

I have worked with Mary Beth and the NVRTA on efforts to construct the Silver Line Metrorail extension and the establishment of the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail system. In fact, NVRTA was the first private sector organization to call for a dedicated funding source for Metro, which is a goal that I share.

Mary Beth's career with NVAR and her role as a Board Member for the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance are inextricably intertwined. At NVAR, she has been an experienced and expert advocate for the advancement of major legislation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She was instrumental in obtaining dedicated regional and statewide transportation funding and has a passion for protecting the real estate industry. Due to her strong relationships with elected leaders at all levels of government and her extensive historical knowledge of the region, she has been an effective voice in ensuring that Northern Virginia remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Beth Coya on the occasion of her 30th Anniversary with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors and in commending her for her dedication to the betterment of our region. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with her and NVAR on numerous issues and I look forward to continuing to work with her going forward.

TRIBUTE TO DEIDRE DEJEAR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deidre DeJear on being named the Iowa Small Business Administration Minority Business Champion of the Year.

Each year, during National Small Business Week, the Iowa Small Business Administration announces winners of the Iowa Small Business Week Awards. Deidre is the president of the business marketing company Caleo Enterprises. She's also a passionate advocate for low- to moderate-income individuals and families, helping to strengthen their financial opportunities and knowledge. She led the United Way of Central Iowa's Financial Capability project, where since 2012 over 20,000 people have gained access to financial systems and improved their financial management skills. Deidre has created several programs to provide financial and business education in Central Iowa, among which three "boot camps" have seen 1,300 people come and learn about finances, business and non-profits.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Deidre, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. It is an honor to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Deidre on this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING EILEEN CURTIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has had a tremendous impact on Northern Virginia. Eileen Curtis, President and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, is retiring after leading the Chamber since 1994.

During her tenure, the Dulles Chamber has established itself as one of the leading business advocacy groups in the region, adding to the quality of life for our residents in the Dulles Corridor and beyond. I have been proud to work with the Chamber on a host of issues, perhaps most significant being Rail to Dulles. The Chamber was instrumental in the foundation of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, which helped lobby for federal funding which was eventually secured to help construct the Silver Line. The 23-mile long Silver Line has spurred major economic development along the Dulles Corridor and has been singled out by Fairfax County executives as one of the main reasons behind Fairfax County's continued economic success.

In addition to Rail to Dulles, Eileen has worked with the Chamber to enhance the region in other ways including advocating for STEM education in our schools, forging partnerships with the business and education communities, creating greater opportunities for our immigrant community, and establishing new local festivals and events to bring the community together. These efforts are among the many reasons why Northern Virginia is routinely recognized as one of the best places in the United States in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

Eileen's efforts have been drawn recognition from across the region. The Chamber's efforts in education have been honored by Fairfax County Public Schools on multiple occasions and the Washington Business Journal routinely lists the Dulles Chamber as being one of the largest in membership. Eileen herself has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business & Professional Women and as Executive of the Year by the Virginia Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives. These accolades speak to the strength of Eileen as a leader and the dedication that she has shown to our community. There can be no doubt of the positive impact that she has had on our community and our region is better for her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen Curtis on her retirement and in thanking her for her outstanding service to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. While she may be retiring, I am confident that she will remain engaged on the issues that are close to her heart. I wish her great success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRE-FIGHTER ROBERT "SKIPPY" TILEARCIO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of longtime New York City Firefighter Robert "Skippy" Tilearcio, who passed away last Wednesday from a malignant tumor resulting from his months of recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

Skip was a tireless advocate for the Zadroga 9/11 Healthcare Act. He came to Washington about six times to fight for its extension in 2014 and 2015, even before he was diagnosed with a fatal tumor. I had the privilege of meeting Skip Tilearcio when he would make these painful trips to Congress. On his final visit Skip was confined to a wheelchair but his spirit was as strong as ever. Skip truly personified the courage of New York's Bravest.

Skip Tilearcio was the 15th firefighter to die this year alone from a 9/11 related illness. Many more are sick and suffering from these dreaded 9/11 illnesses. But because of Skip Tilearcio's heroic and successful effort to extend the Zadroga Act, these brave first responders will receive the very best medical care and treatment. My sincerest condolences go out to his wife Tina and his two children Tatiana and Robert. R.I.P. Firefighter Robert "Skip" Tilearcio.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL DUNCAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend Daniel (Dan) Duncan as he steps down after serving for 10 years as President of the Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (NoVA Labor.) As President of NoVA Labor, Dan led the largest labor council in the Commonwealth of Virginia and which represents nearly 70 unions and locals. In this role, he has been responsible for consolidating the missions and concerns of the various unions and their members into one unified voice while ensuring that all opinions are heard and respected.

Dan has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working families. He is committed to the mission of NoVA Labor which is to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our communities. He learned these values from an early age—his grandfather was a shop steward at a shipyard in Cleveland, Ohio and his father was a rank and file Machinist. Dan joined his first union, the Retail Clerks Union, in 1973 at the age of 17 while working for a grocery store in Tennessee.

After graduating from the University of Chattanooga in 1978, Dan worked as a newspaper reporter. He later became director of the Fort Lauderdale senior employment program with the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC) which was formed in 1961 and evolved from the Senior Citizens for Kennedy organization. Working with the administration

of President John F. Kennedy, the NCSC was instrumental in rallying support for comprehensive health insurance for senior citizens. These efforts bore fruit when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare into law in 1965. NCSC's efforts were instrumental in passing this landmark legislation and the organization, now known as the Alliance for Retired Americans continues its fight to protect and preserve Medicare and Social Security.

