

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE AUSTIN

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of my colleagues Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Steve Austin, a Delaware Fire Service veteran and recipient of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's (CFSI) 2018 Mason Lankford Fire Leadership Award.

A selfless citizen, Steve served the people of Newark in one of the state's largest volunteer fire companies after joining the fire service in 1963. His willingness to help others has been a source of comfort to Delawareans experiencing times of overwhelming loss and tragedy. Steve's sacrifice and volunteer spirit is a testament to his character.

Steve's work was essential to the formation of the CSFI in 1989 and since then, he has dedicated his life to advancing the health and safety of firefighters across the nation for more than three decades. His life-long passion is evident in his founding of the Emergency Responder Safety Institute and Delaware Chapter of International Arson Investigators. Steve has been a powerful advocate at the local, state and federal level on issues that affect the ability of first responders to safely resolve dangerous situations and continue living a long, healthy life.

Steve is an extraordinary ambassador for all emergency personnel and is much deserving of the CFSI's 2018 Fire Leadership Award. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and sincerest congratulations to Steve for receiving the CFSI Leadership Award and for his devotion to the people of Delaware. The First State is lucky to have members of the community who volunteer their time and sacrifice their lives for the greater good. Steve, like many other emergency workers will tell you, "I'm just doing my job."

REMEMBERING LEONARD STEFANELLI

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Leonard Stefanelli, a native Californian who embodied the American spirit of hard work and determination.

Leonard was the son of immigrants in San Francisco, and after graduating high school he took a job as a garbage collector for the Sunset Scavenger company. Through his hard work, he quickly rose up the ranks, and just 12 years after he started out on the back of a truck, he became president of the company.

Not content with his personal success however, Leonard used his role as president to begin implementing changes that would improve the entire industry. He reformed the way trash was collected in San Francisco, doing away with the old time-intensive practices that often resulted in backbreaking work for collectors. He continued modernizing both the company and the industry throughout his career.

Leonard was also proud of his service in the U.S. Navy aboard submarines, and of course, his family, including his wife, Virginia, and his children, Joseph and Gina. I know that they, along with the rest of his family and friends, join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Founded in 1918 by just 29 dentists as the American Society of Exodontists, the organization has now grown to include more than 9,000 members today.

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is the surgical arm of dentistry. According to the American Dental Association, this specialty includes the diagnosis, surgical, and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries, and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.

These surgeons are a vital component of the medical profession. They practice in a variety of settings, including private clinical practice, ambulatory surgical centers, and hospitals. They also provide service in academia, the military, and the research industry. Many of these surgeons reside and provide critical patient care in my home state of Texas.

This year, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons will host its 100th Annual Meet and Scientific Sessions and Exhibition. As the members gather in Chicago to consider "Safety and Innovation for the Next Century," we also should reflect on the last 100 years of progress, led by this organization.

Today, I recognize the members of the American Association for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons for their work, and offer my support for their mission to assure excellence in patient care by advancing, promoting, and preserving the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MICHAEL MULLINS

**HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to wish Mr. Michael A. Mullins a very happy 80th birthday, which he celebrated on February 1. Mr. Mullins faithfully served our country for 40 years in the U.S. Army and as a civil servant with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency before his retirement in 2001.

I would like to thank Michael for his service to the United States, and wish him a year full of blessings and good health.

RECOGNIZING BETTY BABCOCK

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer Betty Babcock, of the Onondaga Nation's Snipe Clan my best wishes on the celebration of her 95th birthday on April 22nd.

Meaning "People of the Hills," the Onondaga Nation and people celebrate a rich and vibrant culture. Standing as the "Keepers of the Fire" due to their central location, the Onondaga served as the keystone to the great Iroquois Confederacy, forming a system of governance that inspired America's founding fathers in crafting the Constitution of the United States. In a storied and respected society where matriarchy is especially revered, Betty is certainly the keeper of her family's hearth, embodying an inextinguishable flame.

Betty has a close-knit family including: her husband of sixty years Milton, daughter Darlene, grandchildren Betty and Eric; and her brother Oscar. Family has always played a key role in Betty's life; as a young teenager, Betty became responsible for raising her younger brothers and sister, and maintains her dedication to her family to this day. Betty's first job was at the offices of Syracuse Attorney Bob Daugherty, after which she opened and operated a very successful restaurant. She has always been known for her generosity, sense of humor and wonderful meals.

The celebration of Betty's 95th birthday is a truly momentous occasion. Betty has witnessed great milestones in our Nation's history, and I am honored to wish her a happy birthday.

● 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.

HONORING OF HIS HOLINESS SRI  
SRI RAVI SHANKAR

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor his Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, a Hindu spiritual leader and humanitarian who has devoted his life to eliminating violence and spreading compassion throughout the world.

His Holiness's teachings center on the importance of spirituality and its ability to enhance personal traits such as enthusiasm, love, and compassion. According to his teachings on spirituality, the bond that all humans share is stronger than any other characteristic that divides us, be it religion, race, or nationality.

His Holiness has also taken part in extensive humanitarian work across the world, from organizing volunteers for many natural disasters over the past twenty years, including assistance for victims of the 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, to dedicating efforts to promoting interfaith dialogue through the Board of World Religious Leaders for the Elijah Interfaith Institute.

In addition, His Holiness has played a large role in the development of social initiatives all over the world, and especially in India. He is involved in Volunteer For a Better India, an organization which promotes voter awareness and registration as well as free health camps in India. In 2009, His Holiness established Sri Sri University in Odisha; in 2017, the school was awarded a Best Innovative University Award at the 2017 Education Excellence Awards.

In recognition of his contributions to the promotion of global values, His Holiness has received the highest awards of many countries, including India, Colombia, Peru, and Paraguay. In 2016, the Government of India awarded him the "Padma Vibhushan," India's second highest civilian award.

Today, I recognize his Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for all that he has done to promote peace, empathy, and acceptance in our world. I commend him for the good work he has done through both his teachings and his humanitarian service, and I thank him for his continued efforts to make the world a better place.

REVEREND JOHN ANDERSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend John Anderson for receiving the 2017 Image from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. Rev. Anderson's positive outlook and impact has helped to shape a kind, giving and people-focused congregation and community. Through his work as the Reverend of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rev. Anderson has

helped bring the Arvada community together and address a variety of disparities, specifically as it relates to education.

Congratulations to Rev. John Anderson for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his contribution to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB PRICE,  
SUNDAY DISPATCH PERSON OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Price, who was named the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch's Person of the Year for 2018. The Sunday Dispatch Person of the Year award recognizes the person who has had the greatest impact on life in the Greater Pittston area. Bob will be honored by the Sunday Dispatch and his community on May 8, 2018.

Bob resides in Dupont, Pennsylvania with his wife of 28 years, Ellen. He is a 1979 graduate of Wyoming Area High School. After high school, Bob attended Penn State University and received degrees in Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications Technology. He currently works as the Regional Fleet Manager for Johnson Controls in Allentown.

Bob is well known throughout the Greater Pittston Area for the active role he takes in his community. He currently serves as the president of the Dupont Borough Crime Watch and is a member of the Lions Club. Along with fifteen other volunteers, Bob formed the Progress Committee in 2014 to schedule events throughout Dupont's centennial year. In 2017, Bob was a central figure in the actual planning of the Borough's 100th anniversary celebration. Bob is also involved with other local organizations such as Paint Pittston Pink, the Greater Pittston Cultural Coalition, Pittston Arts Council, and NEPA Inclusive. Bob is an accomplished photographer, and he can often be found at these events taking pictures.

It is an honor to recognize Bob Price as he accepts the Person of the Year from the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch. I am grateful for all the work he has done on behalf of Dupont Borough and the Greater Pittston area. I wish him all the best and hope that he continues to inspire others with his charitable service to his community.

HONORING PETER MALLON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Peter Mallon. Peter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Peter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Peter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Peter has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Peter built an eight-foot tall wood fence around three recycling bins at the entrance to Liberty United Methodist Church.

