

just five, with plans to further reduce that number. Tom has been an outspoken advocate for improving this infrastructure, especially those traveling with heavy farm equipment. Most of the bridges had been made of timber during the 1920's and 50's, and were deteriorating rapidly.

Tom has been a strong advocate for improving the Highway Department facility on Illinois Route 16. He has worked relentlessly to make sure Jersey County's Highway Department employees and their equipment is being protected and kept safe especially during the harsh winter months.

Tom is an exceptional individual within my congressional district. His leadership and expertise has made a lasting impact on Jersey County. Congratulations, Tom, on receiving the 2017 Rural County Engineer Award. I look forward to continuing to work with him throughout the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes because I was unavoidably detained. I wish to reflect my intent and strong support for the following legislation to address the opioid crisis.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 2851, Roll. 268; YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5735, Roll. 266; YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5890, Roll. 263; and YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5891, Roll. 264.

HONORING ALFIO RAUSA, MD, MPH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D., a public health hero who worked valiantly for half a century to improve the health of Mississippians.

Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D. passed away at home after several months of illness on January 3, 2018. He leaves a legacy of dedication to countless public health and community efforts, including his work at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH); his work as a family medicine physician; his contributions to the Golden Age Nursing Home; his founding of Life Help, a regional mental health and retardation center; his founding of a youth soccer league; his work as Chairman of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation; and his contributions to many other projects and boards. He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the 2007 Greenwood Commonwealth Community Service Award and the 1992 Felix J. Underwood Award for public health service.

Dr. Rausa originally came to Greenwood as a Lieutenant Commander with the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a position he held from 1966 to 1970. Raised in the Bronx, Dr. Rausa's intention was

to stay in Mississippi for a year, but his plans changed when he saw all the work to be done.

In 1970, Dr. Rausa accepted a position as Regional Public Health Officer in Greenwood with MSDH, and in 1980, he was promoted to District Health Officer. At first he was over Public Health District III and then over District I as well, for a total of 18 counties, including some of the poorest in the state. He held this position until last summer when he retired, partly because of the consolidation of offices due to state budget cuts.

As District Health Officer, one of the projects for which Dr. Rausa served as medical consultant was WIC and its breastfeeding peer counselor program. He fully supported this program, always encouraged the peer counselors, and was always willing to speak with other physicians, the media, hospitals, or at events about the benefits of breastfeeding. He emceed CHAMPS' first conference in Mississippi in 2015, "The Delta Breastfeeding Summit," and gave opening comments on the importance of breastfeeding.

Freddie White-Johnson, MPPA, President and Founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation, where Dr. Rausa served as Chairman until his death, also has fond memories of Dr. Rausa. She knew him since she was 29 years old when she worked for him on a project called Partners for Improved Nutrition and Health and then at MSDH.

He served as District III health officer for the Mississippi Department of Health, overseeing its disease-control and wellness efforts in a nine county area that included Leflore and Carroll counties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Alfio Rausa, MD, MPH for his dedication to serving others.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS,
RUDY BALDONI

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the Big Brothers Big Sisters national headquarters in my district, Tampa, Florida. Big Brothers Big Sisters is lead by the former two-term mayor, Pam Iorio who is beloved in Tampa, and we are proud of her and Big Brothers Big Sisters across America. Today in that spirit, I rise to honor the accomplishments of a true advocate for children everywhere, Mr. Rudy Baldoni. His tireless work for Big Brothers Big Sisters has impacted the lives of countless youths. I am grateful to recognize the incredible work he has put into the nation's oldest and most effective mentoring organization.

Mr. Baldoni, as the two-year National Board Chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters, has been instrumental in creating meaningful and positive change within this incredible organization and for young people who need a supportive mentor. Today, he continues to dedicate his time and energy to this important cause—leading the board in a time of progress and change.

Mr. Baldoni was born and grew up in California, eventually attending the University of Southern California. He earned his J.D. from

Western State's College of Law and attended UC Irvine in 1989 to earn another degree in Commercial and Industrial Development and Management. Following his education, Mr. Baldoni worked in real estate development as President of Arnel Development Company until 2007 and became President and CEO of Newport Investment Associates in 2008, where he continued to manage growth and venture capital investments.

