

RECOGNITION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is both a pleasure and an honor for me to commemorate such an enormous milestone for an organization that does so much for America's veterans.

Founded by a small group of friends in New York City on February 16, 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is an American fraternal society committed to the virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. Over the past 150 years, the Order has grown to include nearly 1,000,000 Elks Members and 2,000 lodges across the country.

The Elks have a long and storied history of supporting America's veterans. This is evident through the century-old Elks pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

In fact, during World War I, at the behest of General Pershing—who was an Elk, himself—the Order donated over \$2,000,000 to assist U.S. soldiers going abroad; and organized, constructed and equipped the first two American field hospitals in France.

Following World War I, the Elks empowered nearly 50,000 disabled veterans by providing rehabilitation, vocation and education loans. It was this act of generosity that prompted the federal government to offer the first ever G.I. Bill for education benefits.

Every day, Elks across the country visit VA medical facilities to provide support and friendship to the men and women who have borne the battle for our freedoms. Last year alone, the Elks provided over 1,000,000 hours of service to veterans and donated nearly \$41,000,000 worth of goods, supplies and cash in support of America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, it is an absolute honor for me to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this incredible and selfless organization, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude for their work over the past 150 years and I wish them the absolute best for 150 years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN AND GAIL BROCKMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carolyn and Gail Brockman of Marne, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 2, 2017.

Carolyn and Gail's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies

Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING HEATHER PHILLIPS, TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Heather Phillips, the Teacher of the Year for Okaloosa County School District. For many years, Ms. Phillips has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Ms. Phillips is a fourth-grade teacher at Bluewater Elementary School in Niceville, FL. Even though she has taught for 15 years, she feels like she is just getting started.

Ms. Phillips finds the greatest inspiration from her faith in God and the support of her family. She loves seeing the world through the eyes of children and allowing their energy to influence her focus on what truly matters.

Her teaching experiences in Japan and Hong Kong help her appreciate diversity. She is also an active member of her church in Niceville and enjoys being part of the community where she teaches.

Ms. Phillips believes being an educator is never predictable, and she thrives on the ever-changing nature of her profession.

Ms. Phillips' many skills and wonderful character truly make her an invaluable and greatly appreciated resource. For all these reasons and more, she has been selected as the 2018 Okaloosa County School District Teacher of the Year.

She is honored to represent Bluewater Elementary and humbled to be considered among such an immensely talented group of educators.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Heather Phillips for her accomplishments and her continued commitment to the Okaloosa County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARGARET FAYE SCHMITTOW

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Margaret Faye Schmittow, one of the first female Marines to serve our Nation and who recently joined our Heavenly Father at the age of 96.

Mr. Speaker, known by most as Faye, Mrs. Schmittow was a WWII veteran who proudly answered the call of duty when the Marine Corps first opened to women in 1944 and devoted more than 27 years of service to the Navy Exchange.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to her outstanding service to our military, she also set an example of service to her children and grandchildren and was described as a person who "would give you the shirt off her back." She is survived by two granddaughters and a great granddaughter and will be remembered as a guiding force in the community through her work with the Athens Detachment in Georgia's 10th District and Helping Hands in Colbert, GA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her remarkable legacy of service and unyielding commitment to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MYCALE DOWNEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mycale Downey of Creston, Iowa for being named Creston Citizen of the Year for 2017.

Ms. Downey has served as Creston Animal Rescue Effort's lead volunteer since the organization was founded in 1998. She and the other volunteers in the group serve the community by caring for animals at the city pound. They also coordinate veterinary care and work diligently to find new homes for each of the animals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Mycale in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mycale for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RAY BAUM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of Ray Baum's passing. Ray was a consummate professional—a true gentleman, whose decency and graciousness showed through in everything he did.

He brought decades of expertise and a depth of knowledge to his role as Majority Staff Director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee partly due to his prior service as member of the Oregon State Legislature.

Ray was also a dear friend, who I was proud to work with when we both served as public utility commissioners for our respective states of Oregon and New Mexico.

But more than that, Ray was a kind, brilliant, patient, and dedicated public servant.

He will be deeply missed by Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and his