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

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARTRELL  
JACKSON

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate Martrell Jackson as he is recognized with the Youth on the Move Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Mr. Jackson has dedicated his time to developing himself as a businessman and helping others in our community. At age 12 he began working to maintain lawns in his community and used the profits of his work to invest in a snow blower that he could use to expand his services. He also helps our community by volunteering with the Men Making a Difference Program and assisting his church by teaching the younger children. He has shared his passion with those around him, inspired other with his kind heart and charisma, and dedicated himself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable MICHAEL D. BISHOP of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes Martrell Jackson for his outstanding achievements. Therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor this milestone. May others know of my warmest wishes and continued support in the future.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAPA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve.

In 1968, the Napa Board of Supervisors passed a zoning ordinance to preserve open space and prevent future over-development by creating the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve, the first agricultural preserve in the United States. The ordinance established agriculture and open space as the best use of the land in the valley and foothill areas of Napa County.

Originally the ordinance protected 26,000 acres of land and today the preserve includes

31,609 acres. The Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve has been a vital component to the health of Californian agriculture and has led the way in agricultural protection and preservation in California for the past half century. As we continue our efforts to preserve the Napa Valley, property owners have voluntarily placed their land into conservation easements to ensure the acreage remains rural through the preserve.

The ordinance was written to monitor development and ensure that the natural landscape would be protected and that the environment would be utilized in a mutually beneficial way for residents, farmers and developers. The protection from rapid urbanization has enabled agriculture to flourish in the 21st century and has allowed Napa to remain the premier county for California wine growers.

The preserve has ensured the long-term conservation of Napa County's agricultural legacy and its future as an essential agricultural region in the United States. Because of the preserve the region will continue to be the ideal location for producing wine grapes and other types of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve is crucial to the preservation of the agricultural output of Napa County and all of Northern California. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor its 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent April 16, 2018 due to unforeseen circumstances. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Roll no. 140—H.R. 146—On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill: Yea, and Roll no. 141—S. 167—On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended: Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2018, I missed two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Roll Call Vote 140, H.R. 146—Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, as amended; and YES on Roll Call Vote 141, S. 167—National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 140, and YEA on Roll Call No. 141.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes No. 140 and 141. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 140, H.R. 146, Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Acquisition Act, as amended, I would have voted YEA; and on Roll Call No. 141, S. 167, National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act, I would have voted YEA.

JOHN BEATTIE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor John Beattie for being selected as the 2017 Man of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. John's outstanding community involvement, generosity and overall impact on Arvada is exemplified by the amount of time he has donated to the Arvada Food Bank helping to provide thousands of children, families, individuals, seniors and veterans with fresh food. His spirit of service and dedication to his community makes him a role model in the community and is why he was selected as the 2017 Man of the Year.

Congratulations to John Beattie for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his contribution to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOTTIE ALBERT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my dear friend Lottie Albert. Lottie was born on December 25, 1915 to Eva and Louis Wernick in New York City. Twenty-one years later, Lottie married Sol Albert and the two enjoyed 55 years of marriage, and have two lovely daughters, Harriet and Doreen. Lottie was the loving grandmother to Eric, Glenn, and Lowell, as well as a great-grandmother to Kyle, Samantha, Heather, and Seth.

Lottie was a resident and community leader of Broward County for over 40 years. It has been my honor to see Lottie's commitment and passion for serving her community. She was an amazing individual, who dedicated herself to helping so many throughout South Florida.

In 1988, she was inducted into the Area Agency on Aging's Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Additionally, Broward County honored Lottie in 2005 by declaring November 12th as "Lottie Albert Appreciation Day."

In 2012, Lottie was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame for her work with the Ann Storck Children's Center, the Elderly Interest Fund's MEDIVAN Program, and the Alzheimer's Family Center.

Mr. Speaker, Lottie was an extraordinary friend. She helped me at every stage of my career, never wavering, never faltering. On good days and bad days, I knew Lottie would be there for me as she was for so many of us. Her advice, wisdom, humor, and vast knowledge of life will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PANAMA CITY DIVISION

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding technical development team at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division (NSWCPCD), for winning the Excellence in Technology Transfer Award by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC). The team of Dennis Gallagher, William Hughes, Allie Pilcher, Richard Manley, Charles Self, and Brian Wentworth won with their invention, the Combat Diver Navigation Module (CDNM).

Everyday, combat divers risk their lives facing hazardous conditions to protect our country—and they do it all while underwater. The CDNM technology will increase accuracy, safety, and situational awareness for combat divers carrying out dangerous underwater missions. Having the technology to safely carry out these missions is crucial and that is where the technical development team at NSWCPCD comes in.

This team worked together to create a product that will not only allow our combat divers to navigate in zero visibility conditions, it will be used to save lives by other first responders and our allies overseas.

Our nation thanks Dennis, William, Allie, Richard, Charles, and Brian for their creative and innovative thinking—your technology will save lives, and exemplifies the best American inventive spirit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes on Monday, April 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 140 and 141.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY 2018

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17, 2018 as World Hemophilia

Day. This is a day when the international community comes together to raise awareness about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. It is a day when we also reaffirm our commitment to the individuals across the globe who are living with this dangerous chronic disease.

Hemophilia is a genetic bleeding disorder that prevents blood from clotting normally, leading to uncontrolled bleeding in different parts of the body. Left untreated, the deep internal bleeding associated with hemophilia can lead to permanent damage of organs and tissues as well as potentially fatal outcomes. Additionally, people with hemophilia are at increased risk of developing heart disease, HIV infection, and kidney bleeding as time passes.

Hemophilia is considered a rare disease, but it impacts 20,000 people in the United States and more than 400,000 people worldwide. There is no cure for hemophilia, and three-fourths of patients have inadequate access to treatment. When treatment is accessible, it is expensive, leading to costs as high as \$250,000 per year.

As the founder of the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus, I know that much progress has been made in improving access to research funding for rare diseases like hemophilia. However, there is more that must be done to help those struggling with hemophilia obtain needed therapies. With today's recognition of World Hemophilia Day, it is my hope that we renew our commitment toward achieving accessible, affordable treatment for the hundreds of thousands of hemophilia patients across the world.

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HONORING BOB HURLEY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Hurley upon his retirement from a long and distinguished culinary career in Napa Valley.

Mr. Hurley grew up in San Francisco, California. After graduating from high school in 1972, he purchased a van and traveled around the United States. He worked in hotels and restaurants along the way, his first foray into the restaurant business. He realized his passion for cooking and returned to San Francisco, where he enrolled in the culinary program at City College. Post-graduation, Mr. Hurley spent two years traveling in Europe, India and North Africa learning how food and culture were connected.

Mr. Hurley and his wife Cynthia eventually moved to Napa Valley where he quickly became an essential part of our Yountville community. He opened Hurley's Restaurant in 2002, which is unquestionably a community staple and favorite spot for locals. Ensuring the restaurant's success meant his normal workweek was Monday to Saturday, 6 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. After announcing his plans to retire and close Hurley's Restaurant, Mr. Hurley has shown the character we all know him to have. He is working to help members of his team, which he considers to be family, find new jobs.

Mr. Hurley's unwavering commitment to our community goes beyond his restaurant. He is the Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Theatre at the Yountville Veterans

Home. He helped create the annual Veterans Day Celebrity Chefs Luncheon and has been a chef for Hands Across the Valley, a fundraiser to help feed those in need throughout Napa County. He has taught annual etiquette classes at Yountville Elementary School, organized fundraisers for Yountville Little League, and supported numerous programs at Connolly Ranch. During the October 2017 wildfires Mr. Hurley worked for four consecutive nights cooking for first responders. He brought hundreds of meals from his restaurant to the field where the responders were stationed.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hurley is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. He is known for making everyone feel important and special. For many years he has provided our community with a welcoming place to gather. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Bob Hurley here today.

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IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD MONTONI

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Richard Montoni, a New England native and dedicated government contractor with a passion for civic responsibility.

Mr. Montoni is well-regarded by his peers and deeply respected in his field. As the Chief Executive Officer of MAXIMUS, Richard has developed the company into a preeminent government partner by delivering health and human services to different communities around the world. Prior to becoming CEO he served as the company's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

Since 2006, Richard has honed the vision of his company by resolving legal matters and fostering a culture that drives business growth and optimization. In October 2013 Bloomberg named Richard 3rd in their list of Tech's Top 20 Turnaround Artists.

