

COL Villaronga has been responsible for the donation of over \$175,000 in scholarships for local graduating seniors. He continues to serve veterans in his community alongside his wife. His tireless efforts have made Central Texas a place that we're proud to call home.

COL Villaronga's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join his wife, Julia, along with his family and friends in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

BAHA'I BICENTENARY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, it is with great pleasure that I send warm greetings to the Baha'i community of South Florida and beyond.

Baha'is have thrived in the United States for over 120 years, making the world a better place by being good citizens, serving their communities, and working with those around them to promote the common good. With over five million followers around the world, the Baha'i Faith continues to promote Baha'u'llah's message of justice, unity, and peace, as it calls for equality, education, interfaith harmony, and international cooperation, and an end to racial prejudice.

Despite the Baha'i message of peace, Baha'is in Iran continue to endure severe persecution because of their faith. In the last two Congresses, I have been honored to introduce a resolution which condemns "the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights." Last year the House unanimously passed this resolution, sending a strong message that Iran must be held accountable for its actions, and we continue to garner strong bipartisan support for a similar measure, H. Res. 274, this year.

As we celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, let us remember his words: "so powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth." In our quest for justice and peace, we must all work together to combat religious persecution whenever and wherever it is found.

My best wishes to the entire Baha'i community on this very special occasion.

HONORING THELMA COLLINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the retirement of Ms. Thelma Collins, who has tirelessly devoted herself to the betterment of Itta Bena, Mississippi, through her works as a Servant Mayor for 12 years. As a native to this Delta community, Mrs. Collins has always be-

lieved in her dreams to see Itta Bena develop into a vibrant, healthy place for growing up and growing old.

In the pursuit of her vision, Mrs. Collins attended and graduated from Mississippi Valley State University, and then continued her education by receiving a Master's Degree at Mississippi State University. Post-graduation, Mrs. Collins began her career with over 30 years in education—serving as a teacher, an adjunct professor at Mississippi Valley State University, and as a recognized member of many civil and spiritual boards.

In August 1996, Mrs. Collins was elected to serve her first Mayoral term in the city of Itta Bena, Mississippi. After sitting four years out of office, Mrs. Collins' continued vision inspired her to return to office and serve a second term in 2005. Still hopeful to see a progressive Itta Bena, Ms. Collins returned to serve a spiritual led third term in 2009. However, due to the poor economic state of Itta Bena, Ms. Collins refused a salary, and served this final term pro bono.

Amongst Mrs. Collins many noteworthy accomplishments, is her dedication and the success she achieved in not only getting the IRS to remove the city's lien, but also to abate its more than \$200,000 tax debt.

Mrs. Collins has been married to Reverend Johnny Collins for forty-nine years. They have one son, John Paul Collins, a daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren. At this juncture during her retirement, her ultimate aspiration is to continue her works in the improvement and livelihood of her citizens of Itta Bena, while remaining close and led by her relationship with Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mrs. Thelma Collins, for her dedication and service to the great city of Itta Bena, Mississippi.

DALLAS LOVE FIELD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Dallas Love Field Airport, which celebrated one hundred years of operation this month. Since the airport's opening in 1917, Dallas Love Field has experienced tremendous growth and positive change that has strengthened the Dallas area in a multitude of ways. Today, Dallas Love Field stands as an invaluable gateway for North Texas.

Dallas Love Field is rich in history and culture. The airport was initially opened as an Army Air Service field, named for Lieutenant Moss Lee Love, the eighth aviation officer to be killed and the 10th fatality in Army aviation. However, as flying became more accessible airlines started conducting commercial flights out of Love Field and eventually the airport was made the headquarters for Southwest Airlines when the company was founded in 1971. Throughout American history, it has stood as an important landmark, not only for the City of Dallas, but for the entire United States as well.

The airport has hosted aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh, after recently finishing the first flight from New York to Paris. In 1959,

Lady Bird Johnson celebrated the launching of the first jet service, an American Airlines 707, out of Love Field. Later, in November of 1963, the airport hosted an historic moment during one of the most shocking days that our country has ever lived through, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. It was at Love Field where First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy stood by Lyndon Johnson's side as he was sworn in as President.

Today, countless Americans rely heavily on Love Field's convenient access to air travel and the first class amenities that it provides for travelers. Love Field stands as a model for other municipalities in how to manage and grow a self-support airport of this caliber. I am proud to recognize Dallas Love Field during this important milestone, and I look forward to experiencing even more positive growth and change at Love Field in the coming years.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALFRED WILLIAM DE SANTIS, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alfred William De Santis, Sr. for his 55 years of service to the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in Oceanport, New Jersey. Mr. De Santis' outstanding record will be celebrated at the company's 40th annual "Old Timer's Night," which Mr. De Santis himself originated.

Mr. De Santis' leadership and commitment to the department is evident. A Life Member and Ex-Chief, Mr. De Santis began his service with the company in March of 1962. In addition to his election as Chief of the Oceanport Fire Department in 1971, Mr. De Santis also served as Captain, Secretary and Treasurer of the company. He was elected Company President for six terms. He remains an active member of the company and is dedicated to his fellow fire fighters, organizing the annual "Old Timer's Night" celebrating and honoring members for the past 40 years.

In addition to his service with the Oceanport Fire Department, Mr. De Santis was a member of the Fire Police Division for 30 years and served as Secretary of the Oceanport Relief Association and Secretary of the Exempt Association of Oceanport for 35 years. He also held leadership positions with the Ex Chief's Association of Eatontown, Oceanport and West Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I join with the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in honoring Alfred William De Santis, Sr. on his outstanding record of accomplishment. Mr. De Santis has dutifully served Oceanport for 55 years and his selfless commitment is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING "MOTHER" ROSA MCKIE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of "Mother"

Rosa McKie, who for the past 50 years has shown tremendous dedication to the community of the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ on Williams Avenue in Brooklyn.

