

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
MARCY KAPTUR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in honor of my very dear friend and sister in arms, MARCY KAPTUR, who becomes the longest serving woman in the United States House of Representatives on Sunday.

MARCY KAPTUR is a woman who has fought for working people her entire career. She has been a bulwark of support for fair trade that grows American jobs—on NAFTA in the 1990s to today, and on the Trans Pacific Partnership.

MARCY was the ranking Member on the Agriculture before I became the chair, and on issues as wide ranging as food stamps, housing, and manufacturing, she has proven time and again to be one of the brightest, most substantive colleagues I have ever worked with.

Her election paved the way for so many women to run for office. From the Carter Administration to one of the most senior members of the Congress, MARCY, your career has been exemplary of the call of public service.

Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman in the Congress, once said: “You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.” MARCY does that—she has never spent a day on the sidelines in her life.

Congratulations, and here is to many more years fighting together—for the vulnerable, for families, and for the middle class.

RECOGNIZING PROCTOR & GAMBLE
AND MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Proctor & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries for their efforts to help the flood victims in southern and southwest Ohio.

Much of my district in the Ohio River Valley faced widespread damage from flood waters. Following heavy winter rains, the Ohio River surged to its highest level in over two decades. The river that serves as the namesake and lifeblood my state endangered many of the communities along the river bank.

I’m grateful to all those who answered the call to serve: our law enforcement officers, first responders, and state and local government officials, who led the efforts to contain damage and begin the relief efforts.

In southern Ohio, we have been blessed to have volunteer organizations and private citizens who have come to the aid of flood vic-

tims, and who know how to be most helpful. In this, Proctor & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries are outstanding examples of private partners uniting their resources to provide immediate relief in their communities.

From personal care to cleaning supplies and laundry services, Proctor & Gamble’s donated products were an invaluable help to those displaced by, or battling, flooding. Matthew 25: Ministries has been a local leader, offering critical support to victims and disaster relief volunteers.

Matthew 25: Ministries and Proctor & Gamble were among the only entities to respond to the disaster in their communities. Dan, a flood victim just across the river in Kentucky, said that when he received a Proctor & Gamble bag with a handwritten note inside, he “realized that someone cared about me when I had nothing.”

Proctor & Gamble and Matthew 25: Ministries didn’t have to be there, but they were. They are an example of the strong and generous spirit of the people of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, these two organizations have demonstrated that they are truly good neighbors and good citizens. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I’d like to thank P&G and Matthew 25: Ministries for coming to the aid of flood victims in southern and southwest Ohio.

HONORING SPENCER COLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Cole. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 255, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer built an educational birdhouse display for the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center in Jackson County.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

JING-MEI FILLMORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jing-Mei Fillmore for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jing-Mei Fillmore is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jing-Mei Fillmore is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jing-Mei Fillmore for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THOMAS A. DAVIS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas A. (Tad) Davis on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Tad was born in Birmingham, Alabama on March 20, 1938, and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida where his family was in the restaurant business. A lifelong Gator fan, Tad left Jacksonville to attend the University of Florida. There he earned Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees, and later served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He received his LL.M. in Taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Tad’s first post in Washington, D.C. was with the U.S. Army serving as a Strategic Intelligence Officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency. Following his Army career, he was an attorney in the Chief Counsel’s office of the Internal Revenue Service. It was there that he became an expert in the taxation of life insurance products and companies, a specialty that still anchors the legal and legislative practices of Davis & Harman LLP, the firm he founded in 1985 with William Harman.

Tad, however, did not limit his tax expertise to life insurance. His detailed knowledge of the law extends to legislative and regulatory issues in the areas of tax, financial markets, and agricultural policy. His expertise on tax issues relating to the horse industry is widely recognized, and he is the author of the Horse Owners and Breeders Tax Handbook, the leading authority on these issues. Over the

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years, the Kentucky Delegation and the equine industry have been very fortunate to benefit from his thorough understanding of this important area of the tax code. Most recently, Tad was recognized for his leadership in the successful effort to update arcane tax rules affecting withholding and reporting of pari-mutuel winnings.

Throughout a career that has spanned six decades, Tad has been known for his extraordinary tax and legislative expertise. But more importantly, he is known for his honesty, integrity, and loyalty to his friends. It is my honor to join Tad's children Denra and Reilly, his wife Jerri, his colleagues at Davis & Harman, and his many, many friends in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING CLINTON COUNTY FIRE-FIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clinton County Firefighter's Association on its 70th anniversary.

The Clinton County Firefighter's Association and Mutual Aid System were established by Fire Chief Levi Todriff of the Chazy Fire Department with their first meeting taking place on July 18, 1948. Clinton County's Mutual Aid System is proud to be the only Mutual Aid System in the United States that is inter-county, inter-state, and international, as it spans not only throughout upstate New York, but also to Vermont and Canada.

