

birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Phyllis O'Brien on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

RILEY NEARY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

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

Riley Neary is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Riley Neary is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Riley Neary for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE INSPIRING LIFE
OF ELSIE HEIDENREICH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsie Heidenreich, who lived an inspiring life as one of the first women to serve as a Red Cross nurse in World War I.

Ms. Heidenreich was born into a family of nine in Woodbine Township in 1893. She put herself through nursing school, and at age 25 completed the nursing program at the Presbyterian School of Nursing in Chicago. After enlisting in the military, she sailed overseas on assignment to France and worked tirelessly with the sick and wounded. Ms. Heidenreich returned to the United States after the Armistice was signed and served as a Red Cross nurse until 1921, when she left the service to become a missionary in China.

It is because of dedicated women such as Ms. Elsie Heidenreich that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Ms. Elsie Heidenreich's life and her service to this great country.

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Colorado

Freedom Memorial, its President and Founder, Rick Crandall, and his wife, and its cofounder, Diane Crandall. This monument to our fallen heroes, located in Aurora, Colorado, provides all Coloradans the opportunity to come and pay their respects for the greatest sacrifice that our men and women in uniform can give.

The Colorado Freedom Memorial, which holds over 6,000 names, first opened in 2013 and is the first memorial in the United States that pays respect to members of the military who have served in any of America's wars from the State of Colorado. For this year's fifth anniversary, the memorial will be dedicating a new flag pole, holding a tribute to the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and unveiling a new exhibit which contains soil from eight American cemeteries overseas where Coloradans lie who never made it home.

The anniversary of the memorial is especially fitting as we observe Memorial Day and pay homage to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives on behalf of our nation. I am proud to have this memorial located in my district and would like to recognize cofounders Rick and Diane Crandall. Their leadership and dedication to our veterans is truly admirable, and I thank them for all of their work.

Mr. Speaker, it is, and always will be an honor to pay homage to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation and our American freedoms, and I salute the Colorado Freedom Memorial for allowing all to visit and pay their respects.

RECOGNITION OF AZERBAIJAN'S
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Azerbaijan, known as Republic Day.

On May 28, 1918, the National Assembly of Azerbaijan adopted a Declaration of Independence, and formed the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world.

For over 50 years (1920–1971), Azerbaijan suffered under the weight of the Soviet regime. As they rebuilt from the wreckage of the failed communist empire, Azerbaijan grew into a strong and reliable ally of the United States.

Today, the Republic of Azerbaijan is not only a valuable partner of the United States, but also plays a critical role in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to render unconditional assistance to the United States after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. It also has a strong friendship and partnership with Israel, one of the closest allies of the United States.

Azerbaijan continues to play a key role in energy security and diversification for U.S. allies in Europe and Israel, including leadership on the Southern Gas Corridor.

On this 100th anniversary of the founding of Azerbaijan, the United States remains grateful for the strategic relationship and abiding friendship between our two countries.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI NAVY
WWII VETERAN, PAUL SONNIER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Sonnier, a resident in my district and a United States Navy WWII Veteran.

Paul Sonnier was born on January 13th, 1926, in Delcambre, Louisiana, near Lafayette. As the fifth oldest of ten children, Paul's ability to serve as a role model and leader has been evident throughout his life. Sonnier's father died when he was young, and Paul felt it was his duty to help his mother provide and care for his younger siblings.

On December 7th, 1941, the bombing of Pearl Harbor sparked a fire inside of Paul, and he knew "joining up" would help provide for his family as well as honor his country. Paul enlisted in the U.S. Navy, in January of 1944, and served our country until May of 1946, when he was honorably discharged.

In the Navy, he served aboard the USS *LCI (G) 458* and was found worthy of membership in The Ancient and Sacred Order of the Golden Dragon as well as the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. He received two battle stars as well as a Presidential Unit Citation.

After his military service Paul worked for Freeport Sulphur Company in Port Sulphur, Louisiana, and later became a tugboat captain, until he retired.

Paul was married and has six children and fifteen grandchildren. He moved from Louisiana to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has lived in the fourth Congressional District ever since.

World War II veteran, Paul Sonnier, lives his life with honor and bravery, leaving behind a legacy that must be remembered as one of America's Greatest Generation.

On April 23rd, the Phi Mu Women's Fraternity at the University of Southern Mississippi honored Mr. Sonnier by granting one of his last wishes—dancing with a beautiful woman. That he did, several times over. He said that it was wonderful to see that today's young people remember those who fought in World War II and would be kind enough to shower him with love on that day.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Paul Sonnier today, and express the gratitude of our district to him for his service and dedication to our country by answering the call and serving honorably and bravely in World War II.

RECOGNIZING THE INSPIRING LIFE
OF LUELLA WILLIAMS ELLIOTT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luella Williams Elliott, who lived an inspiring life serving in the United States Army from 1943–1945 during World War II.

Ms. Elliott was born in 1908 in rural Stockton, Illinois. She enlisted in the Army in 1943 and was stationed with the Women's Army