Mr. Baldoni got his start with Big Brothers Big Sisters after volunteering to host a dinner for the Orange County, California affiliate. In the fine tradition of volunteer organizations everywhere, after raising more money than any previous dinner, he found himself chairing the board. In 2012, Mr. Baldoni joined the National Board. His passion and drive for Big Brothers Big Sisters caused him to stand out, as he drove to find new ways to improve the organization and both expand and improve its reach. Mr. Baldoni was named National Board Chairman in 2016 and was instrumental in sculpting a five-year plan for the organization, along with the introduction of new modern technology that tracks the match between a Big and a Little. He has also played a huge role in adopting new criteria for all Big Brother Big Sister affiliates to improve standardization between chapters and has worked to rebrand the organization as a whole.

Overall, Mr. Baldoni's time working with Big Brothers Big Sisters has been characterized by his unwavering loyalty and dedication to this cause of mentorship. His national perspective combined with a local understanding of issues has made him an incredibly gifted leader who continues to work for change. His unwavering and endless dedication to this cause has made him a true champion for kids.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, proud home of the national headquarters for Big Brothers Big Sisters, I am proud to honor Mr. Baldoni for his formidable efforts and investment in our children all across America. The time and energy he has put into this organization shaped the futures of children from all different backgrounds. By strengthening communities and allowing these positive relationships to grow within Big Brothers Big Sisters, his work empowers children from Tampa Bay and beyond to achieve, succeed and flourish a blessing not just for them but for all of us.

RECOVERING AT THE REFUGE
RANCH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Austin, Texas there is a beautiful community with pets, rooms for arts and music, and beds for 48 young girls. No, this is not a sorority house, rather it is a safe haven for victims of domestic sex trafficking.

Known as The Refuge Ranch, this community is designed to assist girls that have been rescued from the evils of sex trafficking and will open its doors this coming August. When the first girls arrive at the ranch, they will have access to a school, counselors, and different types of therapy including art, garden, and music therapy.

Not only will these girls find an abundance of resources on the grounds, they will also each be able to create a unique plan of restoration known as the Refuge Circle of Care. While volunteers have been working tirelessly to build these facilities and bring in furniture, girls all over America have been raising money for the cause.

One organization of passionate college-aged women known as “Pedal the Pacific” will be cycling 1,700 miles down the west coast to raise \$250,000 for the ranch—more than double the \$60,000 they raised last year. It is through people such as these that communities like the Ranch are able to be built and provide victims a home where they can heal.

Such spaces are necessary, as today in my home state of Texas there are almost 79,000 minors that are victims of sex trafficking. Yet, even though child sex trafficking is the fastest growing crime in this country, there are not even 600 beds offered nationwide for child sex trafficking survivors to be able to recover long-term. Organizations like Refuge Ranch have the right idea in creating more communities and offering more beds to victims of this horrific crime. When it opens in August, the Refuge Ranch will be the largest live-in rehabilitation facility for rescued victims of minor sex trafficking in the United States. Those at the Refuge Ranch have the right idea and I am certain that they will provide 48 young girls with not just a safe place to sleep, but a home in which they can heal.

And that’s just the way it is.

KATHERINE WOOD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katherine (Katie) Wood for receiving the Congressional Gold Award.

The Congressional Award is an award from the United States Congress for young Americans who demonstrate excellence in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration. It is awarded to young people who strive to challenge themselves and reach new goals.

Katie received this award because of her determination, hard work and achievements in these program areas. This year, Katie is being awarded the Gold Congressional Award—the highest honor and a tremendous accomplishment! In past years, Katie has earned two Silver Congressional Awards.

This type of achievement can only be attained with hard work and perseverance, both of which have been exemplified by Katie in this award process and in her day-to-day life. I applaud students like Katie who work to make the most of their education, commit to being lifelong learners and develop a work ethic and new skills which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katie Wood for winning the Congressional Gold Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MARGUERITE FREEMAN

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marguerite Freeman of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who passed away on Monday, June 18, 2018.

