

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