For 70 years, firefighters and other first responders throughout the region have been risking their lives to protect their communities. They have battled large fires, some in subzero temperatures, aided in flooding relief efforts, and saved both people and livestock.

In my district, we are proud of our first responders and respect the sacrifices that they make to ensure our communities are safe. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Clinton County Firefighter's Association for its dedication to serving Clinton County and beyond. Our courageous firefighters have provided a crucial service for the past 70 years, and I look forward to hearing about their success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 115 and 116 on March 19, 2018, because of a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote no. 115 I would have voted YES, and on roll call vote no. 116 I would have voted YES.

JULIA GABALDON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Julia Gabaldon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Julia Gabaldon is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Julia Gabaldon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Julia Gabaldon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CITY OF ORANGE 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in recognition of the 130th Anniversary of the City of Orange, California.

Incorporated on April 6, 1888, Orange was once home to a population of less than 1,000 people.

Since then, it has become home to world-class institutions and award-winning schools.

The Children's Hospital of Orange County and UC Irvine Medical Center are located in Orange, where they serve the local community and families throughout Southern California.

It also boasts 25 Gold Ribbon schools with a nearly 98 percent graduation rate.

Much has changed over the last 130 years, yet Old Towne Orange remains a living time capsule of this community's humble beginnings.

As the antique capital of Southern California, thousands of visitors come each year to see the plaza's traditional architecture and enjoy one of the best Main Streets in the Nation.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the community members who live there, the City of Orange has preserved its unique charm and has rightfully earned its place in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Speaker, Orange is an invaluable cornerstone of Orange County and an important economic driver for our region.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the City of Orange on its 130th anniversary.

THE AMAZING KLEIN HIGH ORCHESTRA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sound of beautiful music filled the air at the Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. The orchestra playing? None other than the Klein High School Orchestra. The kids who make up the orchestra are some of the best in the nation and we are proud to say they hail from Houston, Texas.

The Klein High Orchestra was in New York City to compete in a nationally recognized competition, rightly named the National Orchestra Championships. The orchestra, comprised of 35 students, took home the grand prize, earning the title of the 2018 National Orchestra Cup Grand Champions. This was the first time Klein High participated at this competition and more impressively, the first for the entire school district.

The orchestra was competing against seven other schools and several of the groups were from high achieving, performance arts magnet schools. This is a remarkable feat for a talented group of young adults. The Grammy Foundation has also recognized the Music Department twice as a Grammy Signature School and all of the orchestras have earned UIL sweepstakes awards. The Klein High Orchestras have performed in the San Antonio Showcase, South Coast Music Festival, Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago Invitation at Carnegie Hall, the Circle of Honor series in Chicago at Symphony Hall and have been named Grand Champions several times at the Festival Disney Honors.

Perhaps most impressive, is the dedication and time each student poured into practice, rehearsing song after song, to ensure each note was tuned to perfection. In order to achieve perfect harmony, genuine connections need to be strung between each musician and it's evident that was achieved seamlessly.

Of course, in order to lead a great group of students, you must have a remarkable leader. Orchestra Director, Creston Herron, is to be applauded for his work and contribution to producing an extraordinary group of students.

The Klein High Orchestra has achieved incredible accolades throughout the years, but being named the champion at the National Orchestra Championships could be their crowning jewel. We are honored to represent Klein High School in Washington, D.C. and we are even more proud to say they are from the Lone Star State.

And that's just the way it is.

ANGEL GILLOTTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angel Gillette for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Angel Gillette is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angel Gillotte is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angel Gillotte for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 115 and 116 on Monday, March 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 115 and 116.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE NUSSMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, sportfishing provides outdoor recreation for more than 47 million Americans each year. In Virginia, we are blessed with some of the best fishing opportunities in the nation. From fishing for striped bass on the Chesapeake Bay, to fly fishing for trout in the Blue Ridge, to throwing beetle spins for smallmouth bass on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, to chasing Cobia and Tuna off Virginia Beach—we have great waters and angling throughout our state. Fishing provides opportunities for youth and families to get into the great outdoors and enjoy our public lands and waters.

Like many outdoor industries, sportfishing is often overlooked as a significant job generator and economic engine. Nationwide, it is estimated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that recreational fishing generates \$48 billion in retail sales, \$115 billion in total economic activity and 828,000 jobs.

I should note that in 2016 Congress passed the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act—The REC Act. In 2018, for the first time the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis included outdoor recreation's impact, including fishing and boating, in our nation's Gross Domestic Product.

Maybe the most important aspect of recreational fishing is that sportfishing manufacturers, anglers and boaters pay for most of state fish and wildlife agencies fisheries conservation and boating programs.