Richard has remained steadfast in his commitment to communities, teamwork, and strong leadership over the course of his time at the company, only furthering the blossoming relationship between governments and private-sector tech companies that distribute health and human services programs across the globe.

Complementing his work with communities around the world, Richard serves as Vice Chairman for the Northern Virginia Technology Council and Vice Chairman of the Corporate Fund Board of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Richard Montoni and his commitment to providing invaluable health and human services. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.

JAMES JOHNSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor James Johnson for receiving the 2017 Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. James is being recognized for his outstanding contribution and leadership in the Arvada community. James' professional and approachable demeanor helped make a difference while he served as the 2017 Arvada Young Professionals (AYP) Chair. James also has recently stepped up as Chair of the Two Ponds Preservation Committee.

Congratulations to James Johnson for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his contribution to our community.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

**HON. CHRIS COLLINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Jewish state of Israel. In May of 1948, after centuries of foreign rule, persecution, and conflict, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the state of Israel, which President Harry S. Truman also recognized on the same day.

While the state of Israel has faced much conflict since its founding, and violence between Israelis and Palestinians is common, the resilience and strength of the state and its people is astounding. The founding is a direct result of the hard work and perseverance of the Jewish people, who fought for their rights in the face of persecution. This passion and determination is why we are here today, celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the state of Israel.

The people of Israel plan to celebrate the anniversary with a "70 hours of Israeli Celebrations" ceremony, bringing together both the citizens of Israel as well as Jewish people all around the world. The theme of this celebration is "Heritage of Innovation", which highlights the success of the state at spearheading new technology in the fields of medicine and agriculture. I congratulate Israel on its 70th Independence Day, and wish them many more years of prosperity.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE JOHNSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4790 because I was in Louisiana attending a family event.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

HONORING IMPACT100  
WESTCHESTER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Impact100 Westchester, an international nonprofit women's collective giving organization, on their successful fifth grant cycle, as they have broken an amazing milestone by providing more than one million dollars in grant money to other nonprofits across Westchester County.

Impact100 Westchester was established in 2014 with 132 women joining in its first year, and has nearly tripled since its founding. The group is entirely volunteer, run by dedicated constituents striving to make a difference throughout Westchester County. Local organizations who have benefitted from Impact100's grant giving range from those dealing with children's mental health, access to education programs, environmental improvements, work training for the impaired, immigration groups, and support for survivors of abuse.

In addition to their philanthropy, Impact100 hosts their own volunteer events across Westchester, continuing to support other nonprofits with their Hands on Impact, with the Day of Service and with educational events which benefits and gives back to their community.

During their short tenure, Impact100 Westchester's success has been reliant on its memberships, volunteers, leadership, advisory council and relationship with the community. I am honored to have Impact100 Westchester in my district, and to recognize them on this wonderful occasion of their Fifth Anniversary. Congratulation to everyone involved with Impact100 Westchester, and thank you to all the caring members who have collectively granted over one million dollars to support and better our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL  
TASK FORCES ON 21ST CENTURY  
POLICING ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Local Task Forces on 21st Century Policing Act, to assist localities in carrying out the recommendations of the federal Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, both of which have detailed the need to strengthen relations between local communities and local law enforcement. The bill would provide grants to local governments to create local task forces on 21st century policing to bring police, representatives of the community and public officials together to identify best policing practices for local police and other ways to strengthen relations between the community and police departments. No new funds are needed. Exist-

ing funds from the Department of Justice would support local governments establishing the task forces by listing these task forces as an acceptable use of Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. Given the continuing controversy surrounding police shootings of unarmed African American men, with no solutions in sight, this bill is more timely every day.

The task forces, modeled after the federal Task Force on 21st Century Policing, would allow local communities to identify the best ways to create an effective partnership between local law enforcement and the communities they serve, while reducing crime, increasing trust and combating racial profiling. The task forces could create a partnership to implement practical policing practices acceptable to all concerned.

The creation of task forces could be an important step toward easing the tensions between local law enforcement and many communities. In addition, the task forces could serve to engage local law enforcement and local stakeholders in a transparent public problem-solving process instead of the current situation that encourages parties to choose sides.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BREANNA  
I. NIXON

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate BreAnna I. Nixon as she is recognized with the Youth on the Move Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Ms. Nixon has dedicated her time to developing as an entrepreneur and an athlete. She has taken the initiative to create a yard business where she shovels snow, mows lawns and rakes leaves for regular clients throughout the year. Like others in her family, BreAnna is active in sports as a member of track, volleyball and basketball teams. In 2017 she placed second in the citywide shotput tournament with a throw of 24.8 feet. She has shared her passions with those around her and dedicated herself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable Michael D. Bishop of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes BreAnna Nixon for her outstanding achievements. Therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor this milestone. May others know of my warmest wishes and continued support in the future.

ANITA MARCUSSEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Anita Marcussen

for being selected as the 2017 Woman of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. Anita's community involvement through many community activities, including the Arvada Historical Society, Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, Arvada West High School Foundation and Arvada K-8 Elementary have helped to enrich the City of Arvada. Anita's spirit of service and true passion for giving to others is why she has been selected as the 2017 Woman of the Year.

Congratulations to Anita Marcussen for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

CONGRATULATING GARRY MOORE  
ON RETIREMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garry Moore, who is retiring from 25 News Today. Mr. Moore is a pillar of the Peoria community and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Moore has greatly enriched cultural arts within Peoria through his years of leadership. Mr. Moore first moved to Peoria to attend Bradley University where he earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Liberal Studies and Broadcast Production and Management. Since then, he has become an anchor and producer for 25 News Today, which is Central Illinois' longest running morning news program, in addition to serving as President of the Peoria Local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Furthermore, he has worked to educate our community through his role as an adjunct professor at Illinois State University and by holding drumming classes throughout the area. Mr. Moore has also developed and championed several youth empowerment programs throughout Rockford.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Garry Moore that I am especially proud to serve Illinois 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Garry Moore on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DARRELL  
FOSTER ALLEMAN

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor and remember the life of Darrell Foster Alleman.

Darrell was born on July 12, 1929, in LaSalle, Illinois and was raised on his family farm in Eden, Illinois. Darrell rented his first farm at 18 years old, following his high school graduation, and worked the land for 70 years until he retired. In 1951 he married Jeanne Lorraine Anderson. Together they had 4 children, Debra Lynn, Kimrey Darrell, Janeen Roxanne, and Scott William.

Active in his community, Darrell served as Putnam County Republican Party Chairman. He held the position for 29 years where he met Presidents Ford, Reagan and H.W. Bush. Beyond his political activity, Darrell was a leading member of the Granville Rotary Club where he received the club's prestigious Paul Harris award and maintained perfect attendance up until his passing.

Darrell was an avid baseball fan and worked to share the sport with his family, friends and community as a whole. He built what he called the "Alleman Field of Dreams" on his farm where local baseball teams could play and practice. It has since become a community icon where every year for the past 4 years a charity baseball game is held and Field of Dreams the movie is shown and enjoyed by all.

We mourn the passing of this hard working and dedicated family man, farmer and community activist. Please join me in honoring and celebrating this life well lived.

HONORING JACOB ANDREW  
MAGYAR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Magyar. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING MARCELO DEFREITAS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcelo Defreitas as the 2018 Honorary Alcalde for the City of Sonoma, California. Mayor Madolyn Agrimonti nominated Mr. Defreitas as Alcalde, the Spanish word for mayor, in recognition of his contributions to our community.

Mr. Defreitas is from the Southern part of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, in the city of Uruguiana. He grew up on a cattle ranch with his parents, Jurema De La Vega Rodrigues de Freitas and Homero Maydana Rodrigues de Freitas and two older brothers, Homero and Jose Mario.

Mr. Defreitas studied public relations in college in Brazil and began working in his field at

the largest publishing company in South America. In 1984, he moved to San Francisco to finish his degree and to learn English. After graduating from the University of San Francisco with a degree in graphic arts, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Academy of Art University. In 1988, he joined Primo Angeli Inc., and worked his way up from junior designer to art director.

