

items like bars, boxes, and balance beams, around Lake Petocka in Bondurant. After going through the approval process with the city and raising the \$1,600 from friends and local organizations, Cole led a team that installed the equipment last October, and has already seen people using them. He completed his Eagle Scout journey at the young age of 14, years younger than most Eagle Scouts earn their ranking. The work ethic Cole has shown in his Eagle Scout Project and throughout his scouting career speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family and community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Cole and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

#### HONORING SCOTT RASMUSSEN

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Scott Rasmussen, an important member of my team for many years who will be leaving my office after this week to travel and pursue his varied interests.

Scott is a native Californian who graduated from Brown University in 2010, then returned to the Bay Area where he worked in the areas of law and technology. I was soon fortunate to have him join my campaign team, where he demonstrated the confidence, intellectual curiosity, diligence, and political instincts that have served him so well over the years I have known him—and which I am sure will continue to bring him success in the future.

Scott helped to form the initial core of my congressional staff in 2013, showing a willingness to pitch in and cover any topic that was thrown to him, from answering phones to tackling policy questions. Over the ensuing years, Scott has taken on new roles and regularly delivered results for my constituents and the planet. Notable successes include the passage of the Point Reyes Coast Guard Housing Conveyance Act, which will allow a former property in West Marin to be repurposed as affordable housing and community space, and his work on our successful bipartisan effort to strike a nearly half-century old congressional earmark that cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year to ship Pennsylvania coal 3,000 miles to American bases in Germany.

With diligence and finesse, Scott has helped to develop a number of key legislative initiatives, and his intellect and maturity have allowed me to entrust him with sensitive foreign policy matters as well. Major projects have included my work to expand broadband access to rural communities, and our ongoing efforts to make sure that homeowners are protected from an unexpected tax bill when they work to reduce water use. Finally, he has worked on the tribal policy portfolio that is a priority in my

office, helping to devise several complex and meaningful bills for the tribal members I represent.

For six years I have had the benefit of Scott's good work, and I am deeply appreciative. Along with my family and my staff, I wish Scott the best of luck as he moves on the next phase of his career.

#### 2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—CHRISTINE PONCE

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Christine Ponce of Woodland, California, who has dedicated 27 years to California's agricultural industry. She has worked cultivating many crops, ultimately becoming California's first female rice miller. In that role she managed many facets of rice production, ensuring that the plant operated at full capacity. In her 27 year career she overcame many challenges—from low wages to serious injury—and inspired many women that they too could pursue a career once considered only for men.

A proud descendent of a Bracero, Ms. Ponce has strong ties to the California agricultural community. In her time as a rice miller she helped advocate for the rights of agricultural workers by serving the local chapter of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. In addition to working long, demanding hours, she took time to serve as a secretary for the ILWU Local 150. Ms. Ponce's long and distinguished career has demonstrated her devotion to California's vibrant agricultural community.

#### HONORING CORPORAL PETE ARANDA, JR., U.S. ARMY

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Pete Aranda, Jr., U.S. Army, a decorated soldier from Round Rock, TX. In all aspects of life, CPL Aranda goes beyond the call of duty. It is my honor to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CPL Aranda enlisted in the Army in 1988 and served a short stint in the 3/64 Armor, 3rd Infantry Division in Germany. He then deployed in the spring of 1991 as a medic to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait. As testament to the quality of his service, CPL Aranda received numerous medals and commendations, including the Combat Field Medical Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, and two Southwest Asia Campaign Medals. A true patriot, Corporal Aranda continued to honorably serve after his discharge from active duty as a Respiratory Therapist at the 349th General Hospital, U.S. Army Reserve.

In 1995, CPL Aranda returned home to Port Arthur, Texas where he worked for the Beau-

mont Health Department. In civilian life, CPL Aranda has served those around him with boundless altruism. His commitment to his community can be seen through his involvement in and leadership of many organizations, including the Greater Houston Red Cross, Camp Allen, the Talking Book Program and the Texas Stream Team. CPL Aranda's tireless efforts have touched the lives of many and have helped make Central Texas a place people are proud to call home.

A reflection of the best values of our nation, CPL Aranda's service to his community and country has made a resounding impact on those around him. I thank CPL Pete Aranda, Jr., a leader with a servant's heart, for his dedication and service.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARRIE SMITH

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carrie Smith from Summerset Winery in Indianola, Iowa for being named the 2017 "Winemaker of the year" by the Iowa Wine Growers Association.

Carrie has spent the last 10 years working at Summerset Winery, serving as winemaker and vineyard manager. She is responsible for making over 20 different wines every year. Carrie has been recognized at the local and national level for her winemaking prowess, winning the Dick Peterson award for best Iowa wine twice, along with numerous gold medal wines and other awards.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Carrie, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carrie for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY 1LT ROBERT CHARLES ONETO-SIKORSKI

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army First Lieutenant (1LT) Robert Charles Oneto-Sikorski who gave his life while in service to our great nation on October 31, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. 1LT Oneto-Sikorski was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Iskandariyah, Iraq. 1LT Oneto-Sikorski was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry, Mississippi Army National Guard, Biloxi, Mississippi.

1LT Oneto-Sikorski was born on September 1, 1972, in New Orleans, Louisiana, but called Bay St. Louis his home. According to the Associated Press, while 1LT Oneto-Sikorski was serving in Iraq, his home was flooded from the