

On behalf of New York's 19th District, I want to congratulate and celebrate the Smiley Family on their much-deserved award. We are grateful for the Smiley Family's dedication to the values we in the 19th District hold dear: environmental conservancy and a profound appreciation for history and culture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Nos. 623 and 624. I would have voted "NAY" on No. 625.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD PETERS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Richard Peters on his successful career in the U.S. Navy.

Richard Peters selfless service to the U.S. Navy has led to him being awarded a number of awards, such as the China Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the National Defense Medal, among other awards. Due to his distinguished career, Richard Peters has also been authorized the Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

I am honored to have a man like Richard Peters in my district. I can't thank him enough for his service and sacrifice for our country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to congratulate Richard Peters on his distinguished Naval career. I wish him all of the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 623, 624, and 625 on Monday, November 13, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 623 and 624, and Nay on Roll Call vote 625.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MS. ELAINE ROBERTS

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congress-

sional District to celebrate the career of Ms. Elaine Roberts, as she retires from service as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

For over a decade, Ms. Roberts has served as the first-ever CEO of a combined aviation authority. She was named to the newly-created position in January of 2003, and has utilized her experience as an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.), and the past Chair of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

Ms. Roberts' leadership has guided the Authority during a period of expansive growth, including the merger of two airport authorities, more than one billion dollars in airport infrastructure development, and historic improvements at the John Glenn Columbus and the Rickenbacker International Airport facilities.

Ms. Roberts is a true coalition-builder. She successfully brought stakeholders across the federal, state, and local levels, along with the private sector, to develop the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility. Her efforts to transform Rickenbacker into a leading center for trade led to her nomination and selection as a 2015 White House Champion of Change in Transportation.

Her contributions to the Central Ohio community and local economy are immeasurable. International and domestic freight operations—served by rail, highways, and international activation—helped to provide a livelihood for over 20,000 residents in the region.

Ms. Roberts will be missed by her colleagues and fellow aviation executives, but I join the Ohio delegation in wishing her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life and pursues future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Elaine Roberts on her invaluable service to the residents of Ohio, and the aviation industry at large.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COOK

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mike Cook of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Mr. Cook for over 40 years of service to our communities and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Mike Cook began his career in the fire service as a volunteer in 1977 and eventually became a paid firefighter with the City of Lenoir in 1980. He began working with the Caldwell County Fire Marshal's Emergency Management Office in 1985, as a hazmat planner with North Carolina Emergency Management in 1988, and as Area Coordinator and eventually Branch Manager in 2006. All told, Mr. Cook has aided in thirty-two FEMA disaster declarations, including deploying to Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina and to Lumberton, North Carolina during Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Cook was instrumental in the development of the North Carolina All Hazards Incident Management Teams, and maintains credentials as an Incident Commander with the Western Branch All Hazards Incident Management Team. He is an Eagle Scout and longtime volunteer in his

community, serving on the Board of Directors of Patterson Fire Department since 1977 and currently serving as President of the Board.

Over the course of his career, Mike has been honored with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Gold Circle Award and the Colonel William A. Thompson Award and Employee of the Year by the North Carolina Emergency Management Association. He received special recognition for work throughout the Democratic National Convention in 2012 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and for response during Hurricane Floyd in 1999 from the North Carolina National Guard 139th Rear Tactical Operation Center.

Mike Cook has earned the respect and friendship of the people of Caldwell County through his hard work and wide-ranging involvement in his community. For his service to Western North Carolina, I am honored to express to Mr. Cook the gratitude and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED RAYMOND COE

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Alfred "Ray" Coe of Chester County, Pennsylvania, for his life dedicated to serving his community and our country. Mr. Coe honorably served the United States Army during Vietnam in three Calvary units in addition to serving his community of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania as a volunteer Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Coe has also worked with his local government in various positions.

Mr. Coe received three promotions during his tour in Vietnam. He was injured when his vehicle was blown up by a mine, but courageously returned and rescued his Sergeant from the vehicle. For these and other efforts he earned numerous awards for his honorable service. Among the honors were the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation for Valor, of which he is most proud. Upon returning home, Mr. Coe began volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, eventually becoming Scoutmaster. Mr. Coe continued his service to his community through the Scouts working as his district's Unit, Training, and Roundtable Commissioner. Mr. Coe's years of service to his country and neighbors are invaluable. There is no doubt he has saved and improved the lives of many through that service.

I commend Mr. Alfred Coe for his passionate dedication to community and country. He has earned the respect of his friends, family, and colleagues, as well as the public he has served. I thank him for all he has done and continues to do.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 623, No. 624,