

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.

DAMON MARTIN TRIBUTE

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

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.

JASON McELDOWNEY

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

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.

On his 75th mission, a SAM (surface-to-air) missile hit his A-7 Corsair II aircraft. He was shot down over Haiphong. He was forced to eject from the aircraft, suffering several broken bones. After being ejected, he deployed his parachute, which quickly became impaled by bullets from enemy fire. Seconds after he hit the ground, he found himself surrounded by the enemy. It was then, when a villager, about 10 feet away, began running at full speed with a knife in his hand towards Lt. Penn, in an attempt to kill him. Although Lt. Penn tried to dodge the attack, the villager cut the side of his neck open. A North Vietnamese Army soldier subdued the farmer and took Lt. Penn captive, using Penn's own bootlaces to restrain his hands behind his back before taking him to the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

He was a prisoner of war (POW) at the brutal Hanoi Hilton for eight months. He lived in a 9x4 concrete cell. His meals consisted mostly of bread and water. The solitary lightbulb above him stayed on 24 hours a day. Twice he was given rice, which had roaches in it. In the beginning, the captives would pick the roaches out of their food, but after starving for so long, they eventually ate everything they were given.

After spending eight months in captivity, the war was over. He returned home on March 29, 1973, as part of the last group that was brought back during "Operation Homecoming". 591 American POWs returned home during the operation. This was a direct result of an agreed ceasefire following the Paris Peace Accord, ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war. For Lt. Penn, it wasn't easy returning home. His son was six months old when he left, and was 1.5 years old when he returned. He didn't know who he was. It didn't take him long, thankfully. As he was getting to know his son, he was trying to acclimate to normal life. For the first three months he couldn't sleep. Since he, like many other POW's, slept on the floor in his concrete cell, it was some time before he was comfortable in his own bed.

Lt. Michael Gene Penn honorably served the United States Navy for 11 years. Nine years on active duty and two in the Navy Reserves. Lt. Penn's military service was remarkable. When he came into my office, I presented him replacement medals for:

1. The Distinguished Flying Cross (the second highest award next to the Congressional Medal of Honor) for his extraordinary achievement while participating in a heavy combat aerial flight in Southeast Asia,

2. The Bronze Star with a combat V (for valor) for his heroic achievements and meritorious service in a combat zone,

3. Two Purple Hearts for having been injured twice while serving our nation,

4. The Air Medal, for an act of heroism and meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight,

5. The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star and combat V (valor) for his sustained acts of heroism and meritorious service,

6. The Combat Action Ribbon for his active participation in ground and surface combat,

7. A Presidential Unit Citation for Gallantry, Determination, and Esprit de corps in accomplishing a mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions,

8. The Prisoner of War Medal for his honorable service in the Armed Forces while being

held against his will during the Vietnam war for eight months,

9. The National Defense Service Medal for his military service during periods of national emergency or a period designated by the Secretary of Defense,

10. The Vietnam Service Medal for his service in the geographical theatre area of Vietnam from July 4, 1965 through March 28, 1973,

11. An Honorable Discharge Button for his impeccable and admirable service in the United States Navy.

Lt. Penn resigned his commission from the Navy in 1978 and went to work for a commercial airline to fly 737s out of Houston, Texas. He quickly became the chief pilot, supervising over 700 other pilots. Today, he continues to serve the veteran community as a PTSD mentor and as a civilian inspirational speaker. He travels the world and tells his story of endurance and survival. His patriotic legacy of military service and giving back is one of the best examples of a remarkable generation in American history. Lt. Penn is a unique warrior that never renounced duty, honor or country. He was unbreakable. I asked him how he felt about his service, and he said, "It was an honor to serve under difficult circumstances. I'm glad to be back in one piece." Always a humble man, he said to remember that, "It's never a bad day as long as you have a door knob on your side of the door".

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey took a lot from Texans. It destroyed many of our businesses, some of our historic landmarks, and thousands of homes; and with it, it took many Texans' valuable and sentimental belongings. It has been an honor to meet Lt. Penn and a pleasure to replace the medals that recognize his commendable military service and personal accomplishments. Lt. Penn is of the rare breed, the remarkable breed of an American Patriot.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO HALL DAILY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hall Daily, who will soon retire from his position as Director of Government Relations at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

After completing his communications degree at Stanford University, Mr. Daily worked as a tennis teacher for nearly a decade before venturing into journalism. His 15 year career was ultimately successful, and he worked for established news organizations such as the San Jose Mercury News, The Associated Press and eventually the Pasadena Star-News, where he led a newsroom of more than 50 people.

Hall joined Caltech in 1987 as the Assistant Director of Public Relations. Shortly afterwards, he led an extensive, large-scale effort to win approval from the City of Pasadena for Caltech's 30-year campus development plan, which allowed the institute to grow and meet the needs of both Caltech and the greater Pasadena community. Also during his initial public relations role, Mr. Daily co-created the

CASE gold-medal winning radio program, "Caltech Edition of Airtalk" on the local radio station KPCC, in which Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Caltech scientists discussed research, forthcoming publications and current events.

Mr. Daily later became the Director of Government Relations at Caltech, where he has been indispensable in establishing, sustaining and managing strong relations with local, state and federal governments, higher education associations, community groups, Caltech's neighbors and the general public. He has represented Caltech on numerous organizations, including the California Council of Science and Technology, the AAU Council of Federal Relations and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, where he has served as its Executive Committee Treasurer for the past 25 years. In addition, Hall has served on the boards of many local non-profit organizations, including Day One Pasadena, Leadership Pasadena, Pasadena Police Activities League, el Centro de Acción Social and the LA Cleantech Incubator. He is a co-founder of the working groups: Emergency Coordinators Roundtable, Pasadena: City of Learning and the Pasadena Water & Power large customers group, and also serves on Caltech's Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Institute and Alumni Relations Committee and the JPL Committee. In 2002, for his dedicated efforts in promoting the interests of Caltech as a global standard of academic merit by strengthening communication and goodwill between Caltech, its students and its alumni, Hall received the Honorary Member of the Caltech Alumni Association Award.

It has been my pleasure to work with Hall on numerous projects over the years, such as the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System, a discovery for the ages by scientists working at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), and expanding our knowledge and exploration of space.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Hall Daily for three decades of extraordinary service to Caltech and the greater Pasadena community, which has helped advance scientific research for the betterment of our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA PIPER

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 Linda Piper of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on her recent retirement as the System Analyst for the City of Council Bluffs. Linda was hired as a switchboard operator by the City of Council Bluffs on September 15, 1970, and retired after exactly 47 years of service on September 15, 2017.

Linda has held several positions during her career with the City. She worked in the City Treasurer's office, serving as a data processing technician and data processing coordinator as the computer technology evolved at City Hall. When the city created an IT Department, Linda was promoted to Systems Analyst, the position she held at retirement. Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh said, "Linda has been a great employee and a great individual. She will be missed by everyone in City Hall."