

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
STEPHEN T. AYERS

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and pay tribute to the Honorable Stephen T. Ayers, the 11th Architect of the Capitol, on his retirement after 21 years of service to the United States Congress.

Stephen started his career as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. In 1997, Mr. Ayers joined the Architect of the Capitol as an Assistant Superintendent for the Senate Office Buildings. He served in several capacities over the next decade before his appointment as Architect of the Capitol in May 2010.

As Architect of the Capitol, Mr. Ayers is responsible for overseeing the well-being of the buildings and structures that Americans understand as icons of American history including: the House and Senate Congressional Office Buildings, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the crown jewel of the portfolio the United States Capitol. Additionally, the care and improvement of more than 570 acres of grounds are under the supervision of the Architect of the Capitol.

During his tenure, Mr. Ayers oversaw the restoration of the U.S. Capitol Dome, a major undertaking that repaired and restored the most recognizable symbol of liberty and democracy in the world. The dome was completed under budget and ahead of schedule. Other notable projects under Mr. Ayer's tenure include the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial project, as well as the launch of the Cannon House Office Building renewal.

The Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee has come to depend on Stephen and his team for their hard work and professionalism. As Mr. Ayers departs his post; the leadership, dedication, and bright smile he brought to work day in and day out will be missed.

I wish Stephen and his wife Jennifer, all the best in this next phase of their lives.

HONORING THE ASIAN AMERICAN  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MS.  
JANICE RYBA FOR THEIR EXEM-  
PLARY SERVICE

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will host its 42nd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 10, 2018, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association has been a tremendous asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have dedicated them-

selves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have served their communities through many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Ms. Janice Ryba, JD, MJ, MHA. Janice has worked for over thirty years in the healthcare field in Northwest Indiana, primarily within the Community Healthcare System. In 2007, her extensive experience and exemplary leadership led to her being named Chief Executive Officer of Saint Mary Medical Center in Hobart, Indiana. Under Ms. Ryba's direction, Saint Mary Medical Center has seen immense success and been recognized for its innovation. Recently, Saint Mary's incorporated a brand new surgical pavilion, intensive care unit, and a six-story patient tower that features private patient rooms with the most up-to-date technology. Additionally, Saint Mary's has expanded services in Porter County with the new Valparaiso Health Center. Under Ms. Ryba's leadership, providing compassionate care with the finest technology is the goal of the organization, and she and the talented staff at Saint Mary's continue to go above and beyond. For her lifetime of service, she is truly worthy of the prestigious honor bestowed upon her.

Ms. Ryba has also given much of her time and efforts to numerous organizations in Northwest Indiana and throughout the state including the Quality of Life Council, American Red Cross of Northwest Indiana, and the Indiana Hospital Association Council on Hospital Governance, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Ms. Janice Ryba. For her dedication to her outstanding career in the medical field and her remarkable service to the community of Northwest Indiana, Janice Ryba is worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING AMAGDA PEREZ WITH  
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amagda Perez as a woman of the year. She is an instructor at the UC Davis School of Law and a committed advocate for the legal rights of immigrants. As co-director of the Immigration Law Clinic at UC Davis and as an attorney with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, she has extensive experience working with immigrants of varied nationalities and other marginalized communities. Professor Perez brings to her work a wealth of experience and expertise in immigration and poverty law, allowing her to successfully advocate for some of our community's most vulnerable. In her work at the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic, Professor Perez supervises law students in the preparation of deportation defense cases. This work is important both in its advocacy for the rights of immigrants as well as the invaluable education and experience it

provides for future immigration attorneys. Her work mentoring the next generation of legal scholars and advocates is of critical importance to shaping the future of our society. The generosity Professor Perez shows in lending her time, knowledge, and experience to her students, and to those in need of representation, is truly worthy of recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH  
COUNTRY PRENATAL/PERINATAL  
COUNCIL ON ITS 30TH ANNIVER-  
SARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council on its 30th Anniversary.

Founded in 1988, the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council (NCPPC) became the first perinatal network in New York State, serving Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. Since then, the NCPPC has worked hard to bolster maternal and family health by developing a number of services and programs to improve access to this crucial form of care. As the regional coordinating council for maternal and child health issues, the NCPPC also manages grants for teen pregnancy prevention, community enrollment in insurance programs, Healthy Families Jefferson County, and a family resource center. As a result of the NCPPC's persistent outreach and dedication, our North Country women, children, and families can continue to access the care they need.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I want to congratulate the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council and their dedicated employees on their 30th anniversary. We are thankful for their service to our local communities, and we look forward to watching them continue to thrive for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREW  
CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, of Montross, Virginia on their 170th anniversary.

The church was founded in 1848 when land was deeded from Joseph and Susan Lyell, and its name honors Bishop James O. Andrew who helped found the Southern branch of Methodism in the 1840's. Originally located under a grove of oak trees, Andrew Chapel has been served by more than 58 clergy and is currently led by Rev. Kevin F. Elmore. Through the years, the congregation has seen many changes in facilities and programs, yet Andrew Chapel continues to leave an invaluable impact on the Montross community. Currently, Andrew Chapel has a congregation of over 100 members who show unwavering commitment to loving their neighbors in a Christ-like manner. They facilitate free health

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

clinics, deliver “meals on wheels” every month, help supply the local food pantry, donate gifts during the holidays to local families in need, and support scholarships to high school graduates pursuing higher education opportunities. Their vision statement, “Hope and grace for all God’s children through Christ,” is a fitting anthem that embodies all their efforts in bringing glory to God.

