

HONORING ISAAC A. WASHBURN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaac A. Washburn. Isaac is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 121, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaac has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaac has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaac has become a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Isaac has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaac A. Washburn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL DALE GLENN DERR**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Colonel Dale Glenn Derr of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Lt. Col. Derr served our country in the U.S. Air Force for two decades during which he received many honors and awards.

Lt. Col. Derr decided to commission into the Air Force after receiving his teaching certificate. His mentor, Samuel Gundy—World War II bomber pilot, POW, and esteemed naturalist, was a major influence in the future Lt. Col.'s life and his decision to join the military. This decision began an illustrious 20 year career of service to our nation.

Lt. Col. Derr quickly became known for his keen operational and scientific talents during his tours of duty in Europe. Here he received Distinguished Graduate honors at the prestigious NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. Upon returning home, the Lt. Col. was selected to be an instructor on weapons of mass destruction at the Interservice Nuclear Weapons School. He would go on to again be awarded the Distinguished Graduate Honors while at the Technical Instructor School. Eventually, he was named top instructor for the Technical Training Group in 1990.

Since retiring from the Air Force, Lt. Col. Derr has continued his dedication to our country and those who have served it by directing the Department of Veteran Affairs for Berks County. In this capacity he works to ensure the county's 27,000 veterans have access to the department's many services and benefits.

I commend Lt. Col. Derr for his dedication to our country and community through his teaching and service. He is a leader in his community and continues to do his most to help those around him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF ART DOUCETTE**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Art Doucette. Art is a science teacher at Sequoia High School, a community day school in Merced that provides second chances to at-risk students. Art's passion for teaching and the enthusiasm with which he relates scientific concepts to even his most challenging students has made him a classroom favorite at Sequoia and a model for teachers throughout Merced County.

Born in Arkansas to a military family, Art moved over seventy times across the United States and abroad as a child. One of his childhood homes was in Merced County, a community that would greatly benefit from Art's work in the years to come. As a young adult, Art worked as a finish carpenter until a serious injury prompted him to attend Cuesta College in pursuit of a new career. It was there that Art met the love of his life, Holly, whom he married in 2000. After studying chemistry and biology at Stanislaus State, Art began his teaching career. He eventually found himself back in Merced County, where he has now taught and inspired countless students for over a decade.

Teaching at Sequoia High School offers a unique set of challenges not found at most high schools. Sequoia students often come from adverse backgrounds and struggle with a wide range of behavioral problems. It is in this environment that Art has flourished as an engaging and dedicated educator, characterized by a genuine passion for his subject and unwavering faith in his students.

Not long ago, Art was diagnosed with cancer and has since had to spend much of his time outside the classroom, seeking medical care. It has not been an easy road, and the pain and heartache associated with such a diagnosis is only made more acute by the absence felt by Art's students and colleagues. However, with his wife, Holly, and son, James, by his side, Art is courageously undergoing treatment and hopes to be back at Sequoia soon. In his honor, Sequoia High School and its affiliated network of schools are celebrating Art's devotion and lasting contributions to his community with an Art Doucette Honor Square Dedication Day. I stand with the students and staff of Sequoia High School in my support and encouragement for Art and his family during this difficult time, and in our shared gratitude for the difference he has made in Merced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and career of Art Doucette. Art's relentless positivity and eagerness to resume teaching—even in the face of immense personal hardship—is both humbling and inspiring. Though the impact Art has made on the community has not waned, his presence at Sequoia High School is greatly missed. His colleagues, his students, and I all look forward to his return to the classroom.

VETERANS INCREASED CHOICE  
FOR TRANSPLANTED ORGANS  
AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 2601, the Veterans Increased Choice for Transplanted Organs and Recovery (VICTOR) Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation and I am pleased to support it.

The Veterans Health Administration has provided solid organ transplants since 1962 and bone marrow transplants since 1982. Currently, there are fourteen locations across the country that provide these services. However, if a veteran does not live near one of these facilities, the difficulty of travel could prevent veterans from getting the medical care they need. Also, even if veterans are able to get to a facility, they still face the risk of getting waitlisted. We need to provide more options to veterans who require life-saving organ transplant operations. H.R. 2601 provides the solution to this problem by amending the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to allow eligible veterans to receive health care from any facility which is related to the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, federal health centers, or any other health-care provider who participates in the Medicare program. The conditions of this program apply to veterans who need an organ transplant operation, live more than 100 miles from a Veterans Affairs transplant center, and need care related to an upcoming transplant.

Since the closest Veterans Affairs transplant center to my district in Georgia is almost 150 miles away in Birmingham, Alabama, this bill would have a major impact for the nearly 45,000 veterans who live in my district. Should anyone require a transplant surgery, they would first be able to explore their options in Atlanta instead of being forced to travel to a different state, which is why I support H.R. 2601.

RECOGNIZING LARRY G. COX

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished business owner and close friend of mine from my district, Larry G. Cox, will be honored by the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association at an event that benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tennessee Valley on November 14th 2017.

Larry has one of the biggest hearts of all the people I have known in my lifetime. Larry has served the people of Knoxville for many years by giving his time and effort to the Emerald Youth Foundation, Kiwanis Club, and his church. He also helped make our city a better place through his tenure as a Knoxville city councilman for two decades.

Father of Shane and Brooke, Grandfather of Brielle and Kingston, and Husband of Brenda, Larry Cox has created a legacy that few can

match, and he has touched thousands of people's lives in good and positive ways.

