

grown from its original 160 members and today represents more than 7,400 industry professionals. The Country Music Association preserves the industry's rich heritage and time-honored traditions. This organization's tireless advocacy has brought the appreciation for and the excellence of country music to new heights.

Country Music is the story of America, and the Country Music Association shares this story around the world. The Country Music Association celebrates life by connecting those near and far and making global connections through the gift of music. Country music creates a place for everyone by evoking celebration and pain, joy and sorrow, love and loss.

The country music industry is as charitable as it is talented. The Country Music Association Foundation, the organization's charitable group, has invested more than \$21 million in improving and sustaining music education programs across the nation. Thanks to these efforts, students from everywhere are gaining skills and knowledge to help them succeed in all facets of their lives.

The power of country music is boundless, and the Country Music Association ensures that its genius is reaching every corner of this world and will continue to do so for generations to come.

I am honored to represent the home of the Country Music Association in Nashville, Tennessee, and am proud to recognize its 60th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN BRUNSVOLD, ANDREW DROBECK, AND BLAKE MEYERS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Blood Cancer Awareness Month, to honor firefighters Benjamin Brunsvold, Andrew Drobeck, and Blake Meyers who helped the Missoula Fire Department team finish first in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb.

The 2018 Scott Firefighter Stairclimb brought together 2,000 firefighters from over 330 fire departments to compete. The stairclimb, which raised a record \$2.61 million in 2018, benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) and its efforts in the fight against different types of blood cancer.

The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is the world's largest on-air stair climb competition. Held at the Columbia Center in Seattle, the competition features firefighters in full gear climbing 69 flights of stairs, or 788 feet.

I congratulate Brunsvold, Drobeck, and Meyers who were the three top finishers for the Missoula Fire Department, helping it claim top team honors for the seventh consecutive year. Brunsvold finished third in the individual competition; Drobeck, a six-time individual winner, placed fourth; and Meyers finished 26th.

I also commend the 77 Montana firefighters from 26 departments who took part in the 2018 challenge. With the support of their com-

munities, they raised more than \$97,500. Since 2009, Montana firefighters have raised more than \$800,000 for LLS.

While I congratulate Montana's outstanding firefighters for their performance, the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is about raising awareness about blood cancer and raising needed resources for research and patient services.

Josh Charles, a Bozeman firefighter and a Montana Ambassador for the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, says, "It's rewarding to know that fire departments across Montana have embraced the Scott Stairclimb, honoring the cause and the people affected by cancer who fight every day for normalcy. There's nothing better than when a patient or survivor says, 'Thanks for helping me fight leukemia.'"

Mr. Speaker, for their excellence in training and performance, service in protecting our communities, and dedication that exceeds the call of duty, I recognize Benjamin Brunsvold, Andrew Drobeck, and Blake Meyers for their spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RETIRED THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT CIR- CUIT COURT JUDGE HENRY LACKEY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of retired Third Judicial District Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey. Judge Lackey passed away on August 17, 2018, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Calhoun City, Mississippi. Judge Lackey distinguished himself in every facet of his life, devoting himself to family, the community, and to all those who placed their faith in him.

According to an obituary published in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Judge Lackey was raised in Calhoun City. In 1952, he graduated from Calhoun City High School. Judge Lackey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at Mississippi College in 1956. Upon graduation, he operated the family business following his father's death. He also answered the call to serve in the U.S. Army when his National Guard unit was activated from 1961 until 1962.

In 1966, Judge Lackey embarked on a career that would become his path in life—public service. Following graduation from the University of Mississippi School of Law, Judge Lackey was elected to serve as the Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney. After serving a four-year term, Judge Lackey was appointed to serve as Mississippi's first public defender. In addition to operating a private law practice, Judge Lackey also served as the board attorney for the Calhoun County Supervisors. In 1993, former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice appointed Judge Lackey to the Third Circuit Court District, serving Lafayette, Marshall, Tippah, Benton, Chickasaw, Union, and Calhoun Counties. Judge Lackey remained in office for four consecutive terms. Following his final term as a circuit court judge, he served as a senior status judge for seven years.

Judge Lackey earned the trust of his colleagues during his long and distinguished career, serving in numerous leadership roles. According to the Associated Press, Judge Lackey was a former president of the Calhoun County Bar Association and the Third Circuit Bar Association. He was a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. In 2008, he was selected to receive the Supreme Court's Chief Justice Award. In 2009, Judge Lackey was named Mississippi College's Alumnus of the Year. He previously served as a member of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees.

Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Bill Waller, Jr. praised Judge Lackey for his unwillingness to be swayed by a bribe in an article published by The Oxford Eagle. "He was one of the most outstanding jurists in the history of the state," Justice Waller said. "His courageous acts in the bribery investigation were done without regard to his health and safety, for the preservation of the integrity of the judiciary. He is one of my heroes."

I will forever admire Judge Lackey's honesty and integrity, qualities that made him the outstanding public servant that he was. He was a man who made a true and lasting impact on the field of law and more importantly, on the lives of so many of his fellow citizens.

Judge Lackey is survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, Helen Rose James Lackey; and one son, Kevin Lackey.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have expressed strong support for this bill, H.R. 1911. It is imperative that the United States leads in the effort to stamp out anti-Semitism both at home and around the world. That's why we need an ambassadorial-level special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism.

In recent years, we've witnessed a disturbing rise in attacks against Jews and Jewish communities all around the world. Americans were deeply shaken last year by the virulent anti-Semitism on display in our own country during the white-supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. I continue to be alarmed by attacks on Israel and its policies that employ rhetoric historically associated with anti-Semitism and that repeat old patterns of singling out the Jewish State in ways that mimic ancient biases. There must be no place for such rhetoric or activities in our country or anywhere that calls itself a free and democratic society.

I commend Ranking Member ENGEL of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, along with Reps. LOWEY, SCHNEIDER, DEUTCH, and VEASEY, for their hard work with the bill's Republican cosponsors to ensure bipartisan passage of this legislation. I hope it will send a strong message throughout the world that the United States will never waver in its effort to end the scourge of anti-Semitism and defend our ally Israel.