Dan then accepted a position with the Seafarers International Union where he has served for 30 years in various positions. For the last six years, Dan has held the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Maritime Trades Department.

In his roles with individual unions as well as with the Northeast Florida Central Labor Council, the Northern Virginia Central Labor Council, and the NoVA Labor Federation, Dan has worked tirelessly to advocate for working families and support state and federal legislation that would even the playing field for the backbone of our society—the middle and lower class who deserve a fair wage for honest work and other employer related benefits.

I have personally known Dan Duncan and his wife Karen for many years and have thoroughly enjoyed our countless conversations and discussions on issues of importance. While we have on occasion disagreed, mainly on their terrible taste in baseball teams, but also occasionally on the best way to achieve a certain objective, we both know and understand that we share the same goals. These exchanges of ideas and opinions have been invaluable to both of us as we continue to represent and serve our constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dan Duncan for his efforts on behalf of the working men and women of our country and in thanking him for his service. Although he is stepping down from his position of President of NoVA Labor, I am confident that he will continue his efforts to strengthen and protect the rights and benefits of all and I wish him success in all of his future endeavors.

2017 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Thursday, November 2, 2017, at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals whose efforts have had significant positive impacts on their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Tom Sourlis and Susan Eleuterio.

Tom Sourlis is the founder and chairman of Mortar Net Solutions, located in Burns Harbor. Mortar Net, a product invented by Tom, pre-

vents mortar droppings from clogging weepholes designed to allow water to exit a building wall. Mortar Net Solutions is a tremendously successful company, and the product is currently used on cavity wall construction throughout North America. In addition to his remarkable career, Tom dedicates much of his time and support to charitable endeavors throughout Northwest Indiana including Tradewinds, the Crisis Center, Parents as Teachers, and the Porter County Community Foundation. For his outstanding devotion to such causes, Tom is worthy of this great honor.

Susan Eleuterio is currently a faculty member of Goucher College's Master's in Cultural Sustainability program in Baltimore, Maryland. She has established an extensive and impressive background that consists of many titles including independent folklorist, author, educator, activist, and consultant to non-profit organizations. Sue's extraordinary contributions to her community, however, are not limited to academia. She is active in her support for causes that improve the quality of life for others and encourage the protection of human rights, lending her time and talents to the Crossroads Fund. This organization, which is focused on the ideal that fundamental change occurs from humble, grassroots beginnings and supports efforts throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, benefits from the passion for justice, equality, and the academic knowledge Sue offers as a member of the Board of Directors, as the arts and the human condition are often intertwined. For these reasons, Sue is worthy of the commendation bestowed upon her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Tom Sourlis and Susan Eleuterio. For their lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to their communities, Tom and Susan are worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING ELLUCIAN OF RESTON,
VIRGINIA ON ITS GRAND
OPENING

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellucian on the occasion of the grand opening of its new office space in Reston, Virginia. Based in Fairfax County since 1987, the opening of this new headquarters location speaks to the growing presence of technology companies in not only Fairfax County, but the Dulles Corridor as a whole. We are continually reminded of why this area is rapidly developing a reputation as the Silicon Valley of the East.

Established in 2012 by the merger of Datatel and SunGard Higher Education, Ellucian and its parent companies have been serving the higher education community since 1968. What began as a single office has expanded into 20 regional offices employing over 2,900 individuals all over the world.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I know firsthand that the quality of life we enjoy in

Fairfax County is directly tied to the strength of our education system. This is especially true when it comes to higher education. Providing the gateways for students to succeed is essential and I commend the staff of Ellucian for working to create and maintain those opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, to prepare the leaders of tomorrow, institutions of higher education must have the services, tools, and technologies to engage and foster student success. For nearly fifty years, Ellucian has provided support to these institutions in order for them to achieve their goals. It is critical that our nation focus our sight on improving student outcomes to better compete in the world economy and I thank Ellucian and its dedicated staff for their efforts in this area. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ellucian on the grand opening of its new headquarters and in wishing it great success in all future endeavors.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
GERY BRENT TRUITT, U.S. ARMY
(RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Gery Brent Truitt, U.S. Army Retired, of Harker Heights, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving 25 years in the Army. LTC Truitt exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and has more than earned our admiration and respect. He is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Upon his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant from Sam Houston State University in 1979, LTC Truitt began his military career as an Infantry Officer with the Texas National Guard and then entered the United States Army. As Lieutenant, he conducted more combat patrols inside the Korean demilitarized zone than any other officer in the 2nd Infantry Division, and as Major, he served in a variety of 5th Special Forces Group assignments. Just prior to being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer, which he successfully overcame in the next year. LTC Truitt used that time to revive the Columbus State University ROTC Program as a professor in Military Science.

This brave soldier is also a committed citizen. Following his military career, he continued to support the military in the Central Texas Special Forces Association. As President, he is responsible for an annual raffle that raises thousands of dollars annually to support homeless veterans' programs and local non-profit organizations to meet immediate community needs. His work to make his community a great place to live and work have made lasting and positive impacts on the region.

I commend LTC Truitt's selfless service to his community and nation. His dedication to our country and community reflects the best values of central Texas. I join his family and friends in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.