His passion for promoting a connected community focused on the success of our youth has helped many young people who are faced with challenging life situations with little hope in their lives.

His dedication to fundraising for the Boys and Girls Clubs has helped to provide resources to make the lives of many young people better through their renewed sense of self, ability to participate in sports, and boost in self-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impact Larry Cox has made on so many lives through his selflessness and devotion to others. This Nation is a much better place because of the life he has led.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION  
RECOGNITION CLASS OF 2017

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the Operation Recognition Class of 2017. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education, with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services, that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

Riverside County's Operation Recognition is modeled after programs implemented in other states. Numerous county offices of education and school districts throughout California operate similar programs. The programs are yet another way to express our appreciation and gratitude for the significant contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans.

The Operation Recognition Class of 2017 includes: Timothy Lewis Basquez, San Jacinto, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War; Manuel Blunt, Riverside, U.S. Army, Vietnam War; Edward J. Clark, Norco, U.S. Marine Corps, Korean War; Joseph J. Harrison, Perris, U.S. Army, Vietnam War, Bradford Hotchkiss, Riverside, U.S. Navy, Vietnam War, James Andrew Morrison, Canyon Lake, U.S. Navy, Korean War; and Mack Donald Salesky San Jacinto, U.S. Army, Vietnam War.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful nation, I want to thank these veterans for their service to our country and congratulate them on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2017.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL J.  
WECHSLER III

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Paul J. Wechsler III, of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for his service to the

U.S. Army in the Vietnam War and his continued leadership at home in Springfield, PA.

Mr. Wechsler voluntarily left Temple University to join the U.S. Army and serve his country in Vietnam. Here he fought in the 4th Infantry Division and courageously defended our nation for four years. Since returning home, he has involved himself with a number of organizations such as the Springfield Youth Club, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and his local church's parish all while raising three daughters with his wife Patricia.

Mr. Wechsler continues to give back to his community through his service as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Springfield Township.

I thank Mr. Wechsler for his dedication to the United States through his service in the Army and his commitment to improving his community. I wish him the best as he continues to play a vital leadership role in Delaware County.

CLARIFYING COMMERCIAL REAL  
ESTATE LOANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2148, the Clarifying Commercial Real Estate Loans Act. This legislation helps to clarify which loans must comply with the high-volatility commercial real estate (HVCRE) regulations made in 2015.

Two years ago, the Federal Reserve and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency created new lending regulations. In the wake of the new rules and the complexity of the definition of high-volatility commercial real estate loans they created, many banks drew back on commercial real estate lending. This adversely affected acquisition, development, and construction lending by driving up borrowing costs and reducing credit availability. H.R. 2148 seeks to make clarifications on the new regulations to ease the lending process and solve the issues that were unintentionally created with the new regulations.

H.R. 2148 will help lenders understand regulations, reduce borrowing costs, and make more loans available. This bipartisan measure will strengthen our real estate market and make sure Americans have the opportunity to continue constructing our cities, states, and nation. I support H.R. 2148, and I urge my fellow members to do as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF UTSA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the University of Texas at San Antonio's Downtown Campus, which has since empowered its many students and alumni to pursue excellence both in academics and their careers.

In September of 1991, the UTSA Strategic Plan established UTSA Downtown. In 1993,

with the support of the Texas State Government, the South Texas Border Initiative was launched, allotting \$20 million dollars for the UTSA Downtown Campus. With the acquisition of the Fiesta Plaza site gifted by Bill Miller Bar-B-Q Enterprises, and the groundbreaking of Frio Street Building in 1995, UTSA's Downtown Campus location was realized.

Following the subsequent groundbreakings of additional buildings, in 2000, UTSA opened its doors to its first college based in the Downtown Campus: the College of Urban Programs, now the College of Public Policy. In 2002, The College of Architecture would become the second college based in the Downtown Campus.

In the spring of 2004, UTSA expanded its campus from 11 acres to 18 acres with the acquisition of the Cattleman Square parking lot and nearby land later used for additional buildings. Since its inception, the campus has expanded to include two colleges, four academic buildings, and two departments in a third college.

With a current enrollment of 4,000 students at the downtown campus, The University of Texas at San Antonio continues to be an exemplary institution serving the needs of those pursuing a high quality education and successful careers in the downtown San Antonio area.

As a former chairman of the Subcommittee on Education for the Texas Legislature's Appropriations Committee, who worked to secure tuition revenue funding and other state funding for this university, it has been good to see it grow and develop. In addition, as the author of House Bill 713, that created Texas' grant program, it is good to see students at UTSA take advantage of this program. It is clear that this university will continue to thrive and I look forward to many more years of continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the 20th anniversary of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
VERA SOUZA

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vera Souza as she celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to the Cabrillo Civics Club of California. It is both fitting and appropriate to honor Vera, who has dedicated much of her time preserving and advancing the Portuguese culture in the Central Valley and California.

LaVera Teixeira was born and raised in the Central Valley. Vera spent her career working for the Central Union School District in Kings County, California, as an administrator. She worked there from July 1, 1961 to June 30, 1999. Vera retired and then worked part time for the district until 2007, culminating a 46-year career.

Vera and her husband Bob Souza first joined the Kings County Cabrillo Civic Club No. 9 in 1960. The Cabrillo Civics Club of California is a service organization dedicated to the progress of Californians of Portuguese descent. The club is named after John