

operated over 5,000 low-income rental apartments in 27 developments in the City of Buffalo. He was a Capital Programs Manager for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), and the Executive Director of Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. His extensive public service has extended to volunteer leadership on the following boards: Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo; Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY at Buffalo; Erie County Commission on Homelessness; Bailey-Amherst District Management Association and the Downtown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

To all who know him or know of him, worked with him or at times, worked against him, there is one thing we can all agree on, Mike put his community first. His hard-won reputation as a community organizer, neighborhood advocate, housing activist and all-around agitator has earned him our respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues join in "Larkinville" to acknowledge his many accomplishments on June 4, I add my appreciation for Michael K. Clarke's friendship, leadership and legacy of making a real difference in the lives of those who live in and love the City of Buffalo.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS—2018 STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Liberty High School history, the Lady Panthers Softball team is the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. On Saturday afternoon, they defeated the Vernon Lady Lions in Austin with a score of 3–1. Congratulations to the Liberty High School Softball Team and the City of Liberty.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit. Liberty is home to Liberty Independent School District which provides outstanding educational opportunities for students. But Liberty was missing one thing, a team State Champion. Jerry Michalsky, sports editor with local newspaper The Vindicator, has been a sports writer for over 24 years and never been able to cover a State Champion. His dream came true this past weekend.

Liberty County radio station KSHN 99.9 FM streamed the game live from Austin. The one and only, passionate, Bill Buchanan gave a play by play for fans who were unable to make the trek to Austin. My friend and past Liberty Church of Christ preacher, Jonathan Sanford (now announcer for the San Antonio Spurs), was the announcer at McCombs Field. He gave the play by play live on Saturday. Mary Anne Campbell, President of the Liberty Dayton Area Chamber, kept the fans back at home up to date with her Facebook postings. Folks in Liberty rallied behind a young team of girls who made championship history one game at a time.

For the last 13 years, Liberty High School Head Coach Karen Slack has dreamed of a

State championship team. She genuinely cares for her players and wanted to see Liberty relevant when it came to softball. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this week, Coach Slack said, "These girls have no fear in them at all and this stage never even bothered them." Coach Slack's passion along with Assistant Joe Slack and Katherine McAdams will continue to guide the Lady Panthers far beyond a State title. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline. The community is proud of Coach Slack for all her accomplishments as a coach and a leader.

Congrats to Liberty High School's State Championship team: Jo McGinnis, Mikaelah Burkland, Bailey Webb, Kennedy Evans, Kamryn Turner, Abbie Knepper, Molly Barnette, Jaylen Prichard, Karli Beam, Baylee Chandler, Sarah Lopez, Kara Cannon, Harley Davis, Abby Phillips, and Kaci West.

Saturday evening, hundreds of fans decked out in black and gold, waving flags and noise makers, welcomed the Lady Panthers home. The Lady Panthers were escorted to the Liberty County line from Austin by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. Dayton Police Department picked up the team at the Dayton City limits then Liberty Police Department picked them up at the Dayton-Liberty City limits. They were escorted all the way to the pavilion behind City Hall in downtown Liberty. The outpouring of support from the City of Liberty and surrounding communities was in true fashion of Panther Pride.

Way to go Panthers.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. SANDY CROFT

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Sandy Croft after 34 years of dedicated service to the Pleasant Ridge School District and the community of Nevada County.

Born in Pasadena, California in 1958, Sandy spent time in Santa Barbara, and Newport Beach, before eventually settling down in Grass Valley in 1969. He started school in the Pleasant Ridge School District in third grade—the same school district he will retire from as a teacher this year. Graduating from Nevada Union High School in 1977, he then attended Westmont College. Less than a year later, tragedy struck his family when his older brother passed away. He moved back home to be with his mother shortly afterwards. Not willing to give up on school, Sandy continued his education closer to home at Sierra College. Soon after, he received his secondary teaching credential in Social Science and English at Sacramento State. He went on to receive credentials in both Physical Education and Industrial Arts.

Sandy is not only a successful, dedicated, and driven individual, but he's also an avid outdoorsman. Growing up in rural Grass Valley, he'd often explore the old gold mines and dig for remnants of Native American artifacts. In high school, Sandy was a hunter, a fisher-

man, and a star tennis player—which he continues to play recreationally to this day.

In 1979, Sandy married his high school sweetheart, Lynn Baker, and they will be celebrating 38 years of Marriage on June 9th. Sandy and Lynn together have three children—Lindsey, Benjamin, and Hayley—as well as two grandchildren.

Of everything Sandy has accomplished, his greatest love was to teach in the same school district he attended as a child and to share his love for history by taking students on trips to Washington D.C. and New York City every year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sandy Croft for his commitment and service to the youth and community of Nevada County.

CONGRATULATING MARSHA SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Marsha J. Smith for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award at the 2018 Governor's Service Awards. Through her exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to her community, Sue has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The Lifetime Humanitarian Award is given annually by the Michigan Community Service Commission to individuals who demonstrate a "lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service." They have shown a "tremendous passion for helping others" and are well-known for their exceptional impact in their community and state. Few are as deserving of this honor as Marsha Smith. In her 24 years as the executive director of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Marsha's leadership has helped the organization provide more than \$58 million worth of grants and transform Northern Michigan.

Marsha was also instrumental in forming the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which has led the acquisition of over 40,000 acres of land and 124 miles of coastline for environmental protection. Before her work with Rotary Charities, Marsha was involved in the founding of the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, which offers support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Marsha's tireless devotion to public service has touched the lives of countless members of her community, and the impact of her work in her community cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Marsha Smith for her decades of service to Northern Michigan and congratulate her once again for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Marsha all the best in her future endeavors.