts of America offers our youth, and I look forward to all the amazing things that lie ahead for Nathan.

RECOGNIZING RAQUEL GONZALEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Raquel Gonzalez, a business leader, community advocate, and role model for young Hispanic women.

Ms. Gonzalez was born on April 22, 1925 in Tampico, Mexico to Carmen and Jose Gonzalez, and was the second of seven children. She would attend San Juan Bosco and graduate from St. Augustine High School in Laredo, Texas. Ms. Gonzalez would begin her professional career directly out of high school at her father's automotive firm, J.B. Gonzalez Garage. Here she honed her sharp business skills, strong work ethic, community pride, and deep-rooted family values.

In 1975, Raquel Gonzalez and a group of investors founded the South Texas Abstract Company, later known as the Webb County Title and Abstract Company. Ms. Gonzalez became one of the nation's first female Hispanics to own and manage a successful title company.

As a strong advocate for education, Ms. Gonzalez ran for a trustee position at Laredo Community College in 1980 and served for 28 years with distinction. And in 2003, the LCC Trustees unanimously voted to name the new Automotive Technology Center in her honor. She would also receive countless community service awards during her lifetime including: the Congressional Certificate of Merit, Laredo Women's Hall of Fame, and Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year.

Throughout Ms. Gonzalez's career and life, her tireless work made Laredo a better place for her fellow citizens. She was a friend to all and selflessly gave to her community out of the goodness of her heart.

Raquel is survived by her siblings, Juan G. Gonzalez, Mercedes G. McPartland (Robert), sister-in-law Consuelo, nephews, Mariano E. Gonzalez (Alma), Jose Mariano Gonzalez (Elia), Guillermo X. Gonzalez (Eva), Bryan A. McPartland (Cara), Ricardo Gonzalez (San Juanita), Luis A. Gonzalez, David F. Gonzalez (Camilla), and Ruben Gonzalez; nieces, Ma. Cristina Gonzalez (Humberto), M. Alexandria "Alex" Starnes (Melvin), Jenifer M. Shaw (Edward), Griselda G. Palmer, Amparo M. Santos (Gerardo), Melissa Gonzalez, Laura M. Matz (Richard), and Elsa Gonzalez; and many grand-nephews, grand-nieces, great grand-nephews, and great grand-nieces.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Raquel Gonzalez.

HONORING THE LONG-TIME  
SERVICE OF JASON LARRABEE

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the long-time service of my Chief of Staff, Jason Larrabee. During his time on my team, he has been instrumental in managing our offices and providing

direction for implementing policy in the Central Valley, and has been an even better friend.

Jason graduated in 1997 from California State University, Chico, with a degree in Geography and Planning. He quickly made the move to DC in 2001 to join former Congressman Doug Ose as a Legislative Assistant, helping advocate for California water rights. He then joined former Congressman John Doolittle's office as their Legislative Director, where he served for six years. In 2007, he left the Hill to start his own firm, Jason Larrabee Ventures, in Sacramento. There, he implemented government strategies for environmental policies in California, while simultaneously earning his Master of Business Administration from Drexel University.

Yearning to serve his country once again, Jason returned to Capitol Hill in 2010 to join me as my Chief of Staff. He ensured the continued success of both my DC and district offices through his keen oversight and dedication. He provided direction for an agenda that secured the passage of five bills into law. Jason's strong commitment to the quality of his work, as well as to the country, is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

In addition to his contributions here on the Hill, Jason serves on the Board of Directors for the California State Society and as a managing partner for his family's farm in Butte City, California. He also spent 11 years as a Volunteer Fireman with the Glenn County Fire Department. Throughout Jason's countless years of accomplishments and experiences, he has had the loving support of his wife Jill, daughter Tatum, and dog Fritz.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Jason Larrabee for his many years of service, devotion, and outstanding contributions to his community. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 486 regarding "On Ordering the Previous Question" (H. Res. 513). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 487 regarding "On Agreeing to the Resolution" (H. Res. 513). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 488 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 73" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 489 regarding "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 74" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 490 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 75" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 491 regarding "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 76" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 492 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No.

77" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 493 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 87" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 494 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 105" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 495 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 113" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 496 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 117" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 497 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 124" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 498 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 125" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 499 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 131" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 500 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 134" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 501 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 138" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 502 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 145" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 503 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 154" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 504 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 155" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 505 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 160" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 506 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 161" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 507 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 164" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 508 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 167" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 509 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 168" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 510 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 170" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 511 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 172" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 512 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 173" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 513 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 174" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 514 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 186" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 515 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 187" (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 26 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I congratulate President Sargsyan and the people of the Republic of Armenia on 26 years of independence from the Soviet Union. Since this day 26 years ago, the Armenian people have lived up to their pledge to create a free and strong nation, built on strong democratic principles and a market economy.

This year it was a great pleasure to be in Armenia to celebrate Independence Day with the Armenian people. Each time I visit, I am greatly impressed with how far the country has come since the first time I visited in 1997. In the past quarter century, the Republic of Armenia has strengthened its democratic institutions, empowered civil society, and engaged in economic diversification despite difficult barriers created by two of its four neighbors.

While in Armenia, I was able to have incredible conversations with President Sargsyan, Members of the Presidential Cabinet, and Members of the National Assembly. They shared with me the progress being made in Armenia, and reaffirmed Armenia's role as a partner in the region. Armenia is a strong partner, cooperating on a number of regional and security challenges in NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

The Republic of Armenia has also consistently championed the right to self-determination of its neighbors in the Republic of Artsakh. This is a right that Artsakh continues to fight for in its steadfast pursuit of regional security and stability despite a tenuous cease fire.

I join with the Armenian people and the Armenian-American community in celebrating 26 years of independence. I send my best wishes on this important day and pledge my continued commitment to a strong United States-Armenia partnership.

HONORING REP. WIGGINS

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to take note of the commitment to principle that the Honorable Charles Wiggins, a distinguished former Member of Congress from California, displayed when asking President Nixon to resign following the "Smoking Gun" tape revelation during the Watergate Scandal. Rep. Charles Wiggins, of the House Judiciary Committee, was initially one of President Nixon's most loyal supporters. However, with the revelation of President Nixon's involvement in the Watergate break-in, Rep. Wiggins rescinded his support and called for President Nixon, a fellow Republican, to be impeached. Rep. Wiggins held true to the principle that no man is above the rule of law, including the President of the United States. Four days later, President Nixon resigned. Let us not forget our moral compasses and the commitment to put country over party, and remember the courageous act of Congressman Charles Wiggins holding firm that the rule of law applies to all Americans, even the occupant of the highest office in the land.

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CONGRATULATING DALE AND JUDY STICKEL ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dale and Judy Stickel on celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Having met in kindergarten and attended Junior prom together, they knew the stars had aligned early in their lives. Their heartwarming story of a childhood friendship that turned into a lifetime of love makes this golden anniversary all the more special. Not only that, their lasting commitment, not only to one another but to their family and community, is a shining example of devotion and faithfulness in our country.

Dale and Judy have lived in northern Indiana nearly their entire lives, and I have no doubt the positive influence they've had here will last far into the future. They exemplify the hardworking and compassionate citizens we all strive to be. I am truly inspired by their passion to help others and their efforts to make service a family tradition.

It is clear that their love for one another and the family they have built grows stronger each day. Now 50 years later we have a wonderful reason to celebrate. Fifty years of marriage is a marvelous accomplishment, and this milestone speaks volumes about the love and compassion they share with one another, as well as their tremendous foundation of faith.

Dale and Judy have built a life together that revolves around making a difference in the lives of others. It is no surprise the example they've set will ensure their legacy of selflessness, community, love, and faith is passed along to their three children and six grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of 2nd District