

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE ELKINS

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Steve Elkins, a civil rights pioneer, an advocate for our state's LGBTQ community, and a decades-long fighter for hope and inclusivity for all Delaware families.

In 1991, Steve co-founded Create a More Positive Rehoboth, more commonly known as CAMP Rehoboth, to counteract anti-LGBTQ discrimination by bringing neighbors together and building bridges of compassion and understanding between people of all backgrounds. The non-profit, which began as a humble newsletter, evolved into a sprawling community center on Baltimore Avenue with numerous community programs, including screenings for sexually transmitted diseases, mental health counseling, and cultural sensitivity training for city and park police. For over 25 years, Steve and the CAMP Rehoboth family helped thousands by breaking down barriers and providing much-needed community support services to Delaware's LGBTQ community.

Alongside his partner of 40 years, Murray Archibald, the pair pressed for marriage equality, supported HIV/AIDs research, and championed the right to live and love freely. On Steve's birthday, July 2, 2009, he took part in history as then-Governor Jack Markell signed Senate Bill 121, which outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation at the CAMP Rehoboth Center, a nod to the far-reaching impact of the center and Steve's life work. Steve and Murray were also an integral part of ushering in a new era of equality for the LGBTQ community as Delaware became the 11th state to legalize same-sex marriage in 2013.

We are heartbroken by the loss of a devoted advocate and unwavering voice for inclusion, love, and respect. He fought an aggressive form of lymphoma with the same bravery he fought for the rights of so many in our great state. Steve will be remembered for his commitment to justice and equality for all, his decades of service and advocacy for Delaware's LGBTQ community, and the joy he brought to the lives of so many. Steve was a positive force for good, and the kind of friend who could put a smile on your face even in the darkest of times. I will remember him for his loving and uplifting spirit and will do my part to ensure his legacy lives on.

HONORING COACH ANN LUETKE-MEYER-GULSHEN ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Coach Ann Luetkemeyer-Gulshen, on her induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on March 28, 2018.

The fall of 1975 was an important year for Coach Gulshen. As she entered her senior year of high school in Eldon, she had the opportunity to play on the inaugural volleyball team, which would ultimately shape Coach Gulshen's entire future. After high school graduation in 1976, Coach Gulshen earned a bachelor's in physical education from the University of Missouri. A few years later into her career, she obtained her master's degree also from the University of Missouri. As the daughter of Vic and Jane Luetkemeyer, Coach Gulshen had been part of the Eldon community since her childhood. With strong ties to her community, it was a natural fit to come back to her hometown to begin her volleyball coaching career.

Coach Gulshen's record is an impressive one that includes 29 seasons as a high school volleyball coach, 16 of those seasons being at Eldon High School and 13 at Camdenton High School. During her coaching career, she won 704 matches which led to being among the top five most winningest teams in Missouri state history. Coach Gulshen built Eldon High School's volleyball program into a winner and guided the Mustangs to eight consecutive final fours in Class 3 between 1986 and 1993. In 1991, the Mustangs won the state championship. Under Coach Gulshen, Eldon High School won 16 conference titles and 15 district championships. In 1997, Coach Gulshen began teaching at Camdenton, and in 1998 she was asked to coach their volleyball team. From 1998 to 2010, the Lakers won three district championships and four conference championships.

Coach Gulshen set the teams up for success, pushing them to become teammates and not just individuals. She would encourage her teams to go on summer float trips, team camps, and any other team building activities. Throughout the years, she gained the respect of the players on her teams. Many of the players say Coach Gulshen helped prepare them for life's challenges and some of them have gone on to become coaches themselves. Coach Gulshen says: "This (induction) is not about me. This is about them. All of them had a hand in it". Throughout her coaching career, Coach Gulshen continuously had the support of her husband, Bart and sons Jay and Kyle.

Please join me in congratulating Coach Ann Gulshen for all of her hard work and dedication that resulted in this induction into the Mis-

souri Sports Hall of Fame. This induction is well deserved.

RETIREMENT OF STEPHEN NADRAMIA

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay gratitude to Stephen Nadramia for his sterling career in the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

After serving his country in the U.S. Army for four years, Stephen was honorably discharged and joined the USMS in October 1988. He started his career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Eastern District of New York, where he would serve for the rest of his career. Throughout his 30-year career, Stephen has done everything from enforcing court orders to working on judicial security details. He has distinguished himself throughout his career by reaching milestones many hope to achieve.

In 2000, Stephen was the first Marshal to handle a K9 in the Eastern District. Over the past 30 years, he has served alongside three different K9s. His first K9, Roni, assisted him with search and recovery efforts on September 11, 2001. Gala, his second K9, aided him in securing courtrooms during high-profile trials where security is traditionally heightened. Lastly, his final K9, MacDuff, protected Pope Francis when he visited Washington, D.C. to address Congress. His experience with K9s enabled him to secure various sites and functions successfully. They also assisted in apprehending escaped violent felons throughout his time on the job.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen Nadramia is the personification of a dedicated law enforcement official. His years of service to his community and country will not be forgotten. I hope he enjoys his long retirement with his wife, Erika, and I wish him all the best.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STEVEN LINDO HALL

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Steven Lindo Hall from High Point, North Carolina. As we honor the life of Steven Hall, I offer my deepest condolences to his colleagues, family, and friends.

During his senior year of high school, Steve joined the U.S. Army Reserves out of a deep love for his country and abiding desire to serve. He graduated in 1981 from T. Wingate Andrews High School, where he played and then attended the University of North Carolina

• 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.

at Charlotte. On September 12, 1987, he married the love of his life, Jennifer Mowery Hall. She supported him through all his endeavors, as he was her strength in a picture of Christ's love for the church as a biblical marriage should be. As busy as he was helping and serving others, he always made time for her. Steven joined the Greensboro Police Department as his first job after graduating. One of his first assignments at the Department was to the Greensboro Housing PNRC, where he worked to serve the families in underprivileged neighborhoods in the city. While on that assignment, he worked with the UNCG Pi Kappa Phi, Congressman Howard Coble, and the Police Department to form a youth basketball league in the area. After a time working with the D.A.R.E. drug prevention program, he became a School Resource Officer at Western Guilford High School, where he served from 1994 until 2006. During this time, he served a year as the president of the North Carolina Association of School Resource Officers (NCASRO). During his spare time, he worked as a substitute teacher at High Point Central and other local high schools.

In 1988, Steve worked with a group of men from the High Point area to found the High Point Little League, where he was a volunteer coach. He also coached at Southwest Guilford High School and at his own high school. He served as an advisor to the UNCG and High Point College chapters of Pi Kappa Phi and as a board member of the Hartley Drive YMCA. He was a member at the High Point Elks Lodge, where he served on the board and eventually became the Exalted Ruler in 2017.

He and his wife raised his sons Miller and Tucker in their home on Suncrest Drive. He always encouraged his sons to be active, to volunteer and help others, and to be outgoing and kind. He always told them to hold the door for others and clean up messes no matter who made them. He was proud that his children attended Wesleyan Christian Academy and loved going to their various sporting events. He was a member at Christ United Methodist Church, where he often served on the multiple boards and served as a Sunday school teacher and an Upward basketball coach. He attended the church with his family and instilled in them his deep Christian faith. His job as an SRO—and much of his life—was put on hold in 2006 when he received orders to deploy to Afghanistan as a part of the War on Terror. He served two tours of duty there between 2006 and 2010. His service in the reserves continued from his enlistment until he retired from the Army in 2014.

He worked out his time with the Greensboro Police Department until his retirement in 2013. He spent the remainder of his time with his family. He enjoyed family vacations at Holden Beach, trips to Clemson to watch football games with his older son, and road games where he cheered his younger son on playing lacrosse. He received many awards including the GPD Police Officer of the Year and Knights of Columbus Police Officer of the year. His awards in the U.S. Army include the NATO Afghanistan Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, US Navy Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Bronze Star.

Everyone knew Steven by his smile and sense of humor. At every event he was the

center of attention, though never by choice. He loved children and devoted most of his service, time, and energy to their safety, well-being, and happiness. He loved his country and was willing to give his life every day for its prosperity. He thought of others before himself and taught his children to do the same. He cared deeply for his wife, parents, and siblings and worked for their security. And he loved God, as everyone who met him could see from the joy in his face.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life Steven Hall showed dedication to his country, community and family. During his service in the United States Army and the Greensboro Police Department he demonstrated humility, putting the needs of others before his own. The testimony of Steven embodies the greatest qualities of humanity. The life of Steven Hall encourages us all to exemplify the commandment, not to be served, but to serve. On behalf of North Carolina and the United States of America, we are honored for the faithful service of Steven Lindo Hall.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
STEVEN BOCHCO

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Steven Bochco—an accomplished Los Angeles television writer and producer—who passed away on April 1, 2018 at the age of 74.

Steven was born in New York City on December 16, 1943 to Mimi and Rudolph Bochco, both artists in their own right; his mother was a painter and jewelry designer and his father was a violinist. Steven attended the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan and attended New York University for a year before transferring to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. During summer vacations between his junior and senior year of college, Steven got a job at Universal Television in Los Angeles, which led to a job and cross country road trip that would forever change his life.

During his time at Universal, Steven's first writing credit came from expanding an already filmed one-hour drama into two hours by adding backstory about the characters when they were kids. Steven later remarked that, at the time, he was, "so naive about the business that it didn't even occur to me that my name would be up on the screen. Suddenly when this thing was finished and I went to see it, it said, 'Written by Rod Serling and Steven Bochco.' That was my first professional writing credit."

In 1971, Steven wrote his first 90-minute television episode for the Steven Spielberg-directed installment of Columbo entitled 'Murder by the Book,' which led to his first of 34 Emmy nominations and a lasting friendship of 47 years with Mr. Spielberg. After 12 years with Universal, Steven left in 1976 to work for the late television executive, Grant Tinker, at his company MTM Enterprises, where he would develop a ground-breaking show about the personal lives of police officers, Hill Street Blues. Hill Street Blues established broadcaster NBC as a powerhouse on Thursday

nights and the shows' first round of Emmy nominations resulted in being awarded 8 out of 21 nominations. Hill Street Blues would eventually be nominated for 98 Emmy awards during its nearly 150-episode run.

After five seasons of Hill Street Blues, Steven was fired from MTM because he refused to sacrifice quality storytelling in order to save on costs. Ever ambitious, Steven turned down an offer to become president of CBS's entertainment division and signed an unprecedented six-year, 10-series deal with ABC and a deal with 20th Century Fox to create the 15-time Emmy Award winning show, L.A. Law. Steven subsequently founded Steven Bochco Productions and, with David E. Kelly, created the beloved Doogie Howser M.D. with ABC Studios. Later describing the business of hour-long television drama as being 'in the toilet' in 1991, Steven set out to create 1992's critically-acclaimed NYPD Blue which would ultimately earn 20 Emmy awards throughout its run.

Steven's prodigious career was defined by the rare creative control he was able to exert on his projects and productions. His portfolio of work has contributed greatly to the canon of American television through the dark and gritty realism he was able to portray about the lives of our country's public servants and public defenders.

Steven is survived by his wife of 17 years, Dayna, his children Jesse, Sean and Melissa, his grandchildren Wes and Stevie Rae, and his sister Joanna Frank. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP MAYOR
PRO TEM PATRICIA GARDNER

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Bishop Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Gardner, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Pat served on the council for six years, and was an active member in her community throughout her life.

Pat moved with her family to Bishop in 1960, when her father was transferred within the California Department of Transportation. Although she left Bishop to attend college, she and her husband returned in 1981. Pat held a graduate degree in physical therapy, and was the owner of Sports Medicine and Rehab Therapy from 1986 to her retirement in 2011. When she wasn't running a thriving business, Pat remained focused on helping in her community. She was active in the United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday school, and served four terms on the Bishop Union Elementary School District. After her retirement, Pat continued her commitment to improving her community and ran for Bishop City Council in 2012.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to recognize the tireless work that Pat Gardner undertook to improve Bishop for her friends and neighbors. Her determination, grace, and passion for her community will not soon be forgotten.

RETIREMENT OF STEVEN
NIAMONITAKIS

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Steven Niamonitakis for his outstanding career in the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

As a graduate of John Jay Criminal College, Steven always knew that he wanted to serve in law enforcement. Entering the Service in June 1988, he started his career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Eastern District of New York. He would go on to serve his entire career in the Eastern District. During his 30-year career, Steven has seen and done it all. From transporting and processing prisoners to arresting fugitives and handling international extraditions, he became one of the most experienced Marshals in the USMS.

Some of Steven's career highlights include his service on the John Gotti trial and the court hearings for Juan "El Chapo" Guzman. Furthermore, he was a valued investigator in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, and his assistance has been vital to combatting the scourge of drugs that have infected countless lives. Additionally, Steven has been crucial in battling copyright violations of movies by securing numerous assets involved in these crimes. As his long career comes to an end, I am certain that Steven will enjoy spending his retirement with the people he loves most: his wife, Alane, and his two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Steven Niamonitakis on his tremendous career in law enforcement. Due to people like him, our nation is safe, strong, and secure. I am grateful for his service and wish him a very enjoyable retirement.

RECOGNIZING PROCTER & GAMBLE
AND MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Procter & 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 of 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 victims, and who know how to be most helpful. In this, Procter & 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, Procter & 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 Procter & 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 Procter & Gamble bag with a handwritten note inside, he "realized that someone cared about me when I had nothing."

Procter & 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TYLER COUNTY
DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Tyler County Dogwood Festival.

Since 1940, Tyler Countians have paid tribute to the glories of spring and the lovely dogwood tree by creating each year a growing and more beautiful Dogwood Festival. In 1938, Judge James E. Wheat, founding father of the Dogwood Festival, called a meeting of the state's leading officials near the Polk and Tyler County line in hopes of enlisting help in promoting the completion of U.S. Highway 190. The men and women that attended the meeting were so impressed with the beauty of East Texas that Judge Wheat came upon the idea of creating an annual event that would focus attention on the area and bring people to see it. The first festival was held on April 6, 1940 with nearly 300 people in attendance.