Marge—as she was known to her friends—lived an eventful life. As she said in her memoir, “I’ve tasted the pioneers’ hardships” and “moved into the 21st century and saw all the changes, a complex technological future . . .”

Born into a family of Swedish and Danish immigrants who homesteaded in Birka, North Dakota, she was the seventh of Arthur and Elda Leitholm’s nine children. She recalled the Great Depression, the hope of the New Deal, including her older brothers enlisting in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the perseverance of farmers. As she said, “My parents’ courage and determination was passed on to us and we were taught to never be afraid of failure but work hard at what we believed in, to be honest and true to ourselves.”

And while she often cited Ronald Reagan’s adage that “we were poor, but we didn’t know it,” from her very first vote, in 1944, to her last, she was a proud FDR Democrat.

World War II was a turning point in Marge’s life. She followed her brothers west to Seattle. There she joined the war effort, earning 67 cents an hour as a “Rosie the Riveter” on the B-17 production line for Boeing. There, too, she met her future husband, Donald Freeman, on leave from the USS *Indiana* stationed in Bremerton. They were married on July 20, 1946 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Seattle. On that day, in a way, she also joined the Navy.

They travelled the country and the world with a growing family of three boys. It was not until Don’s retirement that they truly found a home, settling on Bainbridge Island. Marge became an integral part of our community, volunteering at her beloved Bethany Lutheran Church and the local Helpline House. Her deep faith and love permeated all she did.

The story of Marguerite Freeman is a life of service; service to God; service to her country; service to her family; and service to her community.

Her memory and her spirit live on in her friends and family. Today, our thoughts are with them: her sons Terry, Mark, and Don, her six grandchildren and her nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today, we remember Marguerite Freeman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2018, I was not present and voting in the House of Representatives.

Had I been present for roll call vote 267, I would have voted no.

Had I been present for roll call vote 268, I would have voted no.

CONGRATULATING KAREN
RICHARD

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 2018, Mrs. Karen Richard will retire after 31 years of service to the town of Colchester, Vermont. Mrs. Richard was elected in 1998 as Colchester Town Clerk and Treasurer after 11 years of work in the local assessor’s office. She quickly led the town in replacing outdated voting machines and optimizing the town’s election process. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the town was her efforts to digitize the town’s land records. Because of Mrs. Richard, Colchester was one of the first towns in Vermont to digitize their land records and by the end of the year, all the records will be available for the public online. At a time when many municipal employees are being asked to go above and beyond for their residents, Mrs. Richard’s leadership was transformational. Her hard work was recognized when she earned the awards of Vermont Clerk of the Year in 2007 and Vermont Treasurer of the Year in 2014.

Outside of her elected role, she has been Chair of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association’s Legislative Committee, a member of the Champlain Water District Board of Commissioners, and Clerk/Treasurer for Colchester Fire District No. 3.

Mr. Speaker, her exceptional work on behalf of Vermont communities will surely be missed and I wish Mrs. Richard well in her retirement.

HONORING RANDY COOK

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Farm Service Agency Wisconsin District 1 Director Randy Cook.

Mr. Cook has spent over 30 years of his professional career serving his community and the great state of Wisconsin. Mr. Cook knew from the beginning the importance of carrying on the values and honor of farming by teaching agriculture from 1981 to 1987 at Cameron High School.

His willingness to help farms big and small achieve the American dream was shown through his work at the Farm Service Agency. Mr. Cook served 21 years as executive director in the counties of Pierce, Dunn, and his home community of Barron County. His care and love for farmers over those two decades made him a natural fit as District 1 Director of the Wisconsin Farm Service Agency where he served for the past 10 years.

On behalf of the residents of Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District, I wanted to say thank you to Mr. Cook for devoting his skills, passion, and knowledge to the greatest asset in the state of Wisconsin, our farmers. I am proud to call him a friend, leader, and a constituent of this Congressional District.