

Brianna and Tania for sharing this remarkable man with us.

Our deepest love and prayers are with his family. May it bring them some measure of comfort that so many mourn with them and continue to be inspired by him.

During this difficult time, our full support is also with Acting Mayor London Breed, the Board of Supervisors and all the people of San Francisco.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salvation Army on its 125th anniversary in Rock Island County, Illinois.

The Salvation Army opened in Moline in 1892, 27 years after it was founded in London. The Moline Salvation Army was started after immigrants from Europe and Sweden came to the area in the 1890s in order to find work at John Deere. After arriving in the region, a group of Swedish men wrote back to their home country to ask that officers be sent to start a church. The Salvation Army's first services were held in a rented space above a saloon in the Browning Block Building on the southwest corner of 15th Street and 5th Avenue in Moline in 1892. A Rock Island Salvation Army opened just one year later. In 1993, the two merged to become the Moline Salvation Army, which has been in its current location since 2000.

The Salvation Army has given women the same leadership opportunities as men. Women serve as pastors, Bible teachers and social service workers; they also lead ministries and carry the same rank as male counterparts.

The Salvation Army's original mission has evolved over the years. It was first founded with the basic social services principles of taking care of the physical and emotional needs of the hungry and homeless, but has grown to take on disaster relief services, child care centers, summer camps, holiday assistance, services for the aging, veterans programs, shelters for women and children, family and career counseling, vocational training, correctional services, and substance abuse rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate The Salvation Army on its 125th anniversary in Rock Island County and wish it another successful 125 years.

HONORING FRAN MACALLISTER

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Fran MacAllister, who passed away on December 8, 2017.

Fran was born in Portland, Indiana on February 1, 1922. She attended Ball State University and helped in the World War II efforts by

working as an accountant for a company that manufactured wings for bombers and volunteered as a nurse's aide for the Red Cross. Fran was deeply involved in the music and arts communities and played the organ and accordion. She shared her love for the arts with her family and enjoyed spending time with them in her favorite place, Naples, Florida. Fran also devoted her time to Habitat for Humanity, the local YMCA board, and the League of Women Voters.

On a personal note, Fran was a devoted wife to my good friend P.E. MacAllister who is one of my life heroes; a scholar, gentleman, sports fan, a devout Presbyterian, an extraordinary civic and business leader in Indiana, and one of the wisest and most decent men I have ever known.

Fran will be mourned most by those who knew her best, and she will be missed by all. Fran is survived by her husband, P.E., daughters Daphne (Walter), and Jodi; grandchildren Megan, Eryn, Corinne, Olivia, Thomas, Coulter, and Barrett and great-grandchildren Elena and Matthew, whom I give my deepest sympathies. Fran lived a gratifying life and had profound impact on countless Hoosiers, and her life should be an inspiration to us all.

THANKING THEODORE R. BECHTLTOL, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. GREGG HARPER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals who works at the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Theodore R. Bechtol, Jr.

Better known to many of us as the Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Ted is responsible for preserving and maintaining more than 290 acres of the historic landscape and infrastructure across the U.S. Capitol campus.

Prior to being promoted to his current position in 2007, Ted served as the Deputy Superintendent for U.S. Capitol Grounds. As part of Ted's responsibilities, he ensures the routine and periodic landscape maintenance, comprehensive tree care, and upkeep of the supporting infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment are completed. Additionally, snow removal, trash collection, and support for major events, such as the annual December Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, are key responsibilities for supporting our U.S. Capitol campus. In total, Ted has taken part in 13 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree events.

Throughout Ted's years at the U.S. Capitol, he worked hard to bring recognition to the historical significance of the grounds and helped to produce cultural landscape reports. His depth of knowledge about Frederick Law Olmsted, the American landscape architect who designed the U.S. Capitol Grounds, has changed how each section of the grounds are cared for, with a focus on historical horticulture.

Ted has also consulted on historical horticulture work at many institutions throughout the east coast.