Through special federal excise and fishing license sales, anglers and boaters are providing more than \$1.2 billion a year in funds that are allocated to the states. As a member of our Committee on Natural Resources, I'm

well aware that sportsmen and women pay a large part of the bill rather than the U.S. Treasury.

Much of this is due to the leadership of J. Michael "Mike" Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the trade association that represents the recreational fishing industry.

Since 1993, Mike has served with distinction first as head of ASA's Government Affairs program then as President and CEO. While ASA has been a trade association since 1933, it has really been in the past 25 years that the organization has assumed a leadership role for not only manufacturers of rods, reels, lures, flies, waders and related apparel, but now for the overall fishing community. I might note with some pride that ASA is headquartered in Alexandria, VA.

With the leadership of former House members such as John Dingell and John Breaux and with the support of ASA, the excise taxes I mentioned have been expanded to cover programs such as wetlands restoration, boating safety and infrastructure and the establishment of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF).

In fact, Mike Nussman led the effort to establish RBFF to turn around a decline in recreational fishing which started to appear in the 1990s. The most recent USFWS data indicates an upward trend in recreational fishing including more diverse and urban communities.

Mike Nussman's success should come as no surprise. He worked for the Commerce Committee and Chairman Fritz Hollings of South Carolina over in the other body. Mike was the lead professional staff for the Subcommittee that oversees fisheries policy, NOAA and the Coast Guard. Prior to that he worked for the South Carolina Sea Grant program, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, and an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Nussman's tenure at ASA improved the 'business side' of his trade association. The sportfishing industry's annual trade show is now the largest in the world. His leadership made the organization financially strong, helping weather it through economic downturns.

He has served on numerous boards of directors and advisory groups from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, to Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources. He also found time to serve as a United States Commissioner on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Mike Nussman brought special expertise as a former Senate staffer to the recreational fishing industry and the conservation community. So, I think it's appropriate that he be recognized today for a job well done. Anglers and businesses across this nation can be thankful that he was at the helm.

CASSANDRA GIST

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cassandra Gist for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Cassandra Gist is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cassandra Gist is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cassandra Gist for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

DESIGNATING THE U.S. POSTAL OFFICE AT 1320 AUTUMN AVE. MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE AS THE "JUDGE RUSSELL B. SUGARMON POST OFFICE"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill I introduced today to designate the U.S. Postal Office at 1320 Autumn Ave. Memphis, Tennessee as the "Judge Russell B. Sugarmon Post Office."

Born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1929, Judge Russell B. Sugarmon is heralded for his contributions to the City of Memphis and his work to reverse the tide of racism in Tennessee, paving the way for future black leaders in the area and inspiring their efforts to increase their representation in elected, Democratic bodies.

In 1959, Russell Sugarmon became the first African-American in Memphis to run for a major city office when he ran for Public Works Commissioner. Sugarmon's tenacity to overcome racial opposition to his candidacy paved the way and inspired other African-Americans in Memphis to seek public office. In 1966, he was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly, becoming the second African-American in Tennessee to be elected to the Assembly post Reconstruction. From 1976 to 1987, Sugarmon was a Referee in the Memphis Juvenile Court System before being appointed to serve as a judge for the General Sessions court. Judge Sugarmon was subsequently elected and re-elected to the bench and held his seat for 20 years until his retirement in 2006.

Working alongside notable Memphis pioneers and leaders in the fight for racial justice and equality, Judge Sugarmon was instrumental in using the courts to desegregate public transportation, restaurants and public facilities and the desegregation of Memphis public schools. Both the NAACP and ACLU have honored Judge Sugarmon for his contributions to Memphis. He was most recently awarded the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award.

As a trailblazer for African-American stewardship in public office and a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, it is only fitting that we enshrine our recognition of his contributions to the City of Memphis and the African American community by naming the 1320 Autumn Ave. Post Office in Memphis, TN in honor of his legacy.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure in honoring Judge Russell B. Sugarmon, an exemplary American and titan of his time.

IN HONOR OF MR. TOGO DENNIS WEST, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and dear friend of longstanding, Togo Dennis West, Jr. Sadly, Togo passed away on Thursday, March 8, 2018. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Togo D. West, Jr. was born to Togo D. West, Sr. and Evelyn E. Carter West in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on June 21, 1942. He graduated from Akins High School in 1965 as valedictorian, was a member of the National Honor Society, and an Eagle Scout with Bronze Palm. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a Juris Doctorate degree from Howard University, where he graduated first in his law school class in 1968.

In 1969, he entered the United States Army as a Commissioned Officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He also served as a staffer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs for four years.