Mr. Defreitas has served as the President of the Board of Directors for La Luz Center since 2016. He has been instrumental in organizing fundraisers such as "Noche de Moon," which has furthered the Center's role in the immigrant community. He has also fundraised and organized committees to support local nonprofits, including the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Jack London State Park, Lyon Ranch and Sonoma Valley Fund.

Recently Mr. Defreitas' service has expanded to include helping victims of the October wildfires. Through his 10 to 12 hour work days at La Luz Center, he helped distribute \$1.2 million in disaster unemployment assistance, individual assistance disaster relief funds, rent assistance and other services. This is not out of character for him. As he says, "service is my passion."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Defreitas is the hard working leader and dedicated community member we should all strive to be. He has seamlessly blended his professional and personal passions, leaving a legacy of community collaboration. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Marcelo Defreitas as Sonoma's 43rd Honorary Alcalde.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL

**HON. SCOTT TAYLOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD remarks on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors.

"What a joyful milestone the 70th anniversary celebration of the world's only Jewish State and only democracy in the Middle East is, shouldering the 4,000 year old loaded legacy of a restored Jewish people to full dignity! The historic return into sovereign Jewish statehood of an ancient people deprived of its homeland for 2,000 years of a trying experience that almost upended it in the Holocaust should be applauded by the entire human family. No other people exercised such a comeback. The Jewish people have proved its authentic bond with its birthplace the Land of Israel, which has served as the daily focus of its prayerful supplications and soulful aspirations. It has never abandoned its prophetic promise that Israel was destined to survive and thrive that it may continue to bless humanity.

A narrow stretch of land along the Eastern Mediterranean Sea is saturated with the Biblical Book of Book's undying memories of a covenanted Jewish people determined to turn human passion into heartfelt compassion and life's wilderness into an oasis of love. The miraculous ingathering of the exiles from the earth's four corners, including

close to a million Jewish refugees from Arab lands, a revitalized Hebrew language and flourishing culture, creating an amazing start-up nation from most humble beginnings, while fatefully and successfully tested in costly wars—are all testimony to the unyielding power of the human spirit to turn adversity into advantage, pain into promise and violence into vision.

Wherever disaster strikes on the globe, whether man-made or natural, you find Israelis on challenging humanitarian missions, at times first on the scene. This was showcased last February when Israelis assisted with trauma counselling (sadly Israel has much experience in this field) following the shooting of 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and reached out when an earthquake hit Papua, New Guinea. A Jewish state is bound to reaffirm the thundering call of its prophets, philosophers and poets, anchored in its 1948 Declaration of Independence, to establish a model society for all its citizens, narrowing economic and social gaps, rejoicing in Jewish religious pluralism, and protecting the disadvantaged as well as endangered refugees.

Israel is a model of heroic courage and uplifting audacity in the face of stubborn non-acceptance, with finally Egypt, the largest Arab country, and Jordan breaking the circle of enmity. It is ever ready to embrace all its Arab neighbors and particularly the Palestinians in the peace of Shalom and Salaam to jointly transform shared pain into wellsprings of creative hope for future generations, thus fulfilling Israel's fondest prayer. In resolving the 150 year old tragic conflict with the Palestinians, Israeli security more than ideology should be paramount, though the two may overlap. The Zionist enterprise regarded realistic compromise with the recalcitrant Arabs as essential while guarding against untenable messianism.

With adverse demography in mind, Israel's major concern is to remain both Jewish and democratic. The Palestinians, who have been abused as pawns by their Arab brethren, need yet be educated by courageous leaders to give up their destructive and improbable dream of replacing Israel, and not be financially rewarded for brutal terrorism which postpones peace. Gaza's ruling Hamas would do better spending outside funds to help their impoverished people whom they use as human shields, rather than waste it on rockets and tunnels aimed at Israel. We recall the disturbing collaboration with Hitler of the Palestinian Grand Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini.

Israel is the only country whose very existence is being questioned, with signs of radicalization in its sizable Arab Israeli community. Terrorizing and nuclear ambitious Iran, which denies the Holocaust, and its Lebanese and Palestinian proxies are near Israel's borders. The United Nations falsely singles Israel out for constant rebuke while sheltering culprit regimes which violate basic human rights. The United States through indefatigable Ambassador Nikki Haley stands tall with Israel, its true ally and trusted friend in the shrinking community of democracies. However, the Iranian Shiite menace to both Israel and the Arab Sunni world has opened a venue of opportunity exemplified in Saudi Arabia allowing Air India to use its territory to fly to Tel Aviv, Israel which is also a first for India's airlines!

President Trump Jerusalem Declaration (what an anniversary gift!) that Jerusalem is indeed Israel's rightful capital will resonate in long Jewish memory where friends and foes are never forgotten. President Donald Trump's proud act of conscience finally lends a superpower's support for Israel's indisputable glorious links to both earthly and

heavenly Jerusalem that is being denied by the West's tenacious enemies. How moving that the American Embassy is relocated from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Israel's capital, on May 14, 2018, exactly 70 years following Jewish independence. It is a poignant reminder that President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize the new state, only eleven minutes following Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's delivering the Declaration of Independence of a redeemed people. It was Jewish history's greatest hour after the Holocaust's lowest mark. Venomous anti-Semitism is on an alarming resurgence in the United States and particularly in Europe, home of the Holocaust. Poland regrettably attempts through a new punitive law to distance itself from the painful truth that there were far more Poles who collaborated in the merciless destruction of Jewish lives than those righteous Poles who sacrificially rose up to protect their assaulted Jewish neighbors, including my own family, who had lived in their midst for a thousand years!

The Syrian tragedy weighs heavily on Israel whose people emerged from the Holocaust, with both Jews and Syrians abandoned by a callous world. The gassing with impunity of innocent Syrian civilians, including children, so close to Israel as Syria's civil war is into its seventh year, is most revolting. Israel reaching out to medically save over four thousand Syrians is praiseworthy. I concur with Rabbi Israel Lau asking Israel to even do more for Syria's suffering people. He is Israel's former chief rabbi, currently chairman of Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust World Center Council and the youngest survivor at age eight of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Much is demanded though not all can be expected from a now powerful but still vulnerable people enduring the unfathomable and facing a complex Middle East scenario. President Trump's order to send fifty-nine Tomahawk missiles toward a Syrian air base was appreciated. The most recent airstrikes by the U.S., U.K. and France at Syria's illegal chemical weapons operation in light of the Syrian lethal chemical attack in Douma, is encouraging. How could Russia be complicit in Bashar's genocidal machine when losing over twenty million Russians under Nazi Germany? The presence of the USS Bush Carrier homeported in Norfolk, Virginia which I witnessed, on July 4, 2017 in Haifa, Israel, following the bombing of ISIS targets in Syria, was reassuring.

May Israel's significant anniversary of a tumultuous homecoming usher in renewed hope that its founders' inspiring naiveté of being welcomed and appreciated for their pioneering efforts in a problematic region, yet bear good fruit for all."

PICOCYL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor PICOCYL for being recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows appreciation for a local company who has shown exceptional growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investments in the last year. PICOCYL designs, develops and manufactures very small compressed gas cylinders

for drug delivery systems, self-injection devices, and the delivery of medical gases. Their patented pic-o cylinders feature accurate and consistent gas fill levels, extremely low puncture forces, and precision sealing surfaces. PICOCYL's proprietary manufacturing systems and processes have earned their position as the sole global provider of such components to the Life Sciences industry.

Congratulations to PICOCYL for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PHILADELPHIA PROGRAM OF VITAS HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize all the volunteers with the Philadelphia Program of VITAS Healthcare, who graciously give their time and talents serving neighbors in need throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.

VITAS Healthcare has been a pioneer in hospice care since 1978 and has the distinction of being the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. The Philadelphia Program of VITAS launched in 1993 and currently operates three in-patient units serving the five-county Philadelphia region.

