

in 2015, to modernize the facilities and increase cooperative working spaces. And the library even hosts a summer concert series.

The library's inspired initiatives and incredible progress were recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which awarded the Waukegan Public Library with the National Medal in 2013, the highest national recognition for libraries.

In fact, it was at the White House award ceremony hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama that I first met Mr. Lee and his team. Since then, the Waukegan Public Library has been an important partner in my work for our community, including allowing us to host regular Neighborhood Office Hours to serve residents closer to home, as well as graciously providing the venue for a recent ceremony honoring local Vietnam Veterans.

In closing, I want to again thank my friend, Mr. Richard Lee, for his dedicated leadership, creativity, and passion over these last 15 years. I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement with family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society.

On March 18, 1868, twelve physicians formed the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, which is known today as the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society.

The medical society's early goals of learning about diseases and cures, formulating public health, sanitation, and food safety ordinances, and supporting the principles and ethics of the medical profession continue to benefit Sacramento communities.

The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society founded the Sacramento Board of Health and helped form the first State Board of Health in California.

SSVMS represents more than 3,500 physicians, medical students, residents and fellows. Thirteen SSVMS physicians have served as President of the California Medical Association and three have served as President of the American Medical Association.

SSVMS's RX Safe Physicians program has partnered with opioid task forces in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties to create a physician led coalition that is fighting opioid abuse.

As a member myself, I want to thank the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society for their work over the past 150 years.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society on 150 years of service to the Sacramento region.

HONORING SENSEI MARUYAMA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sensei Shuji Maruyama, the Founder of Kokikai Aikido, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his teaching Aikido in Pennsylvania. In so doing, I honor his achievements and the beneficial role that Kokikai Aikido has played in enriching the lives of the men, women and children of Bucks County, PA and the USA.

Kokikai Aikido is a self-defense training system that stresses timing, centering, and coordination, rather than meeting force with force. Aikido students strive to use minimum effort for maximum effect, making Aikido an effective self-defense method for people of all levels of physical ability and of all ages. Kokikai Aikido teaches that strength comes from one's mental state as well as from one's physical prowess. It provides a path for personal realization and ethical self-defense. Students learn that as they become stronger, a peaceful resolution of conflict becomes more, not less, possible. In this way Aikido students also become better citizens, as they work toward attaining their personal goals.

After 50 years of teaching in the USA, Sensei Maruyama continues to share his unbounded energy with his students. He constantly strives to improve and simplify his technique, and to find even more effective ways of teaching. Through his leadership, Kokikai Aikido has grown to include dojos all over the United States and the world. Keystone Kokikai Aikido has made his teachings accessible to hundreds of Southeastern Pennsylvania residents.

I offer congratulations to Sensei Maruyama on his achievement and congratulations to his students who are fortunate to celebrate this milestone with him. It is my hope that Kokikai Aikido will continue to flourish and that Sensei Shuji Maruyama will continue to bring his skills to the martial arts community for many years to come.

HONORING COMRADE WILLIE L. LINDSEY, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Comrade Willie Lee Lindsey, Jr. who was born on February 23, 1936.

He enlisted into the United States Air Force on February 3, 1954 and was trained to be a Fire Fighter in the United States Air Force.

He obtained the rank of Airman 3rd Class (A/3C) during his 3 years and 10 months of service.

Comrade Willie L. Lindsey Jr. served 1 year and 10 months under imminent danger and hazardous duty conditions on the Korean Peninsula of South Korea.

He was awarded the National Defense Medal along with the Korean Service Medal during his time of service in the Air Force.

Airman 3rd Class Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on January 7, 1958.

After serving his country as a Fire Fighter in the military, Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. transitioned into civilian life and worked and retired after 30 years of employment at Vickers, Inc. in Jackson, Mississippi.

In December of 1985, Willie Lindsey joined the Brooks, William, Stewart, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9832, in Jackson, MS.

He was elected VFW Post 9832 Commander in 1988 and served in that position from 1988 to 2008. He also served as VFW 5th District Commander during his time as VFW Post 9832 Commander.

In 2006 through 2007, Willie Lindsey became the first African American in the State of Mississippi to be elected and serve as State Commander of the Department of Mississippi's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. was a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He is survived by his son Roderick Odems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. for his dedication to serving his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make it back to Washington, D.C. to vote on the evening of 1/8/2018 due to inclement weather conditions. Had I been present, I would have voted Present on Roll Call No. 1.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF EMMA COUTURE

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emma Couture, a remarkable and talented young woman who tragically left us too soon.

At 19 years old, Emma accomplished a great deal more than many of us could hope to in a lifetime. And she did it with an open and giving heart that inspired everyone she met. Emma exemplified the best and the brightest of our Pinellas community: a brilliant student, gifted actress, and a thoughtful, selfless individual.

From a young age, Ms. Couture showed a keen interest in the theater. In high school, she used her role as District Broadway Cares Representative to draw attention to AIDS research, organizing a donation drive and raffle at her local thespian competition. Emma used her unique talent on the stage as a platform to advocate for LGBTQ rights and other important issues, orchestrating a theatrical production that raised thousands of dollars for charity and drew performers from all over the country.

Emma's dedication to good works was matched only by her impressive intelligence. She was a victor on the television game show