Mr. Speaker, I pray for Christ’s guidance as the congregation comes together in this time of celebration and reflection. May God continue to bless Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church as they spread the good news of the Gospel and live out Christ’s love in our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO CREOLA BLACKWELL

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Creola Blackwell on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Our world has changed a great deal during Creola’s life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Creola has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Creola in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Creola Blackwell on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### HONORING GLORIA DIAZ WITH CALIFORNIA’S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Diaz as a woman of the year. She exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and possesses a deep desire to help others in the community. Her professional work and volunteerism demonstrates her commitment to improving her community. As a Clinical Service Manager for the Vacaville Police Department, Gloria has worked for more than two decades as a mental health clinician and care provider. She oversees more than twenty grants that provide funding to programs that are vital in assisting members in the community who need urgent care and aid during a crisis. In her leadership role at the Family Resource Center in Vacaville, Gloria dedicates her time selflessly to assist hundreds of individuals and families gain financial support and access to direct-need services. Each year through the Family Investigative Response Service Team and Youth Services Section, Gloria works to support internship opportunities for college students to gain valuable experience in the field of mental health counseling. Her role in putting together the successful and expanding Summer at City Hall program aimed at supporting students focused on ca-

reers in public service exemplifies her fondness for community service. Gloria Diaz’s tireless efforts and devotion to this program have been instrumental to its continuous success. Her hard work in helping those in need is inspirational and demonstrates what it truly means to serve your community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF DAVID AYALA-ZAMORA

### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Ayala-Zamora, who died on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. David’s passing is a huge loss for the City of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest region. As a union organizer and immigrant rights organizer, David was a true champion for justice.

David was born into a middle-class family in El Salvador. During the 1980s, David was one quarter away from graduating with a degree in electrical engineering when he decided to put his studies on hold to organize with teachers during El Salvador’s civil war. He also worked for a government institute that managed pensions for public employees as the grievance secretary, often putting him in very challenging and dangerous situations.

David’s visibility as a union leader and his calls to end the war eventually led to his arrest and torture by Salvadoran security forces. His early experiences being tortured shaped the core of his character and he brought that strength and resilience to everything he did. David described being tortured as “The best experience in my life. Being tortured is like running a marathon. It taught me how committed I am in the struggle for justice. And it has fortified me in some ways, because you learn how much capacity you have in this body.”

Forced into exile in the United States where he eventually became a U.S. citizen, David returned to organizing work in his new home. He was driven to continue this work, saying that “Those of us who were touched by people who gave everything for justice, we have to try to keep them alive and with us through the work we do.”

David’s work continues to be felt across the Pacific Northwest region. He was one of the organizers who launched the day laborer organizing project that became Casa Latina, which continues to advocate for immigrant workers’ rights. Many years later, he worked with me as the Organizing Director at OneAmerica, the organization that I founded and where I served as Executive Director for 11 years. David was a true partner to me, helping me to expand our organization across Washington State as we grew OneAmerica to be the state’s largest immigrant rights organization. David was exceptional at seeing leadership qualities in ordinary people and helping them to develop that leadership to do extraordinary things. Thanks to his work, OneAmerica was able to strengthen power within underrepresented immigrant communities and win major policy victories from maintaining driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants, to organizing for the creation of Washington State’s first and only majority-minority congressional district, and pushing for a state Voting Rights Act.

David also worked for many years at SEIU in Portland and Seattle, organizing low-wage workers to bring justice to the workplace; as the Field Director at Working Washington where he organized airport workers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to fight for fair wages and a safe workplace; and as the Organizing Director at Promise Arizona, orga-

nizing around voting rights, civic participation, and health care.

David is survived by his wife, Siovhán Sheridan Ayala, and his children, David Ayala-Lindeman, Margarita Anne Ayala-Sheridan, and Maura Ruth Ayala-Sheridan; his father, David Ayala-Dominguez; and five brothers and sisters, Ana Betty Ayala de Giron, Obed Edgardo Ayala-Zamora, Ruth Ayala-Zamora, Yani Ayala-Zamora, and Eliud Ulises Ayala-Zamora.

David was a trusted advisor and partner to me in fighting for immigrant and worker justice. His irrepressible laughter, his deep appreciation for life, and his hunger for justice has sustained and inspired so many across the Northwest and in El Salvador. A light has gone from our world, but David’s legacy shines brightly with all those he touched and all the movements he helped build. His lasting impact on the region will endure for many years to come.

#### COMMEMORATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the Lakewood Fire Department.

In 1893, citizens of Lakewood joined together to form the Lakewood Bucket Brigade. Neighbors and friends intent on preserving the safety of their community set the foundation for more than a century of service to come.

Dedicated to protecting its citizens, the village of Lakewood was covered by not one, but two fire companies for nearly forty years. Lakewood Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, later known as Lakewood Hose Co. No. 1, was formed in 1899. Through generous donations from J.W. Packard, the Lakewood firefighters received land for a new fire hall and 1915 Model T Ford Chemical Fire engine. In 1924, Lakewood’s second fire company, known as the Lakewood Chemical Co. Inc., was formed. In 1964 the Lakewood Hose Co. No. 1 and the Lakewood Chemical Co. merged to become the present day Lakewood Fire Co. Inc.

Over the years, the Lakewood Fire Department has grown in size and expanded in their capabilities. By adding marine rescue units, heavy rescue vehicles, ambulances, and ladder trucks, the Lakewood Fire Department has adapted to meet the safety needs of their community. Construction and later renovation of a training center has ensured Lakewood firefighters are well prepared for the dangers they may face in the line of duty.

One hundred twenty-five years of service to the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Lakewood Fire Department for their impressive record of hard work and look forward to many more years of them keeping our community safe.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the Lakewood Fire Department’s one hundred twenty-five years of service.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORTAGEVILLE, MO

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church of Portageville, Missouri on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The church was founded on November 4th of 1868, when a small group in Portageville organized around a collective sense of faith and worship. The original congregation met in a log building erected in the 1850's, later moving into the local masonic lodge, which they shared with the freemasons. Since the early 1900's, First Baptist Church has met in one of three buildings at its current location.

First Baptist Church has the distinction of being the oldest church in the membership of the New Madrid Baptist Association, which is composed of the Southern Baptist congregations in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties.

Today, the church has 306 members and is involved in local and nationwide missions. The church provides Bibles for distribution through the local RAIN (Reaching All In Need) Food Ministry, and also hosts weekly meetings for foster parent training.

For continuing its work of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through 150 years of change and challenge, it is my great pleasure to honor First Baptist Church today before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO ELLA MAE WRIGHT

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ella Mae Wright passed away in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 27th, at the age of 101. She was a great wife, mother, business woman, and all-around good citizen of the type that has made this country great.