More than 60 volunteers in the Philadelphia Program serve a vital role in helping VITAS Healthcare deliver quality care and support to more than 200 hospice patients and their families every day. Volunteers of all ages and from diverse backgrounds carry out a variety of tasks, ranging from running errands and placing reassuring phone calls to spending quality time with hospice patients in their homes, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

VITAS will honor these outstanding volunteers during an annual luncheon on April 28, 2018. The event is part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which was established by President Richard Nixon in 1974 to highlight the invaluable contributions of all volunteers and the incredible difference they make in the lives of those they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers with the Philadelphia Program of VITAS Healthcare for their selfless service to individuals and communities in southeastern Pennsylvania. May their exemplary dedication and generous spirit inspire all to give back to others and strengthen our communities through volunteerism.

TRIBUTE TO A'JA WILSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding young lady and great South Carolinian, Ms. A'ja Wilson. Ms. Wilson is a student at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, South Carolina. USC's athletic teams are nicknamed the "Fighting

Gamecocks," and A'ja is a member of the Gamecock's women basketball team.

During her tenure at USC, A'ja played in 138 games, averaged 17.3 points per game, had 8.7 rebounds and blocked 2.6 shots per game. In 2017, Ms. Wilson led the Gamecocks to their first ever NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and was named the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

This year, A'ja was named the Southeastern Conference's (SEC) Player of the Year for the 3rd consecutive year, and led the Gamecocks to a record 4th straight SEC Tournament Championship. She also became the all-time leading scorer in USC women's basketball history and was a consensus first-team All-American for the 3rd consecutive season.

A'ja was named 1st team All-SEC all four of her years at USC. She has swept every one of the National Player of the Year awards as the best player in women's college basketball in 2018. Last week, A'ja capped off her college athletic career by becoming the first player drafted by the Women National Basketball Association (WNBA).

A'ja Wilson was born in Hopkins, South Carolina to Roscoe and Eva Wilson. She graduated from Heathwood Hall Episcopal High School in Columbia and led the school to the state championship as a senior in 2014. Perhaps more important than her statistics; A'ja Wilson has been a leader for her teams—both on and off the court—and in her community.

USC's President Dr. Harris Pastides, Athletics Director Ray Tanner and Women's Head Coach Dawn Staley have all praised A'ja the person as well as A'ja the player. President Pastides recently told The State newspaper, "A'ja [is] the person who never turned down an autograph, a selfie, a high five . . . A'ja has never said no to anybody, and that is because she loves this community, she loves the fans."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Dr. Pastides, and I hasten to add that the basketball fans and citizens of her hometown and state love her back.

H.R. 2901, TO MAKE PERMANENT VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2901, to make permanent the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) matching grant program.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assists low-to-moderate income, elderly, disabled, and limited English speaking taxpayers in preparing and filing their federal income tax returns.

Since fiscal year 2008, Congress has used the appropriations process to provide funding for the Community VITA matching grants program for tax return preparation assistance.

But Congress has not authorized the VITA program to receive grants through the tax-writing process.

This bill puts the VITA grant program on more solid, permanent, and predictable footing.

Without this bill, the IRS has administered the VITA grant program narrowly, restricting grantees' ability to use grant funds to hire experts to train volunteers and perform quality reviews as well as to serve as Certified Acceptance Agents.

As a result, few VITA grantees assist low income self-employed taxpayers who file as pass-throughs, or low income taxpayers with disaster losses.

Moreover, few VITA grantees are open year-round or assist taxpayers in preparing amended returns.

This bill will lead to a stronger VITA program that is able to help many more low-income Americans navigate the tax filing process.

I applaud the sponsors of this bill, Representatives CARLOS CURBELO and DANNY DAVIS for working together on this long overdue legislation.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 2901, I urge all my colleagues to vote yes on this sensible bill.

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IN MEMORIAM RODNEY LEWIS

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rodney Lewis who passed away on April 10, 2018 at the age of 77. Mr. Lewis was an Arizona native and a member of the Gila River Indian Community. He became a trailblazer in water policy, tribal sovereignty, and Indian law. Our state will miss him dearly.

In 1980, Mr. Lewis was the first Native American attorney to appear before the Supreme Court. As the lead attorney for the Gila River community, Mr. Lewis won part of the largest tribal water settlement in U.S. history. He also was the founding chair of Arizona Bar's Indian Law section. In 2017, he was appointed to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board. The board helps to manage the Central Arizona Project, where Mr. Lewis was able to represent tribal interests.

Mr. Lewis served in the United States Army from 1962 to 1965 where he served as a Ranger and achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. He received his bachelor's of science from Trinity University in 1962, a master's in history from Arizona State University in 1969, and a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1972.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Willardene, daughter Katherine Elizabeth, sons Stephen Roe and John Blaine, and a host of grandchildren. His son, Stephen, currently serves as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community. Please join me in honoring his memory.

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THE PILATUS GROUP

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Pilatus Group for being

recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows appreciation for a local company who has shown exceptional growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investments in the last year. Founded in 1939 and headquartered in Stans, Switzerland, The Pilatus Group is a leader in the world's aviation industry and known for its legendary aircraft. The company's North American operations were established in Jefferson County in 1996 at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport and is responsible for PC-12 and PC-24 marketing, sales and servicing activities across North and South America. About 70 percent of all PC-12s that come off the production line in Switzerland are finished to customer specifications at its Jefferson County-based facility. Today, the company employs over 1,900 people worldwide.

Congratulations to The Pilatus Group for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

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TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WAYNE LYNN

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate Wayne Lynn as he is recognized with the Community Service Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Mr. Lynn dedicated his career to helping men and women develop themselves and their faith. Mr. Lynn is the Chairman of the Deacon's Ministry at Union Missionary where he teaches a Men's Bible Study. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of directors for the Turning Point of Lansing where he leads a mentoring program for the growth of young men into adults. He has shared his knowledge and passion with those around him and dedicated himself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable Michael D. Bishop of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes Wayne Lynn for his outstanding achievements. Therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor this milestone. May others know of my warmest wishes and continued support in the future.

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IN RECOGNITION OF BRAMBLETON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S INAUGURAL YEAR

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brambleton Middle School in Ashburn, Virginia as they celebrate their inaugural year with a Day on Capitol Hill.

Since its opening in August 2017, Principal Renee Dawson and the entire faculty and staff has worked tirelessly to ensure the high quality of education to students from every background and creed.

Brambleton Middle School upholds the mission to empower all students to make meaningful contributions to the world. Built on the acronym, C.L.I.M.B., Brambleton faculty and staff work to Create, Lead, Inspire, Motivate, and Believe in the power of diversity to foster a community of excellence. In thanks to this dedicated faculty and staff; Brambleton Middle School students are achieving remarkable things in the classroom while also expanding their horizons through extracurricular activities including VEX robotics and the Civil War History Book club. The Eighth Grade recently organized a kindness brigade, putting out Random Acts of Kindness Magnets around the school. Coming from a family of educators, I understand the impact that teachers and other school staff can have on our children. With that in mind, I am proud of the faculty and staff at Brambleton Middle School who foster personal and educational growth through their approachable and collaborative methodology inside and out of the classroom. Principal Dawson has been passionate about building a cohesive path for her students with the philosophy that it takes a community to raise children, and together as a school, we will be that positive impact in our community. Before the first day of school, Principal Dawson invited all sixth-graders to write her a letter asking for feedback on their individual learning experiences. From this letter-writing campaign, Principal Dawson and the Brambleton Middle School community formed the BAM Ambassadors, a group of 30 kids selected to serve the community as school leaders. By soliciting suggestions and forming the BAM Ambassadors, Principal Dawson and the Brambleton Middle School leadership team set a foundation for the school as it continues to grow.

The hard work these students put towards their academics and their unwavering commitment to civic engagement is inspiring. I hope their curiosity and tenacity persists in future endeavors, and they continue to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Brambleton Middle School's inaugural year, and I wish each student many more successes as they continue their education.

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RECOGNIZING BAY COUNTY SHERIFF TOMMY FORD

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford for being appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. Tommy started his law enforcement career working for this commission and has now risen to the pinnacle of his profession. Sheriff Ford's leadership in Bay County has not gone unnoticed.

