

in America, and CT Against Gun Violence has worked with policy makers to dispel misconceptions, such as the claim that there are no policy tools to protect people who attempt suicide. The lethality of firearms makes them a uniquely dangerous tool in the hands of people who would harm themselves, and CT Against Gun Violence has started important conversations about how to keep people from harm and save lives.

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in 2012, Ron grieved with and rallied our community to build the strong public support we needed to pass tough new laws that expanded background checks for private firearms sales, created a permitting system for purchasing ammunition, and limited high capacity ammunition magazines. No community should face the horror Newtown families did in 2012, and thanks in large part to Ron's work with CT Against Gun Violence, our state has the means to prevent such future tragedies. Members of our military and veterans are at particular risk of gun suicide death, as more than 20 veterans or service members die by suicide each day. Ron's efforts are helping policy makers find ways to help those who have served us stay safe and address their mental health needs.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Pinciari has been a dedicated advocate for Connecticut communities, law enforcement, and families. He is an example to all citizens and public servants who has shown that we can affect true change when we take action to improve our state and nation. We are fortunate to count Ron as a friend and an ally in the effort to address gun violence in our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF CITY COUNCILMAN ALFRED M. BROWN, JR. AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CONCORD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize City Councilman Alfred M. Brown Jr. on nearly two decades of service to the City of Concord, North Carolina.

I've known Councilman Brown for many years, and throughout this time I have considered him a good friend. A lifelong Concord resident, Councilman Brown attended Concord High School and went on to attend the Citadel. After his time at the Citadel Councilman Brown worked at the Concord Telephone Company and Windstream for over forty years in the OSP Engineering Department where he gained valuable experience that enabled him as Councilman to help shape the City of Concord into the wonderful place it is today.

Over the years, Councilman Brown has been very active in our community as an active member of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, delegate to the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO Transportation Advisory Committee and a board member of the Concord-Kannapolis Transit System Authority. As you can tell, Councilman Brown lives to serve his community.

Residing in Concord, he has two children and has shown himself to be a consummate

family man. I am extremely grateful for Councilman Brown's service to our community and I wish him continued success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring City Councilman Alfred M. Brown Jr. for his service to the City of Concord.

HONORING RAUL ANTONIO VAZQUEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Raul Antonio Vazquez, who tragically lost his life on November 23, 2017 in Garden Grove, California.

Mr. Vazquez was a husband, father, son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, coach, and a friend. Mr. Vazquez was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky on November 8, 1967. In 1994, Mr. Vazquez moved to Orange County to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. It was there where he met his wife, Maricela Miranda, and later raised their three sons, Raul, Julian, and Joaquin, and daughter, Miranda.

Mr. Vazquez was an avid sports fan and loved spending time with his family. In his free time, Mr. Vazquez volunteered to coach and lead various organizations at his children's school, St. Cecilia School. All those he encountered were also met with his frequent jokes, selfless heart, and the power of his faith.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I celebrate the memory of Mr. Raul Antonio Vazquez. A vibrant member of the Garden Grove community, taken from us too soon.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CPS ENERGY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of CPS Energy's outstanding commitment to public utility and service for the City of San Antonio.

CPS Energy, formerly City Public Service, was acquired by the City of San Antonio in 1942. Throughout the 20th century, CPS Energy took part in a variety of business and service ventures. CPS Energy installed the first streetlight system downtown and introduced a customer service phone system in the 1950's. In the latter half of the 20th century, the company took part in the South Texas Project, a jointly owned nuclear power endeavor. Soon after, CPS Energy launched Project WARM helping those in need pay their winter utility bills. The project's fundraising efforts provided 4,000 families with assistance in the first years of its launch.

In 2002, CPS Energy, in partnership with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County, established the Residential Energy Assistance Program. The nonprofit organization has raised \$22.4 million and assisted more than 76,000 households housing low-income families with children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities.

CPS Energy has made recent notable investments in emissions control technology in its coal-fired power plants and has contributed to the increase in use of lower carbon fuels with its 2012 acquisition of the Rio Nogales natural gas plant in Seguin, TX. A leader in Texas for solar generation and one of the largest consumers of wind energy in the nation, CPS Energy has made significant strides towards access to environmentally conscious energy.

Through CPS Energy, the City of San Antonio has facilitated access to dependable and economical energy for 75 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize CPS Energy.

COMMENDING THE CAPITAL TIMES ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Capital Times on the publication's 100th Anniversary.

The Capital Times has been an integral part of our community since its founding on December 13, 1917. In the earliest years of the publication, the Capital Times earned its reputation as a champion of progressive values by fighting for workers, farmers, and small businesses.

From its humble beginnings on King Street, the Capital Times has expanded and adapted, yet has remained dedicated to the values upon which it was founded. Over the last one hundred years, the Capital Times has never lost sight of its mission to serve its readers and the people of Wisconsin.

Since 1917, the Capital Times has been at the forefront of the most significant stories in Wisconsin and the United States. At a time when freedom of the press is being challenged and many news organizations are facing setbacks, the Capital Times continues its outstanding work.

Through its efforts to pursue truth, the Capital Times and its well-respected team of journalists have remained committed to progress and our future. It is my honor to now recognize the Capital Times in celebrating its 100th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

HONORING BANKS COUNTY FARMERS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my neighbors who were recently honored at the Banks County Agricultural Awards Banquet.

For the past five years, this banquet has celebrated the agricultural success of my friends in Banks County. Each individual recognized at the banquet has promoted an industry that serves as a crucial part of Georgia's livelihood.