The second festival, held in 1941, was first to introduce a pageant with a historical theme. Each pageant is still given a theme to this day. There were no festivals during the years of World War II, 1942 through 1945. The third festival was held in 1946 and they have continued to be held on the first Saturday in April.

Over the decades, the Dogwood Festival has grown and expanded bringing several thousand visitors from across Texas and out of state to help East Texans celebrate springtime. Due to the increasing number of horseback riders who were coming to the county seat of Woodville, TX to join in the Dogwood parade, it was decided they would have a weekend of their own. The first Tyler County Dogwood Festival Western Weekend was held on March 23, 1968. Thousands of trail riders travel to Woodville on horseback and wagon to participate in Western Weekend and strive to preserve the heritage of the East Texas cowboy. Eventually, Western Weekend expanded to include a rodeo and western dance.

The Dogwood Festival has been a proud tradition for Tyler County for over half a century. The focus has always been on preserving the history and heritage of Tyler County while paying tribute to the natural beauty East Texas has to offer. I am proud to call this county my home and am excited to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Tyler County Dogwood Festival with its 2018 festival, "Diamonds and Dogwoods—75 Years of Memories".

ALLYSA BUCKNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Allys Buckner is a student at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Allys Buckner 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 Allys Buckner 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.

NOMINEES FOR THE NATIONAL
MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
SERVICE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, Colorado and the Mancos Public Library in Mancos, Colorado. Both libraries were nominated among 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. In addition to being a finalist, Pueblo City-County Library District was awarded one of the 10 medals that are presented annually.

The medal is the highest national honor for museums and libraries. They are recognized for their outstanding contributions in the areas of education, civic life engagement, advanced workforce development, and enrichment of cultural and lifelong learning opportunities.

Due to the strong leadership of Jon Walker, the Executive Director of the Pueblo City-County Library District and Lee Halberg, the Executive Director of the Mancos Public Library, both libraries make a variety of valuable resources and programs available to the communities they serve, which has helped to enrich the lives of many living in their respective communities.

Libraries and museums have historically served as vital resources within our nation's

communities by bolstering the economy, aiding our schools, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations. I am proud to see the libraries in Pueblo and Mancos celebrated on a national platform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Colorado's Third Congressional District it is my privilege to honor the Pueblo City-County Library District and the Mancos Public Library for their work as leading library institutions in our state. I have visited the libraries many times and the staff there are true professionals who deserve this recognition. We are thankful for their continued efforts to improve the lives of those living in the Third Congressional District and I stand with all Colorado in thanking them for their work.

HONORING MAYOR SERAFINO
NOLLETTI OF LOGAN, WEST VIR-
GINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Serafino Nolletti and to celebrate his ten years of public service to the city of Logan, West Virginia. I am proud to present him with the key to the city of Logan to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the city and residents of Logan, West Virginia. For the last decade, Mayor Nolletti has dedicated his career to improving his community and showcasing all the city has to offer through events such as the annual Freedom Festival. He has also improved the lives of the people of Logan through his support of vital infrastructure and economic development projects that have helped transform Logan's economy. Because of his work, the people of Logan have a town and a mayor they can be proud of and count on to be on their side.

I congratulate Mayor Nolletti for receiving this prestigious award and for his continued service to the people of Logan and West Virginia. He is a great Mountaineer that represents the best of West Virginia.

CLARIFYING A SPEECH FROM
MARCH 17, 2016

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2016, during the 114th Congress, I intended to say:

"Mr. Speaker, today there are a lot of legal arguments and talk. I want to make sure the American people listening at home and watching at home know exactly what we are talking about here today.

"I want to talk about somebody whose life is on pause, waiting for the DAPA program to clear the courts. The brief that the Republicans are seeking to file is the exact opposite. It is saying that DAPA cannot occur. And this gentleman and his family, several of whom are Colorado constituents of mine—just to put a human face on it—show what DAPA means for so many families across our country.

"Mr. Edin Ramos of Colorado—he is pictured there next to his three lovely kids and his wife—is a native of Honduras. He has been in the United States for over 13 years. His kids are American citizens, were born here, don't know any other country. He fled his home country to avoid persecution and extortion at the hands of local, corrupt officials and gangs.

"He is married to a U.S. citizen. They have three young children together. He is a very successful business owner in Colorado. He and his wife employ 12 people. They make investments in their local community. Many rely on them for jobs, for the services they provide. Yet, the lack of any peace of mind prevents families like Edin Ramos' from reaching their full potential.

"Every day his kids come home from school, and his wife worries over something as minor as a taillight being out or a speeding ticket, that Mr. Ramos could find himself in detention for an indefinite period of time, removed from his family, or even deported to another country which he doesn't have any ties to.

"I would also like to talk about the case of Ms. Mercedes Garcia. Mercedes is a long-time resident of my hometown, Boulder, Colorado. Her life has been greatly affected by the arbitrariness of an immigration system that is immoral and has lacked meaningful priorities.

"She has been in the United States for close to 20 years. She is the mother of three American children, U.S. citizen children. But you know what happened? Her husband was removed from the United States in 2011 over a traffic citation, forcing her to be the sole provider for her three children.

"Now, Mercedes is undocumented herself, and she fears contact by immigration authorities on a daily basis. DAPA was a ray of hope for her. What DAPA would do is provide Mercedes with a meaningful level of certainty, the ability to legally seek employment, the ability to provide her family with expanded opportunities here in the U.S., and would help make her American citizen children as successful as they are able to be.

"Her children are just as American as you or me, Mr. Speaker, as is anyone born in the United States. Don't they deserve to have their mother help them succeed with all the great promises that this country offers? Why can't we give that certainty to their mother?

"DAPA is a legal, commonsense, lawful exercise of discretion. It is consistent with the actions of Presidents, both Democratic and Republican, for decades. It directs, very simply, with the limited amount of enforcement resources we have in the Department of Homeland Security, that we want to focus on removing undocumented immigrants who pose a threat to public safety or national security—not Mr. Ramos, not Ms. Garcia. We want to remove those who represent a danger or a threat to our country.

"To somehow misfocus those limited resources on tearing apart families instead of going after criminals would put the American people at risk. The President has acted to make the American people safer by ensuring that our limited law enforcement resources are focused where they will have the biggest impact.

"These policies are very simple. They create a process for low-priority enforcement immigrants who come forward, submit to a back-

ground check, register, be able to get a provisional work permit, and work legally. It enhances our public safety and national security.

"Yet we hear people from the other side saying: Well, this is something Congress should have done. I agree. This is something Congress should have done. You know what? It is not my fault Congress didn't do it.

"I have talked about immigration every week and every month here on floor of the House. I cosponsored a comprehensive bill. I signed a discharge petition last Congress to try to bring it forward. Yes, I agree.

"You know what? Congress didn't do it, Mr. Speaker. And that is on the Republican majority that Congress failed to act.

"So the President moved forward with the legal authority he has and that Republican and Democratic Presidents in the past have used to say that Ms. Garcia is not the same risk to this country as a dangerous criminal.

"It is common sense, and it is about time that we move forward with and DACA.

"I reserve the balance of my time."

BELEN TZINTZUN CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Belen Tzintzun Chavez 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 Belen Tzintzun Chavez 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 Belen Tzintzun Chavez 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 THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RED BLAZER
MEN'S CHORUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the historic Red Blazer Men's Chorus, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary during the 2018 Red Blazer Varieties. Over the past seven decades, the nearly 400 members of this group have touched the lives of many in our community and beyond with their talents.

In 1948, the Red Blazer Men's Chorus, formerly known as the Amherst Glee Club, was founded as part of the Amherst Adult School community education program in conjunction

with Amherst High School. By 1980 the group became incorporated as an independent not-for-profit organization. The group currently consists of 45 members from all over the Western New York area. With a varied repertoire of music, the Red Blazer Men's Chorus can perform anything from Barbershop to Broadway, and have sung nearly 800 pieces in total over their illustrious history.

For a number of years the Red Blazer Men's Chorus served as an active member of the Associated Male Choruses of America, including when they hosted the AMCA International Big Sing, that brought 42 choruses and their 900 members to Buffalo in 1998. Recently, the group has crossed the border to work with the Association of Male Choruses of Ontario.

The Red Blazer Men's Chorus has performed in 28 cities across the United States and Canada. Their current lineup of regular events includes the annual spring Red Blazer Variety Series, an annual concert honoring veterans and active servicemembers, and holiday-themed shows. They continue to find new ways to connect with different audiences. In 2016 they launched a new Senior Citizen Concert Series, in which they perform for individuals in assisted living facilities who may not be able to go out on their own. Along with that they have worked with a multitude of groups including the from Lockport Male Chorus, Amherst Symphony Orchestra, and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 70th anniversary of the Red Blazer Men's Chorus during the 2018 Red Blazer Varieties. I commend their talents, longevity, and contributions to the music and art of Western New York. May they experience continued success in all their future endeavors.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arizona State Museum on its 125th year anniversary. For 125 years, the Arizona State Museum has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to educating the public through guarding, preserving, and studying the State of Arizona's archaeological resources.

Founded in 1893, the Arizona State Museum was one of the nation's three original university-based museums of archaeology established in the late 19th century. The museum's researchers are leaders in the field of Southwest archaeology and are sought after internationally for their expertise and groundbreaking research. This gives our desert community a unique opportunity to gain insight about the diverse cultural heritage of Arizona and have meaningful experiences. The Arizona State Museum has been a leading voice advocating for the preservation of cultural artifacts not just in Arizona, but at the national level as well. In July of 1990, Dr. Raymond H. Thompson, former Director of the Arizona State Museum, testified before the United States Congress as the American Association of Museum's representative in sup-

port of the proposed Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). NAGPRA was adopted in November 1990, and continues to be a significant piece of legislation to preserve Native American cultural items.

I am especially grateful for the Museum's dedication to gathering a comprehensive collection that represents the diverse cultural heritage of the Southwest, including the region's Native American roots. The Arizona State Museum holds the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of Southwest Tribal cultures from 13,000 years ago to present, and is home to two large collections of Native American pottery and basketry that are federally designated American Treasures.

I congratulate the Arizona State Museum on their 125th anniversary and look forward to supporting their continued efforts to preserve and document the cultural artifacts of our great State of Arizona.

DANAIS REZA DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Danaís Reza Diaz 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 Danaís Reza Diaz 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 Danaís Reza Diaz 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 HERRMANN SPETZLER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my friend, Herrmann Spetzler, who passed away on March 12, 2018, at the age of 70. As the longtime chief executive officer of the Open Door Community Health Centers in Northern California, Herrmann was a visionary leader in the field of rural primary health care who improved the lives of thousands of North Coast residents.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany in 1948, Herrmann Spetzler immigrated to the United States in 1955. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Los Angeles in 1971, Herrmann entered the field of health care and worked to address mental health and alcoholism issues throughout California. He moved to Arcata in 1977 to

become chief executive officer of the Humboldt Open Door Clinic, a single storefront clinic run by volunteers with a sense of optimism. Under Herrmann's leadership, that clinic grew into thirteen clinic locations in Humboldt and Del Norte counties and became the Open Door Community Health Centers (Open Door), the region's largest provider of primary medical, dental, and mental health care.

Along with his wife, Cheyenne who serves as Open Door's chief of operations, Herrmann transformed Open Door into a Federally Qualified Health Center open to all who seek services, working to overcome financial, geographic and social barriers to care. His goal was for every Open Door clinic to provide a level of service and quality that would allow his grandmother to feel comfortable as a patient there. Through his decades of expanding access to care by building new clinics, incorporating existing practices in the community, recruiting providers, and fostering an efficient and comprehensive approach to care, Herrmann remained guided by his vision and mission to provide high quality health care to all. He was instrumental in starting a successful family nurse practitioner residency program and a new community physician residency program that will help train primary care doctors to work in rural settings.

One of Herrmann's greatest strengths was his ability to understand the trends and impacts of health care policy on a national, state, and local level and translate that to others. Herrmann served as an advisor to me on policy issues as part of a health care advisory group, where he offered invaluable input. Herrmann surrounding himself with talented and capable people who he empowered to succeed and grow. As a result, Open Door will continue to fulfill its mission and his vision long into the future. Herrmann believed in social justice and treating all people fairly, including his staff, once taking out a second mortgage on his own home to make payroll during a particularly lean time.

In addition to earning his Master of Arts degree in Administration in 1985 from Humboldt State University, Herrmann was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2014. He was active in all things related to health care and served on numerous state-wide boards, including the California 1115 Medicaid Waiver Renewal Committee, Expanded Access to Primary Care Committee, and Statewide Primary Care Advisory Group, as well as regional boards such as the Clinic Network of Northern California, Humboldt County Community Breast Health Project, and Humboldt Child Care Council. He also cofounded the California Primary Care Association, North Coast Clinics Network, Clinic Mutual Insurance Company, Northern California Rural Round Table, and California State Rural Health Association, amongst others.

Herrmann loved to travel with his wife and family, hike and backpack, watch his grandchildren play sports, and practice photography. He saw the beauty in everyday interactions and was often seen behind his camera photographing the people and places around him. He had a warmth and candor that imparted his authenticity and unique perspective on life.

Herrmann is survived by his wife, Cheyenne; his children, Gary, Maria, and Gabe, and their families; including grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Herrmann and

Cheyenne opened their hearts and home to so many, especially friends of their children and grandchildren, that their extended family was large, including many young children who loved their "Opa" and will miss him dearly.

Herrmann Spetzler was a champion of health care whose decades of work resulted in improved access to primary care for thousands of residents of rural Northern California. Few leave a legacy as large as Herrmann's and are as beloved and widely respected. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Herrmann today for his decades of commitment to the North Coast and express our deepest appreciation for his friendship and contributions. His presence will be sorely missed, and his legacy not soon forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF PACE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN'S NEW FACILITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Southeast Michigan PACE as they open their fourth facility today. As our population ages, their services become more important than ever.