Sheriff Ford joins law enforcement leaders from across Florida to establish state-wide law enforcement standards and training programs



that certify officers are prepared to carry out their duties. Sheriff Ford is a native of Northwest Florida, and has honorably served Bay County as a law enforcement officer for over 25 years. He was elected Sheriff of Bay County in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford for his appointment to this commission and thanking him for his record of exemplary service protecting Northwest Florida.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DOWNTOWN  
HOWELL, MICHIGAN

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a small town in my district which was recently named a recipient of the 2018 Great American Main Street Award. Over the last twelve years, downtown Howell, Michigan has completely transformed from a community threatened by Michigan's economic downturn to one that is thriving and charging ahead into the future. With its historical charm and beautiful architecture, downtown Howell is full of local art galleries and quaint parks.

Chosen by a national jury of community development professionals, the Great American Main Street award recognizes communities whose successes serve as a model for preservation-based commercial revitalization. As a small town that is doing big things, Downtown Howell is setting itself apart as a great place for businesses, families, and everything in between. Great things are happening in the Comeback State, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to what's to come.

GINA RIVAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gina Rivas for receiving the 2017 Image Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. As the principal of Arvada High School, Gina has gone above and beyond to portray a positive, kind and community minded image in Arvada. Every day she works to change the story of Arvada High School and improve the outcomes for her students, which ensures a bright future for our families and our community.

Congratulations to Gina Rivas for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING PFC LEO J.  
POWERS AND 2LT ROBERT CRAIG

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Medal of Honor recipients, PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig, who will be included on the Ft. Wolters Medal of Honor Memorial in Mineral Wells, Texas on April 28, 2018.

Established in 2013, the Medal of Honor Memorial lies at the heart of the quiet Ft. Wolters Historical park. This memorial features stone columns currently features the names of sixteen Medal of Honor recipients who trained at Ft. Wolters inscribed upon them. These inscriptions share the stories of these heroes and the gallant actions they took to earn this honor. Later this month, two more individuals will be inscribed on this memorial, PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig.

On February 3, 1944, PFC Leo was serving in the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, who were heavily engaged with Axis Forces in the Battle of Monte Cassino. PFC Powers' company was assigned to seize the heavily defended Hill 175. The Germans suppressed Powers and his fellow soldiers by firing mortars and heavy machine gun fire. Unable to advance and casualties mounting, Powers crawled towards the enemy strongholds and destroyed them using hand grenades. After destroying the last of these posts, Powers took the surrender of four wounded Germans while unarmed. Almost a year later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded Powers with the Medal of Honor on January 10, 1945.

Born in Scotland in 1919, Robert Craig emigrated with his family to Toledo Ohio. In 1941, Craig enlisted in the Army before WWII and becoming a citizen. By 1943, Craig commissioned as an officer and was a Second Lieutenant with the 15th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Infantry Division. In the early morning of July 10, 1943, 2LT Craig stormed ashore with his unit in the Licata area on the Gulf of Gela during the Invasion of Sicily. Over the next twenty-four hours, an enemy machine gun wounded multiple officers in Craig's unit. He volunteered to find and destroy it. Shortly after, the platoon he led was counter-attacked by an enemy force that was three times larger. He used himself as a diversion to allow his men to reach cover along a hill crest. 2LT Craig's heroic actions and self-sacrifice inspired his men and rallied them to defeat the superior force. 2LT Craig was posthumously awarded our nation's highest honor on May 26, 1944.

We are blessed to live in a country with individuals like the ones honored at Ft. Wolters. Their actions embody our nation's greatest ideals. They proceeded without hesitation to put their country's needs, and more importantly, the lives of the men around them, before their own. Their stories of honor and sacrifice represent an important part of our nation's history.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I am able to share PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig story with all of my colleagues in the House.

HONORING NORMA FULINARA  
PLACIDO

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norma Fulinara Placido as she retires from 20 years of service as the President of the Filipino Community of Solano County.

Ms. Placido was born in San Felipe, Zambales, Philippines. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Philippine Christian University and taught at an elementary school in her hometown until she immigrated to the United States in 1971. There she joined her husband, Leonardo Placido, who was serving in the U.S. Navy. While her husband was stationed in San Francisco, California, Ms. Placido returned to school at Peralta College where she studied data processing. They later moved to Solano County where they raised their three daughters, Norielyn, Arlene, and Lena.

During her 20 year tenure as President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Ms. Placido helped raise over \$170,000 to provide scholarships for Filipino-American students pursuing higher education. She also spearheaded major renovations of the Filipino Community Center. She oversaw and fundraised for the remodel of the original center and eventually the purchase of a newer and bigger building that was better equipped to meet the needs of the Filipino community. Finally, under her leadership, the Filipino Community of Solano County contributed eyeglasses, books, and much needed funds to the survivors of devastating natural disasters in the Philippines. Ms. Placido has led the organization with continued strength, humility, and fortitude. She has been a great asset to the lives of all Filipino-Americans in our community.

Ms. Placido also mentors other Filipino-Americans in our community, with an aim to nurture their talents. Additionally, she promotes political empowerment and has helped Filipinos seeking public office, assisting mayoral and city council candidates in Vallejo as their campaign manager.

Mr. Speaker, Norma Fulinara Placido deserves to be recognized today for her leadership and commitment to the Filipino Community of Solano County. I am proud to have such a motivated and charitable person living and working in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

THE B IN BUSH, RAISING THE  
BAR—IN HONOR OF FIRST LADY  
BARBARA BUSH

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of truly great First Ladies in our Nation's history, Barbara Bush. As great as a First Lady she was, it pales in comparison to the kind of Mother, Wife, matriarch, and Grandmother she is. A great role model for all

young women to follow. Our Nation's prayers go out to her and family. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in her honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE B IN BUSH, RAISING THE BAR

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The B in Bush,  
Raising The Bar  
In every family  
In every house  
There is the greatest spouse  
The one who brings life into this world so all  
without  
Because, The Mother is The Heart of any  
home inside and out  
From which all great things come from no  
doubt  
Who bring the gift of life and love to this  
world to shout  
And who nurture and teach and raise their  
children with a love so devout  
And in that great American family of the  
Bush's,  
Barbara is The B in Bush clearly no doubt.  
Raising The Bar in what a Mother and Ma-  
triarch and First Lady are all about  
With the kind of grace, strength, leadership,  
love, and example this world cannot  
live  
Without.  
And love and dedication which brings tears  
to our Lord's eyes,  
and make's The Angels up oh high shout  
For Barbara Bush is the pillar upon which  
this great American family was built  
upon,  
so all throughout  
The rock and foundation we know of now  
With that great love story of her and George  
Herbert Walker so all throughout  
Who built such a great American family of  
love and accomplishment,  
for all the world to tout  
Such a woman of character, strength, and  
class,  
the kind of example to all our children we  
must pass  
For these are the things in life and into the  
future that which last  
Like The Beatles said,  
"and in the end the love you send is equal to  
the number you make"  
In 73 years,  
through heart break, triumph, happiness and  
tears  
Barbara's and George's great love has all of  
us endeared  
And even though he would not eat his broc-  
coli it was clear,  
she still stood by her man here  
And now these words seem so clear  
For all our children to blossom and grow  
To find happiness know  
We must pass on to them such love and les-  
sons so  
Of a Mother's Love like Barbara's to know,  
of such caring and warmth for a child to be-  
come whole  
And Heaven holds a place  
For all loving and dedicated Mother's like  
you Barbara,  
whose precious moments upon this world do  
not waste  
With all of your love and grace.  
For you are the B in The Bush family,  
the foundation,  
the pillar who raised The Bar make no mis-  
take,  
And for you my love, HEAVEN AWAITS,  
And you will look into your daughter Rob-  
in's face.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF CORDELL  
HENDERSON

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I in-  
clude in the RECORD the following Proclama-  
tion:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of  
Michigan joins in celebration as we com-  
memorate Cordell Henderson as he is recog-  
nized with the Frederick Douglass Award by  
the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Mr. Henderson dedicated his ca-  
reer to helping both children and adults further  
their education for 45 years. Serving as a  
school principal, director of education, coun-  
selor and on multiple school boards and com-  
mittees, he changed and bettered the lives of  
countless members of our community over the  
course of his life. He has shared his knowl-  
edge and passion with those around him and  
dedicated himself to the ideals that advance  
our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the  
United States Congress, the Honorable Mi-  
chael D. Bishop of the 8th Congressional Dis-  
trict of the State of Michigan, hereby recog-  
nizes Cordell Henderson for his outstanding  
achievements. Therefore, this document is  
signed and dedicated to honor this milestone.  
May others know of my warmest wishes and  
continued support in the future.

