

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

service to our committee and to our nation will not be forgotten.

May God bless Ray, and may He keep his wife Kristine and the rest of his family in His embrace.

IN HONOR OF GINNY STEESE
RICHARDSON

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today it is my distinct honor to recognize the dedicated career and community service of my constituent and dear friend, Ginny Steese Richardson of Mercer County, upon her retirement as the Treasurer of Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Ginny served the residents of Mercer County as Treasurer for 23 years, from 1994 until 2017.

Ginny has lived a lifetime of service to others. Her volunteer service and commitment to improving Mercer County and the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania began as a young girl growing up on a farm in Grove City, where she learned the value of a hard day's work and the importance of keeping one's word. Over the year's Ginny has been a member of the Mercer County Pomona Grange, the London Grange #1492, the Grove City Sportsmen's Club, the Grove City Kiwanis, the Grove City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

One of Ginny's most valuable contributions to the Mercer County community has been her and her family's lifelong commitment to the Mercer County Grange Fair, where she has served as the secretary of the Fair Board for the last 30 years and has also served as the past chairman. Ginny has also served as the treasurer of the Mercer County Farm Tour.

In addition to her commitment to the business and agricultural communities of Mercer County, Ginny has served as the past secretary of the Mercer County Republican Party and is currently serving as the party Chairman. In this capacity, Ginny has helped many candidates on their path to victory with wise words of counsel.

While serving as the Mercer County Treasurer, Ginny was very active in the Pennsylvania State Treasurer's Association and was chosen by her peers to serve as the president of this organization. During her tenure she also served on the Dog Law Advisory Board.

I wish Ginny great success and happiness in her well-deserved retirement. I join her entire community in thanking her for her years of service.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF LYNDA CATH-
ERINE McDUGALD

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of Lynda Catherine McDougald, Lynda passed on De-

ember 25, 2017 at the age of 67, after a lifetime of dedication to the East Elmhurst and Corona communities of Queens. Lynda's dutiful efforts in Queens through her leadership positions at civic organizations of all kinds made her a role model and an inspiration to those around her, as well as a model citizen who represents the very best of what it means to be a member of our community. Lynda's experiences as an activist began in 1963 when her parents took her to the March on Washington, and soon after she participated in the first New York City Board of Education Sit-in. Thus, Lynda understood early in her life the power of community organization as an effective tool for bringing about real and righteous change.

In 1978 Lynda became one of the very first members of the Curtis Street Block Association, where she would eventually serve multiple terms as the association's president. Lynda also served several terms as president of both the East Elmhurst-Corona Civic Association and the Frederick Douglass Democratic Association. In addition to leading these influential groups during her life, Lynda was also an executive board member on the Community Planning Board #3 as well as the Jerome Hardeman Sr. Child Care Center board. Lynda was a participant of the 115th Precinct Council, a member of the Corona-East Elmhurst N.A.A.C.P. chapter, and a member of the Valley Brook Community Church Married Couples Ministry. Lynda was well known for her work within the Couples Ministry at the Antioch Baptist Church of Corona along with her husband of 40 years, Thomas McDougald.

Lynda grew up on 104th Street between Northern Boulevard and 32nd Avenue and began working at the age of 18 at the Equitable. She continued to work tirelessly in addition to her community involvements and finally retired in late 2016 from her position of Parent Coordinator at Thurgood Marshall High School. Lynda was perfectly suited for the position of Parent Coordinator, a job she performed with great care and love. With her abundant warmth and kindness, it is no surprise that she collected lifelong friends everywhere she went.

When Lynda and Thomas physically left the Queens community in 2016, moving to Laurel, Maryland to be closer to their children, there can be no doubt that our community lost an immense force for positive civic engagement. Unsurprisingly, within a year of living in Laurel Lynda was already attending local political and civic events and looking for ways to move forward in her commitment to public service, although accolades never factored into the reasons Lynda worked on behalf of those around her.

Lynda is survived by her husband, Thomas; daughters Alicia and Jennifer; son, Ruxton; granddaughter Aria; Son-in-law, Kenton; sisters Adrienne and Vivienne; nieces Larinda and Janeene; nephews Evan, Conrad, Marlon, Coby, and Keemen. Lynda was a woman of elegance, grace, joy, hope, charity, love, and action. Mr. Speaker, Lynda's lifelong commitment to serving her community and loving her family and so many friends was, and should continue to be, an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Lynda C. McDougald. May she rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA JEAN AND
GLENN BRENNAN

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 Gloria Jean and Glenn Brennan of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 2, 2017.

Gloria Jean and Glenn'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 RICKY LE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ricky Le, who just concluded over five years as my chief of staff.

Ricky's story is truly an inspirational and American one. He was just four years old when his family fled communist Vietnam as refugees in a raft and came to the United States, seeking freedom and opportunity.

Ricky grew up in San Jose, California, raised by his parents Tan Xuan Le and Kim Phi Luu. With the help of a local mentor, he was the first in his family to go to college. With the help of scholarships and grants, he graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz. As someone appreciative of the opportunities he was offered by our country, Ricky has devoted his career to public service.

He began by serving as an intern for my California colleague, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, before assuming the role of scheduler and staff assistant. Following a break to earn a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law, Ricky went back to Congresswoman LOFGREN'S office as a policy advisor and eventually deputy chief of staff. He also worked for her on the House Administration Committee and as executive director of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation.

His wealth of congressional experience, knowledge of California, and policy expertise is why I was grateful when Ricky agreed to be my chief of staff when I was first elected to Congress in 2012. He is believed to be the first Vietnamese American congressional chief of staff and has served as a mentor to dozens of congressional staffers from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Ricky did a remarkable job in setting up my office. He assembled a great team, provided able counsel to me on the inner-workings of the House, and strived tirelessly to