The federal government established the PACE program almost 25 years ago, and Southeast Michigan PACE opened as a collaboration with Henry Ford Health System. PACE's program wide mission is to allow seniors to age with dignity and remain independent in their own homes, and every doctor and nurse at PACE seeks to live out that principle every day. Southeast Michigan PACE currently works out of three facilities and will expand to a fourth this week, greatly expanding their reach to seniors throughout the state. PACE serves all Michigan adults age 55 or older who have ongoing healthcare needs and provides the services covered by Medicare and Medicaid as well as tailoring plans to suit individual needs of seniors as seen fit by facility staff. Seniors can expect to have their medical and supportive needs met when they visit PACE, and the facilities each house a medical clinic and various recreation areas.

The program currently has values of patient service including: extraordinary care, collaborative teamwork, inspired achievement, accountability, and adaptive growth. PACE is known in our Michigan community and across the country for their well-rounded care, individualized service and consistently meeting each of the values. Their fourth facility will allow for Michigan's increasing senior population to be provided with PACE's top-notch service and allow for the elderly to age with dignity and independence. We are grateful for the exemplary and individualized service provided at Southeastern Michigan PACE and look forward to seeing its continued development and effectiveness as they continue to grow their centers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Southeast Michigan PACE as they open a fourth health center to serve our state's seniors. PACE provides elderly individuals with unique care and allows them to age with independence and dignity.

CLS AWARDEES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eady James of Eagle, Colorado and Heather Schadt of Durango, Colorado for earning Critical Language Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State, which have allowed them to study abroad in China.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program is a highly competitive and intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program that is administered through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. In an increasingly competitive world, this program serves an important purpose by helping American student's master languages that are deemed critical to national security and economic prosperity.

Throughout their time overseas, Eady and Heather were able to increase their language fluency, expand their cultural competency, and share their American values with their Chinese hosts. Both of them have returned to the United States, Eady to Western Kentucky University and Heather to Lewis & Clark College, after studying Advanced Chinese in two different regions of China.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize these accomplished students for their hard work and academic success. I stand with the residents of Colorado's Third Congressional District in congratulating Eady and Heather on their achievement, and I wish them luck in their future endeavors.

DELILAH ROMERO JAMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Delilah Romero James is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Delilah Romero 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 Delilah Romero 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JOHN CHARLES GIBSON, SENIOR

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chief John Charles Gibson, Senior for

thirty-three and one-half years of dedicated service to the public safety of the citizens of Lemoore, California.

Chief Gibson is a lifelong Kings County resident. Born in 1955 to Robert Randell and Doris Elaine Gibson,

John grew up in the small farm town of Lemoore, California. He attended Lemoore High School.

Chief Gibson's career with the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department began in 1984, as a Hoseman. That year, he also gained certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. He later served on the department's Membership and Rating Committees. In 1987, he was assigned as an Engineer and later promoted to Crew Captain, training a crew on fire fighting and emergency medical service procedures. In 1998, he was promoted to Second Assistant Chief.

Chief Gibson was elected and confirmed by the Lemoore City Council as Fire Chief in October 2005. During his tenure, Chief Gibson upgraded the department's firefighting equipment and led a program to certify nine Lemoore firefighters as Emergency Medical Technicians.

Chief Gibson's leadership directly improved the standard of living for the citizens of Lemoore. As the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department's rating for handling emergency services was upgraded, citizens saw their homeowner's insurance premiums decrease.

During the course of his career with the department, Chief Gibson responded to 16,458 service calls.

In retirement, Chief Gibson will be spending more time with his loving family—wife Kim, sons John, Jr. and Paul, and daughter, Patty. He will also continue to operate his welding business he founded in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Chief John Gibson on his retirement from the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department and his service to the people of Lemoore, California over the past thirty-three and one-half years. As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, I wish him my absolute best.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE STEPHEN REINHARDT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Judge Stephen Reinhardt—a beloved husband, father, and grandfather—who passed away on March 29, 2018 at the age of 87. He was a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Stephen Reinhardt was born on March 27, 1931 in New York City. Stephen graduated from California's Pomona College with a degree in government and earned his law degree from Yale University in 1954. Stephen used his education on behalf of our armed forces and signed up to serve his country as a first lieutenant in the legal counsel's office of the Air Force. After his service, Stephen practiced entertainment and labor law in California and clerked for the late United States District

Court judge for the District of Columbia, Luther Youngdahl. Stephen informally advised California Governor Jerry Brown and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Commission, which he chaired before his judicial confirmation in 1980.

In 1979, Stephen was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in California. The last of President Carter's appointments, Stephen would serve on the Ninth Circuit for 38 years and become the 6th longest serving judge in the Ninth Circuit's history.

Stephen's judicial philosophy was defined by his empathy for the underdog, authoring rulings that often sided with the most down-trodden of our citizens. Stephen described this empathy as being inspired by his relationship with his step-grandfather Max Reinhardt, a Jewish filmmaker who had fled the horrors of Nazi Germany and came to America. Some of Stephen's rulings were later reversed by the Supreme Court, but his steadfast dedication and commitment to creating a more just society never wavered. When asked if he was upset with the Supreme Court for overturning some of his decisions, Stephen replied, "Not in the slightest! If they want to take away rights, that's their privilege. But I'm not going to help them do it."

Stephen's vision of the law empowered the expansion of civil liberties and civil rights. He authored rulings designating California's overcrowding of prisons as unconstitutional, overturned a Washington state law prohibiting doctors from prescribing medication to help terminally ill patients die with dignity, and ruled that certain regulations and restrictions on a woman's ability to access healthcare services was unconstitutionally vague and imposed an undue burden on women.

Even though the publication *The Weekly Standard* would describe Stephen as "the liberal bad boy" of the federal judiciary, Stephen's critics admired his ability to transcend political differences and praised his legal reasoning. Stephen authored the ruling striking down California's Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriages, writing that the ban "serves no purpose and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to official reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples." The Supreme Court would recognize the right of marriage equality a year later.

Stephen is survived by his wife Ramona Ripston, the former director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, his three children Mark, Justin, Dana, and seven grandchildren whom I hope take comfort in the way Stephen lived his life as a deeply thoughtful, compassionate and moral citizen. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

ISAAC NAFTZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Isaac Naftz is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Isaac Naftz 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 Isaac Naftz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING JIM MOYER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Washington State University's (WSU) Associate Dean of Research, Jim Moyer on his retirement.

Jim grew up on a wheat farm near Walla Walla, WA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy in 1971 from WSU and a Ph.D. in 1975 from The Pennsylvania State University. After a postdoctoral position at the University of California-Davis, he joined the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University (NCSSU) as an assistant professor in 1976. A renowned plant pathologist, Mr. Moyer has focused his research on virology—in particular, the population structure and dynamics of tospoviruses. He has made contributions to sweet potato pathology and cultivar development, was awarded a patent for fingerprinting ornamental plant cultivars and is involved in numerous national and international activities.

He has served as president of the American Phytopathological Society and is a fellow of that group. He received the Morrison Medal from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service and the Alex Laurie Award from the national floral crop industry for his research contributions.

In 2013, Jim and his wife Mary returned to Pullman where he serves as Associate Dean of Research for WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. In that position, he works closely with Washington's Congressional delegation to support the College's agriculture stakeholders, including securing funding for the newest College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) facility the Plant Growth Facility. He worked with stakeholders around the state to support their research needs, testified before the House Agriculture Committee and led the College to the top in USDA research and development expenditures in FY 2016.

Over the course of his career, Jim has been a strong advocate for the agriculture community. His knowledge of the field has been vital to the success of the College. Jim's humble attitude and incredible work ethic speaks to his lasting impression throughout the community.

After retirement from WSU, Jim and Mary are staying in Pullman where they will work on

their farm and enjoy time with their children, Joe and his new wife Lauren, and their son Andrew. I would like to thank Jim for all he has done and wish him a happy retirement. And of course, Go Cougs.

TRIBUTE TO THE INDIANA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Hoosier organization, The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame. On April 5, the organization held the dedication and grand opening of its memorial facility, the only one of its kind in the nation.

The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization founded in 2013. Its mission is to publically emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of Indiana military veterans and their families. The memorial was built with funding provided by leaders of Indiana's credit unions across the state and their business partners with funds totaling over \$330,000, and stands near the Indiana Department of the American Legion on land that was once Fort Benjamin Harrison.

There are currently 161 Hoosiers who have been inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, including each of the 99 Medal of Honor recipients from Indiana, one U.S. President, three Indiana Governors, and one Indiana Supreme Court Justice. These brave men and women are not alone, they represent the tens of thousands of Hoosiers who have honorably served and made sacrifices for our country as members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.

In 2014, I was honored to celebrate the beginning of what I believe will be a lasting legacy for our servicemen and servicewomen when the inaugural class was inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame. At the time, the establishment of a permanent location to recognize the heroism and sacrifices of Indiana's men and women in our armed forces was but a vision. Today, this is a reality thanks to the tireless advocacy and work by the organization's Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters. I would also like to recognize the Board Chairman, Colonel Russ Dowden, US Army (Ret.), for inviting me to participate in the project back in 2013 and for his unyielding support of the organization and our veterans.

I congratulate all of those who worked to make the Hall of Fame possible, and celebrate the American heroes who keep fight to preserve liberty and uphold our Constitution.

ALICIA SCHINDEWOLF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Alicia Schindewolf is a student at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Schindewolf 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 Alicia Schindewolf 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 MS. GLORIA LYNN
VALDEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Gloria Lynn Valdez of the Department of the Navy, who is retiring after more than 30 years of faithful service to or nation, culminating in her service as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs.

Ms. Valdez has over 30 years of civilian service with the Department of the Navy. Recruited out of the University of New Mexico, she began her Navy career in 1986. Working her way up through the ranks and continually taking on more responsibility, she transitioned to the Naval Sea Systems Command headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Navy's largest command, and became a senior project engineer in the Fast Attack Submarine Program Office. In 1996, Ms. Valdez was competitively selected for the Commander's Development Program, a stepping stone to the Senior Executive Service.

In 2000, Ms. Valdez was selected to serve as the Director, Naval and Commercial Construction, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, for Research, Development and Acquisition, where she had executive oversight of amphibious and auxiliary ship construction programs and overall shipbuilding industrial base matters. In 2002, Ms. Valdez was selected to lead the stand up of a new program office to convert strategic nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines to tactical guided missile submarines. She served as the Deputy Program Manager of that office and then became the Director of the Shipbuilding, Modernization and Sealift Branch, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller where she was responsible for the management of all shipbuilding accounts.

Ms. Valdez's exemplary performance and versatility was acknowledged with her selection to the Senior Executive Service in July 2009 as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Budget Director in the Department of Homeland Security. She returned to the Navy in January 2010 as the Director of Investment and Development Division in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller. In January 2012, she became Executive Director, Program Executive Office for Submarines.

Ms. Valdez is currently serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs. She has executive oversight over an annual budget of \$35 billion for all naval shipbuilding and ship weapons systems programs, major ship conversions, and the maintenance, modernization and disposal of in-service ships and submarines.

Ms. Valdez is a great mentor and role model for Hispanics and women seeking positions in the Federal Government. In 2014, she was recognized at the Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC) with the Pioneer Award. Representing her heritage, women, and the Navy for the opportunities it provides, Ms. Valdez was recognized for achievements as a dedicated public servant, senior leader, and engineer.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Gloria Valdez that our nation is able to strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, as a fellow New Mexican, to thank her and her family for her honorable service to our nation with the United States Navy. I wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

REGARDING THE CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN SYRIA AND THE PRESIDENT'S IRRESPONSIBLE REMARKS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to be more responsive and aware of the heavy consequences that weigh behind his comments regarding Syria.

Last week, the President's reckless comments of suggesting that it was time to withdraw from Syria emboldened Bashar al-Assad and his regime to launch yet another round of chemical attacks on innocent men, women, and children in the city of Douma.

This attack claimed the lives of at least 85 people, majority of them women and children and affected hundreds.

I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims killed or injured by the horrific and unjustifiable use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime against an unarmed civilian population.

The world learned through the painful experience of World War I the horror and inhumanity of chemical weapons, which caused unspeakable suffering and killed indiscriminately as we saw in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein's regime used them in Iraq's war with Iran and later against its own people.

The international community cannot again let such an attack go unanswered for to do so will embolden other rogue regimes and terrorists.

The President, as Commander in Chief, is charged with the responsibility of deciding when to use military force to protect the nation and its interests.

But he does not bear this weighty burden alone.

The Constitution wisely provides that it is shared with the Congress, the representatives of the American people.

The decisions we make as a country must be measured and wise as countless lives hang in the balance of our actions.

TRIBUTE TO GUY JOHNSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guy Johnson, a public servant and administrator. He has retired from public service in April, 2018. Guy Johnson was the Village President for the last twelve years of his 20 year tenure on the Village of Shorewood's Board of Trustees. He has resided in Shorewood for over 34 years.

Guy Johnson grew up in Milwaukee and graduated from Marquette University with an Engineering Degree and from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

He has tirelessly worked on behalf of the Village of Shorewood. Guy was the treasurer of the Shorewood Booster Club and served on the committee that raised the funds for the Shorewood Fitness Center. He is proud of the burgeoning business district, neighborhood initiatives, capital improvements, and access to the lake in the village. Further, Shorewood was the first community in Wisconsin to receive AARP's Age-Friendly Designation because of its safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in civic and community activities. I know for all these reasons and more Guy Johnson regards the Village of Shorewood as a true gem.

He and his wife Mary have been together for over 50 years and share a love of service to the community. She is a retired nurse manager and president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the Ladies of Charity, a 400 year old organization started by St. Vincent de Paul that works to clothe underprivileged school children. She graduated from Shorewood High School. They have two sons who attended Shorewood schools from kindergarten through high school. They also have four grandchildren.

Although he will no longer be at the helm serving as Shorewood Village President, he and Mary will remain living in Shorewood as active members of the community. Mr. Speaker, Guy Johnson has left a legacy of strong leadership. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years in ways to improve the quality of life of those residing in the Village of Shorewood. I am proud to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Guy Johnson. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his dedicated service.