In 1975, Togo was appointed Associate Deputy Attorney General by President Ford. He then served in several capacities in President Carter's administration including General Counsel to the Department of the Navy from 1977 to 1979; Special Assistant to both the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense in 1979; and General Counsel to the United States Department of Defense from 1980 to 1981. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed him the United States Secretary of the Army. As the second African-American to serve in this position, Togo oversaw the transition of the Army from a post-Cold War organization to a contemporary fighting force. He also was the driving force behind initiatives that granted women more opportunities to serve within the ranks and a strong advocate for harsher penalties for sexual misconduct. In 1998, President Clinton appointed him Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. During his tenure, he was a strong advocate for increased funding for veterans medical care and benefits.

Outside of his government service, Togo was also actively involved in the community. He presided on a variety of boards and served in a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Over the course of his life, he received numerous awards and commendations, including the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal; Distinguished Eagle Scout in 1995; and the Silver Buffalo Award and the Silver Beaver Award.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Togo West, Jr. passed this way and during his life's

journey did so much for so many for so long. His leadership, his counsel, and his prominent presence will be greatly missed.

Togo is survived by his loving wife, Gail; his two daughters, Tiffany and Hilary; two wonderful grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends.

On a personal note, the West family shares a special relationship with the Bishop family. My wife, Vivian, Togo's wife, Gail, and Hilary shared membership in the Metropolitan D.C. Chapter of The Links, Inc. Togo and I are both Eagle Scouts and share the honor of having been named Distinguished Eagle Scouts by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Moreover, Hilary served as valued member of our congressional staff in Washington as she started her career ascension in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, the members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, honor and salute Togo West, Jr. for his outstanding achievements, service, and public distinction. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith in the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

GOLFER AND SPECIAL OLYMPIAN,
SHAUN LINSEY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on any beautiful day down in Houston, Texas, you can find Shaun Linsey driving perfectly hit golf balls down the range. His father, Mark, is Shaun's biggest fan and competitor. Mark and Shaun have competitions between the two from time to time, but it's always in good fun.

At age three, Shaun's parents were told he was autistic and that he wouldn't ever be able to speak. Shaun has defied the odds, and with the help of his mom, Linda, Shaun is able to both speak and compete in the sport he loves.

Shaun has since picked up the game of golf and has become wildly successful. Even though his golf skills were impeccable, Shaun found he wasn't accepted in regular competitions. That's when he and his family turned toward the Special Olympics. The great program gave the young golfer a chance to compete and win. Shaun has done more than just compete in golf competitions. He and his dad have won area, state, and even placed in national competitions.

Shaun is one of the best golfers around, and that's a true testament to his determination in continually striving to better himself. Becoming a great golfer takes a lot of hard work and it is evident Shaun has put in many hours on the golf course to get to where he is today.

I am honored to be able to speak of Shaun's accomplishments in his life. I am also honored to say Shaun hails from our beloved Houston. His tenacity and passion for life is incredible and he truly exemplifies what it means to be a Special Olympian.

Keep golfing Shaun. We can't wait to see what else he accomplishes down the road. And that's just the way it is.

CHARITY GRIMSLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Charity Grimsley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Charity Grimsley is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charity Grimsley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Charity Grimsley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2018 I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" No. 105.

CONGRATULATING BAKER'S
CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Baker's Creek Baptist Church in Eureka, Indiana for 200 years of service and fellowship in Southwest Indiana.

Dating back to 1818, the Baker's Creek Baptist Church is the second oldest church in Spencer County. It has served not just as a place of worship, but also as a refuge for those in times of trouble and means of encouragement for men and women of faith, including influential Americans such as President Abraham Lincoln.

Through the Lord's grace and the devotion of leaders like Pastor James Carl Jones, Baker's Creek Baptist Church has remained a place for the congregation to worship and come together as a community.

I am grateful for Baker's Creek Baptist Church's rich history of service over the past 200 years and excited for what the future holds. Again, congratulations on achieving this tremendous milestone.

ALISON HOWARD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alison Howard for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Alison Howard is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alison Howard is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alison Howard for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF BENJAMIN FERENCZ

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative DEUTCH, am pleased to honor Benjamin Ferencz, an investigator of Nazi war crimes following World War II and the chief prosecutor for the United States at the Einsatzgruppen trial at Nuremberg.

Benjamin was born in Somcuta Mare, a village in Romania, and emigrated to the United States with his family when he was 10 months old. He attended Harvard Law School and joined the Army following his studies. Assigned to General Patton's Third Army, he was tasked with gathering evidence of the Nazi's war crimes. After the war he was named the chief prosecutor for the United States in one of the Nuremberg Trials, at only 27 years old, and his prosecution resulted in 22 convictions. Mr. Ferencz became a global advocate for the establishment of an international rule of law and the International Criminal Court, and served as an adjunct professor of international law at Pace University in New York.

Benjamin has contributed immeasurably to the international rule of law and his service to our country and the world is worthy of great recognition.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYE E. FROST

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that we learned of the death on March 12, 2018 of a true advocate for crime

victims and survivors. For most of her professional career, Joye Frost served crime victims through her efforts at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), our nation's premiere agency dedicated to serving and advocating on behalf of victims of all types of crimes.