Mrs. Wright and her husband J.B. were married for 67 years. They founded Wright's Cafeteria which still today is one of Knoxville's most popular eating establishments. It was once described in a Knoxville newspaper as my "favorite restaurant."

Mrs. Wright's pride and joy were her three children, David, Janice, and Calvin, and her seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

She could often be found in the Cafeteria, greeting customers, most of whom she considered as longtime friends. She was always smiling and offering encouraging words to everyone.

During her 101 years, she lived her Christian faith every day and touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways. This Country is a better place today because of the life Ella Mae Wright led.

I wanted my colleagues and others to know about this good woman and great American.

HONORING GINA TAYLOR WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Taylor as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving children throughout her community and devotes her time to many volunteer organizations. As president of the Willows Unified School District Board she works with other board members to ensure the school district provides a safe and engaging learning environment where each student has the opportunity to realize their full potential, develop respect and tolerance for others, and ultimately become a productive member of the community. Ms. Taylor is an integral part of realizing the school district's mission of preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. The time she devotes to the school board is a true testament to how much she values education. Ms. Taylor was also a founding member of The Painted Ladies, a group that worked to fill the gaps in school budgets by cleaning and painting classrooms throughout the district. This work helped to provide a positive learning environment for countless students. She has also given her time volunteering for the Clover 4-H Club, the Glenn County 4-H Council, the Willows High Ag Boosters organization, and the Sober Grad event. Ms. Taylor is a dedicated community servant who can be depended upon to find a positive approach to each objective she pursues. Her accomplishments throughout Glenn County are truly remarkable.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again regarding the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018, on the issue of sober living homes. At that hearing, I had the privilege of testifying in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of my testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the eighth group of these constituent letters below:

These are examples of what our neighborhood has had to endure since the Sober living home has opened in our neighborhood. As some of the new tenants moved in they introduced themselves as a bunch of college students. These tenants moved out within two weeks. We believe this was a ploy by [REDACTED] get the start in the neighborhood without attracting attention. Since they moved in, our neighborhood has had to put up with cars parked illegally up and down the street. When confronted, the tenants of the house use profanity and extremely rude language and gestures.

The neighborhood is on constant alert due to activity on our street and in and out of the house all hours of the night and day. Specifically, one-night last week a tenant walked out with a backpack around 1:00 a.m. and met with a stranger who was dropped off in our neighborhood earlier. The two were observed cooking heroin. The police were called and showed up. The two ran off along with a third person waiting in the sober liv-

ing house back yard. When the police arrived this person and the one doing the drugs went home to home trying to get into houses. All of this was verified and collaborated via the many cameras in the neighborhood. One vehicle kept at the house, which is usually parked on the street, appears to be a drop point. People drive up and place something in the trunk and later a tenant will pick up whatever has been dropped off and bring it into the house.

Our entire neighborhood has turned into a place where we do not feel safe. Our children must call before they come home so we can escort them into the house. The house has two aggressive pit bulls who have gotten out and pinned a neighbor inside her car unable to leave. When animal control arrived, the dog was put in the house and one tenant said to the officer it's not my dog and left.

These are examples of what our neighborhood has been dealing with. Some other concerns are the property values as several long time homeowners are already talking about selling to get away from the element that has moved in. This home in question is less than 1000 feet from a school. The school has been notified and parents that drop off their kids for school will be notified about this house. This can negatively affect the attendance of the school.

The local police say there is nothing they can do, the city council tell us there is nothing we can do, this is our neighborhood and should not be driven out because of greed, or loopholes in the laws and insurance scams. We would hope Congress would give the local city's authority to regulate and set rules for these kind of houses, and the ability to shut them down for illegal activity.

LESS TAIT,

*Huntington Beach, California.*

My parents purchased their home in Huntington Beach, CA in 1977. I grew up in Huntington Beach, went to college and returned to the city to build my life. I purchased my residence in Huntington Beach in 2000. My family has loved living in Huntington Beach. However, our lives drastically changed in the last year.

The couple that lived next door to my parents purchased their home 41 years ago as original owners. They raised three children in the home like my parents. They unfortunately passed away recently, and their children sold the home in November 2017. For months the home was under construction, but my parents didn't think much of it. Then earlier this year we noticed the neighbor had a large white commercial style van outside, installed a fire sprinkler system with a red bell above the front door, and divided the bonus room into two rooms. We discovered from the person renovating the home that instead of a large family, it was going to house single people. The property records show the home was purchased by a lawyer representing a LLC business and that LLC business was owned by a business called [REDACTED]. We assume it is a sober living home for men, but it may be some other type of facility operated by [REDACTED].

On February 24, 2018 was the first time I experienced a problem. I went over to visit my parents from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. I sat in a chair in the family room. We had the windows closed. I smelled a strong smoke smell in the home. I didn't know where it was coming from. I left after one hour and had a headache for six hours after.

From February 24, 2018 to April 8, 2018, I visited my parent's home about ten times. Every time I visited I smelled smoke in the home, backyard and/or front yard and experience health symptoms (burning eyes, coughing, shortness of breath, headache and/or feeling of sickness). I did not smell smoke or experience health symptoms prior to February 24, 2018. I experienced these symptoms even with the operation of multiple HEPA filters purchased to get rid of smoke.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, at about 10:30 pm I came to pick up some food. During the ten minutes I was at my parent's home I coughed the entire time. I was not coughing before coming to the home and didn't cough after I returned to my car.

There was some pollutant entering my parent's home and garage from next door that caused me to cough. During this visit I didn't smell smoke, so it may have been a different chemical coming from next door.

I am very concerned about the health impacts of the second-hand smoke and chemicals I am being exposed to in my parent's home. I filed a complaint with the City of Huntington Beach code enforcement on April 8, 2018 following my Easter Sunday experience. Due to the symptoms my parents were experiencing, my mom contacted the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and filed multiple complaints about the smoke; however, SCAQMD inspection staff stated they cannot take action against a residence, even though the sober living home is a business. Typically, SCAQMD will issue a notice of violation for businesses causing air pollution and nuisance. My parents also filed complaints with the City of Huntington Beach code enforcement. In addition, they have been filing complaints with the operator of the home, [REDACTED]. The operator has made small changes, but my family is still significantly impacted by the smoke and/or chemicals (a sweet smell presumably vapes from e-cigarettes) nearly 24 hours a day, every day.