Known as a source of pure kindness, inspiration and fortitude, Ms. McKie's longstanding service to the Church earned her the title of "Church Mother". Ms. McKie migrated to New York in 1943 and has since called Brooklyn her home. A World War II Navy Bride, she married the late Charles McKie as he was on active duty. This summer, on July 17th, she turned 100 years old, proving that age has not slowed her from counseling, nurturing and investing in her community.

Present at nearly every worship service that takes place at the Church, Ms. McKie has fulfilled roles as diverse as usher, Choir Director, and outreach missionary. It is this spirit of willingness to meet every need that has earned her such a warm legacy among congregants.

It is my great honor to wish Mother McKie a joyful birthday and lifetime celebration as she leaves her daily role with the Church to relocate and live with her daughter. For someone who has been a living inspiration for so many, it is my deep hope that this service is a chance for her community to return the love.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT WILL
WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Sergeant Will Williams, U.S. Army, Retired, of Round Rock, Texas, for his selfless dedication and service to our nation and his continued, unparalleled contributions to his community. I'm honored to award him a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

Following his enlistment in 1976, SGT Williams contributed 24 years of service that included deployments from Panama and Somalia, to Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an Army Ranger, Small Weapons Specialist with the 2nd Division. His commitment to keeping our nation safe is in his blood. Three generations of his family served in combat roles in the United States Army, and among the three they share 4 Bronze Star Medals.

SGT Williams' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to Round Rock, SGT Williams dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community. In 2013, he helped raise \$50,000 for Dell's Children's Hospital and over \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. In Round Rock, SGT Williams organized a food drive, sent out a care package to deployed soldiers, and provided clothing and supplies to 300 foster kids through Project Care.

His service has been recognized and appreciated throughout the community. SGT Williams was recognized with the Service to Mankind Award by the Round Rock Sertoma Club, received the Leadership Award from the "Heart of Texas Award" organization, and was honored with the Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award from Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

I commend First Sergeant Will Williams' selfless service to his community and nation.

His commitment to excellence and citizenship reflect the best values we hold as Americans. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Charleston High School for winning the 2017 IHSA Class 2A Boys State Golf Tournament.

In their State Championship effort, the Trojans set a new school record by six strokes with a team score of 599 over the two day tournament. The members of the Charleston High School Golf team dedicated their State Championship, like they had their entire 2017 season, to their classmate and friend Jordan Holly, who passed away this past May. I commend these young people for selflessly honoring others during one of their greatest achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to the Head Coach Randy Hapster and to team members Keegan Gowin, Ben Lanman, Robert Rardin, Preston Smith, Blake Wolfe, and Zach Will. They should all be very proud of their accomplishments this season and I wish them nothing but the best for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNNY C.
TAYLOR, JR.

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding leader and defender of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their students. Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. has served as the President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund since 2010, and today, we honor his service to the nearly 300,000 students the organization represents. Named for the first African American justice of the United States Supreme Court, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund honors Justice Marshall's legacy by assisting in the development of tomorrow's leader.

Through Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.'s leadership, this organization has advanced the education of students through scholarships, programs and research initiatives. Thurgood Marshall College Fund member schools confer more degrees than any other Historically Black Colleges and Universities organization and provides access to an extraordinary pipeline of talented individuals as they enter the workforce.

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. has been an instrumental part of Thurgood Marshall College Fund's mission: "Changing the World . . . One Leader at a Time." His impact can never be fully measured, but we appreciate his dedication and service to many of our nation's students.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPTAIN
DENNIS DEWINE, U.S. ARMY, RE-
TIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued citizen, Captain Dennis DeWine, U.S. Army, Retired. He has dedicated himself to his community and nation and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. CPT DeWine is a fitting and worthy recipient of a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

CPT DeWine joined the Army in 1967 as a helicopter pilot and spent the next seven years flying over the treacherous skies of Vietnam. As a testament to his valorous service, the President of the United States presented CPT DeWine with the Distinguished Flying Cross award for his actions above and beyond the call of duty. After being Honorably Discharged CPT DeWine was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor.

CPT DeWine's leadership skills have been invaluable throughout his post-military career. After rejoining civilian life, he became the founder, broker, and president of ERA Colonial Real Estate and Colonial Residential Properties, Inc. Despite his busy schedule, CPT DeWine remains dedicated to serving his community. He can often be found in jeans and boots working alongside his friends and neighbors. CPT DeWine's passion to serve is evident through his participation and leadership in numerous organizations, such as Central Texas Voices for Life, where he serves as Chairman. CPT DeWine has also proven his commitment to serving others through his company's efforts to successfully raise \$100,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

Despite his business and charitable commitments, CPT DeWine has found time to raise a close-knit family, volunteer in community organizations, and remain active in his church. With admiration and deep respect, I pay tribute to Dennis DeWine for his sacrifices and the lasting impact he has had on his community and country.

RECOGNITION OF TONY REED

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Anthony "Tony" Reed who passed away in June, and was a good friend who had a deep love for America.

Born in the United Kingdom in 1938 as it was hurtling towards the start of World War II, Tony eventually immigrated to Virginia with his mother and stepfather in 1947. Before his 20th birthday, Tony enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and joined the C&P Telephone Company. Tony's reserve career was distinguished, rising from the rank of Private to Colonel in the Army Special Forces. He also achieved the status of Master Parachutist, logging over 900 parachute jumps.