Joye Frost began her career as a Child Protective Services caseworker in South Texas and has worked in the victim assistance, healthcare, and disability advocacy fields for more than 30 years in the U.S. and Europe, including several years working at the community and headquarters levels for the Department of Army.

In January 2009, Joye was designated Acting Director of OVC and made the permanent Director in 2013. She was a strong and consistent advocate for the Crime Victims Fund, and developed a very close working relationship with state VOCA assistance and crime victim compensation program managers.

Perhaps her most profound and long-lasting legacy will be her inspiration and leadership encompassed by her landmark achievement: the development and implementation of Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services. Joye's nationwide initiative successfully sought to expand the reach and impact of the victim assistance field; recognize the role of victims in the nation's response to crime and delinquency; identify emerging and enduring challenges in the victims' field; and address the need to build the capacity of victim service providers to meet those challenges. Today and in the future, Vision 21 remains the "blueprint" for comprehensive, quality victim/survivor services nationwide.

She began her working on special projects at OVC in 1997 and, since 2001, directed OVC's annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, including its National Service Awards and the NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. As the Principal Associate Director for OVC, she developed national scope training, technical assistance and other resources to help crime victims, including the development of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training and technical assistance project, as well as projects to help crime victims with disabilities. She also implemented grant programs to support comprehensive services for victims of human trafficking.

The U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, founded by Representative JIM COSTA (CA) and me, recognizes that with Joye Frost's passing, crime victims have lost a strong and outspoken advocate. We have worked closely with Joye to improve the lives of victims for many years, and know that her positive and profound impact on the profession of crime victim/survivor services will endure far into the future.

And that's just the way it is.

KARMA JAMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karma James for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Karma James is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karma James is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karma James for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING BENJAMIN DANIEL GRAVES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Daniel Graves. Ben is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ben has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ben has become a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-0-Say while also attending High Adventure at Philmont Scout Ranch and participating in the Peak Scout Camp in Derbyshire, England. As part of the Peak Scout Camp exchange, Ben was able to visit London and Scotland and in return hosted two English Scouts in the summer of 2017. Ben has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ben cleaned up the park, mulched the landscaping, and repainted the bandstand the Veterans Memorial Park in Edgerton, Missouri.

As Ben's uncle, I am proud of the young man he has become. As an Eagle Scout, I admire the determination he has shown in completing his path to Eagle.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Daniel Graves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING DR. DENNIS FRISCH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Dr. Dennis Frisch and his induction as the President of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

Dr. Frisch has dedicated his life to serving both his profession and his community.

Dr. Frisch began serving on the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) Board

of Trustees in 2007 and has served on multiple APMA committees during this time. Before being elected to the APMA Board, Dr. Frisch served at all levels of leadership in the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA), culminating with his presidency from 1995–1996. He was honored by the FPMA in 2005 when he received the Florida Podiatric Physician of the Year Award for his many years of service.

Dr. Frisch is also very active in the Boca Raton Rotary Club and has served 2 separate terms as president. He volunteered with a variety of youth sports organizations and served for 8 years as a Commissioner for the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District. He is currently an appointed Board member to the City of Boca Raton Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board.

Today I ask this body to recognize Dr. Frisch as he assumes his new role as President of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

Dr. Frisch exemplifies the hard work and dedication that I see throughout Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. I thank him for his service and congratulate him for this accomplishment.

KAYLA McNIERNEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayla McNierney for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kayla McNierney is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayla McNierney is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kayla McNierney for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, as hundreds of thousands of our federal workers face uncertainty in wages and work, I rise along with my House colleagues ROBERT J. WITTMAN and ANDRÉ CARSON to introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. Our bill

would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, *Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB*, which stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from a job on grounds of ineligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found no longer to be eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the appeals court decision to stand.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal workers who are designated as “noncritical sensitive” from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision would affect at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated as noncritical sensitive. Even more seriously, most federal employees could potentially lose the same right to an independent review of an agency’s decision because of a rule by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which went into effect in July 2015, that permits agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive.

The Kaplan decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers required by the U.S. Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right of review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head and, in addition, makes a mockery of whistleblower protections enacted in the 112th Congress. Our bill would stop the use of “national security” to repeal a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT’S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Spring Fire Department. For 65 years, Spring firefighters have run in where we run out.

On April 29, 1953, seven people bound together with donated fire apparatus to form the Spring Volunteer Fire Department approximately 22 miles north of downtown Houston. Local residents and businesses made donations to fund the department for its first three decades.

As the department celebrated its 30th anniversary, the volunteers worked to form the Harris County Rural Fire Prevention District No. 1 (HCRFPD). For the first time, the Spring Volunteer Fire Department began receiving tax dollars to help build fire stations, buy equipment and train volunteers.

