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Through two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror and countless other crises, operations and emergencies, the Army Reserve has never failed to answer the Nation's call.

Today our Nation faces new threats, from multiple sources, that challenge U.S. military dominance across every domain. And again, the Army Reserve is rising to the challenge, creating a Ready Force of units and individual Soldiers postured to move fast, engage quickly, and win decisively on the battlefields of today and tomorrow.

The world is rapidly changing but one thing is constant: The Army Reserve will remain the dedicated federal reserve of the most decisive and lethal land force in the world—ready now, shaping tomorrow; forging the most capable, combat-ready and lethal Army Reserve in U.S. history. And so, I wish the Army Reserve another Happy Birthday, and many more years of success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Boyne District Library upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted service, reliable staff, and community investment, the Boyne District Library has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Opened in April 1918 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the private book collection of a Petoskey lawyer, and an incredibly determined staff, the library grew into the local institution it is today. Over the course of 100 years, the Boyne District Library forged its path to success while maintaining its commitment to the community it was built upon. Today, the library still stands at its original spot on the corner of Park and Main Street in Boyne City.

To celebrate its 100th Anniversary, the library has issued a challenge to patrons of all ages to read 100 books over the course of the year. Additionally, it hosted an event in February which included a presentation on the history of the Boyne District Library—from the original grant application in 1916 to the present. Later this summer, the anniversary will continue to be celebrated through events like an ice cream social and bookmobile visit. Day after day, the Boyne District Library continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Boyne District Library and its staff for 100 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Boyne District Library all the best in its future endeavors.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS PROVIDE VALUE TO RESIDENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, community associations are an expanding phenomenon and the preferred form of new residential developments approved by local governments across this country. These developments consist of planned communities in the form of condominiums, cooperatives, and single-family homes. Local governments appreciate these developments because they offer residents private amenities such as pools, sport courts, parks, walking trails, and other amenities that would otherwise be provided and maintained with public dollars. In fact, an estimated \$88 billion is collected annually in dues from community association residents to pay for essential association obligations including the installation and maintenance of amenities.

The growth of planned communities is showcasing a residency choice selected by more and more Americans each year. As of 2017, approximately 70 million Americans reside in nearly 350,000 community associations across the country. Residents enjoy this type of living for a number of reasons including a sense of community, access to aforementioned private amenities, enforcement of aesthetic standards set by the community, and regular maintenance of common areas. With democratically elected resident board members who volunteer to serve their community, this is arguably the most local form of government (quasi) that exists. Related to this, an estimated 2.36 million residents volunteer for service on their community's board of directors or other committees performing 80 million hours of volunteer service valued at \$1.93 billion. Those are significant numbers.

The financial benefit enjoyed by residents in planned communities is that home values are historically four to five percent higher than homes that are not in planned communities. That translates into the positive protection of property values in these communities and a higher return on investment when it comes time for owners to sell.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that approximately half of these communities are self-managed either with just volunteers or professional staff hired and managed directly by the association's board of directors. The rest of these associations hire professional management companies to manage the operation of their communities and/or their finances and provide counsel to the board of directors.

Personally, I'm proud of the fact that the largest community association management company, Associa, is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, in my Congressional District. Associa employs nearly 10,000 people across North America in 180 office locations operating in 35 states as well as Canada and Mexico. Associa manages roughly 10,000 communities, comprising more than 2.5 million units, and housing more than 5 million residents. Associa is a privately-owned company that was started by John Carona more than 40 years ago and he continues to lead the industry with constant innovation and unparalleled customer service. John is not only a successful businessman,

but he is a humble public servant having served 24 years in the Texas State Legislature. I am proud to call him a supporter and friend of mine.

Mr. Speaker, I offer these comments today because as community associations continue to grow they also continue to evolve as does the community association management industry. I am pleased that management companies like Associa are not satisfied with business-as-usual but rather choose to invest in world-class employee training and cutting edge technologies for their clients. By doing so, they help ensure well-run community associations and well-informed board members and residents. I extend my appreciation to Associa's employees and to the volunteers in community associations around the country for their service to their clients and communities.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our friend and ally, Israel, on its recent Independence Day. 70 years ago, after centuries of expulsions, pogroms, prejudice, and persecution, the Jewish people celebrated their return to Israel and the establishment of a land where they could live in peace and prosperity.

We are all too aware that Israel has repeatedly faced grave threats to this peace, and must regularly defend its very existence against those who would destroy her. Despite these threats, for the last seven decades, the Israeli people have stood strong in defense of freedom and democracy, and built a thriving nation. After this historic anniversary, let us in the United States Congress reaffirm our commitment to our ally. Since its independence, our nations have had a special relationship, deeply rooted in shared democratic principles and values.

Our nations are both free and vibrant democracies, and together, we can create a safer world. We live in dangerous times, with enemies who threaten Americans and Israelis alike. Our joint counterterrorism and military efforts are essential for the prosperity of both of our nations. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this member of the House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Israel on their 70th anniversary and reaffirm our commitment: Israel, we stand with you.

ALEXIS RUNNING BEAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

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

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