

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

storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina. Despite his loss, Elaine Oneto, 1LT Oneto-Sikorski's mother, said her son looked to the future and talked about his homecoming which would have been in December 2005. "He was devoted to his children. He is so much more than any of us could say," Mrs. Oneto said. "He was a wonderful man who loved everyone and his loss is going to devastate this whole community."

Patrick Rager, 1LT Oneto-Sikorski's son, recently said he will always be remembered for his service and sacrifice. "I am proud of his service, and to this day, I strive to make him proud through hard work and getting good grades in school," Patrick said. "Many people go through this life and have little to no impact. Because of his sacrifice, he will not be forgotten."

1LT Oneto-Sikorski was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "I was serving with Ski in Iraq. He was my XO and my close friend," SFC Gene Dufrene said. "Ski was by far the best officer that anyone could serve with. He was what we NCOs called a real soldiers' officer. He would break his neck to take care of us. He took care of each and every soldier under his command. We all miss our brother and we will always remember Ski for the man he was to each of us soldiers."

1LT Oneto-Sikorski was employed at Northrop Grumman's Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where he worked in the engineering department.

1LT Oneto-Sikorski was buried with full honors at the Biloxi National Cemetery.

1LT Oneto-Sikorski is survived by his parents, Elaine Marie Oneto and Robert Charles Sikorski, II; his wife, Kristine Seamans Sikorski; his three children, Robert Charles Sikorski, II, Patrick Rager, and Hannah Rager; the mother of his children, Clare Rager; and his two sisters, Shawn Durfey, and Kathleen Sherlock.

1LT Oneto-Sikorski demonstrated courage and bravery protecting the freedoms we all enjoy. His service and sacrifice for America will not be forgotten.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—JODY SAMONS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jody Samons of Willows, California, who has dedicated over 37 years to serving her community of Glenn County. She has touched the lives of countless people through her work and volunteer activities. In her current position as Glenn County's Community Development Director, Ms. Samons has secured over \$200,000 in grants and worked with numerous companies to create over 200 new jobs in the area. Her overwhelming success in this role has had, and will continue to have, an undeniably positive impact on her community.

In her volunteer capacities, Ms. Samons has worked to support the youth of her community by creating opportunities and guiding them to success. Ms. Samons was instrumental in the creation of the Orland High School Booster

club which helped support youth athletic programs in her community. She has also spent many years supporting youth in FFA or 4-H programs in any way she could. Ms. Samons served for many years on the Glenn County Junior Livestock Auction Committee and went on to found a non-profit organization to support the program when its future was in jeopardy. She also served for 7 years on the Glenn County Fair Board and worked tirelessly to ensure its continued success. Ms. Samons has spent many years supporting the youth in her community and never passed up an opportunity to help out.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
PHILLIP DUPREY

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 First Lieutenant Phillip Duprey of the United States Army for his dedication and service to our country. 1LT Duprey's extraordinary patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to community and service reflects the best values of Central Texas. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

During his deployment to Vietnam, Phillip Duprey faced grave and mortal danger while conducting intelligence collection as a member of the Army Security Agency for the IV Division of the 101st Airborne Division. 1LT Duprey's leadership, dedication, and bravery undoubtedly saved the lives of many. For his service and valor in combat, 1LT Duprey received numerous medals including the Bronze Star and the National Defense Service Medal.

1LT Duprey's service and sense of duty did not finish with the end of his military career. Upon returning to the great state of Texas, 1LT Duprey dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community. As a highly respected citizen, he is active in numerous community organizations, including twenty-two years on the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he served on the Cedar Park City Council for six years, the last two as Mayor pro tem. 1LT Duprey has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. For these reasons and many more, his community came together to honor 1LT Duprey as Cedar Park Citizen of the Year in 2000 and 2014.

I commend First Lieutenant Phillip Duprey's selfless service to the U.S. Army, the nation, and his community. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join 1LT Duprey's family, friends, and neighbors in celebrating his outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) JOE NATHAN WILSON

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 Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Joe Nathan Wilson who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 2, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Wilson was mortally wounded in an attack on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter near Fallujah, Iraq. Fifteen other servicemen were killed in the crash. He died from his injuries in a Kuwait hospital. SSG Wilson was assigned to Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Corps Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

According to the Associated Press, an Ohio serviceman said he survived because of the heroic act of SSG Wilson. Sergeant (SSG) Joe Mlinar said SSG Wilson cradled his head with his body to shield him when the helicopter crashed.

SSG Wilson was remembered on a memorial website by a fellow soldier. Staff Sergeant (SSG) Benjamin Dunlap of Stroud, Oklahoma, said SSG Wilson was a leader, "I served with SSG Wilson during our tour in Iraq. He was the epiphany of the NCO corps. He was always leading by example. He could never be seen without a smile on his face. I considered him to be my friend. He was a friend to all who knew him."

SSG Wilson graduated from Crystal Springs High School in Crystal Springs, Mississippi in 1992. Robert Green, the Crystal Springs High School athletic director, said SSG Wilson was a standout student, "He was a nice young man, especially on the football field." Shortly after graduation, SSG Wilson enlisted in the U.S. Army. Maxine Adams, SSG Wilson's mother, said he always wanted to be in the military, "He was a great son. It was important to Nate to be an accomplished person." Patricia Fortenberry, SSG Wilson's sister, is proud of her brother's service, "He was a great brother. He was my best friend."

Shortly after SSG Wilson's death, the city of Crystal Springs designated November 2nd as an official day to recognize his service to our nation. His family hosts a picnic and speakers are included at the event. It is held at the Joe Nathan Wilson Sportsplex and Memorial Fire Station in Crystal Springs which is named in his honor. Sally Garland, mayor of Crystal Springs, said the city will begin a new tradition in honor of SSG Wilson. Beginning this year, flags will be lowered to half-staff on the anniversary of his death.

SSG Wilson was buried at Brushy Creek Cemetery in Hopewell, Mississippi. SSG Wilson is survived by his mother, Maxine Adams; his wife, Erica; his daughter, Yasmin; his three nephews, Jaydan Adams, Jordan Adams, and Specialist (SPC) Jerrick Wilson; his two nieces, Kawanza Fortenberry and Latria Wilson.

SSG Wilson's bravery under fire demonstrated his devotion to his comrades and to our nation. His service will always be remembered.