SAS MANUFACTURING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise  
today to honor SAS Manufacturing for being  
recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition  
Award winner by the Jefferson County Eco-  
nomic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows ap-  
preciation for a local company who has shown  
exceptional growth in primary employment,  
sales and/or capital investments in the last  
year. SAS Manufacturing is an advanced man-  
ufacturing firm with more than a decade of ex-  
perience providing cutting-edge solutions to  
aerospace, aviation, defense and energy or-  
ganizations worldwide. Today, it is a 21st Cen-  
tury manufacturing facility capable of meeting  
the rigorous standards of clients in aerospace,  
defense, energy and many commercial indus-  
tries where accuracy and precision are mis-  
sion critical.

Congratulations to SAS Manufacturing for  
this well-deserved award, and I thank them for  
their contribution to our community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COM-  
MAND SERGEANT MAJOR KEN-  
NETH J. "ROCK" MERRITT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to  
recognize the career of Command Sergeant

Major Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt. During his 35  
years of dedicated service, CSM Merritt  
served valiantly, made history and showed us  
all how to be a family man.

After enlisting in the United States Army in  
1942, CSM Merritt began his military career as  
a Private to Technical Sergeant in the HQ1  
Light Machine Gun Platoon. Serving in combat  
all over the world allowed CSM Merritt to gain  
valuable experience that would shape his dis-  
tinguished career. Completing over 200 para-  
chute jumps, he was awarded a Gold Century  
Parachute Badge by the Original Airborne As-  
sociation. While stationed at Fort Bragg, lo-  
cated in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional  
District, CSM Merritt made history for serving  
two tours as CSM of the XVIII Airborne Corps.  
In 1973, he was selected as one of the five  
Command Sergeant Majors in the Army al-  
lowed to serve five years beyond the manda-  
tory 30 years service prescribed by Army Reg-  
ulations. Additionally, CSM Merritt served five  
terms as President of the 508th Parachute In-  
fantry Regiment Association, three terms as  
Vice President of the Association and many  
years as Association Parliamentarian.

Deployed on numerous operational assign-  
ments all over the globe and through some of  
our nation's toughest times, CSM Merritt stood  
ready to answer the call to serve our nation.  
Throughout these operations, he delivered on  
the promise to keep America safe and con-  
front our enemies under the most difficult con-  
ditions.

During these deployments, CSM Merritt re-  
ceived numerous medals and recognitions for  
his service, including the Silver Star Medal,  
Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal with  
two oak/leaf clusters, Meritorious Service  
Medal with two clusters, Army Commendation  
Medal with three clusters, Combat Infantry  
Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Masters  
Parachutists Badge with two combat jump  
stars, National Defense Medal, European The-  
ater of Operations Medal with Invasion Arrow-  
head and four battle stars, European Victory  
Medal, and the Occupation Medal with Ger-  
many Bar.

While fighting our nation's battles overseas,  
CSM Merritt's most important commitment re-  
mained to his family back home. He was mar-  
ried to his lovely wife, Sally, for more than 60  
years before she passed away, and they  
raised three wonderful children during CMS  
Merritt's illustrious career. This country cannot  
repay the debt we owe to CSM Merritt and his  
family—the Merritts are true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in  
commemorating the career of the Command Ser-  
geant Major Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE  
OF THE U.S.-GUATEMALA RELA-  
TIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I had a productive  
and informative meeting last Friday, April 13,  
with Manuel Espina, Guatemala's Ambassador  
to the United States. We discussed the strong  
economic relationship between our two coun-  
tries and our cooperative efforts to address  
drug trafficking and terrorism. I was particu-  
larly pleased to learn that Guatemala has

taken strong efforts on border security, including by detaining 44 individuals with possible ties to ISIS who were traveling with false documents with the intention of using Guatemala as a transit point to reach the United States. I look forward to continuing working with my Guatemalan colleagues to strengthen the relationship between our two countries.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Chairman's Award at the March 2018 Greater Pittsburgh Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in California, Pennsylvania.

This prestigious award honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate—and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. This award qualifies them to attend Championships that will be held in Detroit, Michigan, at the end of April 2018.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through FIRST every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping our young people to explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work in encouraging young people in these pursuits. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Thomas Pope, Systems Manager for the Institute for Software Research at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science, won the prestigious Woodie Flowers Finalist Award at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competition. This award is presented to an outstanding mentor in the robotics competition who best leads, inspires, and empowers their team using excellent communication skills in the art and science of engineering and design.

Kristina Hilko, a junior from Penn Hills High School, was a FIRST Dean's List Finalist at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competition. This award recognizes an outstanding student leader whose passion for, and effectiveness at, attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary.

In March at the FIRST Miami Valley Regional (MVR) in Ohio, the Girls of Steel won the FIRST Team Spirit award that celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork in furthering the objectives of FIRST. This award recognizes the impact that these young women are having in our community as they enthusiastically spread the word about FIRST and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, and Math. As a result of those efforts, Girls of Steel are often featured in print media and blog posts.

For the first time, they were also regional finalists at MVR with their award-winning robot.

I think that their remarkable accomplishments speak volumes about the dedication these young women have demonstrated in pursuing STEM careers, their ability to sustain their team, and the thousands of hours they have spent collectively doing outreach in the community.

Seventy-one young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area represent this year's Girls of Steel program, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Alexandria Adams, Aeryn Anderson, Meghna Behari, Emilia Bianchini, Emma Burnett, Gracie Cain, Rosy Chen, Suan Cho, Maria Chutko, Maya Cranor, Claire Cummings, Maansi Dasari, Riley Doyle, Anna Fedele, Rozie Fero, Isabella Florian, Alexandra George, Teadora Gildengers, Corinne Hartman, Sofia Heller, Kristina Hilko, Maia Hochheiser, Anna Jablonowski, Caroline Kenney, Janise Kim, Isabelle Kowenhoven, Mary Laird, Alice Liu, Sally Liu, Eve Mango, Svea McCann, Delayne McMillan, Sree Mekala, Lauren Michaels, Abbey Murcek, Anna Nesbitt, Anne Kailin Northam, Jimin Oh, Helen Paulini, Lehka Pendyala, Emma Prokop, Grace Raida, Lauren Raida, Ananya Rao, Priya Ray, Sedona Rocher, Rachel Sadeh, Brittany Sadej, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Swathi Senthil, Kriti Shah, Vivian Shao, Lauren Shovlin, Makayla Shreve, Isha Sinha, Amari Smith, Imani Smith, Kavya Soman, Aditi Srivastava, Anna Staresinic, Aditri Thakur, Mikayla Trost, Langley Turcsanyi, Anja Vojt, Janet Wang, Alexandria Westray, Rebecca Wettergreen, Ziya Xu, and Julia Young.

Additionally, I want to commend the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's First Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. As a result of their efforts, more young women experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST District Championship in Detroit—one of the largest competitions of its kind. It's the equivalent of the Super Bowl for robotics. This will be their eighth consecutive trip in eight years and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world.

I want to congratulate the Girls of Steel on their accomplishments. I wish them the best of luck in the upcoming robotics competition as well as continued success in their future academic and professional endeavors.