Agriculture isn't a field for just anyone. It is an industry for the optimist. With the ebb and

flow of good and bad seasons, farmers persevere, producing food for our dinner tables with hard work and hope.

This year, I want to honor the following northeast Georgians: Daphne Crumley for Agribusiness of the Year, Ricky Martin for Farmer of the Year, Ralph Dalton for the Hall of Fame Award, and Pat Whitlock for receiving the Woman in Agriculture Award.

I thank these four farmers for their selfless dedication to their work, and I wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF CITY COUNCILMAN LAMAR BARRIER AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CONCORD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize City Councilman Lamar Barrier on over two decades of service to the City of Concord, North Carolina.

I've known Councilman Barrier for many years and I consider him to be a good friend. Growing up in Concord, Councilman Barrier attended Concord High School. He went on to graduate from the Kentucky College of Mortuary Science and has been a Funeral Service Practitioner at Wilkinson Funeral Home for over thirty years. Councilman Barrier stood ready to answer the call by proudly serving his country during the Vietnam Era.

Over the years, Councilman Barrier has been very active in our community by supporting the Cabarrus County Boys and Girls Club, Concord High School Athletic Boosters Club, CVAN, and Cabarrus 4-H. In addition, he has served on the boards of Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County, and Community Health Centers at McGill and Logan. As you can tell, Councilman Barrier's servant heart never stops, no matter the day or time.

Residing in Concord, he and his wife, Christine, have two daughters and two grandchildren. I am extremely grateful for Councilman Barrier's service to our community and I wish him continued success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring City Councilman Lamar Barrier for his service to the City of Concord.

RECOGNIZING THE MASONS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE KING GEORGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mason family on their service to the Circuit Court of King George County, Virginia. For the past 100 years, a Mason has served as the Circuit Court Clerk. Charles "Vic" Mason is the current Clerk and the third generation to hold the position.

In addition to serving as Clerk, Vic is the co-founder of the non-profit, Some Gave All Foundation, which honors members of the

military that have lost their lives protecting our freedom. Vic and his wife, Christine, lost their son, Nicholas, while he was serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking the Masons for their continued service to King George County.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH L. WHITE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time today to honor and remember a prominent member of my community, Dr. Joseph L. White, for his immense dedication and invaluable contributions while serving the community of Long Beach.

Dr. Joseph L. White passed away on November 22, 2017. Dr. White was a visionary who introduced and founded the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) in 1967 at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). This revolutionary model was later replicated by educational institutions throughout California and the United States, and allowed millions of minority, low-income, and first generation students of color to successfully attend and graduate from public and private colleges and universities. November of 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the EOP at CSULB and Dr. White was honored in the presence of dignitaries and other prominent members of the community for his contributions as an educator and the success of EOP. EOP serves approximately 2,500 students annually and is continuously growing. Dr. White was personally responsible for touching the lives of countless students who remember him with great fondness and respect.

In 1962, Dr. White was only the second black tenure-track faculty hired at CSULB. He was also the only black tenured psychologist in California. He was extremely troubled by the lack of diversity at CSULB and decided to act and enable change himself. He realized that colleges needed a vehicle to admit students with potential were unable to meet college admission standards and requirements. EOP was able to support minority students, giving them a wider range of opportunities and a promising future. It is no surprise that he is known as the "godfather of diversity" at CSULB.

Dr. White's work extended beyond CSULB and throughout the community. Dr. White's time as a professor of psychology at the University of California, Irvine and across the country will never go forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. White is an example to us all of us of the incredible value found in community engagement. I am honored to recognize Dr. White for doing his part in addressing the issue of the lack of diversity in public and private colleges and universities, and thank him for the positive impact he has made on the community and the country.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BHA'U'LLAH'S, FOUNDER OF THE BAHAI FAITH, BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the Baha'i community of Pennsylvania's 15th congressional district as they celebrate the 200th birthday anniversary of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith.

In 1817, Baha'u'llah was born to a Persian noble family. As a young man, he was known for his charity and service to others, earning him the nickname "father of the poor." He founded the Baha'i Faith, a new and independent religion with its own scriptures, laws, teachings, and practices. The central tenet involves a message of justice, unity, and peace.

In response to his teachings, the Persian and Ottoman empires imprisoned and exiled Baha'u'llah for over 40 years. Despite the injustice and oppression he faced, Baha'u'llah continued to promote a message of the oneness of humanity. In every place to which he was banished, he touched the lives of all those around him, and his enemies became his friends and admirers.

Today, the Baha'i faith is a global religion with over five million followers around the world. And just over 120 years ago, it first arrived in the U.S. Wherever they live, Baha'is champion the principles that Baha'u'llah proclaimed and strive to build a better world by being good citizens, serving their communities, and working side by side with others to promote the common good.

IN HONOR OF DUANE DAUNER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, when dedicated people reach the end of a long and full career, they care to be remembered for more than what they accomplished, but for how they accomplished it.

Duane Dauner is a peace maker, a consensus builder, and a man with an uncommon mix of expertise and compassion. He is a man who has deservedly gained a local, statewide, and national reputation for his knowledge and abilities.

Duane has over three decades of experience as the President and CEO of the California Hospital Association, serving the most populous state in America with diversity to match its size. From rural expanses in the farms and deserts to the great cities along California's coast and interior, Duane has more than capably responded to the health care needs of the people of California.

Building on his experience in the Kansas Hospital Association and the Missouri Hospital Association, Duane came to California with a personal commitment to provide every Californian with equitable access to affordable, safe,