

country, Firman joined the 34th division of the U.S. Naval Reserves in Green Bay in 1940 at the age of 17. He entered the Navy a few months later and was assigned to the USS *Maryland* in April of 1941. When the USS *Maryland* left for Pearl Harbor in July of 1941, Firman was aboard the vessel as a gunner's mate first-class at the time of the attacks.

The morning of December 7, 1941, Firman was preparing for Mass aboard the USS *Oklahoma* when he saw the first Japanese bombers flying overhead. The USS *Oklahoma* was next to the USS *Maryland* in the harbor when it suffered major damage and capsized. Firman bravely ran into the face of danger and took up arms as he defended the base with anti-aircraft guns. He later helped pull his deceased brothers in arms from the sunken ship. On that tragic day, 460 men perished on the USS *Oklahoma* and the USS *Maryland* lost five brave souls. The 4 days following the attacks, Firman and his fellow soldiers rescued 32 men from the hull of the USS *Oklahoma*.

Firman continued his brave service to the country for three years on the USS *Maryland* participating in Guadalcanal, the Battle of Tarawa, and the Battle of Kwajalein Atoll. After the war, Firman was assigned to the USS *Bayfield* APA 33 and was sent to the Marshall Islands for atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. On February 7, 1947 he was discharged from the Navy after six years and seven days on active duty.

Firman was one of more than 16 million ordinary people that did extraordinary things during World War II. His willingness to share his story in 2003 at the age of 80 allowed many across Wisconsin, including students throughout Northeast Wisconsin, to hear his account of that day. It was in 2003 that he first visited the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii and realized he wanted to be a voice to tell part of the story of those 2,335 servicemen and women who perished on that day of infamy. With each retelling of his story, Firman shared an important message: "Truly, man has got to learn to get along with each other." Firman's wise words still ring true today.

Mr. Balza was 95 when he passed away on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. He was born September 25, 1923, to Theophile and Mary Balza, the youngest of 11 sons. On April 23, 1949, he married Nathalie M. Larscheid. He was a true lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed camping with his family and hunting and fishing with his brother-in-law, Carlton Larscheid. He was very proud of becoming a licensed pilot at the age of 63.

Words cannot justly thank Mr. Balza for his many years of service to our country. A treasure for a community and nation, Mr. Balza cannot be replaced. May his service, dedication, and sacrifice be remembered by all.

REMEMBERING MR. DIEGO
ZAMORA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diego Zamora, who lost his life after a long battle with cancer at the age of 60. Over the past three decades, Diego built a highly suc-

cessful law practice in Santa Fe and was a significant figure in New Mexico's legal community.

Diego was born in New Mexico to a family with a history of success in the legal field. His father, Matias, served as a district court judge in San Miguel, Mora, and Guadalupe counties. His sister, Monica, also served as a district court judge in Albuquerque and now serves on the state Court of Appeals. His brother, Geno, serves as a Santa Fe city attorney and was previously a general counsel for Governor Bill Richardson.

Following in his father's footsteps, Diego received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1984. For decades, he had a successful law practice with a focus on personal injury, wrongful death, employment, and civil rights cases. Fighting for the little guy was his passion, and he successfully took on powerful interests time and again in order to achieve justice for his clients. In addition to his intellect and passion, he was also known for his warm personality that allowed him to connect with juries.

Diego also devoted a great deal of time to the New Mexico Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, an organization that helps members of the legal community dealing with substance abuse issues. He took countless lawyers under his wing during difficult times and was known as a compassionate mentor for many. He was a true fighter and each challenge he overcame made him stronger. His compassion and strength defined him, especially in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere condolences to all of Diego's family and loved ones. I hope they are comforted by cherished memories of Diego, and by the fact that so many in our community mourn his loss and celebrate his life with them.

HONORING JOYCE OVERTON WITH
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joyce Overton as a woman of the year. She has devoted a lifetime of service to the community of Clearlake. She has established herself as a strong public servant, advocate, and champion for the county's most vulnerable populations: youths, seniors, and the homeless. In her role as a City Council member, Ms. Overton has prioritized economic revitalization programs and advocates for sound fiscal policy, road improvements, and the reinvigoration of the Lakeshore Corridor. Ms. Overton has also been instrumental in leading the recovery efforts after the devastating fires and floods that have ravaged Lake County. She has selflessly contributed her time and resources supporting the community at the evacuation centers. Her passion for volunteerism in the community is also evident in her roles as founder and past Executive Director of Lake County Youth Services, a nonprofit youth services center devoted to providing a positive support system to young people in her Lake County. She is currently the Executive Director of Highland Senior Services Center,

an essential lifeline to Lake County's aging population ensuring the senior community has access to much needed resources and healthy meals. Joyce Overton has an extensive and impressive record of public service and embodies all of the qualities of a community leader and public servant.

CONGRATULATING THE PEKIN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 125
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pekin Chamber of Commerce on its 125th Anniversary. The Chamber has joyfully served the Pekin community since 1893.

In October of 1893, what is now the Pekin Chamber of Commerce was formed by five businessmen who originally named their organization the Citizen's Improvement Association of Pekin. The organization set out with the goal of "advancing the business interest and promoting the commercial growth of the City of Pekin." Although the organization went through several name changes, before settling on the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, their mission remained the same. Today, the Pekin Chamber of Commerce continues to serve businesses and consumers in the region as they work to grow and strengthen the local economy. I commend them on their 125th Anniversary for all of the work they have done for the residents of Pekin and look forward to seeing their continued efforts.

It is because of groups such as the Pekin Chamber of Commerce that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Pekin Chamber of Commerce on its 125th Anniversary and thank them for their service to the community.

In October the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce will be finishing 125 years of leading Pekin businesses.

HONORING JACK VAN NORMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Van Norman. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jack has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack Van Norman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America