My parents are elderly, have medical conditions that are known to be exacerbated by smoke and chemicals (which are also covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act), and are constantly being exposed to indoor and outdoor air pollution from the smoke and chemicals originating from next door. I am worried about my parent's health and if the exposure from the sober living home will cause premature death. My niece and nephew are toddlers and I am concerned about their health when they come visit their grandparents. We smell the chemicals in the living room and kitchen where we spend most of our family time. We are unable to use bedrooms in the home because those rooms are filled with air contaminants and are now unsuitable for sleeping. The sober living home next door has caused significant stress and caused emotional toll for my family.

Second-hand smoke has proven health impacts and according to the Centers for Disease Control "There is no risk-free level of second hand smoke exposure; even brief exposure can be harmful to health." In addition, the California Air Resources Board has identified second hand smoke as a "Toxic Air Contaminant". Reports are now coming out about the health impacts of e-cigarettes.

In addition to having a sober living home next door to my parents, eight homes down the street is a detox home owned by [REDACTED]. The neighbor of this home is the child of another original family in the neighborhood. The current family has young children and has been negatively impacted by the detox home from smoking, bad language, and too many vehicles parking. In addition, the parents have found needles at the local park, so their children no longer visit the park.

In the last couple months, I have noticed groups of people standing on the curb in my condo complex smoking. In eighteen years of living at my residence, I have never seen this before and the general population smoking rates in California are decreasing. I would not be surprised if there is a detox or sober living home in my condo complex, but my homeowner association says they are "not allowed to ask." The property next to mine is currently on the market and I have decided if a detox or sober living home moves next door, I will sell my property and "cash out." I do not want to handle the stress of another detox or sober living home.

Yesterday, I was driving down [REDACTED]. (a major street in Huntington Beach). In a one mile stretch between [REDACTED], I saw three addiction treatment centers on one side of the road. Most likely each one of them has a network of detox and sober living homes nearby. Huntington Beach is now known on the Internet as the national "Rehab Rivera."

Huntington Beach property values are going to be drastically impacted. Realtor Magazine published an article on October 17, 2014, stating there is an eight to 17 percent

reduction in home values when homes are within one-eighth of a mile from a residential treatment center. When my parents attempt to sell their home and they disclose there is sober living home next door and a detox home eight homes down the street, it is common sense that the home will have a lower value. If they don't disclose the location of the homes, they can be sued by the buyer for non-disclosure. It is a lose-lose situation for the large number of families that have detox and sober living homes in their neighborhood.

When the health insurance runs out or a person is kicked out for breaking the house rules, they are left on the sidewalk. Many of these people become homeless since they don't have the money to pay for transportation home. In addition, when addicts relapse they can commit crimes to get money for the next fix. I have noticed a significant increase in number of homeless people in the city and heard reports from neighbors of an increase property crime. Huntington Beach used to pride itself as being one of the safest cities in America and that was a major reason my family chose to live in this community.

The sober living home next door to my parents has totally changed my family's quality of life. Detox and sober living homes should not be in residential areas. They should not be able to destroy other residents' health, quality of life, and property values. In addition, Huntington Beach should only have the necessary facilities to serve our local population.

PREETI GHUMAN,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

I live next door to a home rented out to [REDACTED], a sober living business, in Huntington Beach, CA, for one year & seven months. The clients are brokered from all over the United States. The owner is making \$9,000 in monthly rent compared to the average of \$3500.

A second home just sold in August on my side of the street—three doors down and is also a so called sober living home.

Never know who is coming and going—more than 6 in the home—not counting the manager (who has a job and is not monitoring the group on a regular basis). Fourteen last summer.

One death in March—went unnoticed in the house for eight hours before authorities were notified. Two drug overdoses—last one in July called 911 himself.

Drug deals—at night  
Needles thrown in my backyard  
NOISE—any time—day & Night  
Loud music, talking, screaming, cursing  
Physical fights spilling onto street  
Cars/motorcycles—on the street (3-7 at any given time)

Sex in cars  
Cigarettes butts thrown all around my property.

Cigarette smoke—cannot sit outside, front & back  
Trash overflowing from trash cans—maggots, flies, stench

Gum-wads spitted on my driveway  
Trash in front of our house/street  
House across the street fell out of escrow twice after learning of SLH presence—Our property values going down

No longer live on a beautiful, peaceful, quiet street where my grandchildren can visit.

JEANNE KULPINSKI,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

1) All of them involve sketchy loud and obnoxious yelling, or very loud talking.

2) They are up late hours.

3) Others have saws going at 7 am to cut gates in fences. They don't care about neighbors. Not invested in neighborhood since they're transients.

4) And the 3 are ALL together with the corporate office in one of them too. So, the other 2 are acting in their BEST BEHAVIOR so they're not bothering the boss and get kicked out!

5) Biz belong in commercial areas, not residential!

6) And they need Local control & regulation like ALL BIZ have to have! Why do they get special exception?

The law needs to be changed to fix the lack of supervision & abuses!

1) Require city code enforcement & PD to monitor and cite violations for abuses.

2) 3-Strikes & ur out of biz! SLHs would bring the hammer down on violating clients to avoid losing that free \$ gig.

3) Ban leaving those clients who run out of insurance \$, being kicked out on the curb. Use that obscene \$ to pick them up and transition them safely back to the real world. Sober transition houses.

4) Ban more than 1 SLH in a single-family tract home.

#NoBizInResidential!

BRUCE WAREH,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. FIRMAN BALZA

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life, legacy, and service of Green Bay native, Mr. Firman Balza.

Mr. Firman Balza was one of America's last surviving servicemen from the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Answering the call from his country, Firman signed up for 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. The USS *Maryland* would leave 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 when he saw the first Japanese bombers flying overhead. Mass that morning would have been aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. The USS *Oklahoma* was moored 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. Four hundred-sixty men perished on the *Oklahoma* that day, and the *Maryland* lost five.

