

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND JIM LONG

**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 congratulate Joyce and Jim Long of Essex, Iowa for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They were chosen by fellow members of the Essex Community Club for this honor.

Joyce and Jim have lived in the Essex area for almost six decades. The couple graduated from high school in 1954 and married a year later. Jim served in the military and operated the family farm. Joyce enrolled in nursing school and was employed by the Montgomery County Hospital for 24 years. Joyce and Jim have three children and have been active in the Essex community. Jim served on the city council and on the Page County Landfill Board. Joyce is a member of the quilting crew at St. John's Lutheran Church. Joyce said, "giving back to the community is just something you do. We don't think anything of it." Jim added, "Essex has been a wonderful place for us to live and raise our children. It's an honor and nice to be recognized."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Joyce and Jim Long for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication can affect a community. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Joyce and Jim on receiving this honor, and I wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL  
ALOYSIUS RYAN**

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and legacy of Master Sergeant Michael Aloysius Ryan. Born on May 15, 1946, Master Sergeant Ryan dedicated his life to his country through his service with the Armed Forces. Earning his High School GED through the United States Armed Forces Institute, he went on to serve two tours in Vietnam and one in the Persian Gulf.

Throughout his service, Master Sergeant Ryan earned many decorations, medals and commendations, including two Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Rifle MIG Expert Badge.

Returning home to transition into the Air Force Reserve, Master Sergeant Ryan continued to serve his nation as a member of the 106th Rescue Wing of Westhampton Beach, New York. Once again answering the call of

duty, Master Sergeant Ryan stepped up in the immediate aftermath of September 11th as a part of the search and recovery mission at the World Trade Center. Within one week of working the pile at Ground Zero, Master Sergeant Ryan contracted an incurable lung disease, one he would succumb to nearly seventeen years later.

Master Sergeant Ryan was kind, loving, dedicated, funny, intelligent and a passionate sportsman. He was a loving husband, loyal brother, amazing father and caring grandfather, but most of all he was an American hero. Having dedicated centuries of his life to serving his fellow Americans, he did not hesitate to step up even in our nation's darkest moment. For his bravery and heroism, and the sacrifice of his family, our country will be eternally grateful. Let his memory serve as a promise to always care for our nation's veterans, first responders and all those who stepped up in the aftermath of September 11th.

**FRANCE RECOGNIZES TEXAS AS  
AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is distinctive in many ways. Texas was an independent nation for nine years. In fact, some Texans still think we're an independent country.

Texas had gained independence from Mexico in 1836 and had immediately set up a republic. The reason for the call for independence was because Mexico had abolished its democracy and set up a dictatorship with Santa Anna as the Supreme Dictator. Texans and Tejanos—Mexican or Spanish person born in Texas—were determined not to live under an imperial dictatorship and went to war with Mexico to gain independence. This was a fight for liberty. Independence was gained on April 21, 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto where General Sam Houston and his boys defeated a superior Mexican army under the leadership of Santa Anna.

After Texas set up a government, it then built an army and a navy. Texas then sought official recognition of the Republic of Texas from other nations.

On this day, September 25, 1839, King Louis Philippe of France formally recognized the Republic of Texas. This was the first country after the United States to recognize the republic. This treaty allowed Texas commerce to be admitted to France on a most favored nation basis. Great Britain soon followed in recognizing Texas as an independent nation. Texas would proceed to engage in commerce with the United States, Mexico, France, and Great Britain.

Dubois De Saligny of France was appointed as chargé d'affaires and soon moved to Austin. He bought 21 acres just east of the Texas Capitol in Austin and began construction of the house known today as the French Legation. Today, there is a similar site where the Texas Legation was in Paris, France. The French residence is now a historical site in Texas. It acts as a reminder that Texas was once a country.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ERIC ACCIME

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Accime, a highly successful executive with more than 20 years of experience in the building and engineering industry and a generous philanthropist, who has had an outsized impact on underserved and impoverished communities around the world.

Mr. Accime, a product of Florida International University, participated in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project I founded to intervene in the lives of at-risk boys of color and steer them onto a pathway to success. I am extremely proud that Mr. Accime has utilized the mentorship and assistance he received as a springboard to personal and professional success while remaining committed to giving back and serving those in need.

After graduating from FIU, Mr. Accime returned to the 5000 Role Models as a staffer and helped mentor other boys and young men of color, working to instill in them the same skills, confidence, and vision that has served him over the course of his career.

Since entering the private sector, Mr. Accime has built an impressive body of work and been recognized for his outstanding contributions. His expertise spans the development and construction management of large multi-use real estate, municipal and commercial projects. To date, he has spearheaded various high-profile projects valued at more than \$600 million. His accolades include the National Award of Excellence for a project built in Tampa, Florida, which was designated one of the two best projects in the United States for fiscal year 2000.

Although remarkably accomplished, Mr. Accime has retained the same values of service and community that drove him as a young staffer with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. His professional and philanthropic endeavors have helped significantly improve conditions, particularly for underserved children, both in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Accime has been integral to numerous relief efforts, having partnered with USAID, Habitat for Humanity, the Breaking Point International Corp., and the National Society of Black Engineers of Alexandria, Virginia, to provide resources and build vital infrastructure.

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Mr. Accime worked to help design and build a new National Campus of Health and Sciences there in collaboration with USAID. The project utilized cutting-edge design and delivery techniques to ensure the facility's sustainability, which was vital to Haiti's recovery and was estimated to produce approximately 1,500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health practitioners over a 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Accime for his exceptional achievements and humanitarian contributions. I am proud to call Mr. Accime a friend and can personally testify to his generous and hardworking spirit.