GABRINA TICOALU

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabrina

Ticoalu for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gabrina Ticoalu is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabrina Ticoalu 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 Gabrina Ticoalu 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 RECOGNITION OF CDR ERIC
BROMLEY, USN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Commander (CDR) Eric Bromley taking command of VRC-40 Rawhides.

CDR Bromley began his naval career upon graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. After graduation, he trained as a Naval Aviator and was assigned to VAW-120 Greyhawks based in Norfolk, VA for Fleet Replacement Training. Eric was then assigned to VRC-40 Rawhides in Norfolk, VA to serve as a Detachment Administrative Officer, Schedules Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He was later assigned to VA-120 where he served as an Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Branch Officer, and C-2A Training Officer.

CDR Bromley served on board the USS *Carl Vinson* as a V-4 and V-5 Division Officer, served as "Top Cat" Shooter, and was elected Wardroom President. In 2011, he returned to VRC-40 to serve as a Maintenance Officer and Detachment Officer-In-Charge with Detachment Three with the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. He also served as a Branch Chief at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado. CDR Bromley currently serves as the Executive Officer for VRC-40 Rawhides after logging over 2,200 flight hours, earning the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Eric will be taking command of VRC-40 effective April 27, 2018.

Eric served as my Congressional Defense Fellow in 2014. In this role, I relied on CDR Bromley for his subject matter expertise regarding the United States Navy in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His work ethic, servant leadership, and devotion to duty represent what is best in our nation and military. He is respected by his sailors and is deserving of this leadership position.

I would like to thank CDR Bromley for his service to the First District of Virginia and the Nation. May God bless Eric, his wife Jenny, and their three children, as they take this next step in their lives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RAYMOND E. FLICKINGER, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while there is record turnover in high level federal government positions, the opposite is true in Barberton, Ohio.

For 70 years, the Barberton Finance Director position has been held by only two men, a father and his son. Raymond E. Flickinger Sr. and Raymond E. Flickinger Jr. have held the purse strings in Barberton all that time.

Ray Sr. took office in 1948. In 1978, Ray Jr. became the assistant city finance director. Ray Sr. retired in 1980 and Ray Jr. took over as Director. On March 31, Ray Jr. stepped down from his position.

Mayor William Judge whose father also served as Mayor noted that Ray has "weathered storms and kept on top of them." I want to congratulate and thank the Flickingers for two lifetimes of public service. I am inspired by these two dedicated officials who did their duty day after day and met the challenges of service for so many years. All the best to Ray Flickinger Jr. in retirement.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the The Akron Beacon Journal on March 26.

FATHER AND SON GUIDED BARBERTON CITY FINANCES FOR 70 YEARS; ERA WILL END THIS MONTH

(By Paula Schleis)

BARBERTON—For 70 years, the man in charge of the city's purse strings has answered to the name Raymond E. Flickinger.

First dad, then son, in a tenure so taken for granted that no one has bothered to challenge either at the ballot since 1968.

The era will end on March 31 when Barberton Finance Director Raymond E. Flickinger—the younger—retires and hands the city's ledger over to someone with a different name.

"It's time," Flickinger said, a smile suggesting that he's already counting down the hours.

While the elder and the younger both held the same post, their jobs were wildly different, covering dramatically different eras as this blue-collar city rose, fell and then embarked on some modern soul-searching.

The elder Raymond E. Flickinger was born in 1910—less than two decades after the town was founded—and grew up in the family's grocery business. Flickinger's, the store, was once an icon in downtown Barberton.

Ray Sr. took his turn on the European front during World War II, participating in the invasion of Normandy.

Two years after the war ended, the local Democratic Party asked if he'd run for the open seat of city auditor a post that would later evolve into finance director.

He won, took office in 1948 and started on-the-job training.

"Things were a lot simpler then," the younger Flickinger said of his dad's era. There were payrolls to make and budgets to balance, but "you didn't have accounting standards back then."

SIMPLER BUDGET

Seated in his office, Flickinger pulled an old booklet from a shelf of documents. It was the city budget from 1954, a 28-page pamphlet itemizing \$757,000 in income and expenditures. Flickinger compares it to this

year's city budget. Almost \$18 million. It takes a nearly 200-page booklet to explain it.

Flickinger, the younger, started doing some light bookkeeping for his dad when he was still in high school.

"He paid me out of his own pocket to do things for him," Flickinger said.

He never expected it to be his career.

"We didn't have a plan for me to take over," he said.

Yet by 1975, wouldn't you know it, that's exactly the course he found himself on. The city hired him as a full-time accountant. By 1978, he was the city's assistant finance director, his dad's second in command.

"Nepotism wasn't an issue back in the day," he chuckled. City Council approved the promotion. No one batted an eye. It was universally accepted that Flickinger, the elder, would groom his son to take over after his own upcoming retirement.

In 1980, after 32 years, the elder stepped down, the younger stepped up. No need to change the name on the office door.

Ray Sr. was 72 when he retired. He hadn't been in a hurry.

"He loved working," his son said. "It was pretty much his life. He was one of those people who could have just worked till he died." But he didn't. He died in 1998.

Barberton was a very different city when Ray Jr. took over.

When his father first became auditor, Barberton was a manufacturing powerhouse. Its founding was unique in Ohio, an industrial community planned by industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber, who set up half a dozen of his own factories and populated them with tens of thousands of immigrants and Appalachian transplants.

But by 1980, the place nicknamed the "Magic City" because of its overnight rise had become a poster child for the Rust Belt.

The younger Flickinger helped navigate Barberton through a recession, a period when many cities were going into default.

"It was thought that cities should start following the same accounting standards as private industry," he said.

What followed were challenging, time-consuming and often mind-numbing rules and regulations. Flickinger rolled with the punches, supported by a talented staff that helped his office evolve into a department that needed to know as much law as finance.

That's also about the time that Flickinger decided on a new administrative style: Avoid the limelight at all costs.

NATIONAL NEWS

Barberton's waning fortunes made national news, and Flickinger found himself quoted in a New York Times story about the town's struggle. The very next day, a representative from a bond rating firm called Flickinger to announce the city was being downgraded because of the story. Flickinger snorted: "I decided I was better off staying in the background. I'm honest and I'll tell people like it is. But I don't need to hear myself talk."

That's a trait that came to Mayor Bill Judge's mind immediately when asked to describe his finance director.

"He does a great job of explaining things, and he's always been the go-to guy, and for that he should have an ego, a big one," Judge said. "But he doesn't have an ego."

Barberton gradually started to recover in the 1990s.

"But the more you collect, the more you spend," Flickinger said. Road programs expanded. Health care costs rose. EPA standards added to the cost of maintaining a city water and sewer department. Salaries ballooned.

In 1954, that little budget pamphlet said \$263,000 was spent on the city's safety forces. In 2018, police and fire will cost residents \$11.2 million.

The street maintenance budget of \$69,000 in 1954 has grown to \$1.5 million this year.

Flickinger said one thing he's proud of is talking City Council into approving a policy that set a minimum fund balance of 10 percent. It was passed in 2008. That means while the city has a nearly \$18 million budget this year, it won't touch almost \$1.8 million of that. It's a sort of built-in rainy day cushion.

"They didn't have to do that," he said of council's action.

Fred Maurer has known Flickinger most of his life. They were both born in 1952, a few days apart. They attended St. Augustine's school together.

Maurer spent more than 21 years as a city councilman.

"Ray is very methodical, very thorough, very capable," he said. "He doesn't care to get into the politics [of his elected office], he's more nuts and bolts. He's one of these people who just stays focused on what needs to be done."

VOTES NEEDED

While Flickinger, a Democrat, never faced Republican opposition in the 10 times he had to seek re-election, Maurer laughed that there was one year Flickinger had to work at getting votes. In the 1980s, voters passed a charter amendment requiring the city finance director have a degree in municipal financing and a number of years experience in the field.

Maurer swears that "and" was supposed to be an "or." Flickinger did not have a municipal financing degree. He'd spent about 10 years or so, while in office, working on his bachelor's degree in accounting from Kent State University. But the ballot authors had intended to honor his experience.

With Flickinger's job hanging in the balance, an amended amendment had to be put on the very next ballot.

"I think that's the one and only time Ray actually had to campaign," Maurer said. The issue passed.

HITTING THE ROAD

When Flickinger retires at the end of this month, his assistant, Jeremy Flaker, will take over. He'll have to run in 2019 if he wants to keep the job. Judge said Barberton will face new financial challenges ahead, and he'll miss the "level of comfort" that comes from having Flickinger at his side.

"He's lived through tough times before. He's weathered storms and kept on top of them," Judge said. "And he has a lot of institutional knowledge. I'm going to miss his insightfulness, his ideas."

"But I told him I've got his number and I know where he lives," Judge quipped.

That information might not do the mayor a lot of good.

Flickinger and his longtime girlfriend plan to sell their home and hit the road in a motor home, starting with a stay in Colorado to visit his son, Eric.

He'll be back here from time to time to visit his two daughters—Amy in Wadsworth and Emily in Grafton—but he's not planning on any permanent residence for the foreseeable future.

"We're going to be nomads. I can honestly say I don't know where I'll be living, but Barberton will always be home," he said.

Like his father before him, he loves boating and fishing. But unlike his father, he's getting out at the age of 65, with plenty of time to do more of both.

"Like I said," he repeated, "it's just time."

ANISSA ULIBARRI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

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

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Ulibarri 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 Anissa Ulibarri 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 RECOGNITION OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 10TH ANNUAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th annual César Chávez Day of Celebration at Eastern Michigan University. This annual observation allows for the recognition of the campus' diversity and the life of Mr. Chávez.

Born in Arizona in 1927, César Chávez was the child of hardworking Mexican American migrant laborers. He spent most of his early years in migrant camps with his parents, attending school sporadically and serving the United States for two years in the Navy. Once he returned, he joined together with Hispanic farmworkers in states including Arizona and California to bargain for better working conditions for American workers. Mr. Chávez's work as a leader of the movement implemented institutional change that would forever alter the American workplace. Changes included union recognition as well as the creation of the United Farm Workers of America, which remains a prominent union today. César Chávez's lifetime of hard work inspired millions and opened the doors for workers across our nation.

Since 2009, Eastern Michigan University has participated in a César Chávez Day of Celebration, inviting local students, university faculty, and community members to commemorate his life's work and its influence today. The University's event includes poetry reading by local middle schoolers, keynote speakers, mariachi music, and a procession to the César Chávez Fountain located on campus. César Chávez Day is an important opportunity for residents of southeastern Michigan to come together and discuss the doors that he opened for students and workers as well as to discuss ways to continue to serve under-

served student populations both at Eastern Michigan University and in local K-12 schools. It is my honor to join Eastern Michigan University in today's celebration, and it is my hope that this event will continue to take place in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Eastern Michigan University as they celebrate their 10th Annual César Chávez Day of Celebration. This event allows for important conversations to take place as we celebrate Mr. Chávez's contributions to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ERIC MARTIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and career of Eric Martin. Eric, a longtime Buffalo native, will celebrate his retirement from Grand Slam Productions where he worked diligently as an MC and promoter for over 40 years.

Eric Martin's life was centered around family. As the youngest child of five siblings, he had a close relationship with his mother, Shirley Martin. Her saying "let your actions match your looks" was instrumental in forming his outlook on life.

His journey in the music industry started at the young age of 16 first working with "The Exotics" a well-known soul group in the Western New York area. In a continuation of his passion for music Eric worked under the direction of Freedom Train and when he was 18 started spinning records at Sylvester's Night Club on Fillmore Avenue. Some notable events from Eric's early career include MC'ing a Maze and Beverly Concert, a Phyllis Hyman show at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and a Juneteenth festival concert. In addition, Eric has worked with artists such as S.O.S Band, Atlantic Starr, and Loose Ends.

However, Eric's career did not come without its challenges. In his commitment to his passion for music Eric served the city in a variety of other jobs in order to continue his work as a promoter. His hard work has been seen in 22 years with the Buffalo Board of Education, 20 years at Dunlop Tires, 6 years with BFNC and 4 years with Big Brother Big Sister. Eric discusses the challenges posed by minority promoters within Buffalo saying that "Buffalo's a very tough market, a lot of establishments aren't open to black promoters." This has made it even more difficult to gain a foothold in Buffalo's event and nightlife scene.

Despite these challenges Eric Martin retires from a dynamic career in the music industry with renewed hopes of bringing his love of music to a new generation through his wife Tracy and their three children Erica, Eric, and Aaron. His dream being that Buffalo will one day be able to establish a major music festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Eric Martin's remarkable commitment to pursue his passion for music. I'm honored to celebrate his retirement and hope that he continues to be a driving force in the great city of Buffalo.

EVA VANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Eva Vang is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eva Vang 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 Eva Vang 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.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN WASEM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Wasem, a veteran and distinguished physician in my district who passed away last month.

John Richard Wasem graduated from Decatur High School in 1941 and then went on to serve in the United States Army in Germany during World War II. Upon his return, John earned his degree from the National College of Chiropractic in 1952 and worked as a chiropractor in the Decatur area for decades.

Ask anyone in the Decatur community, and they would say that Dr. Wasem is most remembered for his years of attending the Decatur Annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon. For 65 years, Dr. Wasem was a familiar face at the event, which honors those who enrich the community and who have given generously of themselves to make Decatur a better place to live. He was a living example of what makes Decatur special.

The annual luncheon is an opportunity to give thanks for blessings. Dr. Wasem was certainly one of those blessings. Without his attendance, I am positive that this year's event won't be the same. I am grateful for his many years of dedication he has shown the community.

He was an inspiration to those that knew him. His legacy at the Decatur Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be remembered by many. I know he will be deeply missed. My prayers are with his wife, Alice, their children and many grandchildren during this difficult time.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 168
DEDICATION**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their Post in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Justin L. Vasquez for his service to our country in the United States Army.

