

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