HONORING BETSY HODGES
HON. KEITH ELLISON
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Betsy Hodges’ honorable service to the City of Minneapolis.

During her time as Mayor of Minneapolis, Betsy Hodges advanced environmental justice, transforming policing and safety, and closing racial and economic disparities, including among our youngest children. Through her inspiring vision of “One Minneapolis,” she reoriented the work of the City of Minneapolis and the nation. We are proud to call him a Western Coloradan, and his integrity, intelligence and loyalty will be greatly missed. I wish him luck as he enjoys a well-earned retirement.

HONORING BETSY HODGES
HON. KEITH ELLISON
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Betsy Hodges’ honorable service to the City of Minneapolis.

During her time as Mayor of Minneapolis, Betsy Hodges advanced environmental justice, transforming policing and safety, and closing racial and economic disparities, including among our youngest children. Through her inspiring vision of “One Minneapolis,” she reoriented the work of the City of Minneapolis and the nation. We are proud to call him a Western Coloradan, and his integrity, intelligence and loyalty will be greatly missed. I wish him luck as he enjoys a well-earned retirement.

Mayor Hodges pushed Minneapolis to be one of the greenest cities in America, extending organics recycling to every neighborhood, developing a Zero Waste Minneapolis plan, winning incentives to keep pollutants out of our air and water, and pursuing environmental justice. Under Mayor Hodges’ leadership, Minneapolis was named a Climate Champion city by the White House and won a coveted 100 Resilient Cities designation from the Rockefeller Foundation. Pope Francis recognized Mayor Hodges’ and Minneapolis’ leadership in fighting climate change when he invited her to the Vatican for a convening of world mayors that he hosted.

Because of Mayor Hodges’ leadership, the City pursued historic measures to help working people, including a $15 municipal minimum wage with no tip penalty, and earned sick and safe time for everyone who works in Minneapolis, both of which were firsts in the state of Minnesota. Mayor Hodges laid a strong foundation for transforming the city’s policing, including implementing the use of body cameras, reforming the municipal criminal-justice system, and appointing Minneapolis’ first African American chief of police. She also assembled a Special Committee to K Cabinet that developed a plan to prevent racial disparities for our youngest children.

Minneapolis continued to grow under Mayor Hodges’ tenure: in each of her four years as Mayor, the City experienced more than $1 billion in state and local tax revenue growth, without public subsidy. The long-planned renovation of Nicollet Mall was completed on time and on budget, the City-owned Target Center was renovated at one quarter of the cost of building a new arena, and Minneapolis won both Super Bowl LII and the NCAA Final Four. Mayor Hodges fully funded a first-ever, 20-year tourism master plan for Minneapolis to build on these successes into the future.

Mayor Hodges also made significant investments in Minneapolis’ infrastructure: a historic and fiscally responsible 20-year, $800 million investment in the City’s parks and streets, along with full funding for Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit and a network of protected bike lanes that contribute to Minneapolis’ continuing to be the best bike city in America. She also made significant investments in affordable housing, including for families facing homelessness.

Mayor Hodges’ nation-leading work was also recognized with a coveted Promise Zone designation for North Minneapolis, several significant federal grants to support Minneapolis’ 21st-century policing efforts, a highly competitive Mayor’s Innovation Grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to support racial-equity work, and with Minneapolis’ participation in the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice.

Under Mayor Hodges’ leadership, Minneapolis remained a well-run city. Mayor Hodges passed and presented four structurally balanced budgets that continued the foundation of fiscal responsibility that she laid while on the Council. She reoriented the work of the City around racial equity. Mayor Hodges’ commitment to equity extended to hiring in her own office, where she hired half women and half people of color, including the first Somali-American and the first openly transgender person ever to work in the Mayor’s office.

As an openly sober person and an open survivor of childhood sexual assault, Mayor Hodges has consistently given of her time to help more people than we will ever know find their own path to healing and has actively supported the movement.

Before serving as Mayor, Betsy Hodges had an outstanding career in public service. As the Ward 13 City Council Member for eight years, she chaired the Ways & Means/Budget Committee and worked successfully for years to reform the City’s closed-pension system that was unfair to taxpayers and pensioners alike. Mayor Hodges worked as an organizer in the non-profit sector for TakeAction MN and for the Minnesota Justice Foundation, and helped found the Women’s Health Project in New Mexico to assist HIV-positive women. She also worked as a Budget Analyst for Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman.

Mayor Hodges is also known for her sense of humor, as well as for her love of Wonder Woman, the movie “Die Hard,” giraffes, and Oxford commas.

Mayor Betsy Hodges’ years of leadership and activism have shaped Minneapolis and Minnesota for the better. She has made a positive impact on the lives of so many, one that will be felt for decades to come. I would like to commend and thank her for her many contributions.

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria and Dennis Mascher of Farragut, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 24, 2018.

Gloria and Dennis’ lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HON. ANN M. KUSTER
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ken Roos. A passionate activist, humanitarian, and volunteer, Ken was known to love a good protest and dedicated himself to social and economic justice through countless amounts of service to help hard working Granite State men and women. Ken, affectionately known as Uncle Kenny, also served with distinction in the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and as the Vice President of the local Service Employees International Union.

Through his career in public service, Ken promoted the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of New Hampshire. His volunteer work with the Red Cross ameliorated families’ lives after difficult times such as 9/11, New Hampshire home fires, and Hurricane Katrina. Ken literally gave a part of himself to those whose lives he touched, including donating hundreds of pints of blood throughout his life. Ken advocated for many whose voices didn’t always have a seat at the table.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s Second Congressional District, I express my profound gratitude for Ken and his many years of devoted service to the Granite
State and its people. He will be greatly missed but his memory will live on through the kindness of everyone he touched and the lasting impact of the causes for which he fought. I am honored to recognize Ken and extend my condolences to his family. May he deservedly rest in peace.

