

This week, millions of Americans will show their commitment to our estuaries through volunteer efforts. We all have a role to play in caring for our environment. It is a matter of awareness and of action. We must look for even more opportunities for our “all of the above” strategy for keeping our estuary economies sustainable and resilient. Advancing common sense ideas that strengthen our economy, protect our estuaries including the Indian River Lagoon, and preserve our natural beauty remain a top priority for me. I’m grateful for the work of millions of dedicated professionals and volunteers across this nation.

National Estuary Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of our estuaries to our way of life and our well-being. Estuaries provide indispensable services to our ecology and our economy. Our estuaries are irreplaceable and we must protect, sustain, and restore them.

National Estuary Week is also a time to review our progress in assuring the continued productivity of our estuaries, celebrating our successes and renewing our commitment to ensuring that future generations will enjoy these precious resources. I ask all Members to join me and the Congressional Estuary Caucus in that commitment. The challenge is critical and we can meet it.

LIZABETH LIEBESKIND

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor today a dedicated member of the Hastings on Hudson community, Lizabeth Liebeskind, a woman who brought art, beauty and insight to all she encountered. Lizabeth passed away on July 26, 2018 at her home surrounded by her loving family after a valiant battle with cancer. But for those who knew her, the legacy Lizabeth has left will last forever.

Lizabeth graduated from Syracuse University, BFA, and devoted her life to developing the arts in Tribeca, Woodstock, Hastings on Hudson and Brooklyn. As Co-Founder and Creative Director of 12 Miles North, Liz founded the wonderful “Take Me to The River Festival” for which she was awarded a Key to the City on September 9, 2017. That day from here forth will forever be “Lizabeth Sipes-Liebeskind Day” in Hastings on Hudson. Liz wrote and performed plays, most recently her own one woman play about her battle with breast cancer in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma to a loving family of seven, Lizabeth is survived by her mother, Beverly Sipes and siblings: Terry, John, and Scott Sipes and Marianne Brown. Liz leaves behind her beloved husband, Hank Liebeskind and her adored children, Samantha, Charlee and Lila Liebeskind.

Mr. Speaker, Lizabeth was a wonderful, warm individual who did so much to better our community. Her contributions were many, as were all the different lives she touched. Lizabeth will be deeply missed, and I am humbled to be able to honor her legacy as a Member of Congress.

LAKE FOREST DEBT FREE DAY

**HON. MIMI WALTERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2018*

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Lake Forest, California, located in my congressional district.

On October 2, 2018, the Lake Forest City Council will notify bondholders that the city intends to make an early repayment of a \$7 million bond, the city’s only outstanding debt. The debt will be paid in full by December 2, 2018.

By repaying the debt early, Lake Forest will save approximately \$1 million. Those savings will allow the City to allocate additional resources toward various funds, such as transportation improvement funds and the General Fund.

Lake Forest is the largest of three cities that has zero outstanding debt liability and is current in its pension payments within the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS).

Following its incorporation in 1991, Lake Forest adopted a conservative fiscal management approach resulting in the substantial financial security the City enjoys today.

For example, Lake Forest contracts for police and fire services, and landscape and street maintenance, and rents office space for City Hall rather than issuing debt to build a Civic Center.

Further, Lake Forest relies on property and sales taxes to fund its budget, rather than relying on specialty taxes like automobile sales or hotel taxes, which can be unreliable sources of income.

A stable income base coupled with conservative spending practices allow Lake Forest to maintain a balanced budget and be debt-free.

Again, I would like to congratulate Lake Forest on this achievement and applaud its fiscal responsibility.

NEEDVILLE SAPPHIRES DANCE TEAM EARNS ALL-STAR STATUS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Needville Sapphires Dance and Drill Team for earning All-Star Status and the title of Gold Elite Team.

The team worked hard at dance camp in Galveston to earn the title of Gold Elite Team, as well as the title of All-Star. The team consists of 24 talented dancers: Alondra Vazquez, Ellye Filla, Jackie Argueta, Vasti Coronado, Cynthia Gaona, Kerri Kiser, Mia Rosales, Joselyn Argueta, Annie Rule, Maddy Knight, Rosalyn Rule, Gabby Bonilla, Samantha Cruz, Tori Rash, Desiree Ojeda, Paris Green, Kendall Hudson, Melanie Fraga, Belen Barron, Ciara Cavazos, Leyla Mottu, Karla Barron, Tesa Gustavus, and Jill Reid. The team worked hard together to earn this accomplishment.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Needville Sapphires Dance and Drill

Team for their new All-Star status and for earning the title of Gold Elite Team. We look forward to seeing their future successes on and off the dance floor.

TRIBUTE TO MANDI McREYNOLDS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mandi McReynolds for being named the 2018 Women Business Emerging Woman of the Year honoree by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, Business Record. Mandi is Principal Foundation and Community Relations Director.

For 19 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Mandi earned her Bachelor degree from Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio and her Master’s degree from Iowa State University. Mandi began her career in higher education but decided to move into the corporate arena where she could use her talents and skills to benefit people all around the world. Under her leadership the Principal Foundation will announce in the fall a five-year major initiative that will benefit dozens of countries with an expanded youth literacy program. Mandi is recognized as a national thought leader on community engagement and philanthropy and serves as a leader with the United Way of Central Iowa’s Women’s Leadership Connection. She has also served on the board for the Polk County Housing Trust, Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce Leadership Education and Advancement Pipeline Advisory Board, and the Des Moines Social Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mandi McReynolds in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mandi McReynolds on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Mrs. McReynolds a long and successful career.

HONORING MICHAEL J. DECKER, KINGSTON VETERANS ASSOCIATION’S VETERAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN J. FASO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2018*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize and honor Michael J. Decker for being designated as the Kingston Veterans Association’s Veteran of the Year for 2018. A native of Kingston, New York, Mr. Decker has bravely served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves since 1993.