During the four days following the attacks, Firman and his fellow soldiers rescued 32 men from the hull of the *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 who did extraordinary acts during World War II. His willingness to begin sharing his story in 2003 at the age of 80 allowed many across Wisconsin, including students across 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. If Firman left one message with all he spoke to, it was "Truly, man has got to learn to get along with each other."

Mr. Balza was 95 when he passed away on 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 a grateful nation and all who knew him.

HONORING EMMA GREEN WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emma Green as a woman of the year. She is passionately devoted to improving her community both through her career and volunteerism. While professionally Emma has had a stellar career at Charter Systems, Inc. the financial services company she owned which just celebrated its 30th Anniversary, she is more likely to be recognized by the underserved in our community for the countless hours of volunteer service providing and delivering meals. One of Emma's passions is feeding the needy by running the Community Meal Program at the Church of the Epiphany where she serves over 350 meals per week. Not only do they serve meals, but she coordinates with other service providers to bring medical, dental, and transportation services to those in need. Ms. Green's history of service also includes her time as President of Vacca Arts, serving on Boards of the Boys & Girls Club, performing vocational rehabilitation and job placement for the disabled, serving as a liaison to Travis Air Force Base Airmen, working with the Vacaville Community Outreach Program, and donating her time to many other service organizations where she is always the first to help. The significant positive impact Ms. Green has had on this community cannot be overstated, which makes her extremely worthy of this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA AND LARRY FOLLMANN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Patricia and Larry Follmann of Massena, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 22, 2018.

Patricia 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 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.

CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF MILITARY FUNERAL HONOR GUARDS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an important issue facing our service members and veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over 500,000 veterans are dying each year. Under a law passed in 2000, many of these men and women qualify for military honors at their funerals, including a two-person honor guard. These honor guards perform an impressive ceremony that includes folding and presenting the flag of the United States and playing Taps. This demonstration of our nation's unceasing appreciation is incredibly important to family, friends, and the entire veterans community.

The Indiana National Guard, like in other states, strives to provide funeral teams whenever possible. Unfortunately, with so many veterans passing each year, there are too few men and women prepared to render honors. Service members and veterans in my hometown of Indianapolis recognized this shortage and organized the Indy Metropolitan Military Honor Guard to meet the need, averaging 400 funerals per year and amassing over 9,600 man hours and 56,000 miles traveled.

Those who serve in our Armed Forces never do so for accolades or honors. Yet, we honor them with medals and ribbons to recognize their service and tell the story of their achievements. In Indiana, the National Guard decorates funeral team members and the Metro Military Honor Guard provides a ribbon to be worn by its participants. Yet, this is not the case across much of the country. Service members and veterans who serve on honor guards are providing a valuable service and should be decorated for their contribution.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to recognize all the service members and veterans who serve on honor guards across the country. I call on all states to follow Indiana's example and adopt a ribbon to recognize these dedicated individuals.

RECOGNIZING ELGIN LOWE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my former colleague, Mr. Elgin Lowe, on the occasion of his receiving the South Alameda County NAACP 40th Annual Service Award.

Elgin joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in 1996 after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in History from UC Santa Barbara followed by his Juris Doctor from UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Elgin's accomplishments over the course of the last twenty-two years are innumerable. There are, however, a few achievements I will mention for the extraordinary impact they had on our community. In 2011, Elgin began prosecuting cases that resulted from gang violence on the south side of our county. His work resulted in the successful prosecution of several high-profile murders and brought resolutions and a restorative sense of justice to several victims and families whose cases were previously considered "unsolvable."

Elgin's deep understanding of criminal prosecutions is sought whenever the county is in

need of someone to train newer attorneys in the areas of case investigation, testimony, trial preparation, and the unique set of challenges that prosecutions of gang members bring to the courtroom.

Our community is only in debt to Elgin not only for the work he completes in and around the courtroom, but also for the countless hours he volunteers in the community at large. He has prioritized speaking to at-risk youth about the perils that await those who enter the criminal realm or affiliate with a gang. Elgin has also actively participated with our local Regional Occupation Program center and mentored first-year law students in Berkeley's Boalt Hall moot court program.

Elgin draws his support from his amazing family. His wife, Brigitte, also works at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and together they have two wonderful children, their son Kendall, and daughter Kori. It goes without saying that Elgin has made his mother Evelyn quite proud.

I want to thank Elgin Lowe for the contributions he has made to the 15th Congressional District and all of Alameda County. His work is consequential and appreciated.

HONORING GAIL FEINBERG WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Feinberg as a woman of the year. She is always finding ways to enrich the lives of those in Solano County. As a medical professional, Ms. Feinberg has a wealth of knowledge and skills to bring to bear on any issue. Having now served for two years as the Chair of Primary Care for Touro University, her continued excellence and tireless work to train medical students in providing care for our underserved populations has been indispensable to our community. Additionally, in spite of the demanding nature of her position, Ms. Feinberg is persistent in her willingness to go above and beyond, as demonstrated by her dedication to volunteering at a student-run free clinic. Here her valuable insight and tenacity became so integral to the mission of the clinic that she was quickly asked to take over as medical director. As a result, Ms. Feinberg provides much needed free medical services to those in need. She also manages to find the time to volunteer teaching nursing students and work with a diabetes research program. Ms. Feinberg is diligent in her work, generous with her time, and passionate about serving others. She is a dedicated community servant and truly worthy of this recognition.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NASA'S KEPLER SPACE TELESCOPE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NASA's Kepler Space Telescope on its retirement and to commend the many thousands of NASA personnel who designed and maintained Kepler and analyzed data received from it.

Launched in March, 2009, Kepler spent nine years in deep space collecting data that indicate our sky is filled with billions of hidden planets—even more planets than stars. Now

Kepler has run out of fuel, and will be retired in its current safe orbit, away from Earth.

"As NASA's first planet-hunting mission, Kepler has wildly exceeded all our expectations and paved the way for our exploration and search for life in the solar system and beyond," said Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "Not only did it show us how many planets could be out there, it sparked an entirely new and robust field of research that has taken the science community by storm. Its discoveries have shed a new light on our place in the universe, and illuminated the tantalizing mysteries and possibilities among the stars."

Kepler showed us the diversity of planets in our galaxy, and concluded that 20 to 50 percent of the stars visible in the night sky are likely to have small, possibly rocky planets similar in size to Earth. Many of these could possibly sustain life.