HONORING FRANCISCO MUÑOZ III
HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Francisco Muñoz III on the occasion of his retirement. For more than 43 years, Mr. Muñoz served as director of the dance and Ballet Folklórico programs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Francisco Muñoz graduated from Pan American University—now University of Texas Rio Grande Valley—in 1975, double majoring in history and physical education and recreation. He went on to earn multiple graduate degrees at the University. Francisco began teaching dance part-time in 1977, and in 1982 became the first full-time instructor at the school to focus on folklorico. On August 31, 2018, Francisco retired from his positions as director of both prestigious UTRGV performing arts programs. Francisco and his wife, Mary, built the dance program and the internationally recognized Ballet Folklórico company from the ground up. His work has transformed the dance department at UTRGV and enabled students from all over the Rio Grande Valley to share their talents on national and international stages. Francisco’s colleagues and pupils were fortunate to receive instruction and encouragement from a leader like him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent someone as hard-working as Mr. Francisco Muñoz III. The South Texas community is thankful for his work and dedication to enriching our culture. I wish him the best as he begins a new chapter of his life. May retirement suit him and his family well.

BILL HARRIS POST OFFICE BILL
SPEECH OF HON. BOB GIBBS OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to honor a good man, a faithful public servant, a veteran, and a friend to the people of the great state of Ohio by renaming the Post Office in Ashland, Ohio after former Ohio Senate President, Bill Harris.

Bill served our nation as a United States Marine for 23 years. He completed tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His actions led to him being awarded the Bronze Star twice and the Vietnam Medal of Honor. He rose to the rank of Major and retired in 1977.

Shortly thereafter, Bill found himself moving to Ashland, Ohio and opening a car dealership. It is still run by the Harris family. Bill was an active member of his community, serving as chairman of the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Board for the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University.

I got to know Bill when we served in the Ohio legislature together. While he was in the Senate, I served in the House. Bill was Ohio Senate President when he led them to enact major reforms to Ohio’s tax code. He also had a passion for making Ohio’s higher education system better and more affordable. But I also got to know Bill on a personal level. After Bill broke his leg slipping on ice in 2009, he was unable to drive. Since I lived the closest to him, I drove him down to Columbus while he was recovering. We spent many hours talking, sometimes about politics and state government, but mostly about family and life. He told me stories and imparted his wisdom on those drives from Ashland to Columbus and back.

Bill Harris dedicated his life to his family and friends, his community and country. I offer this legislation as a way to honor Bill’s legacy and recognize his achievements. I ask for my colleagues’ support of this bill to rename the Post Office in Ashland after him in thanks for his commitment to Ashland, the State of Ohio, and to America.

HONORING MICHAEL BEATTY
HON. JACKIE WALORSKI OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hoosier artist and Congressional Art Competition judge Michael Beatty. He has shared his passion for artistic and creative expression with many throughout his career. Michael’s work has been showcased across northern Indiana, giving our community the gift of cultural enrichment and a chance to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us.

The breadth of his work, which spans various mediums, publications, and international honors, stands as a guiding light for others. Michael is a role model, a leader, and an expressive visionary for us all.

Michael has always been active in our community, and for the past several years has helped celebrate the hard work and incredible talent of local high school students as a judge in Indiana’s 2nd District Congressional Art Competition. His participation in our annual competition gives young artists encouragement and the opportunity to continue pursuing their dreams. I want to thank him for the time and dedication he has given to support the next generation of Hoosier artists.

I am truly grateful for his positive contributions in northern Indiana and across the country. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael’s compassion, drive, and creative spirit. It is a privilege to represent Hoosiers like Michael Beatty, who helps make our communities vibrant and our futures bright.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Chicagoan. I am among the youth, especially among people of color between the ages of 13 to 34. The Center for American Progress reported 17 young people are murdered every day in America. Imagine if 17 of our nation’s best doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, poets, and politicians were taken away every day to gun violence. According to the Bureau of Justice, the murder rate has declined by 3.4 percent from 30 of the largest cities in America. The murder rate in Chicago also declined by 12.3 percent in 2017, but remains more than 60 percent above 2014 levels. Some cities saw their murder rates rise in 2017, such as Baltimore (7.8 percent) and Philadelphia (13.1 percent). This is the daily reality of America, particularly for urban cities like Chicago and Philadelphia. This issue should outrage us all.

Mothers In Charge, Inc. (MIC) is one organization that is here today in our nation’s Capitol to inform Members of Congress of the impact of gun violence. MIC is comprised of imprisoned mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and others who are committed to working towards saving lives and preventing another parent or guardian from having to experience their terrible tragedy. They advocate for families affected by violence and provide counseling and grief support services for families when a loved one has been murdered. One of the advocates is Mrs. Johnson-Speight, who is spearheading a movement to make the nation aware of homicide among young people. She works with juvenile offenders—some of whom are incarcerated for murder—using a cognitive skills development model titled, “Thinking For A Change”. This program addresses the development of pro-social and proper decision making skills, violence prevention, and preparation for re-entry back into their communities.

I commend all of the organizations and institutions working hard to bring attention to homicide, and their efforts to eliminate the threat of gun violence. In honor of the many precious lives lost, and the need to continue the fight against violence so their deaths are not in vain.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA AND LARRY WEST
HON. DAVID YOUNG OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria and Larry West of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 17, 1968 in Harlan, Iowa.

Gloria and Larry’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another every year until we join them in eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join