major expansion in 2017, adding two new warehouse buildings and seven additional employees to the company's existing 70 employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sutrak for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. I would like to reflect how I would have voted, had I been present.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following: "YEA" on Roll Call No. 81; "YEA" on Roll Call No. 82; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 83; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 84; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 85; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 86; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 87; "YEA" on Roll Call No. 88; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 89; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 90; and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 91.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2018, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call votes No. 83, No. 84, No. 85, No. 86, and No. 87.

GEORGE T. SANDERS COMPANY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the George T. Sanders Company for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. The George T. Sanders Company is Colorado's largest independent distributor of plumbing and heating supplies and services the plumbing, heating, and HVAC trades as well as the general public and can accommodate plumbing and heating projects for residential dwellings or large commercial buildings. Last year, George T. Sanders Company built a new, 76,000 square-foot facility in Commerce City, which brought 25 new jobs to the city adding to their 16 existing locations throughout Colorado and in Wyoming.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the George T. Sanders Company for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms, one of the most horrific attacks against the Armenian people committed at the hands of Azerbaijanis.

On February 27, 1988, up to 200 Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and even burned alive for no reason other than their ethnicity. This senseless violence was instigated by hostile, anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani citizens and officials against these innocent individuals.

For three decades, Azerbaijan has taken steps to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss the atrocities at Sumgait. Even more disturbing is that perpetrators of these events and similar violent attacks have since been lauded as national heroes.

I condemn these horrific attacks. Tragically, the Azerbaijani government's approach toward the Armenian people has not changed much since these attacks were perpetrated. In 2018, we hear the same violent rhetoric and witness the intimidation tactics by the Azerbaijani government against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

If we do not condemn crimes against humanity, we only strengthen the resolve of those seeking to perpetrate these crimes in the future. The Armenian people have known this for too long, as we prepare to commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to remember the victims of the pogroms at Sumgait and to condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of their existence. I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric and intimidation by renewing our commitment to achieving a collective and lasting peace.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOHN HODGES BENTLEY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Judge John Hodges Bentley on the occasion of his retirement as Circuit Judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. I am proud to recognize Judge Bentley for his many years of public service on the bench and the practice of law. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work and devotion to one's community, state and nation.

Judge Bentley is a native of Kinston, North Carolina. After graduating from Grainger High School, he was appointed to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York where he graduated in 1972 and was commissioned into the infantry. While in the Army, Judge Bentley served five years on active duty commanding various infantry units on the East German-Czech Border during the Cold War. He finished out his active duty Army career as an instructor in the Leadership Department at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Once out of the Army, Judge Bentley attended the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated in 1980. He practiced law for twenty-two years in Birmingham and Hamilton, Alabama, many of those years serving as the City Attorney for the City of Hamilton. In 2002, he was appointed to the bench as Circuit Judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit serving Marion and Winston Counties. Judge Bentley served in this capacity until his retirement on January 15, 2018.

Judge Bentley is a member of the Hamilton First United Methodist Church and has served as both Lay Leader and Sunday School Teacher. Furthermore, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Emmaus Community. He is also one of the founders of the Weldy Home, an emergency shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children.

He is married to Judy Sandlin Bentley, and they have two children, Carrie and Samuel, and four grandchildren, Lydia, William, Caroline and Jonathan.

Judge Bentley is very respected by the people of Marion and Winston Counties for his honesty and dedication, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Judge John Hodges Bentley on his many accomplishments and for his enduring impact on his community, state and nation. I join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings as he enters the next chapter of his life in retirement.

CONGRATULATING IAN KUEHL, STATE CHAMPION IN WRESTLING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ian Kuehl, a student from Lena-Winslow High School, for earning the Class 1 A wrestling title for the Illinois State Championship in the 285lb weight class.

Ian Kuehl pinned his opponent in 3 minutes 25 seconds to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Ian for his tremendous accomplishment. Ian's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment that goes into being awarded such a title. Ian's title demonstrates the value of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Lena throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Ian Kuehl on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.