Justin Vasquez was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado and grew up in Manzanola, Colorado until he joined the Army in August 1997. Mr. Vasquez was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was Killed In Action in Baghdad on June 5, 2005, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. SSG Vasquez was deployed twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His friends say he will be remembered for the morale he brought to his unit, for his love for his family, and dedication to his work. Ultimately, he paid the highest price in service to our Nation.

I believe that America's brave men and women in uniform are the nation's greatest assets. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost thanks and honor for their service and sacrifice.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the Vasquez family and my gratitude to all the Veterans of Post 168 for their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their post in memory of SSG Justin L. Vasquez.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Fallen American hero Marc Lee Allen who was KIA August 2, 2006. He inspired his Brother In Arms Chris Kyle to write his book, American Sniper. Last week on March 20th would have been Marc's 40th birthday. The graveyards are filled with magnificent selfless heroes like Marc. The ones who have given That Last Full Measure for all of us over the years. He was the first Navy SEAL to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Brothers In Arms knew him as a strong patriot, a fierce competitor, a loving husband, and a faithful Christian. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM
By Albert Carey Caswell

The First
The First In Freedom
The First in light
In every war,
in every battle,
in every fight,
there are always those who must be the first
to die

Which brings such heartache and tears of
sorrow to loved ones' eyes
Whose brave hearts must burn bright
Who we all need this night
So all at speed, so all in sight
Those brave hearts who fight the fight
Who bring their light
Who evil must fight
Who leave all they love to over evil rise
above

And lie down their most precious lives.
As up in Heaven the Angels cry
And don't ask why?
All in their most patriotic hearts comprised
And for all their Brothers In Arms ready to
die
As did you Marc all in your most magnificent heart comprised

As realized
Was such a heart of gold
To all our children must be told
To carry with us as we grow old
And for you Marc,
Heaven a place so holds
When, in that moment of truth be told
As it was you Marc who gave us the proof
with your lessons of gold
All in what is in a hero's heart to know
And so, made up of so
As into the line of fire you'd go
All in that Selfless Book of America's Who's
Who to know
Who but for the greater good gave all they
could

That last full measure,
for surely there can be no greater treasure
As you became the first Navy SEAL in this
war to lose your life,
And oh how Marc your loved ones and Brothers
will miss you so,
But, they will hear you on the wind
And when they awake they will feel your
presence next to them,
as overnight watching over you they have
been.

And when there comes a gentle rain,
you will feel our Lord's tear wash down upon
you to ease your pain
Until, one day up in Heaven together you
will all again

And you won't have to cry no more
The first to fight
The first to die
With tears in eyes we now ask why?
As like you Marc its upon our faith we must
rely

Sadly, because Freedom is not Free
But, only bought and paid for by you and all
of these
Who are the first to die

Could we?
Would we?
In the moment of truth would we up to new
heights so rise?
SEALED with a kiss
And now we lay your sacred body down to
rest
We pray for you and your family our Lord to
bless.

At Ease my son,
for you are one of America's Best
Who are The First In Freedom,
who all of us bless.
Amen.

IVY VICORY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

Ivy Vicory 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 Ivy Vicory 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 Ivy Vicory 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.

TRIBUTE TO LEE SCHULZ

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lee Schulz, Chief Executive Officer of IndependenceFirst in Milwaukee. Lee Schulz is retiring from IndependenceFirst in April, 2018 after serving in this position for over 32 years. He has led the organization with dedication, passion, enthusiasm and motivation.

When Lee Schulz assumed this position in 1986, IndependenceFirst was a small organization of seven people with an annual operating budget of \$260,000. Under his guidance, the agency grew to 106 in-house staff and 1,600 Personal Care Workers with a budget of \$31 million. Lee Schulz has developed several innovative programs while at IndependenceFirst, such as: the statewide Women and Abuse Program; Alternative Financing Program, Home Ownership Program; the Try a Gadget Resource Center; and the Personal Assistance Program. He also led the relocation of IndependenceFirst into its current, owned facility which is a model of accessibility. I have had the opportunity and pleasure to utilize the IndependenceFirst's facility on many occasions; it is a welcoming environment for all.

Mr. Schulz has served several terms on the National Council for Independent Living's (NCIL) Board of Directors, served on the State Independent Living Council (SILC), co-founded Wisconsin's Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC), served on several research and training center advisory committees on disability related issues, and served on several local non-profit board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lee Schulz for his unwavering commitment to uphold IndependenceFirst's mission to effectively facilitate the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Under his leadership, this multi-dimensional agency, IndependenceFirst, has assisted thousands of individuals with disabilities to live with dignity and independence. Next year, IndependenceFirst will celebrate their 40th year anniversary, without Lee Schulz at the helm but we know he has left a legacy of strong leadership there. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lee Schulz.

HONORING PASTOR RONALD G. TONEY, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, community activist and an outstanding Man of God, Pastor Ronald G. Toney, Sr., who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. An anniversary worship service was held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the church located at 1180 Bartlett Street in Macon, Georgia.

Pastor Toney was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the union of Mr. Elijah and Mrs. Mary Toney. He graduated Cum Laude from Morehouse College in 1985 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Religion and a minor in Psychology. Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he furthered his studies at The Interdenominational Theological Center and Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Toney received the most important calling in his life in 1976 as a minister of the gospel. He served as assistant minister at Greater Galilee Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before serving as assistant pastor of Damascus Baptist Church in Milwaukee from 1979 to 1981; associate minister of Antioch Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia from 1981 to 1985; and pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Thomson, Georgia from 1985 to 1993. On April 11, 1993, he answered the call to serve the Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, where he has served for the past twenty-five years. Under Pastor Toney's leadership, the foundation of the church and the size of the congregation have grown tremendously.

Although Pastor Toney's official title is Pastor of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, he quickly realized that a true minister of the gospel must take the ministry to the people. Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Pastor Toney has paid his rent and he has paid it well. Under his leadership, the church has created and grown ministries that have accomplished this very important purpose. These ministries include: Love's Attic, Community Thanksgiving, Community Scholarship, Angel Tree, and the church's Evangelism Ministry. The church also has community partnerships with the Macon Rescue Mission and Ingram/Pye Elementary School. He is founder and President of Ministry Addressing Neighbor Needs Abundantly, Inc. (MANNA), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of people that live in the Bartlett Crossing/Cherokee Heights Community—one of Macon's most economically disadvantaged communities. He is an active member of many other religious-affiliated and other community-based organizations where he continuously pours his time and energy into his community, including: Haitian Empowerment of Life Project (HELP); Co-Founder and President of Gifts of Grace Foundation; Second Vice Moderator for Union Baptist Missionary and Educational Association of Middle Georgia; Foreign Mission Director for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia;

First Vice President of the Sixth District for General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia; and an Instructor for the Congress of Christian Education. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Crisis Line Safe House, the Family Counseling Center, and Living Waters Recovery Home for Women.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Pastor Toney has gone far in life because his everlasting faith in the Lord is vivid testimony of His greatness to all whom he encounters. His love and commitment to Christ is reflected in his compassionate leadership, which makes him a guiding light within the community. He is an humble man who always puts himself in the shoes of others. It has been said that, "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with two hands, but climbs the ladder of this life with one hand and reaches back with the other." Pastor Toney has always climbed the ladder of life with an eye towards helping others to reach their full potential, both spiritually and socially.

Pastor Toney has achieved much in his life but none of it would be possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Patricia, their children, Jason, LaTai, Ronald, Jr., and Erika; their nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the congregation of Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest congratulations to the Pastor Ronald Gene Toney, Sr. A man of great accomplishment, he is an outstanding mentor and strong leader, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God who climbs "Jacob's Ladder" on a daily basis to make this world a better place to live for all of God's children.

RECOGNIZING THE GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL LADY COUGARS FOR WINNING THE TAPPS CLASS 5A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Grace Community School Lady Cougars on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A Basketball Championship.

The team finished this season with a most impressive 27–6 record, managing an undefeated 6–0 standing in their district. There was no doubt the Lady Cougars would be a powerful force in Texas and a basketball team with which to be reckoned.

The path to the championship found the Grace Community team defeating the number one ranked team 42–41 in the semi-final game.

Then, the Lady Cougars faced off with the team from Corpus Christi Incarnate Word to

battle for the state championship title. This match was decided decisively with a 37–31 victory for Grace Community School.

Clearly a team does not reach the ultimate and lofty plateau of excellence without coaches who know their players. There is no doubt that each of the individual players, coaches, and supporting personnel involved with the success of the Lady Cougars will benefit from having participated and witnessed the level of success. That success is only achieved when each individual gives all they have, while working together with focused dedication and passion.

This tribute goes out to all of the athletic staff including Athletic Director Joseph Walker; Head Coach Galen Taylor; Assistant Coaches Mark Taylor, Bri Polk and David Robinson; Managers Clara Roberts and Esther Nwachukwu.

The team members achieving this memorable accomplishment include Addie Daughtry, Jo Murray, Jordan Tauscher, Molly Hicks, Stella Thomas, Reagan Wilson, Emily Edwards, Lauren Evans and Lindsey Hudgins.

An athletic team cannot achieve any true level of excellence without unwavering support from its school and its school leaders including Head Administrator Jay Ferguson and High School Principal Brian Benscoter. That is exactly the kind of support the Lady Cougars experienced from the entire community of Tyler and Smith County. That is why congratulations go to all the outstanding family, friends, and fans who contributed to the success of the Lady Cougars during this championship season.

May God continue to bless all of their efforts both in school and as they one day finish high school and use that same drive and determination to make this country even stronger. Congratulations to the TAPPS State Basketball Champions, the Grace Community School Lady Cougars, as their legacy will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. DAVID POTTS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Judson College President Dr. David Potts of Marion, Alabama. I join with my constituents in mourning the recent passing of Dr. Potts, an exemplary educator, visionary longtime college president of Judson and a beloved member of the Marion community whose life's work influenced so many and helped to shape the advancement of Alabama's Black Belt.

Dr. Potts was born on July 1, 1950 to Louise and Alton Potts, in Birmingham, Alabama. He grew up understanding the importance of a good education. His parents often stressed that a quality education was the key to improving one's lot in life.

As a proud graduate of Ramsey High School, Dr. Potts took his parents' advice to heart, and enrolled at Samford University, in Birmingham, AL, where he earned both a B.A. and M.S. in Education. Dr. Potts went on to enroll in the University of Alabama where he received his Ph.D. in Higher Education.

In 1980, Dr. Potts began his service at Judson College in Marion, Alabama as its Vice President for Development. In this role, he was instrumental in establishing the Adult Degree Program, a non-traditional, external degree program for adult learners that would grow into Judson's Distance Learning Program. Dr. Potts briefly returned to Samford in 1985 to organize and implement "The Samford Commitment," a \$28 million capital campaign, and later rejoined the Judson administration as Executive Vice President for Administration in 1987. In this role, Dr. Potts sought to create a student-centered campus culture driven by continuous improvement, based on research completed for his doctoral dissertation.

In 1990, Dr. Potts was appointed President of Judson College by its Board of Trustees. Dr. Potts left a lasting legacy during his 28-year tenure as President of Judson. The list of his accomplishments at the college was as numerous as the many lives of those he impacted. Dr. Potts grew Judson's endowment from \$2 million to \$19 million dollars and raised \$35 million through capital campaigns for new construction and facility restoration, including the refurbishment of Judson's historic Jewett Hall. Nine new academic programs were added under his leadership, including three of the five largest majors currently pursued by Judson students. Throughout his tenure as president, the college increased the diversity of its faculty and student body and remained faithful to its Christian mission.

In addition to his exceptional service at Judson, Dr. Potts also worked to improve higher education across the Southeast. He served as both a Commissioner and an Executive Council Member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional body that accredits Judson and hundreds of others colleges and universities in the Southeastern United States. He served as a member or chair of countless SACSCOC on-site review committees, designed to help colleges measure their effectiveness. In 2013, Dr. Potts was honored with the James T. Rogers Distinguished Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Higher Education by SACSCOC in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the field of higher education.

As a committed civic leader, Dr. Potts made enormous contributions to the community. He was a founding board member of Sowing Seeds of Hope, a faith-based, non-profit organization seeking to address the root causes of poverty in Alabama. As a member of Sowing Seeds of Hope's Board of Directors and Health Care Task Force, Dr. Potts helped bring a dialysis center to Marion, promoted programs that helped children gain health insurance coverage, and actively worked toward the re-opening of a hospital in Perry County. He was a former president of Alabama Possible, formerly the Alabama Poverty Project, an organization co-founded by his father, former Alabama Baptist Convention executive secretary A. Earl Potts, which seeks to raise awareness of poverty issues statewide.

In his passing, Dr. Potts is survived by his wife of 44 years, Beth Bloodworth Potts; his daughters, Kristin Potts Helton (John) and Shannon Louise Potts (Phil); eight grandchildren, Gavin, Harper, John David, Laura Beth, Levi, Patch, Ryder, and Teague; and his sister, Elizabeth "Libby" Louise Potts (Dale Peterson).

On a personal note, Dr. Potts made a profound impact on my life and the lives of so many in my district. His passion for education was equal to his love of his community and his deep compassion for mankind. I am forever grateful for his dedication and tireless advocacy on behalf of the people of Alabama's rural Black Belt. In him, I saw a kindred spirit in our shared and unwavering belief in the people of the Black Belt. Despite the many obstacles, Dr. Potts saw the myriad of possibilities and unharnessed potential in the beauty and natural resources that the Black Belt had to offer. Through his dedicated efforts, he has left our community a better place for all and for that he will forever be remembered for his leadership, brilliance, and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. David Potts. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this nation, we pay tribute to his distinguished contributions for the betterment of the State of Alabama, and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service as President of Judson College.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DANNY DUNN OF TEMPLE, TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day as we celebrate and recognize the work of an exceptional citizen of our district: Mayor Danny Dunn of Temple, TX. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to the residents of his beloved hometown. His commitment to public service represents Texas values at their best.