"When we started conceiving this mission 35 years ago we didn't know of a single planet outside our solar system," said the Kepler mission's founding principal investigator, William Borucki, now retired from NASA's Ames Research Center and the recipient of the 2013 United States National Academy of Sciences' Henry Draper Medal for his work with Kepler and the 2015 recipient of the Shaw Prize in Astronomy.

"Now that we know planets are everywhere, Kepler has set us on a new course that's full of promise for future generations to explore our galaxy."

Kepler's retirement doesn't mean the end of its contributions to our scientific knowledge. Future missions will build on its results and scientists will mine the data Kepler collected for years to come.

NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley manages the Kepler and K2 missions for NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to represent NASA Ames and its extraordinary programs that advance our knowledge of our planet and beyond. I ask the entire House of Representatives to honor Kepler and each person and organization who contributed to its extraordinary success.

HONORING MR. JEFF STRACK  
WITH THE 2018 DISTINGUISHED  
CITIZEN AWARD

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization will host a celebratory event on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

For 26 years, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals whose selfless efforts have tremendously impacted their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council will honor Mr. Jeff Strack.

In May of 2016, Jeff Strack was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Indiana Grocery Group/Strack & Van Til. As a third-generation head of the company, Jeff's legacy began with his fondest memories of

shadowing his father as he worked tirelessly to keep Strack & Van Til successful. After eighth grade, Jeff was officially hired into the company, eventually working his way through every department within the store before leaving for college. After obtaining his master's degree, Jeff embarked on a journey with Strack & Van Til that helped him learn every aspect of the business, rightfully earning his way to leading the company.

Almost a year after Jeff's appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer, he was faced with challenges that to many would have seemed insurmountable. In 2017, after its parent company, Central Grocers, filed for bankruptcy, Strack & Van Til was forced to shut down numerous stores. However, Jeff was determined to save the family business that has served as an economic driver in Northwest Indiana for almost six decades. After he and a group of investors formed Indiana Grocery Group and successfully purchased back Strack & Van Til, Mr. Strack vowed to keep it a family-owned business. Jeff fought for the business and for the jobs of many individuals by securing twenty locations in communities throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, Mr. Strack's many contributions to the community have supported local schools, military, first responders, and families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the steadfast leadership and dedication of Mr. Jeff Strack. Mr. Strack's family business continues to serve as a cornerstone of Northwest Indiana, and their continued charitable efforts and service in our local communities are to be admired. Jeff is undeniably deserving of the 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award. His exceptional leadership and commitment to Northwest Indiana will have a positive impact on generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SARAH CARPENTER  
OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sarah Carpenter of Burlington, Vermont for her distinguished career in affordable housing and her tireless dedication to improving the lives of Vermonters.

At the end of 2018, Sarah will retire as Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) after 20 years of leading that organization. Sarah's extraordinary career has created opportunities for thousands of Vermonters to achieve their dream of owning a home. Since its inception in 1974, VHFA's main goal has been to finance low-cost and flexible mortgages to individuals seeking affordable housing. VHFA has helped over 29,000 Vermonters and their families to purchase primary residences. Sarah leads a team of 38 employees that provides diverse and innovative services. They finance mortgages, coordinate rental housing programs, analyze housing market data, and inform state housing policy. During Sarah's tenure, the volume of VHFA mortgages provided to Vermonters grew by \$1.3 billion.

Sarah and VHFA's leadership has influence far beyond Vermont's borders. In 2000, VHFA successfully campaigned for Congress to increase the caps on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and private activity bonds. Additionally, she advocated for state tax credit programs that supplement the federal funds due to Vermont's dire need for a greater supply of affordable rental housing.

Sarah's contributions to the housing community began long before her time at VHFA.

From 1983 to 1998, she served as the Executive Director of Cathedral Square Corporation, an organization that has become a national model in providing service-enriched housing for older adults and people with special needs.

Sarah has also served in leadership roles on numerous boards including Leading Age, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, and Fletcher Allen Healthcare (now the University of Vermont Medical Center).

It comes as no surprise that Sarah has been the recipient of a number of awards including the Government Service Award from NeighborWorks America and the Vermont YWCA Susan B. Anthony Award for Woman of the Year.

Sarah is a native of Burlington, Vermont, and a graduate of University of Vermont and Harvard University.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis across this country. Chronic homelessness is alarmingly high, people are paying an ever-increasing portion of their paychecks on housing, and homeownership is out of reach for many. Despite the challenges, Sarah Carpenter and her colleagues throughout the state of Vermont have continued to make progress through innovative approaches and deep collaboration. Sarah has left her mark on the housing community in Vermont and the lives of many who have benefited from her good work.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah's exceptional work on behalf of Vermont communities will surely be missed, and I wish her well in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
MELVIN COOPER

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin Cooper, Director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation, who is retiring after 47 years of service with the city and 30 years as its Parks Director.

In a letter to Gainesville's Parks and Recreation Board, Mr. Cooper said, "From the time I was 12 years old I knew what I wanted to do and began to set my goals for what I have done for the last 47 years. I wanted to lead change, I wanted to be change, I wanted to work with people and make a difference."

Melvin Cooper was born in Moultrie and spent most of his childhood in Commerce, Georgia. In 1970, while he was a student at the University of Georgia, he completed an internship for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Cooper was first hired as a Program Coordinator and later held the role of Assistant Director for 16 years. During his tenure as Director, the Gainesville Civic Center was renovated, Lake Lanier hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics, and the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center—along with many other facilities—opened to the public.

After leading the Parks and Recreation Department for three decades, Mr. Cooper announced his retirement at a recent Board of Directors meeting. The search for a replacement will begin November 1, and Mr. Cooper will continue to serve as Director until May 31, 2019.

During his career, which has spanned almost half a century, Mr. Cooper helped improve the quality of life in our community and his contributions will benefit generations to come. I wish Mr. Cooper joyful years ahead in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYDINE AND LEO  
CASH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lloydine and Leo Cash of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on October 9, 2018.

