

Raised in a family of public servants, David followed the legacy of his father and grandfather by becoming a firefighter in the same department where they had both served. David graduated from Indiana Christian Academy, in Anderson, and joined the Pipe Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department in May 2007, serving selflessly for 11 years. David was even training to become an EMT to expand his role within his community. When David wasn't volunteering, he worked as a fork lift operator at Red Gold in Elwood. David and his wife Autumn were married for 5 years; she was his soulmate. In addition to his wife, David is survived by his parents, Melvin and Darlene Wittkamper; sister, Megan (husband Chad) Welsh; brother, Devin Wittkamper, and many other loving family members.

Kyle and David will be forever missed by their families as well as their colleagues and friends in Elwood and at the Pipe Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are grateful for Kyle's and David's service to our Hoosier community and it is my privilege to honor them today. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I would like to recognize Kyle and David for their impact and service to our community. I extend my deepest condolences to Kyle and David's families, the Pipe Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department, their friends, and their fellow volunteer firefighters who mourn their loss. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 130 and 131, and voted Nay on Roll Call vote 132.

RETIREMENT OF ROBERT M. LIGHTFOOT, JR., ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, NASA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of an outstanding civil servant who has dedicated his professional life to furthering our nation's goals in space exploration at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr., Acting Administrator of NASA will retire on April 20, 2018 after 29 years of service at NASA.

Mr. Lightfoot's NASA career, which began in 1989 as a test engineer and program manager for the space shuttle engine technology testbed program at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is marked by numerous leadership roles, including as: assistant associate administrator for the Space Shuttle Program at NASA Headquarters from 2003 to 2005 where he worked on space shut-

tle Return to Flight activities following the loss of Space Shuttle *Columbia* and her crew in 2003; deputy director of the Marshall Space Flight Center from 2007 to 2009, and director of the Marshall Space Flight Center from 2009 to 2012.

In 2012, Mr. Lightfoot, became associate administrator of NASA, the highest ranking civil servant position in the agency.

Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2017, following the departure of NASA Administrator Charles Bolden at the end of the Obama Administration, Mr. Lightfoot became the Acting Administrator of NASA.

Since the date he assumed the Acting Administrator role, Mr. Lightfoot has led NASA through the transition to the current Administration, through the Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget submissions, through Congressional budget hearings, and through the reestablishment of the National Space Council and NASA's participation therein.

Perhaps, most importantly, Mr. Lightfoot has provided steadfast leadership of NASA's programs, including the development of the Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle, the commercial crew program that will reestablish U.S. human spaceflight capability to low-Earth orbit, the development of the James Webb Space Telescope and Mars 2020 flagship science projects, the commencement of the aeronautics x-plane project, and the continued advancements in space technologies that will enable future NASA missions.

The nation is fortunate to have had such a committed, experienced, and technically knowledgeable leader at the helm of NASA for what has become the longest Acting Administrator period in the agency's history.

Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising that Robert Lightfoot has received numerous prestigious awards and accolades for his service to NASA, engineering, and civil space, including the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives, the highest honor for Federal government work. However, like the NASA workforce he leads, Mr. Lightfoot never forgets that he is part of a team.

In an interview with NASA Tech Briefs in May, 2010, Mr. Lightfoot said, "Spaceflight is very much a team sport, and being part of these teams, whether it was running engine tests, whether it was return to flight, whether it's working through problems associated with anything we're working on, if I can do that, that's what an engineer does. But you rarely do it by yourself. I have been very fortunate to be part of some tremendous teams, and the higher up I've moved, there are still teams there . . . they're just different."

For his excellence in engineering contributions to NASA, for his 29 years of dedication to furthering the nation's goals in civil space, and for his outstanding leadership of NASA through an extended period as Acting Administrator, I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation, and send my best wishes to Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr. as he retires from Federal government service and embarks on the next chapter of his life.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 13 high school students who were chosen by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. These students are Madeline Brummet, Joslyn Burnett, Dalton Duncan, Bergen Evans, Devyn Kincade, Jack Lewis, Caitlyn Lutters, Owen Richardson, Giovanna Rubio, Dallas Snow, Kimberlee Sukle, Aleigh Trimble, and Jordan Wieck.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists. These students are nominated by their teachers or the Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into medical research fields or be physicians, and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their goal. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from leaders in the medical field as well as government officials, top medical school deans, leaders from the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

These students' acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader. Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of physicians and medical scientists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

SERGEANT GONZALEZ

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Sammy Gonzalez. A Lee County Sheriff's Office deputy since 2007, he has made an incredible commitment to run from their headquarters in Fort Myers to the Fallen Officer Memorial in Tallahassee, Florida.

This effort, a run of approximately 400 miles, is being made on behalf of family members left behind following the on-duty death of a law enforcement officer. Sergeant Gonzalez is raising funds and awareness for Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), a not-for-profit organization that assists the families of fallen officers. C.O.P.S. pays for counseling, summer camp, and other programs for family members of officers killed in the line of duty.

This nine-day run, which the Sergeant refers to as the "Run for the Fallen," will require Gonzalez to cover approximately 45 miles each day. The venture, in its entirety, equates