Mayor Dunn has spent the past eight years devoting himself to make the city of Temple a great place to work and call home. Under his steady and forward-looking leadership, Temple has seen exponential changes, ranging from new public safety initiatives to large improvement projects to restore the city. His commitment to smart, lasting, and strategic development has improved the quality of life for all citizens of Temple and put the city on the track for continued growth in the future.

Mayor Dunn's public service doesn't end at 5 p.m. during the week. He is continuously trying to make Temple a better city by volunteering and working with numerous civic engagement groups such as museum committees, veteran research, and children hospitals. His great work has not gone unnoticed as Mayor Dunn has been the recipient of countless awards and recognition.

While Mayor Dunn has been honored to serve Temple, he knows that everything has its season and that it is time for him to allow the next generation of leaders to take the stage. Retirement from office does not mean that Dunn is finished improving and inspiring the city. He plans on continuing to work, volunteer, and be an active citizen of the city of Temple while pursuing graduate school and spending time with his family.

Mayor Dunn has left big shoes to fill as he has gone above and beyond the expected duties of a public servant. He has led Temple to new heights and positioned his hometown to

be one of the best in Texas. I salute his leadership, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, or what has come to be known as the Good Friday Agreement.

Twenty years ago today, leaders in the North of Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom joined in one of the world's most important diplomatic achievements—securing an agreement that would lead to the end of centuries of armed conflict.

The agreement required courage and fortitude by all those who sought an end to violence and a better way forward. It was unique in that it laid out commitments for the future as well as a path to achieving those goals. It allowed differing traditions to pursue their beliefs through politics rather than violence, and permitted those long excluded from the system to take up their cause in an open and transparent way.

The Good Friday Agreement was an achievement by and for those in the Republic, the UK, and the North, but the support it enjoyed from the United States pushed it over the line. While it never would have happened without the courage of leaders like Gerry Adams and Tony Blair, I also believe progress would have stalled absent the courage and tenacity of the Irish-American community, the Clinton Administration, and bipartisan support from Congress.

Today is a day to celebrate and recognize all that has been achieved: Belfast is no longer an active war zone, rural areas live in relative peace, and a centuries-long system of repression has in many ways been put to rest. The agreement has succeeded in so many ways that for many it is increasingly difficult for new generations to remember the severity of the conflict. In fact, many aspects of the peace-building process in the North have been studied and duplicated elsewhere throughout the world.

But this is also a moment to acknowledge the challenges ahead that we must tackle in order to sustain peace and prosperity. Many aspects of the agreement have made important progress including the devolution of justice and reforms to policing. But key provisions of the agreement related to the Irish language remain unfulfilled. There is still no Bill of Rights for the North. And the serious reality of Brexit threatens an unnecessary return to a border that would re-divide the North from the Republic.

All these challenges mean the United States cannot afford to take its eye off the ball. It means the Trump Administration should respond to bipartisan calls to move forward with the appointment of a special envoy to the North. It means the United States needs to engage diplomatically. And it means that commitments should be kept to ensure an ongoing peace.

In the end, the Good Friday Agreement was an incredible achievement. But it was a process, not an end in itself. We must continue to do all that we can to sustain the hope it created for a peaceful future not just for those in the North but for those who believe in human rights and human dignity throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING PAUL SCHMITZ

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Paul Schmitz and congratulate him on his retirement from the Christian County Board after twenty-two years of service.

For more than two decades, Paul has worked to improve the lives of citizens in Christian County, overseeing numerous projects within the county. He served as Chairman for four years and later served as Vice Chairman for more than 10 years.

Paul began serving on the board in 1996, and dove right in on tackling the big issues. Shortly after his election to the board, controversy arose surrounding a proposed livestock facility in Stonington. Paul took it upon himself to listen to the public's concerns and learn what he could about the issue.

However, if you ask him, Paul's proudest achievement during his time with the county board was bringing public transportation to Christian County. The Central Illinois Public Transit service was implemented in 2015 and offers door-to-door transportation, something he says is necessary for the aging population. Paul and the county board played an active role in introducing this service to the people of Christian County, which provides residents with reliable transportation to doctors' appointments, the grocery store, and community events.

I am proud to recognize Paul's work as a leader on the Christian County Board. He is a true public servant who has dedicated twenty-two years to the people of Christian County and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMANDA TAYLOR'S LEADERSHIP AT BASF SOUTHFIELD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Taylor as she receives an award from STEP Ahead for her work at BASF. She is an impassioned leader and is deserving of this honor.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Awards Gala is an annual celebration to honor women in manufacturing who are providing leadership in their companies. American women make up approximately 50 percent of the country's workforce, but only 29 percent of the manufacturing industry, and STEP Ahead seeks to highlight the women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equal field of work.

The Manufacturing Institute is recognizing 130 women in manufacturing from across the country who are leaders in their respective fields and positions, ranging from shop worker to company executive. Amanda Taylor is extremely deserving of this recognition for the work that she has done for BASF's Southfield Site through her leadership.

Amanda Taylor serves as an EHS Specialist III at BASF's southeastern Michigan site and plays a key role in day to day operations. Her work in revamping the site's safety programs helped increase employment from 300 employees to 800 as well as a distinguished and successful Responsible Care audit in 2016. Her attention to detail and passion for the work that she has done allowed for analysis of different practices the company has implemented and will continue to implement, including the recycling of 122,000 metric tons of refining catalysts each year. Ms. Taylor is known for her creativity and drive; as a leader, she is always looking for ways to better community engagement and has helped BASF form partnerships with the American Cancer Society and Dress for Success, a charity that helps female veterans find job opportunities after returning home. She serves as the Chair of the Southfield chapter of the Women in Business employee group, where she discusses ways to bring more women into the manufacturing industry. Ms. Taylor's leadership is inspiring and continues to open doors for women in the manufacturing industry, and she is truly deserving of tonight's recognition by STEP Ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Amanda Taylor for her groundbreaking work with BASF. We are grateful for her leadership as a woman in the workplace and look forward to seeing her continued success in the years to come.

LT. COL. MARK YOUNG TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Col. Mark Young for his 35 years of volunteerism in Colorado. His service to others began during the blizzard of 1982 where he spent all night in his truck with his CB radio answering calls to help stranded motorists.

On top of his volunteer work, Lt. Col. Young spent 29 years as a volunteer paramedic in Costilla County, using his knowledge as a paramedic to help thousands of his fellow citizens. In addition, he assisted his community in the creation of a volunteer ambulance service.

In 1996, Lt. Col. Young continued his service and joined the Montrose County Sheriff Posse as a volunteer search and rescue firefighter. Over the next 20 years he provided hundreds of hours of free helicopter service, and went on numerous rescue missions, providing vital helicopter support on each of those rescues. Just over a year ago, Lt. Col. Young and his team were able to rescue a pilot from Colorado Springs that got wrecked in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area in Garfield County Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was spending all night on Christmas Eve helping motorists during a blizzard, or flying a helicopter for Search

and Rescue missions, Lt. Col. Young has always been eager to serve his fellow Americans. It is my pleasure to recognize Lt. Col. Young for all his generosity. On behalf of the Third District of Colorado I would like to thank Lt. Col. Young for his generous service to his community.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMISSIONING OF USS "JOHN F. KENNEDY"

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the first aircraft carrier named after our 35th President of the United States, the USS *John F. Kennedy*. President John F. Kennedy began his political career as a member of this chamber and his legacy continues to this day with our colleague from Massachusetts, and his great-nephew, JOE KENNEDY.

The USS *John F. Kennedy*, nicknamed "Big John," was the only ship of her class and the last conventionally powered carrier built for the United States Navy. Since its first keel plates were laid down on October 22, 1964, at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Virginia, the ship grew weld by weld and deck by deck to its full magnitude—five city blocks in length, 252 feet across the flight deck, and the height of a 23-story building.

Big John was officially christened by President Kennedy's 9-year-old daughter, Caroline, on May 27, 1967, just two days short of what would have been President Kennedy's 50th birthday. Some 30,000 spectators gathered at the shipyard to witness the launching of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier. President Lyndon B. Johnson, delivering the principal address, was joined at the podium by members of the Kennedy family including Caroline, the Matron of Honor Jackie Kennedy, and a distinguished list of military and civilian officials.

As the bottle of champagne crashed across the bow with Caroline's swift blow, the ship floated free from the keel blocks that had supported her during years of construction. In that moment, Hull 577 became the mighty aircraft carrier USS *John F. Kennedy*. A little over a year later, the ship entered the fleet after being commissioned on September 7, 1968 with Captain Earl P. Yates in command.

The *Kennedy's* maiden voyage and several of her subsequent voyages were on deployments to the Mediterranean during the 1970s to help deal with the steadily deteriorating situation in the Middle East. It was during the seventies that Big John was upgraded to handle the F-14 Tomcat and the S-3 Viking. During her seventh deployment in 1978, *Kennedy* set a record of 31,568 flight hours and 12,438 arrested landings.

On January 4, 1982, Big John sailed as the flagship for Carrier Group 4 from Norfolk, Virginia on her ninth deployment and her first visit to the Indian Ocean. During her time there, the USS *John F. Kennedy* played host to the first visit of the Somali head of state aboard a U.S. Naval ship, held the largest mass re-enlistment ceremony in her history of-

ficiated by the Secretary of the Navy, and achieved her 150,000th arrested landing. Her cruise ended with port visits to Mombasa, Kenya and Toulon, France before returning home on July 14, 1982.

In October 1983, Big John was diverted to Beirut, Lebanon from her planned Indian Ocean deployment, after the Beirut barracks bombing killed 241 U.S. military personnel taking part in the Multinational Force in Lebanon, and spent the rest of that year and early 1984 patrolling the region. On December 4, 1983, ten A-6 aircraft from *Kennedy* along with A-6 and A-7 aircraft from USS *Independence* took part in a bombing raid over Beirut, in response to two U.S. F-14 aircraft being fired upon the previous day.

Setting sail in July 1986, *Kennedy* was the focus of the world when she served as the centerpiece of a vast international naval armada during the International Review in honor of the 100th anniversary and rededication of the Statue of Liberty. Big John hosted President Ronald Reagan and many other dignitaries during the review. *Kennedy* departed for the Mediterranean in August of that year, returning home in March 1987. During her November 1987 work ups, *Kennedy's* flight deck crew trapped their 200,000th arrested landing.

In August 1988, the USS *John F. Kennedy* departed Norfolk, Virginia for her 12th major deployment to the Mediterranean. During this deployment, a pair of MiG-23 Flogger fighter aircraft from Libya approached the carrier task force, which was 81 miles off the shores of Libya conducting routine flight operations in international water. Big John launched two F-14 Tomcats from the VF-32 "Fighting Swordsmen" to intercept the incoming MiGs and escort them away from the task force. During the course of the intercept, the MiGs were determined to be hostile and both Libyan aircrafts were shot down.

Big John entered the nineties eager to take on new challenges as part of America's commitment to help keep the world's oceans free for all nations. After spending the first half of 1990 participating in various exercises, the carrier paid a visit to New York City for Fleet Week and Boston for the Fourth of July—hosting more than 180,000 visitors.

In August of that year, the USS *John F. Kennedy* received short-fused orders to load up and get underway in support of Operation Desert Shield. Big John arrived in the Red Sea in September 1990 and was chosen as the flagship of the Commander, Red Sea Battle Force. On January 16, 1991, aircraft from the embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing Three, began Operation Desert Storm as part of a multi-nation coalition to drive Iraq out of neighboring Kuwait. Throughout the war, aircraft from JFK flew 2,895 sorties and 114 strikes delivering over 3.5 million pounds of ordnance over 11,263 combat hours. Following the cease fire, Big John passed through the Suez Canal for the fourth time in seven months and began her journey home. When the carrier arrived home in Norfolk, Virginia on March 28, 1991, her crew was witness to the greatest homecoming celebration and outpouring of public support since World War II.

Big John's next deployment from October 7, 1992 until April 7, 1993 was her 14th to the Mediterranean Sea. This cruise was marked by the developing turmoil in the former country of Yugoslavia. Throughout the ship's deploy-

ment, the crew hosted many visitors, both in port and at sea, and conducted numerous joint exercises with armed forces from Mediterranean littoral nations and spent most of her time in the Adriatic Sea. She passed another milestone by logging her 250,000th arrested landing on December 8, 1992.

Following the deployment and a two-year comprehensive overhaul at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, she was transferred to the Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville, Florida, which remained the ship's home port. In October 1995, the USS *John F. Kennedy* was designated to be an operational reserve carrier and Naval Reserve Force ship with a combined full-time active duty and part-time Naval Reserve crew, assigned to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. In this capacity, her new primary function was to provide a surge capability, and in peacetime, to support training requirements.

Following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, the Operational Reserve Carrier concept was discontinued and Big John was returned to the active duty fleet. Her 15th and 16th deployments included transits of the Suez Canal, operations in the Persian Gulf. There, she became the first U.S. aircraft carrier to make a port call in Al Aqabah, Jordan, while also playing host to the King of Jordan. During the first six months of 2002, Big John's aircraft dropped 31,000 tons of ordnance on Taliban and al Qaeda targets in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On August 8th, the carrier passed through the Strait of Gibraltar and returned to Mayport Naval Station on August 17, 2002.

The USS *John F. Kennedy* deployed again in 2004 with Carrier Air Wing 17 and sailed east in support of the Global War on Terror. She passed through the Suez Canal and on July 10, 2004, launched her first aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, providing critical overhead support for Multi-National Corps—Iraq and Iraqi forces. During the deployment, CVW-17 aircraft flew 8,296 sorties for a total flight time of 21,824 hours. The veteran carrier and her air wing transited the Suez Canal, homeward-bound, in late November returning to Mayport Naval Station on December 13, 2004. On December 30th, a little over two weeks later, the U.S. Navy announced its intention to decommission the ship.

On March 23, 2007, the USS *John F. Kennedy* was decommissioned. She set sail on her last voyage at the end of a tow line in July of that year, setting course for the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, which she reached on August 1, 2007. The carrier was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on October 16, 2009.

