

as a Councilwoman. She has served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Commerce City Youth Commission, the Commerce City Cultural Council and the Northern Community Coalition among many others. Additionally she along with members of the Commerce City Council identified more than \$1 billion in capital improvements ranging from parks to roads that would be necessary over the next 25 years to meet the needs of a growing community. The work that Councilwoman Carson and other members of the Council put into this project was tremendous. The adoption of a five-year plan, which is a sustainable way to implement needed investments and provide budget certainty and predictability was thoughtful and will help improve the City of Commerce City for years to come. I admire the dedication and tireless efforts that Councilwoman Carson has put into her City during her tenure as a Councilwoman.

I extend my deepest thanks to Jadie Carson for her service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the constituents of Commerce City, Colorado.

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DAMON MARTIN TRIBUTE

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**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Damon Martin, the Head Coach of the Adams State University Men's and Women's Cross Country teams in Alamosa, Colorado.

Mr. Martin's leadership has led to the cross country and track programs achieving success on a national level. For his work, he has been named National Coach of the year 34 times, a Joe Vigil Award recipient 9 times, and a Duane Vandebusch Awardee 13 times.

In his 26 years in charge of the women's program and 19 years in charge of the men's program, Mr. Martin has coached 29 National Championship teams. But his achievements don't solely lie in awards and wins. His success is also evident in the performance of his athletes off the field. Under his management, 995 of his athletes have earned All-American honors.

Decades of hard work and dedication led to Mr. Martin being inducted into the University of Arkansas-Monticello Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004, the Arizona State University Hall of Fame and Arkansas State Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2007, and the Colorado Running Hall of Fame in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Martin's professional contribution to Adams State University has made a lasting impact. I stand with the residents of Colorado and the students of Adams State University in thanking Mr. Martin for his service and congratulating him on his innumerable achievements. I am confident he will continue to be a valuable part of Adams State University and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN AND JIM  
JILLSON

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**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Ann and Jim Jillson of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 29, 2017.

Mary Ann and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

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JASON McELDOWNEY

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Commerce City Councilman Jason McEldowney for his years of service to the City of Commerce City, Colorado. Since 2007 Councilman McEldowney has been active within the City, serving on the Council and also numerous boards and commissions.

Councilman McEldowney has been a tireless advocate for Commerce City during his tenure as a Councilman. He has served on the Water Commission, Education Commission and the SD27J Facilities Foundation among many others. Additionally, he along with members of the Commerce City Council identified more than \$1 billion in capital improvements ranging from parks to roads that would be necessary over the next 25 years to meet the needs of a growing community. The work that Councilman McEldowney and other members of the Council put into this project was tremendous. The adoption of a five-year plan, which is a sustainable way to implement needed investments and provide budget certainty and predictability was thoughtful and will help improve the City of Commerce City for years to come. I admire the dedication and tireless efforts that Councilman McEldowney has put into his City during his tenure as a Councilman.

I extend my deepest thanks to Jason McEldowney for his service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the constituents of Commerce City, Colorado.

LT. MICHAEL GENE PENN, NAVAL  
AVIATOR, POW

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**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week I was honored to meet one of Texas' finest, Navy Lieutenant Michael Gene Penn, who served during the Vietnam war. He, like many in my district, lost his home and many priceless possessions during the disastrous flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Last month my office was contacted by Lt. Penn's brother-in-law, Ralph Massengill, asking if I could help replace the treasured medals and ribbons that were lost during Hurricane Harvey. In his heartfelt email, he expressed his desire to present the awards and medals to Lt. Penn in a shadow-box as a Christmas gift. He felt this would be the perfect gift, as Lt. Penn hopes to be back in his home by Christmas. I was honored to help fulfill his request.

Lt. Penn was born in Dallas, Texas on March 13, 1946. He attended the University of Texas at Arlington and graduated in August of 1969, all while working as a full-time police officer for the City of Fort Worth, Texas.

As a young boy, he would watch the fighter jets take off and land. He decided then that he wanted to be a pilot in the Navy. His dream was to land a jet on an aircraft carrier. And that he did.

Lt. Penn volunteered to serve in the Navy at a time when many people in our country were protesting our government and military; when the anti-war sentiment was high. The Vietnam war, also known as the second Indochina war, started on November 1, 1955 because of a conflict that pitted the Northern communist government of North Vietnam and its allies, against the government of South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. Of course, that didn't deter him from enlisting. With his wife and family's full support, he went to the Ft. Worth Naval Air Station and told them that he wanted to fly jets. The only obstacle in his way was he had to finish college.

So, after graduating college, he entered the Navy Jet Flight Training Program in August of 1969. He received his Wings a year and a half later. His first duty station as a Designated Naval Aviator was at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore, California, where he was assigned to Attack Squadron 56.

On April 10, 1972, he departed the United States on his first cruise via aircraft carrier, the USS *Midway*. Most cruises are six to nine months, but with the ongoing war, President Nixon extended his to 11 months. His squadron brought a total of 13 jets on their mission to Vietnam. Only one of the original 13 returned. He went through two jets, as did a couple of other pilots. Lt. Penn's first aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, which gave him limited control of the jet, forcing him to land on to the USS *Midway's* barricade. His second aircraft was hit by a surface to air missile. Back in the day these aircrafts cost three million dollars apiece, and it was then that Lt. Penn became known as the six-million-dollar man.

Lt. Penn (nicknamed Pick) flew a total of 75 combat missions over Northern Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, imagine 75 takeoffs and landings from an aircraft carrier.