left the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure after more than 14 years of service as the Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. I had the privilege of working with Jennifer throughout her entire tenure with the Committee, but most closely since 2015 when I took over as Ranking Member.

Jennifer was born in New Britain, Connecticut, but later moved with her family to the Washington Metro area. For Jennifer, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was more than just a place to work; it was a second family. Her father, Sante Spector, served as the Democratic Chief Counsel to the Committee from 1981 to 1998. Through both her father and mother, Jennifer learned the importance of public service at a young age.

As a student at Pennsylvania State University, Jennifer got her first real experience in government interning in Senator Arlen Spector’s Harrisburg office. After graduation, she worked for the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the American Iron and Steel Institute before spending seven years working for transportation labor—first with the Transportation Trades Department and then the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

She left the Teamsters in 2004 to join the Democratic staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she developed unrivaled expertise in issues surrounding the railroad industry and its employees, the safety and security of transporting hazardous materials, and the safety of oil and gas pipelines.

Jennifer is a passionate and tireless advocate for transportation safety, which is why it is extremely fitting that Jennifer left the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to become a Board Member at the National Transportation Safety Board. During her tenure as Staff Director, Jennifer guided major pieces of rail, pipeline, and hazmat safety legislation through the legislative process, including: the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act of 2004; the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users; the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006; the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008; the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA); the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011; and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in 2015. Throughout her tenure on the Committee, she was an unwavering defender of the Nation’s passenger railroad, Amtrak, and the need for swift implementation of positive train control.

When she is not at work trying to improve the safety of our transportation system, Jennifer spends her time running and training for marathons and triathlons. She is also a devout mother who spends many weekends traveling with her daughter Alexandra (Lexi) to Irish dance competitions across the country.

I want to thank Jennifer for her many years of service to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. We will miss her, but look forward to working with her in her new role at the NTSB. I wish Jennifer, her husband Mike, and daughter Lexi all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND BOB COOPER

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognise and congratulate Joyce and Bob Cooper, of Creston, Iowa for being selected as Union County’s 2018 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Both Joyce and Bob are community minded, recognizing the needs in their county and making time to address the challenges. Both 4-H members themselves, they gave their time as adults to leading clubs in Union County. Bob was a co-leader for the Grant Toppers 4-H club, taking the boys on camping and fishing trips many times. Joyce was a co-leader for the Jolly Jills 4-H club and taught many young ladies how to sew, cook, can, and garden. Their five children also showed dairy cattle and horses. Bob and Joyce served on the Union County Board of Directors for 14 years and served on the dairy committee for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Joyce and Bob demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one’s talents and sharing them with the world. Their efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them, and Iowans like them, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Joyce and Bob Cooper for their award and wish them nothing but continued success.

HONORABLE CARL J. CHARACTER
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation on this 4th day of September 2018, in honor of Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray, U.S. Army (Retired).

WHEREAS, Judge Character was appointed to the Bench of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court in 1981, served as Judge of the Common Pleas Court from 1991 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, Judge Character is survived by his wife, Dee Ann, two daughters, Dea L. Character and Darla Character-Johnson, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and leaves a legacy of legal and judicial excellence, committed community service and the respect of his peers;

Resolved, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we acknowledge, salute and celebrate the life of The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse.

The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse, is hereby recognized and his memory is hereby memorialized.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray, U.S. Army (Retired).

The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse, is hereby recognized and his memory is hereby memorialized.

Whereas, Judge Character was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a product of Cleveland Public Schools and graduated from Glenville High School, and received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University and law degree from the University of Michigan; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa Fraternity, Inc.; and

Whereas, Judge Character is survived by his wife, Dee Ann, two daughters, Dea L. Character and Darla Character-Johnson, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and leaves a legacy of legal and judicial excellence, committed community service and the respect of his peers;

Resolved, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we acknowledge, salute and celebrate the life of The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse.

The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse, is hereby recognized and his memory is hereby memorialized.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray, U.S. Army (Retired).

WHEREAS, Judge Character was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Judge Character was a product of Cleveland Public Schools and graduated from Glenville High School, and received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University and law degree from the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Judge Character was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Judge Character is survived by his wife, Dee Ann, two daughters, Dea L. Character and Darla Character-Johnson, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and leaves a legacy of legal and judicial excellence, committed community service and the respect of his peers;

Resolved, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we acknowledge, salute and celebrate the life of The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse.

The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to the Ohio legal community, and his service to the Franklin County Courthouse, is hereby recognized and his memory is hereby memorialized.
TRIBUTE TO VIC NOER

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vic Noer, of Bedford, Iowa for being awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Bedford Area Chamber.

Vic has lived in Bedford for 52 years where he has worked as a house painter and ran a movie theatre. He has welcomed local kids to play basketball on his “green court” while teaching them skills and helping them learn about the game. He served on the Bibbins Park Board for 30 years while also being active on the library, museum, and Hospice of Central Iowa boards. He spent many years as the camp director for the Western Iowa Chapter for Muscular Dystrophy and is still very active with the Bedford Iowa Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, the examples set by Vic demonstrate the rewards of harnessing one’s talents and sharing them with the world. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and constituents like him, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Vic Noer for his achievement and wish him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEPSIGTO FIRE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire. The Great Peshtigo Fire claimed more lives than any other fire in our nation’s history, but it is an often-overlooked tragedy. Few of us can imagine a blaze large enough to consume millions of acres across Northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. Yet the destructive force of the fire is a powerful testament to the resilience of the Wisconsinites who emerged from the tragedy and rebuilt from the ashes.

The year 1871 was a defining moment for the survivors who, with no exceptions, lost everything, set out to rebuild their lives and town. It is a testimony to their efforts that Peshtigo recovered and became a vibrant community again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in recognizing the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT’S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This Act has saved millions of migratory birds, protecting over one thousand species important to Americans and our natural world. Since being signed into law in 1918, the MBTA has played a pivotal role in animal welfare. Within my own state of Michigan and in the 12th district, birds contribute greatly to the environment of our region. Southeast Michigan is home to over 45 million birders who collectively spend around $41 billion on bird-watching each year. More than 2 million birds in Michigan, and throughout our nation there are over 45 million birds who collectively spend around $41 billion on bird-watching each year. Bird watching is a significant source of income for birders in Michigan.

The Great Peshtigo Fire occurred during an often-forgotten chapter in American history that witnessed three of the worst fires on record break out across the Midwest. Although the Great Peshtigo Fire is sometimes overshadowed by the Great Chicago fire that occurred at the same time, the fire in Wisconsin was far deadlier and remains the worst in U.S. history. Indeed, news of the destruction in Peshtigo may have been slow to spread because the fire had consumed telegraph wires as it burned.

Despite this unprecedented destruction, the residents of Peshtigo gradually rebuilt their city and worked hard to make it a thriving community once more. In offering this proclamation today, it is my hope that this tragic episode will remain in the public memory. I invite this body to recognize the victims of the Great Peshtigo Fire—a blaze that stands as our country’s worst in both its size and lethality. I also want to commemorate the extraordinary resilience of the survivors who, though they lost everything, set out to rebuild their lives and town. It is a testimony to their efforts that Peshtigo recovered and became a vibrant community again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in recognizing the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871.