

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

from every walk of life and background. That has certainly been my experience here in this House, and during my Army service in Vietnam. I thank my friends and colleagues with whom I have served. My years in public service have allowed me to represent my home county of Morris for over 40 years, and also Essex, Passaic, Sussex Counties, and earlier on, Somerset. That would not have been possible without the love and support of my wife, Virginia, our two girls and my late father and mentor, Peter. The unsung heroes of my time in Congress are my staff, both in Morristown and Washington, who tend every day to the needs of 730,000 constituents.

During my time serving here there have been times of great tragedy including the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the ravages of Hurricane Sandy on my home state. In my role on the House Appropriations Committee, I made sure that New Jersey's needs were met in both the immediate aftermath as well as over time in the wake of these events. I have proudly been able to secure key federal investments for New Jersey to strengthen our economy, our institutions of higher education, our hospitals and public transportation systems, to preserve open space and protect the environment and to better serve our veterans and our fellow citizens with mental illness and disabilities.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, this past year I have had a singular focus on "getting our work done". We completed 12 appropriations bills left over from 2017, we passed all 2018 bills in record time through regular order, and three Disaster Supplementals historic in scope and the expediency with which we acted to help our fellow citizens. In my remaining year as chairman, I am determined to finish the FY18 bills and pass our FY19 bills through regular order. Every member, Republican and Democrat, will continue to have ample opportunity to directly impact the Congressional power of the purse and decide the best and highest use of limited taxpayer money. This will require—and I will happily devote—all my energies to this task.

Throughout my service in this House, my deepest devotion has been to supporting our Armed Forces, all volunteers, and their families, here and abroad, and those warfighters who have returned home with injuries and who depend on a functioning veterans' health care system. To those of you I have met while you served us overseas and to those of you that I have sat by your bedside, I hope and trust I have served you well.

I have worked in a bipartisan manner, not just in times of crisis but always, because I believe it best serves my constituents, my state and our country. My father reminded me often that we are temporary stewards of the public trust. I have sincerely endeavored to earn that trust every day and I thank my constituents and my home state of New Jersey for the honor to serve and I will continue to do so to the best of my abilities through the end of my term.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, I was unable to vote on Roll Call votes 45 and

46. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 45—Yes, and Roll Call 46—Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not present for two roll call votes on Monday, January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 45—S. 534, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, as amended—YES; and Roll Call Vote No. 46—H.R. 1457, To establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes, as amended—YES.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JAZZ TRUMPETER HUGH MASEKELA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of South African jazz trumpeter, composer and anti-apartheid activist Hugh Masekela, who died January 23 after a long fight with prostate cancer. Mr. Masekela, 78, was honored in October at the 26th annual National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Awards in Memphis although he was too sick to make the trip from Johannesburg and the award was accepted by his son, Salema Masekela, in his place.

Masekela was an integral part of the African jazz scene in the 1950s and '60s with his band the Jazz Epistles. In response to South Africa's oppressive apartheid, which prevented large gatherings of black people from legally attending his bands' concerts, he went into exile in 1964, at the age of 21, first in Britain and then in the United States. In 1968, he had an international No. 1 hit—"Grazing in the Grass." He was also known for "Bring Him Back Home," an anthem calling for the release of the future South African President Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years for his anti-apartheid activities, and "Soweto Blues."

Masekela collaborated with a variety of activists and entertainers including Harry Belafonte, Jimi Hendrix, Otis Redding, Janis Joplin and Paul Simon, with whom he toured on the "Graceland" album concerts with Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He released more than 40 albums in his career and toured internationally until last year.

"My biggest obsession is to show Africans and the world who the people of Africa really are," he said on his official website.

In 2012, he participated in UNESCO's International Jazz Day at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York City with Richard Bona of Cameroon, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Danilo Perez, Derek Trucks and Susan

Tedeschi, Jack DeJohnette, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Heath, Zakir Hussain of India, Angelique Kidjo of Benin, Lang Lang of China, Romero Lubambo of Brazil, Shankar Mahadevan of India, Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves, Wayne Shorter, Esperanza Spalding, Hiromi Uehara of Japan.

Masekela returned to South Africa in 1990 when Mandela was freed and has been a vocal voice for freedom. I join fans and activists around the world in paying tribute to a giant of African culture and the arts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today on S. 534, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act (Roll Call No. 45), I would have voted aye. This bill would require authorization to interact with minor amateur athletes to report any suspected incidents of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the sport's governing body.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 1457 (Roll Call No. 682), I would have voted aye. This bill would allow banks and other financial institutions nationwide to use an individual's state-issued driver's license or personal identification card to verify the individual's identity when using a mobile device to initiate mobile banking or other online service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal commitment, I was unable to vote on the following: Roll Call No. 35 and Roll Call No. 36. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING RONN OWENS ON HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI as well as Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA ESHOO, JOHN GARAMENDI, JARED HUFFMAN, RO KHANNA, BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise to recognize Ronn Owens for his lifetime of service to the San Francisco Bay Area as a radio journalist of the highest caliber.

Ronn, a resident of San Francisco, launched his daily radio talk show on KGO 810 in 1975. He has covered everything from politics to pop culture, and his show has been called the "ultimate town hall meeting." He became known as a voice of reason, balancing