On Texas Independence Day in 1985, the Spring Fire Department suffered its only line-of-duty loss. District Chief Michael F. West died battling a 2-Alarm fire near Old Town Spring. His sacrifice is immortalized in bronze in front of the Spring Fire Department Administration building.

As the population grew, the Spring Fire Department continued to evolve. During the 1990’s, as Emergency Services Districts (ESD) began forming to provide stable funding for emergency services in the unincorporated areas of Texas counties, Harris County ESD No. 7 replaced the outdated HCRFPD No. 1.

In 1997, the Spring Volunteer Fire Department hired its first part-time firefighters to staff an apparatus during business hours. Widely known as the duty crew, they responded to calls during the day when most volunteers were at work. As the population and staffing needs continued to grow, the department further evolved.

In 2013, the department’s first fulltime firefighters joined the Spring fire family. With a combination of fulltime, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, the decision was made to change the name to the Spring Fire Department (SFD).

Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, today the Spring Fire Department is one of the largest combination departments in the state of Texas.

SFD covers 62 square miles of northern Harris County serving an estimated population of 152,000 people. SFD’s nine fire stations house a fleet of 25 pieces of fire and rescue apparatus along with 15 support vehicles. The Spring Fire Department is under the leadership of Fire Chief Scott Seifert and today we celebrate their 65 years of dedicated service to the Spring community.

And that is just the way it is.

KALEIGH MELINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaleigh Melinger for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kaleigh Melinger is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaleigh Melinger is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaleigh Melinger for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week I missed two roll calls. Had I been present I would have voted: Roll Call No. 115—Yes, and Roll Call No. 116—Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2018, I was absent from the House Chamber during roll call vote 115. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

HONORING JUSTINE LEE SNYDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Lee Snyder. Justin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1028, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Justin has become a member of the tribe Mic-O-Say. Justin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Justin designed a wall to enclose the HVAC unit at his church where the Scout troop meets. He raised the funds with help from the Knights of Columbus, and organized a group of volunteers to build the enclosure.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BROOKE MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brooke Miller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brooke Miller is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brooke Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement

that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brooke Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING PETER G. DAUSEN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and character of a great American on the occasion of his retirement from civilian service with the United States Navy. Peter G. Dausen, or simply Pete as he is known to all, has given his entire adult life to the service of his family and country. He has set a towering example to all of us fortunate to know him. As Pete steps down from the position of Deputy and Technical Director for the Naval Support Activity Monterey, we all know that his influence has reached far beyond the strict confines of the job title.

Pete graduated from Kent State University in 1974 and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the United States Army. He served in uniform for nearly 30 years as a signals officer with tours of duty across the United States and abroad. He oversaw signals operations in Somalia during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu. He served as a peace keeper in Bosnia. He led soldiers and mentored young officer and NCOs. Along the way he earned two Masters Degrees and graduated from the Army War College, in Strategic Studies. Upon promotion to Colonel, Pete came to the Monterey Peninsula to serve as the Garrison Commander Presidio of Monterey, home of the Defense Language Institute and Ord Military Community. Although at first Pete was reticent to shift from warrior to city manager, he excelled in this last Army command.

Upon retirement from active duty at the conclusion of his Garrison Command, Pete transitioned into the civilian position managing the facilities for the Naval Postgraduate School also located in Monterey. This role, which grew into the fully fledged Naval Support Activity Monterey during his tenure, became vital to the success of the military missions located in Monterey. He successfully advocated for new investments in the facilities at the NPS, the Fleet Numerical Meteorological and Oceanographic Center, the Navy Research Lab and the Navy War College. These efforts included helping to secure over \$212 million in MilCon funding to update and improve facilities and advance these missions. He was also instrumental in standing up the new RCI housing and strengthening MWR programs for military families. Pete takes particular pride in the new academic fence that rings the public frontage of NPS.

Pete has been a tireless advocate of the broader military mission in Monterey. He has played a vital role in the mission of TEAM Monterey, which has been crucial in advancing our national security interests by fostering

long-term, positive community relationships between military facilities and public officials. Throughout his career, Pete has been a role model for the men and women who have been lucky enough to serve under him, as exemplified by his recent selection as a recipient of the Superior Civilian Service Award.

In honor of his service, I would like to express my gratitude for Peter G. Dausen for his dedication to this country and our community. I wish him all the best and I am sure that he is looking forward to continuing his impressive portfolio of artwork, and spending time with his loving family.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF BISCOTTI CAFE**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Anniversary of Biscotti Cafe in Syracuse.

Two decades ago, in March 1998, Geoff and Debbie Camire opened their bakery on Butternut Street. Soon after opening, their business flourished, and became a staple in Syracuse.