Lloydine and Leo's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th 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 70th 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.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
MISSOURI

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jefferson County, Missouri, created on December 8, 1818 by an "Act of the Territory," uniting portions of St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve Counties. It was named for our nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson, the father of the Louisiana Purchase which included the land that became Missouri. Jefferson County's earliest settlers were French and they settled along the area's many waterways that include the Mississippi River, the Meramec River and the Big River.

Jefferson County is home to sites where archeologists say mastodons roamed 12,000 years ago. Lead shot made in the county was used in the War of 1812 and there are 10 sites in Jefferson County on the National Register of Historic Places. Historical societies in local cities are dedicated to preserving their history with a county museum established in Festus as part of the 200th birthday celebration.

With its rich history and promise of progress, Jefferson County is a treasure that continues to be a vital part of Missouri's economy and future growth. I am proud to congratulate Jefferson County on its bicentennial today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ELTA BARBER WITH  
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elta Barber as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving those in need both in her community and around the world. When she realized that her community lacked constructive activities for young people, she took the initiative to organize the "Youth Explosion" event. In coordination with other community leaders and faith-based organizations,

she put on this quarterly program which gives youth in her community an opportunity to showcase their talents. Thanks to her dedication to this project, over 100 young people participate in this program each quarter.

Ms. Barber's advocacy for young people extends beyond her community into the rest of the world. She is a founding member of a program providing outreach and support to an orphanage in Africa. Each year she works with other community leaders to host "To Tanzania with Love," a fundraiser which helps provide crucial educational supplies and other essentials to children living in an orphanage in Tanzania. She has provided devoted support to this organization as a member of the Board of Trustees for over 26 years. Ms. Barber is a skilled and passionate advocate who is an inspiration to volunteers and leaders throughout her community.

RECOGNIZING JACKIE RIPPERT

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania who recently became a finalist in a national education grant contest.

Jackie Rippert, a teacher at Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, becomes one step closer to the \$100,000 education grant that is sponsored to fund meaningful projects in local schools and communities.

If selected, Jackie plans on creating a "living classroom" that enables students to grow plants and cultivate produce. This is particularly beneficial for food pantries, who will benefit from the vegetables grown. It will also serve as a hands-on learning experience for students with special needs to gain valuable life skills.

I applaud Jackie for her dedication to her students and our community. I wish her all the best in her quest for this important grant.

TRIBUTE TO BIG BROTHERS BIG  
SISTERS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa which is celebrating 50 years of service to Des Moines and central Iowa area. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa was established in 1968 and continues to have an important impact on the lives of children and families.

The Big Brothers movement started in New York City in 1904. The Ladies of Charity, which befriended girls, formed around the same time. Both groups worked independently until 1977 when they joined forces to create Big Brothers Big Sisters. Big Brothers Big Sisters operates under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa have been helping children reach their potential and realize new opportunities for their future. The overwhelming community support from volunteers, donors, and advocates is a true testament of their success.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to children of Des Moines and Central Iowa. The Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and volunteers make a real difference by helping

and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize them today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding their accomplishments and I wish them and staff continued success in the future.

CELEBRATING HALL COUNTY'S  
BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of my home, Hall County, Georgia.

Hall County is Northeast Georgia's center for banking, industry, and health care. It was established on December 15, 1818 by the state legislature and was named in honor of Lyman Hall. Hall was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and served as a physician and Georgia governor.

In its two-century history, Hall County has become home to many great attractions, including Lake Lanier, which has brought millions of visitors to the area. Any discussion of Hall County begins with chicken, as Gainesville is the poultry capital of the world. Jesse Jewell, a Gainesville native, pioneered the vertically integrated poultry farming method that revolutionized the industry. Flowery Branch is home to the training complex of the Atlanta Falcons. Lula, the hometown of my wife, Lisa, is a heritage-minded community that welcomes the annual Railroad Days each spring.

From north to south, east to west, those who call Hall County home know just how special it is from the beautiful lake to the foothills of Hall County area, where I was raised and still call home. I celebrate Hall County's two centuries of rich history and wish the citizens generations of success that last long into the future.

TRUE HERO: SPECIALIST FIFTH  
CLASS CLARENCE E. SASSER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the heroism of Specialist Fifth Class Clarence E. Sasser of the United States Army. Specialist Fifth Class Clarence E. Sasser was a private in the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division when he earned the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his selfless and courageous acts on January 10, 1968, during the Vietnam War. As a combat medic in Vietnam, Specialist Sasser served our country above and beyond the call of duty. He is a hero among us.

Clarence Eugene Sasser was born in 1947 in Chenango, Texas. Sasser was studying chemistry as a part-time student at the University of Houston when he was drafted in 1967. Sasser completed a ten week course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio to be a medical aid man. The 20 year old went to Vietnam in September 1967, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. The division was sent to the Mekong Delta, in southwestern Vietnam.

As the medic for 1st Platoon, Company A, Sasser would accompany the unit when it left base camp to go on patrols, missions or nighttime ambushes. On January 10, 1968, what Sasser considers "the longest day of his life",

his company was on the third day of their search and destroy mission when Company A was sent out in 12 helicopters to a large, flooded rice paddy. The lead helicopter was hit with enemy fire and crashed, so the rest landed. More than 30 Americans were either immediately killed or wounded. Upon stepping off the helicopter, Sasser was shot through his right leg.

Since the rice paddy was flooded with mud and water, Sasser found it easier to grab tufts of grass and rice plants to pull himself and glide through the paddy to render medical aid. It was faster than trying to walk, and being low made him less exposed to enemy fire. Sasser pulled one man to safety near an embankment that provided some cover and was going back when mortar fire landed about five feet from him, and shrapnel struck his back and left side just as he reached cover. Despite these injuries in addition to his legs being immobilized from injury, Sasser continued sliding through the rice paddy to answer fallen infantry soldiers calling for "Doc".

Into the afternoon and through the night, Sasser treated injuries until his supplies ran out, then continued going to soldiers calling for help when all he could offer was emotional support. Army helicopters were finally able to come into the area and the platoons were evacuated about 4 a.m., 18 hours after they first arrived in the rice paddy.

President Richard Nixon presented 21 year old Sasser with the Medal of Honor on March 7, 1969, "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," according to the medal citation. "It's confirmation to me that I did my job. And that's how I had to deal with it," Sasser said in an interview in 2011. "It was my job, and I don't think what I did was above and beyond. I never have."

