

donated \$5,000 to build a new community college in Zimbabwe.

The congregation has also participated in the Rise Against Hunger campaign, which raised more than \$14,000 and packaged 50,000 meals for communities around the world suffering from chronic hunger.

In our own Northern Virginia community, First Baptist has partnered with numerous nonprofits for a variety of charitable causes, including Habitat for Humanity, the Northern Virginia Clergy Council, OAR Fairfax, and the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Truly, First Baptist Church of Vienna is following the ethos of ministry and working for the betterment of all in our community. This ethos is prominent in Northern Virginia, and I am confident this is part of the reason why this congregation has remained here for as long as it has, and why it will continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a partner with First Baptist Church of Vienna on many of these initiatives and have been fortunate to join them for worship many times. I commend Pastor Vernon C. Walton as well as former Pastor Kenny Smith for their leadership and devotion to their faith and our community. I also congratulate the entire ministry and congregation on this milestone, and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to meeting with a constituent group. Had I been present for roll call vote number 174, Adoption of H. Res. 879—The rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 3053—Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING IOLA "OLIE" ELSE

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Iola "Olie" Else, the long-time rodeo coach at the University of Montana-Western in Dillon.

For more than two decades, Coach Else has been the driving force behind the school's nationally recognized college rodeo team. The Bulldogs place high in the regional standings and compete for national titles. In fact, her teams rank in the top 10 in the National Collegiate Rodeo Association every year.

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association named Else Coach of the Year in 2004. She was the first woman to earn the award.

A red blazer and cowbell are Olie's trademarks at college rodeo competitions. UMW rodeo athletes recognize that ringing cowbell from the stands whenever they rope or ride.

Current and former athletes recall her leadership and support that have guided them through college and beyond. Considered more

than just a coach, many of the athletes regard Else as a second mother, and she often refers to them as her kids. Despite the team's regional and national recognition, Else says she's most proud that her kids graduate and go out into the world to make a difference.

Olie is retiring after 25 years as head coach, but it won't be her last rodeo. You can be sure her kids will see and hear her from the stands in future competitions.

In honor of rodeo moms and mothers everywhere, today I honor Iola "Olie" Else for her dedication to education, the sport of college rodeo, and our Montana way of life.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW NIMS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in National Security and International Affairs, Mr. Matthew Nims. Presented by the Partnership for Public Service, the Service to America Medals—or the Sammies—are highly respected honors to highlight excellence in our federal workforce. Nominees for the award must show a strong commitment to federal service, a significant accomplishment within their field that meets the needs of the American people, and excellence in customer service to citizens or other beneficiaries.

Matthew Nims, the Acting Director for the Office of Food for Peace at the U.S. Agency for International Development, worked with his team to distribute \$1.4 billion in emergency food assistance to 20 million people in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria, who are threatened by violent conflicts every day and fighting famine. The efforts of Mr. Nims and his team have saved countless lives under harrowing conditions.

With civil war, violence, and terrorism threatening vulnerable populations in those four countries, getting aid to people who are suffering is difficult. Matthew Nims did not let such conditions deter him. According to his colleagues, Mr. Nims was "out in front, meeting with, informing, coordinating, and leading hundreds of USAID staff, others in government and our international partners to choose the right approaches, prioritize the most critical situations, and get food to people swiftly and efficiently when lives were at stake."

In South Sudan, for example, the economy was in a freefall, crime was rampant, travel was difficult, there were few functioning institutions, and some five million people were in need of food assistance. To function effectively under such conditions required Mr. Nims to assess the needs, ensure the safety of his team, find creative ways to deliver food, plan and manage the food distribution, and resolve the day-to-day challenges.

As a former Peace Corps volunteer and USAID employee in Indonesia, Guyana, and Afghanistan, Mr. Nims has brought a unique perspective to his role in the Office of Food for Peace and sees his mission as quite simple: "We work to keep people alive. When there are hungry people out there, we try to feed them." I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Matthew Nims for his work to dis-

tribute food assistance to 20 million people in four countries who are fighting famine and other dangers, and in congratulating Mr. Nims for being a finalist for such a prestigious award.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMBASSY THEATER OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Embassy Theater in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For 90 years, the Embassy Theatre has been a treasured cultural and performing arts center in downtown Fort Wayne. The Embassy Theater opened its doors on May 14, 1928 as a movie palace and vaudeville house. During its 90-year history, the theater has hosted numerous notable acts, including Perry Como, Tony Bennett, Doris Day, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong.

Sadly, the theater fell on hard times in the 1960's and was closed in 1971. The community of Fort Wayne banded together to save the Embassy, and the Embassy Theater Foundation was founded in 1972. The intent of this organization is to preserve this historic landmark for future generations in northeast Indiana. The foundation sponsored a major renovation of the property in 1995 and continues to support the theater today.

The Embassy Theater is a cherished cultural landmark in Fort Wayne, and we celebrate its 90th anniversary. Congratulations to everyone associated with the Embassy Theater on reaching this important milestone.

CELEBRATING MIKE BUCCI WHO WILL BE HONORED AS PERSON OF THE YEAR BY COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Michael "Mike" Bucci Jr., who will be honored as Person of the Year by the Columbia County Association in the City of New York on May 10, 2018.

Born and raised in Hudson, NY, Mike was an honors graduate of Hudson High School, where he was a three-sport letterman. He went on to graduate cum laude from Villanova University in 1983, where he was the captain of the intercollegiate bowling team. Upon graduation, Mike was immediately hired to work for the accounting firm Ernst and Whinney. During his time with the firm, he was responsible for audit and consulting services for more than 100 different audit and tax clients.

1988 brought a new adventure for Mike, as he became the Audit Director and Controller for the NYS Bridge Authority in Highland, NY. In that capacity, he was responsible for a \$10 million annual budget that handled the implementation, maintenance, and adequacy of the Authority's financial and management accounting and reporting systems.