Unfortunately, just five years after opening their doors, Geoff and Debbie's business was destroyed in a fire. Despite this massive setback, Geoff and Debbie reopened their bakery and persevered. After a few years on South Geddes Street, the bakery reopened on North Salina Street in 2004, where it remains today. The cafe serves sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch. But throughout our community, the bakery is best known for its Italian and European-inspired pastries, cookies and cakes.

Twenty years later, the Camires and their staff make thousands upon thousands of pastries, cookies, and cakes each year. Businesses and business owners like these form the foundation of our economy, and provide our communities proof that the American Dream is alive and well.

I am proud to recognize the Camires and Biscotti Cafe for celebrating 20 years in business. Geoff and Debbie Camire have become an indispensable part of the Syracuse community and I wish this outstanding business continued success in the years to come.

STUDENT, TEACHERS, AND OFFICERS
PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE
ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2018 I missed Roll Call Vote No. 106. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

No other developed nation on the planet experiences gun violence with the frequency that we do in the United States. The gun homicide rate in our country is more than seven times that of Sweden, six times that of Canada, and twenty-one times that of Australia. On average, 93 Americans die every day from gun violence and 222 people are shot and survive,

including 40 children and teens. And since 1970, more Americans have been killed by guns than Americans killed in all of our nation's wars combined.

The numbers are simply staggering.

H.R. 4909 will help schools develop violence prevention strategies, strengthen school security, and help educators and law enforcement prevent students from hurting themselves or others. But Congress should be doing much more to prevent gun violence. The majority of the American people—and the majority of gun owners—want Congress to take action.

The American people deserve open floor debates or straight up or down votes on commonsense measures such as banning “bump stocks” which make guns more lethal, forming a select committee on gun violence, requiring background checks for all gun sales, and allowing the Centers for Disease Control and other federal health agencies to conduct crucial gun violence research.

Americans deserve a society that is free from the regular threat of gun violence. The status quo is unacceptable. We have a responsibility to pursue change.

RECOGNIZING CHAD AND DEB
BREMNER FOR RECEIVING THE
NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG
FARMERS AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to rise today, on National Ag Day, to congratulate Chad and Deb Bremner of Pearl City, Illinois on receiving the National Outstanding Young Farmers Award.

Chad and Deb are being recognized for their great contributions to our agricultural community, and for their efforts to foster a deeper understanding of the role farmer's play in our region's economy. In addition to operating their family farm, Chad has gone above and beyond by serving on the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Board for twelve years, the Pearl City School Board for eight years and the State Young Leader Committee for four years. In addition, Deb also serves as a nurse. Their work has without a doubt invested in the future of our region, and the lives of our family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chad and Deb for their service to better our communities. It is because of hardworking families like the Bremmers, that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. I congratulate them again on their well-earned achievement and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVISIONS BAKERY & RESTAURANT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Provisions

Bakery & Restaurant, located in Armory Square in my district in Syracuse, New York.

In coordination with AccessCNY, Provisions Bakery & Restaurant operates a job training program for individuals living with disabilities in our community. The mission of Provisions is to empower all of its employees, individuals of all abilities, to work in a positive and supportive environment and gain skills needed to secure and maintain competitive employment.

In its three decades, the bakery has sold more than 200,000 of its signature chocolate chip cookies, but more importantly has positively impacted over 1,000 lives.

Provisions trainees work alongside professional staff learning all aspects of the bakery from cooking and baking, to serving and cleaning. Trainees develop employment skills such as time management, interpersonal skills and how to manage workplace expectations, which will improve their access to employment opportunities across Central New York.

Throughout the years, Provisions has become a staple in the Armory Square restaurant and business community, and I am proud to congratulate the employees of Provisions on the occasion of 30 years in business.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
NANCY ANN KUNOVICH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Nancy Ann Kunovich, age 82, who passed away peacefully on March 11, 2018.

Nancy was born on September 25, 1935 in Youngstown, Ohio. Nancy was married to Charles Kunovich and together they raised 5 children. In addition to being a mom, Nancy worked for the Austintown School District for over 30 years as one of the pioneers behind the “I Can” Program. Nancy's compassion and devotion throughout the program inspired countless young people to turn their lives around.

After retiring in 2005, Nancy moved to Manchaca, Texas. She enjoyed spending her retired life gardening, reading, cooking, and so much more. Her greatest pride and joy came in spending time with her family and friends. Her step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren lovingly referred to her as Grandma Nancy.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband Charles, her daughter Elizabeth Blockinger, her parents Hannah and William Richards, and her brother William Richards, Jr. Nancy is survived by her children Glenn Johnson and wife Norma, daughter Lynda Self and husband Carl, daughter Christine Johnson; son, Eric Johnson and grandchildren Eric Betts, Kate Kam, and Hannah Blockinger. Nancy also leaves five step-children behind; Kathy Joyce and husband David, Michelle Chance and husband Joe, Charles Kunovich Jr., Mary Jo Cusack and husband Jim, Michael Kunovich and wife Michelle.

