

RECOGNIZING BLR ELDER CARE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize BLR Elder Care on the celebration of its 10th Anniversary. BLR Elder Care is a non-profit organization located in the City of Aurora, Colorado and is in Colorado's 6th Congressional District, which I have the honor of representing here in the United States House of Representatives. BLR Elder Care seeks to provide a dignified, meaningful life to the homeless elderly population in Ethiopia. It does so by providing basic necessities to elderly Ethiopians who are in need. The generosity of BLR Elder Care serves as a beacon of hope and a source of compassion for the elderly needy in Africa.

In recent years, the founder and President of BLR Elder Care, Mamay Worku, has also started a program focused on helping African Women immigrants here in Colorado. Mamay Worku has done so by creating the Women of Africa Alliance for Solutions (WAAS). Through WAAS, she has created an effective platform to advocate for educational opportunities, economic independence and to build synergy among the diverse African immigrant communities.

Mamay Worku, immigrated to the United States in 1989. She has tirelessly served the African immigrant community here in Colorado and those in need in her native country of Ethiopia. It is my honor to recognize all of her hard work as well as all the supporters of BLR Elder Care for their continuing assistance for these two remarkable organizations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2018

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5895 provides critical funding for a number of Northeast Ohio priorities. Specifically, it appropriates money for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, addresses the Dept. of Veterans Affairs claims backlog, and funds the bipartisan VA MISSION Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 397; "yea" on Roll Call No. 398; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 399.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DAVID
DESILVA**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. David DeSilva on being inducted into the California Agricultural Teachers Association Hall of Fame.

David DeSilva was born and raised in California's Central Valley. His passion for teaching agriculture was developed from a young age. Growing up on a dairy farm, David's par-

ents instilled in him a deep appreciation for agriculture. He worked alongside them on the farm and was heavily involved in the Future Farmers of America organization. After graduating from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, Mr. DeSilva began his career in education at Hanford High School.

After five-years at Hanford High School, Mr. DeSilva continued his career at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California. He would remain in this position for thirty-years, retiring in 2014. Mr. DeSilva's tenure at College of the Sequoias was impressive and reflective of his dedication to agriculture and his students. As the agriculture division chair at the college, he was well respected by his peers and viewed as a leader on agriculture issues. Many of his former students have become agricultural teachers, industry leaders, and business owners.

Mr. DeSilva's impact extended far beyond the classroom. Locally, he created and implemented the California Crop Center at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, California. It is known as a hub of activity for a wide variety of the top crops grown in the state. He was also responsible for the development of College for Kids, a summer agriculture program for children. Mr. DeSilva's influence eventually led to international opportunities. He promoted agriculture at colleges in the Ukraine, Russia, and even Haiti.

Whether locally or internationally, Mr. DeSilva's goal remained the same: working with young students and increasing the community's knowledge about agriculture. Even in retirement, he remains actively involved with the Knights of Columbus organization and local Future Farmers of America chapters. Throughout Mr. DeSilva's childhood, nearly four-decade career, and into retirement, agriculture education has been a defining purpose for his life.

To be inducted into the California Agricultural Teachers Association Hall of Fame, an individual must be a retired agriculture educator with proven dedication for vocational agriculture, agriculture education, and the Future Farmers of America organization. Mr. DeSilva has consistently demonstrated his dedication to this field throughout his life and is unequivocally deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. David DeSilva on his dedicated service to the Central Valley and on being inducted into the California Agricultural Teachers Association Hall of Fame.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND THE OFFICERS' AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S TEAM PLAYER AWARD

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I wish to recognize

today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award and the Officers' and Inspector General's Team Player Award.

The House's most important asset is its remarkable and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many great and important things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the following individuals for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, these employees have provided 450 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Chinetta Adams, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Wendy Benson, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Richard Cooper, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Christopher Fischer, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Julia Gaines, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Kirsten Gullickson, Office of the Clerk; Joyce Hamlett, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Donald Harris, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Eric Johnson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Teresa Johnson, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Jennifer Maas, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Anthony Myers, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Michael Nash, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; James Robertson, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Doris Rogers, Office of the Clerk; Lester Snyder, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Clyde Springfield, Jr., Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Daniel Tilson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate the House employees receiving the House Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each of the House Officers' and Inspector General's organizations. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the requirements of their job for their organization throughout the last year. We honor these individuals for receiving this prestigious award:

Janciera Armstrong, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Cheryl Coleman, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Debbie Hunter, Office of Inspector General; Marianne Law, Office of the Clerk.