

Church in my hometown of Farmville, North Carolina. This congregation recently celebrated 61 years of serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The passion and commitment from this church has helped to spread the Word and Humility of Christ throughout the town of Farmville and surrounding communities for many years.

The ministry and community outreach performed by the people of St. Matthew have helped meet the needs of so many. I am proud and honored to call these people my neighbors.

I want to thank the church family of St. Matthew and Pastor Jesse F. Warren III as they continue to improve the quality of life for so many people and commend them on this milestone in their ministry. I pray that they will be blessed with many more years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the book of Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust, He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you helped His people and continue to help them."

Congratulations on your 61 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 WINTERSET  
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**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 the Winterset High School Softball team for winning the Iowa Girls State Class 4A Softball Tournament on July 21, 2017.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Players: Macy Johnson, Ainsley Gurwell, Mia Olson, Danny Barker, Ava Lowden, Abby Benschhof, Natalie Hansen, Malia Messerschmidt, Grace McDonald, Natalie Drake, Corry Pickering, Madison Berns, Mariah White, Jessie Nicholson, Ally Pickering, Taylor Lincoln, Jennifer Lopez, Emma Lowden, Marlie McDonald, Sophie Stover

Head Coach: Steve Corkrean

Assistant Coaches: Jennifer Devine, Karly Olson, Taylor Benschhof

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young women for competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL  
RAUL VILLARONGA, U.S. ARMY  
(RETIRED)

**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 celebrate the service and achieve-

ments of an esteemed and valued citizen of Killeen, Texas. Colonel Raul Villaronga, U.S. Army Retired, has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. He is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

His commission as an Infantry 2nd Lieutenant in 1959 began his 24 years of service in which he completed assignments in Fort Bragg, the Panama Canal Zone, Vietnam, Germany, and Fort Hood. While assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group, he participated in numerous classified Mobile Training Teams in Central and South America. COL Villaronga deservingly received awards including the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal as a testament to his exemplary service.

COL Villaronga is a respected citizen serving in numerous roles showcasing his commitment to community and nation. Returning from the Army, COL Villaronga served three terms as Mayor of Killeen. As Mayor, he founded the Killeen Youth Advisory Commission and worked on the Joint Use Agreement for the Robert Gray Army Airfield. As Chairman of the Killeen League of United Latin American Citizens Council 4535 Foundation, 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.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OBESITY  
CARE WEEK

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Obesity Care Week on behalf of the over 90 million adult Americans living with obesity today.

Treating obesity is more than just eating right and exercising and is caused by a number of factors that are often out of that person's control. These include genetics, socioeconomic status, and physiological, psychological and environmental factors.

As important, obesity is also linked to over 50 disorders including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. In fact, over \$1.42 trillion is spent in the U.S. on direct and indirect costs for health related conditions related to obesity a year.

National Obesity Care Week aims to advance an evidence-based understanding of obesity and widespread access to comprehensive and appropriate care. Unfortunately, at 31.6 percent, Illinois has the 18th highest adult obesity rate in the nation—4 million people—almost a third of our population. This must change. I urge my fellow Members, the scientific community, and researchers, to treat obesity seriously—as the chronic disease that

it is—and I urge the medical community to have conversations with their patients, their students, and their colleagues about obesity and how we can effectively treat this disease.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL WOOD

**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 Carol Wood of Council Bluffs, Iowa for receiving the Rotary International Vocational Service Leadership Award. The award was presented to Carol at the Rotary District Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Carol has been a Rotary member since 1993 and is a member of the Noon Rotary Club of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Carol received this award for exemplifying integrity and high ethical standards in her vocation and in the community. She is President and CEO of Children's Square U.S.A. in Council Bluffs, a non-profit organization that has helped children and families in need for 135 years. Carol's dedication and leadership has helped youth succeed in their vocational pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Carol 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 Carol for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH-  
DAY OF MRS. THELMA KOUZES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my constituents in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelma Kouzes, a truly remarkable woman and a beloved member of the Northern Virginia community. Mrs. Kouzes was born Thelma Virginia Loss on July 26, 1917 in Audubon, Iowa. She proudly says she is a first-generation American, the daughter of immigrants whose parents came to the United States from Denmark. She grew up in Iowa, was raised by hardworking parents, and experienced the hardships of the Great Depression. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1938 to work for President Roosevelt's Administration. There she met her late husband Thomas Kouzes—also a first-generation American whose parents came to the U.S. from Greece.

Mrs. Kouzes has led an amazing life. Shortly after she moved to D.C., she experienced culture shock when she attended a segregated religious service. Because of experiences like this she became a proud and passionate civil rights activist. She remained steadfast in her commitment to justice and equality—including marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963—even when others in her community criticized her efforts. She was an active member of the