Under his leadership, the U.S. Capitol Grounds have received designation as an ac-

credited arboretum, a notable industry standard.

On Friday, January 5, 2018, Ted Bechtol will retire from his position as Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Grounds for the Architect of the Capitol.

In retirement, he will be spending more time with his granddaughter, working on home improvement projects, and enjoy hiking and beach trips. He will continue to explore American history trails—he and his wife recently hiked Gettysburg and Civil War trails.

Although we are sad to see someone with Ted's accomplishments leave the service of the institution, I offer him my sincere best wishes in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAN AND KARL KNOCK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jan and Karl Knock for being inducted into the Creston High School Hall of Fame as Distinguished Contributors on Friday, September 29, 2017.

Karl and Jan were deeply involved in the Creston school district by providing programs and opportunities for students. One of those programs is the school's Environmental and Spatial Technology class (EAST). They have also been involved with the Character Counts program and with diversity programs. Karl was a 1968 graduate of Creston schools and after moving back to Creston with Jan in 1989, wanted to make Creston a place where today's students can thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Jan and Karl for receiving this award, and for providing the youth in Iowa's 3rd district the education that they will need to be successful. It is with great pride that I recognize leaders like Jan and Karl in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding achievement and in wishing them both nothing but the best.

HONORING BERTHA ROGERS AND BRIGHT HILL PRESS & LITERARY CENTER OF THE CATSKILLS

**HON. JOHN J. FASO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize the illustrious career of Bertha Rogers, the Founding Director of Bright Hill Press & Literary Center of the Catskills, on the occasion of her retirement and the twenty-fifth anniversary of Bright Hill Press. With her husband, Ernest M. Fishman, Bertha co-founded Bright Hill Press in 1992. Since then, through her dedicated work as an educator, mentor and an artist, Bright Hill has become an epicenter of free thinking and creativity, and a haven for writers both young and old.

Bertha is gifted with remarkable literary talent. Her work has appeared in hundreds of literary journals and in several collections, and her translation of Beowulf was published in 2000. She has been the recipient several NYSCA and NYFA grants and residency fellowships to the McDowell Colony, the Millay Artists Colony, Jentel, Caldera, Saltonstall, Hedgebrook, and Hawthornden International Writers Residence (Scotland). Using this talent, Bertha has left a permanent mark on the Treadwell community through her work at Bright Hill.

What started as weekly poetry readings, Bright Hill has grown to become an established and respected literary organization, attracting authors and poets both locally and worldwide. Largely the result of Bertha's time and efforts, Bright Hill now offers youth and adult writing workshops, reading series, small press publishing, and boasts an impressive literary library. Bertha's excitement for literature and poetry, combined with an authentic passion for teaching, has fostered an increased appreciation for writing and the arts in the Catskills.

It is an honor to recognize Bertha and Bright Hill for their distinctive milestones. Leaving behind an organization marked by ingenuity, creativity, and passion, Bertha has given Bright Hill a buildable legacy which will grow in future years. I wish Bertha every happiness as she embarks on this new chapter, and I am confident that even in retirement she will continue to be an advocate for the literary arts. The 19th District and New York State are a better place because of Bertha and Bright Hill Press. I thank them for helping to make the Catskills a cultural center.

HONORING DEBRA HOOD OF  
HALEYVILLE, AL

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the talents, achievements and dedication of Mrs. Debra Hood on the occasion of her retirement as City Clerk of Haleyville, Alabama.

Debra Hood began her career with Haleyville 30 years ago and worked alongside numerous mayors and members of the city council. She has also worked with numerous municipal judges and attorneys in the municipal court system. As municipal judge for the city of Haleyville, I had the privilege to work alongside Debra back in the mid-1990s. Debra's goal was always to advance the city of Haleyville and make it a better place to live, work and raise a family.

During her three decades as clerk, Debra Hood has taken a particular interest in community and economic development. Her work has directly helped the city of Haleyville to continue to be one of the most prosperous communities in Winston County.