HONORING MRS. DONNA BRITT

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Donna Britt, a be-

loved community leader and longtime local television personality well known throughout my hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the surrounding area. Mrs. Britt will be recognized with the prestigious 12 Points Award at a Boy Scouts ceremony this month—a reward reserved for high caliber leaders whose lives embody the 12 traits that the program seeks to instill in its participants: trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courteousness, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thriftiness, bravery, cleanliness and reverence. You'd be hard pressed, Mr. Speaker, to find a more fitting recipient than Donna, who has been a shining example of these values through her professional and personal life. An accomplished woman in media, Donna is a Public Relations Association of Louisiana Communicator of the Year and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, the Award of Excellence from Women in Media and the Volunteer Activist Award from the Emerge Center. She is also a breast cancer survivor currently battling a recent ALS diagnosis. Despite these medical challenges, Donna's resilience and warmth are unwavering—a mentality perhaps best revealed through her own personal mantra: "meet each new challenge and master it." Reflecting on her life and career in a recent interview, she remarked, "I've been very blessed, and challenges remind us what is important in life." Well, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of countless people across South Louisiana who have been blessed by Donna Britt, I'd like to point out that her example helps remind all of us about what is important in life. Congratulations, Donna, on this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2018, I missed votes in the House in order to attend funeral services for my late brother.

Had I been present, I would have voted: AYE on Roll Call No. 140—the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, H.R. 146; and AYE on Roll Call No. 141—the National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act, S. 167.

IN HONOR OF PETER AND JOANNE LINDAHL'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Peter and Joanne Lindahl on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Peter and Joanne on

the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

HONORING JACKSON SCOTT  
GARRETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Garrett. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

STEM PROGRAM AT WHEAT RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for being recognized as the 2017 Horizon Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Horizon Award recognizes an organization or program that is a rising star in the community and will contribute to the future economic vitality of Jefferson County. Established in 2014, Wheat Ridge High School's STEM Program focuses on taking science, technology, engineering & math taught in class and using it in a real-world application through the building of concept vehicles. Since it was created, it has expanded to 80 students. The cost to run the STEM program is approximately \$50,000 per year and 80 percent of these funds are raised by the students themselves, expanding their learning opportunity into fundraising and finance. Participating students are responsible for all their own fundraising, marketing, social media and videography. The Wheat Ridge High School STEM Program gives students real world experience from concept to implementation and everything in between.

Congratulations to the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THERESA  
RANDLEMAN

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate Theresa Randleman as she is recognized with the Business Excellence Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Ms. Randleman has dedicated her career to speaking on behalf of women and female youth with an emphasis on producing, hosting, and sponsoring female empowerment programs. Her work ranges from international speaking which empowers women across the globe, to hosting local Expos which guide aspiring female entrepreneurs on the path to success. She has shared her knowledge and passion all around the world and dedicated herself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable MICHAEL D. BISHOP of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes Theresa Randleman for her outstanding achievements. Therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor this milestone. May others know of my warmest wishes and continued support in the future.

TRUMP REPUBLICANS ARE WAG-  
ING WAR ON THE WORKING  
POOR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to Executive Order 13828, entitled "Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility," issued by the President last Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

The President would have the American people believe he is bringing the country together and growing the economy for all Americans.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Executive Order 13828 is a thinly-veiled attempt to restrict access to health care, housing, food, and many other basic living programs by adding onerous "work requirements."

These social safety net programs provide necessary government assistance to help Americans families maintain a basic standard of living, and are a safety net for the poorest of the poor.

Millions of Americans, despite working two jobs, depend on these programs just to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads for their families.

In addition, the vast majority of full-time workers live paycheck to paycheck.

In fact, 70 percent of Americans rely on at least one means tested federal program throughout their lives.

America, one of the richest countries in the world, should be able to help families caught in, to use the celebrated LBJ biographer Robert Caro's famous phrase, the "tentacles of circumstance."

However, we have a president who is insensitive to the plights of every day Americans.

Trump and the conservative acolytes who seek to implement his agenda paint an inaccurate portrayal of poor people as lazy "Welfare Queens" who would rather depend on the government than pull themselves up by their bootstraps, but nothing could be further from the true reality that millions of Americans face.

Mr. Speaker, the President should know that it is unreasonable to expect the poorest people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps when they do not have boots.

Our nation's social safety net programs already fail to help all of the families in need:

Only 1 in 4 poor families with children receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

SNAP only provide \$1.40/per meal; and

Housing assistance reaches just 1 in 5 eligible families.

That is because the federal government has failed to raise the minimum wage in almost a decade, so even if you work a full-time minimum wage job, you are still living in poverty.

Members of the CBC are here to tell the American people, do not be fooled.

Donald Trump says this is about a "poverty trap," but the real trap is not raising the minimum wage.

The President opposes increasing the minimum wage and eliminating labor protections for middle and lower income workers in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage to just \$12 per hour would save \$53 billion in SNAP benefits alone.

Wage gaps between are larger today than they were in 1979.

For example, African American men's average hourly wages were 22.2 percent lower than those of white men in 1979 and declined to 31.0 percent lower by 2015.

Young African American women have been hardest hit since 2000.

The racial wealth gap is much larger than the wage or income gap by race.

Average wealth for white families is seven times higher than average wealth for African American families.

Worse still, median white wealth (wealth for the family in the exact middle of the overall distribution—wealthier than half of all families and less-wealthy than half) is twelve times higher than median African American wealth.

Wage gaps are growing primarily because of discrimination and racial differences in skills and worker characteristics.

Declining unionization has also had a role in the growing black-white wage gap, particularly for men newly joining the workforce.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by the growing gap between pay and productivity.

Not only are the President's policies divisive along racial and cultural lines, they also serve to further increase economic inequality due to their clear design in favor of the wealthiest among us at the expense of everyone else.

Trump's billionaire tax heist robs the U.S. Treasury of \$1.5 trillion in resources that could be invested in economic growth in underserved communities.

The President has proposed doubling down on mass incarceration and the war on drugs, which drains the African American labor pool.

The President has taken every opportunity to harm health care for African-Americans from sabotaging the ACA to ending Medicaid as we know it.

This president is no friend to African Americans, or their pocket books.

Trump also wants you to believe that he wants a bipartisan infrastructure plan.

Do not be fooled.

Trump's review of "welfare programs" is an immoral attempt to gut the programs that provide a basic standard of living for Americans struggling to make ends meet, all to pay for massive tax cuts to himself and the richest 1 percent.

Instead, he should raise wages and invest in job training programs to prepare Americans for the work of the future.

Mr. Speaker, our nation still has a long way to go before we achieve economic equality for all its citizens.

The President and Congressional Republicans should work with Democrats to put more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

At the end of the day, our constituents should be able to support their children with one full-time job.

Ultimately, we need to give families the tools they need to rise out of poverty, not undercut programs that keep them afloat.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALTRANS STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & INVESTIGATIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations upon the occasion of its 90th anniversary since its creation.

The Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations engineers and structural technicians perform ongoing inspection of more than 24,000 state highway and locally owned bridges within the boundaries of the Golden State. They ensure the safety of the traveling public and to protect the public's multi-billion dollar investment in its bridge inventory; and

Since its creation in 1927 California's bridge inspection unit has completed nearly 770,000 routine bridge inspections, and thousands of special steel, underwater, hydraulic, sign structure and tunnel inspections. The bridge inspection program has become the model for other bridge departments in the United States and around the world.

Structure Maintenance & Investigations, based on the findings of its inspections, has worked with its District Maintenance counterparts to complete hundreds of millions of repairs to ensure the safety and structural integrity of each public agency bridge in California. The dedicated personnel of Structure Maintenance & Investigations has responded over its nine decades of service to every emergency impacting the state's bridge inventory, includ-

ing the 1989 Loma Prieta and 2011 Napa earthquakes.

Mr. Speaker, Caltrans Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations and its employees have kept California's highways and bridges safe. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Office and employees past and present today.

ZIMMER BIOMET SPINE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zimmer Biomet Spine for being recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows appreciation for a local company who has shown exceptional growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investments in the last year. Zimmer Biomet Spine is a leader in restoring mobility, alleviating pain, and improving the quality of life for patients around the world by delivering surgeons a comprehensive portfolio of quality spine technologies and procedural innovation. It maintains world-class scientific facilities and resources and collaborates with leading clinicians and researchers around the world. Today, it has operations in more than 25 countries and sells products in more than 100 countries.

Congratulations to Zimmer Biomet Spine for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.