I had the pleasure of knowing Nancy's son Glenn. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, and I know she is dearly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to Glenn and his family.

SOCCKER STAR AND SPECIAL
OLYMPIAN, MATT WEISER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Matt Weiser loves nothing more than lacing up his cleats and hitting the soccer field. Matt is a skilled player and is lightning on his feet, but a few years ago, you wouldn't think that could have been possible.

When Matt was in the second grade, he started experiencing epileptic seizures. The seizures started to become so severe his parents and doctors decided it was time to perform surgery. The operation required removing part of his brain, which rendered Matt speechless and paralyzed. After many rounds of therapy and the love and care of his family, Matt performed the unimaginable. He learned how to speak and walk again. Walking turned to running, and running eventually took him back to his first love, soccer.

Matt started playing soccer when he was five. He competed in events all the way up until his surgery. After Matt learned how to walk again, he got right back on the field. His passion for soccer led to competing in the Special Olympics, which led to competing on the national stage. The Special Olympics has allowed Matt to pursue his dream of playing soccer and has been an invaluable resource to him and his family.

As soon as Matt steps onto the soccer field, his exuberance and passion for life shines through. The dedication he has shown, just to get to where he is today, is exceptional. Being able to bounce back after a life altering surgery is a true testament to Matt's determination to better himself. Of course, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of his family and his parents, John and Rebecca. Sometimes life throws you a curve ball, but how you react to it and handle it, makes all the difference.

I am honored to be able to spread Matt's inspiring story today. I am also proud to say Matt is a native of the great city of Houston, Texas. As Texans and Houstonians, we pride ourselves in hard work and Matt exemplifies that very quality. I have no doubt Matt will continue to dominate in the sport he loves and we will all be there cheering him on.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED LESLIE'S
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Mildred Leslie on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and many contributions to our great state and county. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mildred Leslie on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

2018: THE YEAR OF THE BLACK
WOMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today during Women's History Month to honor the extraordinary accomplishments made by Black women throughout our nation's history.

In 1987, Congress declared March to be National Women's History Month, giving the nation the chance to reflect on and salute the trailblazers who paved the way for many of the rights women have today.

I am blessed to be able to stand upon the shoulders of such great Black women, who sacrificed so much to help secure equal rights for all Americans, including generations yet unborn.

Some are household names, such as Rosa Parks.

In her defiance to give up her bus seat on a Montgomery City Bus in December 1961, she sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our nation's public transportation systems.

There is also Shirley Chisholm who in 1968 became the first Black woman elected to Congress.

Only four years later, she became the first woman to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

In my own state of Ohio, there is Ellen Walker Craig-Jones, the first Black woman to be elected mayor in the United States by popular vote.

Ohio also gave us Irene Long, the first female chief medical officer at the Kennedy Space Center.

These women, and so many others, helped make it possible for me to stand here, on the floor of the House of Representatives, with my fellow women of the Congressional Black Caucus.

We owe them a debt of gratitude.

But, this Women's History Month, not only should we honor the history that has been made; we should look forward, to the history that will be made.

We are so fortunate to have Black women who continue to lead the way:

Public servants like new Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms;

Organizers and advocates like those who led the Women's March; and Patrisse Cullors, who co-founded Black Lives Matter; and Tarana Burke, who first used "Me Too" to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and assault in our society.

Women continue to face workplace discrimination, a higher risk of sexual assault, and an earnings gap that will cost the average woman hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of her working lifetime.

"Me too," a simple phrase turned hashtag, has galvanized millions into action, letting those who continue to treat women as second-class citizens know that time's up.

Countless more Black women are unknown outside of their own families and communities, but still deserve admiration:

The Black women who sent a message to this administration, by showing up in Alabama to vote in the first Democratic Senator from the state in 25 years;

The Black women who have marched and continue to do so to have their voices heard;

The Black women who will attend school and college against the odds, who will run for office, who will fight for what they believe.

All are part of our history and their courage and dedication have helped to sustain the American spirit by breaking down barriers, cre-

ating new opportunities, and inspiring the next generation.

Still, there is more work to be done to provide women with the economic security and opportunities they deserve and their families need.

We must diversify our workplaces to reflect what our communities look like.

Statistics show that companies with more racial, ethnic, and gender diversity are more likely to be successful.

When women—and in particular, women of color—are allowed to succeed, then we all succeed. That has been true throughout our nation's history.

It is my honor to celebrate Women's History Month by recognizing all those who came before me, to continue to work every day to create an even brighter future for all Americans.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM STRAHAN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to William Strahan on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

I join his friends and family in extending my best to him on this occasion and in celebrating his life and contributions to our great state and country. I hope he uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to William Strahan on his birthday. May his year be filled with happiness and blessings.