Debra, along with other local leaders, played a valuable role in keeping hundreds of jobs in Haleyville through Exxel Outdoors. Exxel provides 100 jobs for area citizens and is one of the major manufacturers of sleeping bag in the nation.

I would be remiss if I did not point out the most important job Debra has had as city clerk: the chief election official of the city. She has overseen numerous municipal elections in

the past 30 years, ensuring that the people of Haleyville had their voices heard at the ballot box.

Debra's family is also immeasurably important to her. She and her husband Gary have two children, daughter Dana Saylor and son Bruce Hood. Debra and Gary have six grandchildren: Sydney, Bryant, Titus, Elijah, Abigail and Lydia.

Representing the city of Haleyville, my hometown, and the Fourth Congressional District, I appreciate the hard work and the dedication that Debra has given the city over the past three decades.

Debra will be missed by those she has served for so many years, but I know she will continue to be active in her community. She has earned this retirement with her years of dedication. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING TOM THOMS, JIM  
MILLMAN AND TOM ROWE FOR  
THEIR EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE—

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Thoms, Jim Millman and Tom Rowe for their extraordinary service to children and families.

These three bicyclists took a 1,827 mile, 21 day bicycle ride from Itasca, Minnesota to Venice, Louisiana. These men set out on this journey with one common goal: to help break the cycle of child abuse by raising money and bringing attention to this pressing issue. They originally set a goal of raising \$42,000, but they drastically exceeded that goal by raising a total of \$108,494. All of the money raised went to three Quad-City charities—Alternatives, the Child Abuse Council, and Bethany for Children & Families. The men spent 146 hours on their bikes, which is the equivalent of six days and one night. Collectively, their bicycle tires spun more than eight million times.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Thoms, Mr. Millman, and Mr. Rowe, once again, for their outstanding efforts and selfless community service. The generous actions of individuals such as these men make me especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMPUTER  
SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I think about America's future, I know that its success will be driven by the bright, technologically-savvy minds of our young people.

That is why I am honored to recognize the winner of my district's 2017 Congressional App Challenge: Carlson Sharpless, a senior at Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Translating a good idea into lines of code, Carlson created an app called "Grammarlets," a tutoring program designed to help students

practice their grammar skills for the SATs. His creation stood out among several impressive and unique apps submitted by students seeking to solve everyday problems.

What these students have accomplished is an example of the kind of innovative thinking and entrepreneurial spirit that central Florida is known for.

As a nation, it's important that we continue to make meaningful investments in STEM education and that we empower our students with the tools needed to invent, to innovate, and to improve the lives of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO RANDY HUGHES

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Randy Hughes. Randy was inducted into the Creston High School Hall of Fame as Distinguished Faculty on Friday, September 29, 2017.

For 36 years, Randy served the Creston community as an educator to their youth. He taught social studies with a relaxed style with which students could relate. He brought current events into the curriculum and related them to our country's history. He coached students for the Academic Decathlon for 10 years, served as the Student Council advisor and coached girls' tennis. After retirement from Creston high school, Randy taught at Southwestern Community College and continued to be an active part of the Creston community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Randy for receiving this award, and for providing the youth in Iowa's 3rd district the education that they will need to be successful. It is with great pride that I recognize leaders like Randy in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. IRIS  
LIZZETTE VÉLEZ

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2017*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Iris Lizzette Vélez for her service to my office and the constituents of California's Twenty First Congressional District of California over the past year.

Iris Vélez was born on April 3, 1960 in the beach town of Guánica, Puerto Rico to Iris Lucía Santana Colón and Félix Gilberto Vélez Quiñones. Both high school teachers, her parents instilled in Iris the importance and love of learning at a young age. Iris and her three siblings spent most of their time feeding animals, harvesting crops, and fishing on their grandparents' farm in San German, Puerto Rico. It was during this time that Iris developed a true love and respect for nature.