The 80,000 ton warship, namesake of the 35th President of the United States, saw 18 deployments and boasted 30 commanding officers in its illustrious 38 years of service. I commend all those who contributed to the legacy of this great ship—from its builders to the men and women in uniform who served aboard to keep our nation safe.

HONORING MS. HAWTHORN
BOLGER-WITHERSPOON

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms.

Hawthorn Bolger-Witherspoon. Hawthorn is a fourteen-year-old student from South Valley, New Mexico who has written a series of short stories titled "South Valley" in an effort to encourage young people in our area to read.

Hawthorn wanted to provide her fellow students in the Albuquerque area with reading material that they could relate to, so she based her stories off of some of the issues that affect our community. The stories are centered on a gang member who turns his life around but who is still faced with issues like drug abuse and domestic violence. The stories also discuss the immigration issues that are currently facing our community.

The stories will also include illustrations that were created by Hawthorn. To create the illustrations, she took photos of a family friend who works at an Albuquerque school, and then altered them to look like drawings. The family friend is actually a former gang member himself, making him a fitting inspiration for the illustrations and for the stories' main character.

Integral to Hawthorn's stories was local poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, whose work the stories are based on. Mr. Baca himself had a difficult upbringing and spent time in prison. It was during his incarceration that he developed his love of poetry. He has since had a highly successful career that has included both an American Book Award and a Hispanic Heritage Award in Literature. He also founded a non-profit publishing company called Cedar Tree Poetic, which will be publishing Hawthorn's stories.

In addition to getting her stories published, Hawthorn's work will also be represented in our nation's capital. Two of her photographs will be included by the Smithsonian Institution in an educational film.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New Mexico's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Hawthorn Bolger-Witherspoon on becoming a published author and commend her for her work to encourage reading in our community. I also want to thank Jimmy Santiago Baca for his generous assistance and for his wonderful work over the years. We look forward to following the work of these writers and wish them continued success.

IN CELEBRATION OF CONNIE
KALITTA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Connie Kalitta on his 80th birthday. He has bettered our nation's transportation industry through his lifetime of work.

Born in Mount Clemens, Michigan in 1938, Mr. Kalitta is a lifelong Michigan resident who has long spent his career giving back to the state that he loves. He has had a lifelong passion for drag racing, beginning in the 1950s and retiring driving in 1995. Throughout his driving career he has been awarded numerous accolades, including induction to the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 1992 and the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2002, as well as receiving the National Hot Rod Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2016.

In addition to his storied racing career, Mr. Kalitta has played a large role in our state and

country's aviation industry and history. He has been nominated to receive the prestigious National Air Carrier Association Ronald N. Priddy Partners in Airlift Medal just this year, signifying his longstanding influence on our state and the industry. He employs over 1,500 Michiganders at his air and motorsports stores in Oscoda. His friends know him as ambitious and kindhearted and always willing to try something new. We are grateful for his years of influence on our state and prestigious racing career and wish him a very happy birthday with many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Connie Kalitta on his 80th birthday. He has played an important part in our state's history and has had a prestigious racing career.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS SILBER

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Louis Silber, who has recently been awarded the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. I include in the RECORD an article from the Florida Bar News which made the announcement:

"Louis Marc Silber is known for his tenacious advocacy in two unrelated areas: the rights of homeowners facing fraudulent foreclosure practices, and the reproductive rights of women. His legal victories on the foreclosure front resulted in much-needed windfalls for legal aid, while his pro bono work has helped keep a West Palm Beach women's center in operation.

In 2007, Silber filed suit against David J. Stern and his law firm over accusations of foreclosure fraud. Silber won the class-action case, but some money went unclaimed, and a Cy Pres award benefitted the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. In 2017, legal aid again benefitted when a court agreed Silber could distribute the money to three charities—the Legal Aid Society, the Lord's Place (a homeless shelter), and the Miami Rescue Mission—in a second case involving Stern's victims.

In all, Silber and his team of lawyers provided more than \$400,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County through the two Cy Pres awards.

Silber's relationship with the Presidential Women's Center began when the center opened in 1980. He has been an advocate in important legal battles to protect reproductive rights in Florida. He played a lead role in blocking Florida's counseling law from going into effect and has provided local counsel against a law that would have limited some later term abortion procedures, all on a pro bono basis.

Silber has also supported patients with unique legal questions and has helped to defend the safety of physicians and staff.

For the first 16 years representing Presidential Women's Center, Silber provided all legal services for free. Since then, he has accepted pay for half his work at the insistence of founder and director Mona Reis, who says: "He is the force that has kept me going."

Silber, who earned his J.D. in 1973 from Georgetown University Law Center, was an assistant state attorney and then a partner with Cone, Wagner, Nugent, Hazouri and Roth before forming Pariente & Silber, P.A., with now Justice Barbara Pariente. That

firm lasted until 1993, with Pariente's elevation to the bench, and eventually became Silber & Davis."

Louis' persistent dedication to the rights of women is laudable, and I can think of no one more deserving of this award than him.

HONORING THE MONTCLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Montclair Public Library, located in the Township of Montclair, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

In 1869, Israel Crane and his wife invited friends and neighbors to organize a subscription library collection of about one hundred books. There were 30 participating families. The collection was housed under the counter at Betzler's Drug Store on Bloomfield Avenue (then called Main), near the Presbyterian Church (now the site of the Hinck Building). The books were moved to the Pillsbury Building, also located on Bloomfield Avenue, and the library obtained a charter as the Montclair Library Association.

The Montclair Library Association built a wood framed building on the east side of South Fullerton Avenue near Bloomfield Avenue, for \$1,700 in 1871. The Montclair Library Association was incorporated. The Association's building burned down during a raging blizzard on February 28, 1880. Amazingly, most of the 2,192 books were saved, moved, and issued from Central School at Church Street and Valley Road for several years.

Following New Jersey State legislation in 1890 authorizing the establishment of free public libraries, Montclair citizens voted on April 11, 1893 to establish a public, tax supported library. Funds and books from the Montclair Library Association were turned over to the newly established Montclair Free Public Library, which served all of Montclair's 8,656 residents. Its first quarters were on the second floor of Dr. John J.H. Love's office at 16 Church Street. Mary F. Weeks served as the first Library Director from 1893 to 1897. Coincidentally, Dr. Love's home was located at 50 South Fullerton Avenue, the current site of the Main Library.

The library was moved to an abandoned inn called the Munn Tavern, bought for about \$5,000 and renovated for an additional \$1,000 in 1898. The Munn Tavern, which still stands today, was later moved back from the road and is now part of the Evangelical Covenant Church at 17 Valley Road.

The first Branch Library was a rented room in the real estate office of John Mancini on Bellevue Avenue, near the train station, in 1899. Three hundred and fifty books from the Main Library formed the basis of this collection.

In 1902, the Carnegie Corporation gave \$40,000 to Montclair to fund the construction of a library. After 35 years and six different locations, Montclair Public Library had its first purpose-built library building on the former site of the Munn Tavern, which was built in 1904. The library at 73 Church Street served as the Main Library for 50 years. This building is now

part of the Unitarian Church, located at the intersection of Valley Road and Church Street.

The Carnegie Corporation gave Montclair a second sum of \$40,000 for the construction of the Bellevue Avenue Branch. The Bellevue Avenue Branch Library opened on December 26, 1914. The original design of the building remains intact today.

In February 1942, Montclair Public Library became the first public library in the United States to have a computerized circulation system. The International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) designed the Library's first ever punch card data processing system and equipment to record the loan and return of books. Librarians from all over the world visited Montclair to witness this pioneering venture.

Having outgrown the library building on Church Street, its home for 50 years, a new Main Library was built in 1955. The Davella Mills Foundation donated the former site of Dr. Love's home at 50 South Fullerton Avenue as the site for the new library building. They also contributed \$250,000 toward the \$800,000 construction cost.

The Montclair Public Library began community outreach in 1969 with bookmobiles in parks, playgrounds and on neighborhood street corners. Library use jumped 40 percent in two years as a result.

Neighborhood Information Center Helps Everyone (NICHE) was initiated as a federally funded community information and referral service in 1974. The goal of NICHE was to provide information as a catalyst for social change. It existed in a storefront at 375 Bloomfield Avenue from 1974 to 1977 and was fully incorporated into Montclair Public Library in 1979.

The Montclair Public Library was named one of the top five libraries in the nation by Library Journal in 2002. The Library also received the Bessie Bohme Moore Award for services to seniors in that year. Simultaneously, the Montclair Public Library Foundation was established to develop new financial resources exclusively for Montclair Public Library.

In 2004, the Montclair Public Library celebrated the Centennial anniversary of its first purpose built public library building on Church Street, the Library's home for 50 years until a new building was erected on its current site at 50 South Fullerton Avenue in 1954. The Centennial was an opportunity to renew community appreciation for Montclair Public Library's rich history and revitalize interest in Library assets.

The library has been in integral part of the greater Montclair community and has exceeded its mission to change lives every day through words, ideas and community connections.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Montclair Public Library on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF VERONICA BRAKER'S DISTINGUISHED WORK AT BASF

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Braker for her distinguished work as Vice President of Operations Performance Materials at BASF. She has been an outstanding leader for the company and Wyandotte plant for years.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Awards Gala is an annual celebration to honor women in manufacturing who are providing leadership in their companies. American women make up approximately 50 percent of the country's workforce, but only 29 percent of the manufacturing industry, and STEP Ahead seeks to highlight the women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equal field of work. The Manufacturing Institute is recognizing 130 women in manufacturing from across the country who are leaders in their respective fields and positions, ranging from shop worker to company executive. Veronica Braker is extremely deserving of this recognition for the work that she has done for BASF North America through her leadership.

Graduating from Christian Brothers University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Mrs. Braker worked for a variety of companies including Milliken & Company, The Clorox Company, GE, Flint Hills Resources, before joining BASF as a Manufacturing Manager in 2011. Since working at BASF, Ms. Braker has held multiple positions including Head of Operations for North America-Performance Materials and her current position, Vice President of Operations-Performance Materials. She has always been passionate about the environment, safety, and health, and seeks to better conditions in BASF facilities throughout North America. She is known at BASF for her positivity, hard work and ingenuity. Throughout her career, she has opened doors a little wider for the women who came after her, including the creation of a three-year career development program for women at the company. She is truly deserving of recognition at tonight's Annual STEP Ahead Awards Gala, and I look forward to seeing her continued contributions to the manufacturing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Veronica Braker for her lifetime of work in the manufacturing industry. She has provided distinguished leadership in the field for over 25 years.

HONORING JEAN GASPAR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents who is celebrating a remarkable milestone in her cancer journey. Jean Gaspar of Palm Harbor is celebrating 10 years of good health following her diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in 2008.

To give back after her cancer diagnosis, Jean became deeply involved with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by volunteering with Team in Training, a program that brings individuals together as a team to train for an endurance event, and Light The Night, an event that supports treatments that are saving the lives of patients today. Through Team in Training and Light The Night, Jean has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Jean is also an active advocate for policies to help blood cancer patients. I had the privilege of meeting with Jean last May when she visited Washington, D.C. to participate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Volunteer Leadership Conference. Jean's story is inspiring, and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her about policies to help blood cancer patients access their treatments.

On the heels of National Volunteer Week, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is recognizing Jean's good health and tremendous volunteerism on April 28, the night before she embarks on her first triathlon, by naming her the National Honored Teammate for the event. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus to Cure Blood Cancers and Other Blood Disorders, it is my privilege to join with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in congratulating Jean on reaching this health milestone and to wish her well at the St. Anthony's Triathlon on April 29.

REMEMBERING DR. RITA JACKSON SAMUELS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding businesswoman, dedicated public servant, mentor to many, trailblazer, and one of Georgia's most prolific women's rights advocates, Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels. Sadly, Dr. Samuels passed away on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at the age of 72. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at noon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

A native of Forsyth, Georgia, Dr. Samuels attended Claflin University, Morris Brown College, and Georgia State University and received her Business & Secretarial Science Certification from Dimery's Business College in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a young woman, she worked as a secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the administrations of several influential individuals and alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1971, Dr. Samuels became the first African-American female in Georgia's history to serve on the personal staff of a Georgia Governor as then-Governor Jimmy Carter's Coordinator of the Governor's Council on Human Relations. Governor Carter personally selected her to oversee the hanging of the Martin Luther King, Jr. portrait in the Georgia State Capitol. After Carter became president, she worked as a consultant with his

White House Staff in 1977. In 1983, served as Director of the Office of Citizens & Community Affairs under former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and on the national board of a National Anti-Poverty Rural Development Agency.

Dr. Samuels was not only a dedicated public servant but also a strong and passionate innovator and activist who fought tirelessly to preserve women's history and made sure that the achievements of African-American women were properly recognized. She founded the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, Inc. in 1981; advocated for the creation of the Georgia Commission on Women in 1991 and the Atlanta Commission on Women in 2001; and was the co-founder of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda and Women Flying High, LLC, a 100 percent female-owned business enterprise that is dedicated to increasing women's share of public and private sector contracts, in 2005. She also founded "The Ballot Power" of Women Voters Lecture Series and the Women in Government Internship and produced "Sisterhood Voices" on the Air Radio Show. She helped to launch the careers of several African-American woman leaders from rural Georgia counties who would go on to serve as mayors, commissioners, and judges.

Over the course of her life, she served as on a variety of boards and in a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. She also received numerous awards and commendations, including "Keys to the City" of several cities, including her hometown of Forsyth, Georgia. Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed her to the State Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and appointed her as the first African American to serve on the Georgia State Election Board. She was subsequently reappointed to the King Commission by Governors Zell Miller and Roy Barnes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing to help others?'" Dr. Samuels undoubtedly lived by this philosophy as she committed a prodigious amount of time and love in service to others and shared her enthusiasm and wisdom to better those around her. Moreover, The great Agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that, "It does not matter how much money you have in the bank; it does not matter what kind of car you drive; it does not matter how big the house is that you live in; it does not matter what type of profession you might be involved in; what matters in this life and what we all will be judged by is what we have done in this life as far as service to humanity." Rita served humanity well and carried out God's purpose for her life.

