

raise a family. The Village's police and fire departments are consistently recognized as two of the finest in the state and the local government is highly engaged and enthusiastic. The residents, families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations have made Hanover Park a vibrant and thriving community.

On the occasion of this 60th anniversary, we join together to celebrate Hanover Park's legacy of growth and prosperity and look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village and our nation. Today both marks 60 years of working together to build a brighter future and reminds us that our work continues.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover Park, Illinois, and wishing its residents great success in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 45 and 46 on Monday, January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 45 and 46.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2018 a flight delay prevented me from participating in the 6:30 p.m. vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 45, and YEA on Roll Call No. 46.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT CLAY CULLEN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen. On the weekend of January 20, 2018, Lieutenant Cullen was killed in a training accident while serving in the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. He was an American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Lieutenant Cullen was 25 years old and the son of Robert and Julie Cullen of Bicknell, which is located in Knox County, Indiana. He was an enigmatic young man that left a wave of positive impressions on the people he touched. He attended North Knox Junior/Senior High School where he excelled both in the classroom and on the field. He was named most valuable player of the soccer team while also being an active member of the National Honor Society and the student council.

After graduating from high school, Lieutenant Cullen enrolled and attended Vincennes University before moving on to attend Indiana University where he served in the National Guard. Upon graduation from IU in 2015, he became a commissioned officer on active duty.

During his years of service, Lieutenant Cullen received several awards including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Cullen served his country to his fullest ability and his service will never be forgotten. Please join me today in commemorating the life of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen for his service to our nation.

PANAYIOTA VURNAKES VALLAS

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Pota Vurnakes Vallas.

Mrs. Vallas grew up in Krissafa, Greece, a small village near Sparta, where she was born in 1908. Her father, Gus Vurnakes, immigrated to the United States in 1924 and brought Pota, who was the eldest of the ten Vurnakes' children, with him.

It was at that time, Mr. Speaker, that Pota's father put her to work assisting him at the California Fruit Store on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, North Carolina where she made homemade ice cream and chocolates.

By 1927, just before the Great Depression Pota married her husband, the late George Theodore Vallas, himself a fellow immigrant. Mr. Speaker, like many families at the time, the Vallas' and Vurnakes' were overwhelmed by the Depression. Pota's family lost their home, their life savings, and the California Fruit Store during that time. But they never lost their will to striving for a better life.

And in 1944, Pota and George travelled to Chicago and where they were able to purchase the distributorship of the National Sewing Machine Company. Their business grew into National Art Interiors—a landmark in Raleigh—supplying furnishings for both homes and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Pota served on the North Carolina Community Foundation, the First Citizens Bank Board and was a life-long member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. She was presented with the Saint Michael's Award for her years of dedicated service by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Pota Vallas passed away December 12, 2017 at the age of 109.

She was a loving wife, and mother, as well as a pioneering entrepreneur and businesswoman in North Carolina and she will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 45, a re-

corded vote on a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 534. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH RUNNING OF THE SAULT SAINTE MARIE INTERNATIONAL-500 ENDURANCE SNOWMOBILE RACE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race as it celebrates its 50th annual competition. We Michiganders are proud of the I-500's half-century of world-class racing and commitment to the people of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The first official running of the arduous 500-mile snowmobile race took place on February 8, 1969. The 100% volunteer-run event initially hosted 47 racers on the 1-mile oval ice track—the only such track in North America. Since then, the I-500 has become respected as the most prestigious and grueling snowmobile race in the world. Hundreds of racers vie for the winner's purse while snowmobile manufacturers from around the world look to showcase their machines' reliability and durability. Every year, thousands of visitors come to Sault Sainte Marie to watch the race and enjoy the festivities.

The week-long celebration includes days of qualifying laps, open ice skating on the track, vintage snowmobile exhibitions, youth snowmobile races, food truck competitions, the Winter Pub Crawl, and the Miss I-500 Pageant—all leading up to the day of the race. This year, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary, there will also be an attempt to break the world record for the largest snowmobile parade. Through its week of competition, community, and camaraderie, the impact of the I-500 on the people of the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race for 50 years of exciting competition and community engagement. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing that the First District is home to such a prestigious and dynamic event. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Soo I-500 all the best in its future endeavors, and best of luck to the racers.

REPRESENTATIVE FRELINGHUYSEN RETIREMENT STATEMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today as I announce my retirement at the end of this session of Congress, I want to use the opportunity to strongly encourage the many young people I meet to consider public service. Public service is an incredible way to turn your convictions into something that serves the greater good and to do it alongside people