

high-quality health care services. In large part because of his work and leadership, California experienced the slowest rate of health expenditure growth relative to the entire nation.

He took the lead to develop the Modern Pricing approach, a voluntary effort where hospitals can adjust their charges to develop a more user-friendly billing process. He improved the transparency of hospital data, helping to develop the California Hospital Assessment Reporting Taskforce (CHART), which adopted 50 hospital performance measures and still publicly reports hospital quality today. Under his leadership, the California Hospital Association established the 501(c)3 Hospital Quality Institute to prioritize initiatives that improve patient safety and quality.

His public recognition acknowledges his accomplishments. He has earned the American College of Health Care Executives highest honor, the Gold Medal Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Healthcare Executive of Southern California, and the Ludlam-Gamble Award from the National Health Foundation, among many others.

I, along with House Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI, have both appreciated Duane's counsel and advice over the years, leaning upon him to inform our own health care policy decisions. The fact that we come from different sides of the aisle reflects not only the excellence of Duane's advice, but also the quality of his character.

Friends and colleagues have called him an "elder statesmen," a "careful listener," a "decisive leader," and a man of "resolute character" with "a work ethic that never wavers." Duane is a person who has always done more than his job required and did it well. While the people of California and the nation will miss his leadership, we are all the better that he spent so much of his life serving our state and country.

HONORING MACEDONIA
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in my hometown of Farmville, North Carolina. This congregation recently celebrated 126 years of serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The passion and commitment from this church has helped to spread the Word and Humility of Christ throughout the town of Farmville and surrounding communities for many, many years.

The ministry and community outreach performed by the people of Macedonia M.B. have helped meet the needs of so many. I am proud and honored to call these people my neighbors.

I want to thank the church family of Macedonia Missionary Baptist and Pastor Dr. Jerry W. Spruell as they continue to improve the quality of life for so many people and commend them on this milestone in their ministry. I pray that they will be blessed with many more years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the book of Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust, He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you helped His people and continue to help them."

Congratulations on your 126 years of service.

HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY
LOCAL HARVEST BANQUET

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 Madison County neighbors for their recent success in raising money for the local foodbank at the Madison County Local Harvest Banquet.

Last year, the Madison County Extension Office launched this banquet to raise money for the local food bank, which assists families and friends in the area.

What began as a simple idea eventually grew into a community-wide effort. At the banquet, local farmers donated food, students from the local culinary school prepared meals, and community leaders volunteered to serve food.

In its inaugural year, participants raised over \$3,000, and this year, their efforts increased by nearly half, putting the grand total at \$4,375 raised for Madison County residents in need.

As the holiday season approaches, let us all follow the example that my Madison County neighbors have put forth. Let us look to one another with compassion, opening our hearts in order to help meet the needs of our communities.

I thank my friends in Madison County for their generosity, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of their charitable efforts.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER JAKE FERRARI

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who continue to serve this great Nation with honor—men such as Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Jake Ferrari, United States Navy.

For the past year, LCDR Ferrari, affectionately known in my office as "Snake," served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A 2004 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, LCDR Ferrari is a proud Surface Warfare Officer who served onboard USS *Lake Champlain* (CG 57), USS *Tarawa* (LHA-1), USS *Milius* (DDG 69), and USS *Cape St. George* (CG 71). During his assignment in my office, LCDR Ferrari provided senior-level input for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Additionally, he executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of Vir-

ginia's First Congressional District with distinction.

Furthermore, LCDR Ferrari provided exceptional support to me as a staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Chairman. The year 2017 proved to be a pivotal time for the Navy's surface community, highlighted by the tragic collisions of the USS *Fitzgerald* and USS *McCain*. In response, LCDR Ferrari dutifully provided me with guidance on what the Navy's path forward should be in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His recent experience in the surface community was invaluable to my work in Congress.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus, the Co-Chair of the Navy-Marine Corps Caucus, and the Chairman of the United States Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, I relied on LCDR Ferrari to organize quarterly events with government, military, and private sector leaders. These events allowed key decisionmakers to work together for the advancement of our future Naval Officers as well as the construction and repair of the ships on which they will serve.

LCDR Ferrari also directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion, and he leveraged his personal and operational experience in the Navy to respond to the most challenging inquiries. In addition to his efforts locally, LCDR Ferrari took on projects with regional, state, and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions. Specifically, LCDR Ferrari served as my direct liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the aftermath of the damage caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. His diligent communication and coordination with FEMA benefitted many of my constituents with family residing in Puerto Rico.

LCDR Ferrari's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers. I would also like to thank LCDR Ferrari for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, both for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. I have no doubt that LCDR Ferrari will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish Jake, his wife Laura, and their children Lilly, Jack, Lucy, and Eleanor the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that members of our all-volunteer force like Jake stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

I thank LCDR Jake Ferrari for doing a fantastic job. Best of luck to him and may God bless him, his family, and all the Sailors he is conducting with leading.