Rita leaves behind her loving husband of many years, Stanley, and a host of family and friends who will miss her deeply. She was a longtime member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

On a personal note, Rita was a dear friend of longstanding and valued supporter. I will miss the very sage counsel that she imparted to me over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in paying tribute to Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels, for her legacy of service to the state of Georgia, and extending our deepest condolences to Rita's family and friends. We pray

that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM THOMAS SLYE, JR.,
USA, RET.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel William Thomas Slye, Jr., USA, Ret., who became an angel on February 28, 2018. LTC Slye's dedication to the United States Army, his nation, and his beloved family mark a man whose life was devoted to service to others.

A native of Washington, D.C., LTC Slye enlisted in the Navy in 1953, where he served as an aircraft engine mechanic and found his passion for aviation. While the Navy could not offer him a venue to progress in his flying aspirations, he soon enlisted in the Army to pursue their flight training program.

LTC Slye's skills did not go unnoticed and he was assigned to the Presidential Flight Detachment where he flew in the Presidential Helicopter unit for both Presidents Johnson and Nixon. His valiant efforts to keep our nation's leaders safe during tumultuous times were next to none and will never be forgotten. Following a 28-year Army career that included three tours in Vietnam, LTC Slye retired in 1981 and settled in Belton, Texas.

Along with being a skilled and decorated pilot, LTC Slye was a true family man. He married the love of his life, Wanda Rose Bridges, in 1957 and went on to raise three beautiful children: Mike, Teri, and Sandie. He lived a full and inspirational life and was actively involved in his church, Knights of Columbus, and community.

LTC Slye's dedication to both nation and family reflect the best values we hold dear in Central Texas. I salute his devotion to our highest ideals and join his loved ones in mourning his loss.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Former State Senator, current Harris County Commissioner, and my dear friend, Rodney Ellis for receiving an Alumni Award from Texas Southern University. The award is given to outstanding alumni who typify the TSU tradition of excellence through personal and professional accomplishment and/or community service. This is the second year the award is given.

Rodney holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Texas Southern University, a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and a Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commis-

sioner Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 1990, Rodney Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council as well as Chief of Staff to the late United States Congressman Mickey Leland.

He, then, went on to serve in the Texas State Senate for more than 25 consecutive years and earned the respect of his colleagues and constituents for his dedicated leadership on civil rights, criminal justice, economic development, education, environmental policy, and workforce development. On November 8, 2016, Rodney Ellis was elected Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, where he serves approximately 1.1 million people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Ellis is a strong supporter and graduate of Texas Southern University. For 25 years, Commissioner Ellis represented Texas Senate District 13, which TSU resides in. Recently, Commissioner Ellis has contributed over \$15 million in a partnership with the City of Houston to improve the roads around the University.

At his core, Commissioner Ellis believes that our government should ensure that all people, regardless of who they are, have equitable opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves and for their family. As Harris County Commissioner, he is committed to this ideal by providing quality and accessible services and programs that enrich the lives of people in Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all Harris County residents.

Amidst all of his many accolades and achievements, he attributes being a husband to Mrs. Licia Green-Ellis and father to his four children as his greatest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Commissioner Ellis for receiving the Alumni Award and recognize all who organize and contribute to Texas Southern University's commitment to excellent education. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioner Ellis on his many years of service and honor his legacy and inspiration he has given to the people he has had the privilege of serving.

IN RECOGNITION OF HURON
VALLEY PACE'S NEW FACILITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Huron Valley PACE as they break ground on their new facility. They have served Michigan's seniors for years and will expand their services in this new facility.

Huron Valley PACE was established by two nonprofits, the United Methodist Retirement Communities and the Area Agency on Aging 1B, in order to provide an alternative to nursing home care. The organization's mission is to allow seniors to age with dignity and remain independent in their own homes, and every doctor and nurse at PACE seeks to live out that principle every day. Huron Valley PACE is based out of Ypsilanti, Michigan and serves seniors in Washtenaw County, as well as Monroe, Oakland, Livingston, and Wayne Counties. PACE serves all Michigan adults

age 55 or older who have ongoing healthcare needs and provides the services covered by Medicare and Medicaid as well as tailoring plans to suit individual needs of seniors as seen fit by facility staff. Seniors can expect to have their medical and supportive needs met when they visit PACE, and the Ypsilanti facility houses a medical clinic as well as various recreation areas.

The facility currently has four pillars of patient service including: medical, wellness, social, and support. They are known in our Michigan community for their well-rounded care and individualized service. The \$1 million dollar grant they received will allow Huron Valley PACE to double the size of their facility and greatly increase their patient capacity. This will allow for Michigan's increasing senior population to be provided with PACE's top-notch service and allow for the elderly to age with dignity and independence. We are grateful for the exemplary service provided at Huron Valley PACE and look forward to seeing its continued development and effectiveness as it grows in size and capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Huron Valley PACE as they break ground on their facility additions and greatly expand their current care to southeast Michigan's seniors. The organization has made a significant impact on the well-being of seniors through its medical and social services.

HONORING HOUSTON'S CENTENARIANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, down in Houston, Texas, you can find several remarkable individuals celebrating huge milestones this year. Clarewood House Senior Community is home to 11 centenarians. Mr. Speaker, centenarians, simply put, are people who live to see over 100 years of age. Combined between the 11 residents, that totals over 1,000 years of life. In fact, the Clarewood House is believed to have the most people, 100 years and older, living at one address. These incredible folks have survived and seen everything, from the Great Depression to last year's horrific hurricane.

These centenarians come from all walks of life. They include a World War II veteran, retired teachers, and women who supported their families and businesses all throughout their lives.

Recently, Clarewood House threw a huge celebration in honor of the residents who are marking their 100th birthday. It was an opportunity to honor their lives and celebrate a milestone not many are able to see through. Mr. Speaker, here are the names of the living legends turning 100 years or older this year at Clarewood House: Margaret Kilty, Helen Brown, Byrom Wehner, Charles Omar Logan, Lena Brenner, George McMahan, Margaret Shearer, Inez Heggie, Laura "Wini" Robertson, Bettye Drisdale, and Virginia Harrell.

It is an honor to recognize these extraordinary Texans today. Whether it's just good genes or working out and eating healthy, reaching 100 years old is a truly remarkable feat. I hope they continue to see many more

years of life and want to wish each and every one of them a happy birthday.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SANTA CRUZ YACHT CLUB

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Cruz Yacht Club as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. For 90 years, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club has dedicated itself to the enrichment of our community by supporting yachting and sailing.

The Santa Cruz Yacht Club was established in 1928 by local businessmen Bruce Sharp, Charlie Towne, and Sam Leask Jr. Despite low membership and meager availability for meeting venues in the yacht's early years, the club persisted and soon held their first sponsored race from Long Beach to San Francisco.

Over the next 20 years, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club grew into a community institution. In 1938, they began hosting the premier local sailing event, the Windjammers Race, which remains popular today. In the 1970s, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club was at the forefront of the ultra light displacement boat (ULDB) movement, which revolutionized yacht racing. In the late 1970s, Santa Cruz Yacht Club member Bill Lee's ULDB *Merlin* shattered the Trans Pacific Race record, signaling to the rest of the world that Santa Cruz ULDBs could compete at the highest level. *Merlin* held that record for 20 years.

To this day, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club hosts numerous local, regional, national, and international regattas. The Santa Cruz Yacht Club also serves the community by providing a variety of sailing programs and scholastic programs for students of all ages. Additionally, the club offers educational materials on accident prevention and promotes environmentally friendly practices to ensure a clean environment for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for their service to the central coast of California.

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTEN- NIAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONNECTICUT'S NAVY IN- STALLATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of the Sesquicentennial of Connecticut's Navy installation. On April 11, 1868, one hundred and fifty years ago today, a Deed of Gift from the State of Connecticut and the City of New London was signed, conveyed, and presented to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, himself a native of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The suitability of New London Harbor as a possible site for an established Navy base or depot had been discussed as early as 1799,

but it was not until 1862 when a naval committee began considering possible locations for such a base. Instead of choosing a competing location, southeastern Connecticut's Congressman Augustus Brandegee succeeded in inserting language into the 1867 Naval Appropriations Act which directed the Secretary of the Navy "to accept a deed of gift when offered by the State of Connecticut." Following a scouting visit by Commodore J.P. McIntstry, the land along the eastern side of the Thames River, straddling the towns of Groton and Ledyard, was selected as the desired location. The local New London Navy Yard Committee, led by John Rogers Bolles, purchased all or portions of three large farms and other adjoining parcels to compose that initial gift of land.

The footprint of that nascent naval base was only 5,200 feet long and 700 feet wide, but the base slowly expanded as it served in the dry-docking of ships and then as a coaling station. Between 1868 and 1912, the New London Navy Yard supported a diverse range of missions, including berthing inactive Civil War-era ironclad warships and refueling naval vessels traveling in New England waters.

The installation's beginnings as the "Home of the Submarine Force" can be traced to 1900, when the Navy acquired its first submarine, USS *Holland*, for a sum of \$160,000. In 1912, Congress rejected the Navy's proposal to close the New London Navy Yard, following an impassioned effort by eastern Connecticut Congressman Edwin W. Higgins, one of my predecessors in this office. During that debate, he stated that the "action proposed is not only unjust but unreasonable and unsound as a military proposition." He was right, and thankfully he prevailed in ensuring that the base remained open. New London then became the homeport for six submarines in October 1915, as well as the first ship built specifically as a submarine tender, USS *Fulton*, which arrived that November.

One-hundred and fifty years after its humble beginnings, Naval Submarine Base New London has grown to occupy more than 680 acres along the east side of the Thames River, with more than 160 major facilities, 15 nuclear fast-attack submarines, and more than 70 tenant commands and activities, including the Submarine Learning Center, Naval Submarine School, the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, the Naval Undersea Medical Institute, and the newly established Undersea Warfighting Development Center.

Every day, our deployed undersea Sailors conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions along coastlines across the globe, track the movements of adversary navies, and deter threats to our homeland. While SUBASE New London has grown in size and importance, and the technology aboard submarines has evolved, the men and women who crew these vessels have constantly served with Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

In 1912, Congressman Higgins told his colleagues in Congress that "Connecticut stands ready, as she always has, to bear her part of the burdens of the national defense." This remains as true today as it was in 1912 or even in 1868. My state is proud to be home of our nation's "first and finest" submarine base, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this important milestone for Connecticut, for our nation, and for all those who serve, and

have served, at Naval Submarine Base New London.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. ROY FUJIWARA

HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roy Fujiwara, a Honolulu resident, decorated World War II veteran, and loyal American citizen.

Mr. Fujiwara was born February 15, 1918, in Seattle, Washington. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on January 17, 1941, soon after Pearl Harbor. He was a patriot prepared to die for his country, telling his family he "was going, but not coming back."

While he served the United States, his family was removed from their homes and sent to the Puyallup Relocation Center. The family was later separated and sent to internment camps that held Japanese-Americans throughout the war.

Mr. Fujiwara joined the Army's segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit that would go on to become the most decorated in the history of the United States Armed Forces. In 1945, the 442nd was ordered to attack Mt. Folgorito in Italy. From its heights on the western terminus of the Gothic Line, the enemy could block American operations all the way to the coast and for several miles out to sea. The mountain had to be taken for the Allies to advance.

The 442nd made a surprise attack that required a stealthy eight-hour climb up the mountain in complete darkness. Italian partisans led the way, and Mr. Fujiwara climbed carrying the heavy Browning Automatic Rifle, or B.A.R. He remembers the battle at the

summit that nearly cost his life: "The Germans looked for us B.A.R. men because we had the firepower. My buddy got shot, and I could hear him yell, 'Roy! I'm hit!' I stuck up my head and the sniper knew exactly where I was . . . Pow!"

The sniper's bullet hit Mr. Fujiwara next to his right eye and exited his neck, which still today bears a six-inch scar. Not yet spent, the same bullet shattered his right shoulder. His fellow soldiers carried him down the mountain, and he spent 30 days in the hospital with his arm in a cast and his jaw wired shut. Months of rehabilitation were to follow. The 442nd took the mountain, broke the Gothic Line, and the Allies continued to push the enemy out of Italy. Mr. Fujiwara's two brothers also served in the U.S. Army.

After the war, he returned to find the Seattle Japanese-American community trying to pick up the pieces of its pre-Internment existence. He applied for work at Fredric and Nelson, which he calls the "biggest and nicest department store in Seattle at that time" and worked there 32 years. The store had not hired Japanese Americans until Mr. Fujiwara broke the color barrier. He met and married Sei Kanogawa, who passed away in 2012, and has one son, Tod Fujiwara, who lives in Honolulu.

442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans, including Mr. Fujiwara, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol in November 2011. Mr. Fujiwara also earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantryman's Badge for his service.

Mr. Fujiwara turned 100 years old on February 15, 2018, celebrating with his family and friends in Honolulu. He remains a patriotic American and an American hero for serving his country and enduring the wounds his service brought. He has led a productive life, has a great sense of humor, and always conducts himself with dignity, in spite of the many chal-

lenges he has faced. He is a treasure to his native state of Washington, his new home state of Hawaii, and the United States of America. I extend my sincerest birthday wishes to Roy Fujiwara and wish him many more healthy and happy years.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, this Equal Pay Day, I rise to call for the closing of the gender pay gap.

Last year, women earned a meager 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

That's a \$10,000 difference in paychecks or another 100 days of work to earn what men earned just last year.

That's shameful.

Even more shameful: for women of color, the pay gap is even wider: 63 cents on the dollar for Black women; and 54 cents for Latinas.

In my own district, the gender pay gap stands at 89 cents.

While that is better than most, we cannot rest until women in Central Ohio and across the country are paid dollar-for-dollar.

Congress can help make pay equity a reality by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would make it harder for pay discrimination to infect the workplace.

Because, when women are given a level playing field, companies benefit, families prosper, communities grow, and our economy is stronger.

Yes, when women succeed, America succeeds.