Following his military service, he attended Texas A&M University on a scholarship offered by then President James Earl Rudder in August 1969. After attending Texas A&M, he began working at an oil refinery for more than five years before going on to work at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to serve his country. On November 7, 2013, he was the eighth Texas Aggie to be added to Texas A&M University's Medal of Honor Hall of Honor. During his speech at the ceremony, Sasser said "I am particularly proud that my Medal of Honor is for saving lives and not taking lives."

Specialist Sasser is also honored at the Brazoria County Courthouse in Angleton, Texas for his outstanding bravery. On Veterans' day 2010, he was memorialized into the 40 foot "Ring of Honor" with a life-size portrait bronze sculpture of Sasser in a crouched run, carrying his medic bag while in action.

Of the 246 Medals of Honor awarded during the Vietnam War, 20 were given to black servicemen. Of the 53 Vietnam War-era recipients still living, Sasser is the only black veteran.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to honor Specialist Sasser for his sacrifice and heroic efforts. He is a true warrior who went above and beyond, risking his own life to save others. We must ensure that our country's veterans are not forgotten and are given due recognition of their bravery and sacrifice.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DOROTHY JOHNSON  
WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Johnson as a woman of the year. She has spent her career as an educator and established a reputation for her dedication to community service. She serves on the executive board of the Solano County Retired Teachers Association, working to support measures that advance the financial security of retired educators and further safeguarding the state's commitment to these educators. Dorothy is an active voice in pressing for issues affecting teachers and the public education system. She is instrumental in supporting the educational needs in her community and beyond. As a teacher for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools and the Department of Defense Education Activity, Dorothy has served and taught the children of military service members at the American military bases in Germany, Japan, and Taiwan. Additionally, she generously volunteers her time to help members of her community who are in need by supporting toy drives, fundraisers, and assisting the Vacaville Police Department during their community outreach events. Dorothy Johnson's generosity and volunteerism are an example for future leaders and her work has been vital in strengthening her community and supporting Solano County residents of all ages.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY LUNDY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cindy Lundy of Adair, Iowa for being selected as Guthrie County's 2018 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Cindy has served as 4-H leader in Guthrie County for 25 years. She has assisted with community service projects such as cleaning up yards, sewing receiving blankets, and collaborating with other 4-H clubs to provide activities during holidays and town celebrations. She has served on the Youth Committee Board as a Static Exhibit judge, Livestock Judging Committee, and the Food Stand Committee. She is also active with her school district and church.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Cindy demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Cindy Lundy for her achievement and wish her nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF WAYNE COUNTY, MISSOURI

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial birthday of Wayne County, Missouri in the beautiful foothills of the Ozarks. It was originally known as the "Great State of Wayne" because when it was established, it was bigger than some states and it was consolidated before Missouri even became a state.

Wayne County was officially organized on December 11, 1818, named for Revolutionary War General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. Among its pioneer settlers are the families of Bollinger, Limbaugh, Seabaugh, Miller, Slinkard and the descendants of Francis Clark, who settled the Piedmont area in 1803. Civil War battles were fought there and General William Hardee headquartered his Union Army in what is now the county seat of Greenville.

Once home to 90 one-room school houses, Wayne County now boasts two thriving consolidated public school districts and 13,341 residents. Wayne County welcomes visitors to explore its outdoor playgrounds at Lake Wappapello, the Mingo Wildlife Refuge and Clearwater Lake.

It is my great privilege to congratulate the people of Wayne County as they mark 200 years of pride and progress today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE NEWTOWN ATHLETIC CLUB

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 40th anniversary of a business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that promotes the health and wellbeing of our community, the Newtown Athletic Club.

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, the Newtown Athletic Club will host a night of celebration and camaraderie. This evening will seek to celebrate physical and mental wellness, along with raising awareness and funding for ALS research through the organization's partner charity, the NAC Have a Heart Foundation. To date, the NAC Have a Heart Foundation has raised nearly \$2 million to find a cure for this disease.

I applaud the leadership of Newtown Athletic Club owner and NAC Have a Heart founder, Jim Worthington, for his generosity and advocacy. Jim truly embodies community service and active citizenship. I'd also like to recognize Matt Bellina, whose activism on behalf of the ALS community is deeply inspiring.

The Newtown Athletic Club is more than just a facility; it is cherished institution here in Bucks County. I appreciate all the Newtown Athletic Club has contributed to our home, and wish all members, management, and staff my heartiest congratulations on its 40th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MARGE AND STEVE  
PIERCE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marge and Steve Pierce of Oakland, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 29, 2018.

Marge and Steve'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 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.

RECOGNIZING PETE BUTLER

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete Butler for his dedicated service as a Wounded Warrior Fellow in my district office.

In 2002, Pete graduated from Sunset High School in Beaverton, Oregon. He soon found his calling and devoted his life to serving his country in the United States Army. Pete enlisted in 2007, serving two tours in Afghanistan. He earned many commendations and accolades, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a Combat Infantry Badge.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in November 2014, Pete settled down in Turlock, California with his wife, Stephanie, and children, PJ and Brayden. In 2015, he started work at Starbucks as a Store Assistant Manager. At the same time, he stayed busy attending classes at California State University of Stanislaus, where he intends to obtain his Bachelor's of Science in Political Science.

Driven by a desire to continue serving his country, Pete applied for a position with the Wounded Warrior Fellowship and joined our team. He served as a liaison to veterans' communities in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. Pete was a tremendous asset, advocating on behalf of these brave men and women. He helped provide strong oversight over the French Camp VA Hospital project, which will benefit veterans in our district and surrounding areas.

In addition to his other duties, Pete played an integral role working with our flood control agencies, including the successful authorization of the Lower San Joaquin Chief's Report. The project aims to reduce the overall flood risk for over 50,000 residents around the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley.

Although Pete will be sorely missed by all, including the rest of the staff, Team Denham wishes him the best in his next endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pete Butler on his new position and recognizing him for his faithful service during his time with my office.

HONORING CINDI UNGER WITH  
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindi Unger as a woman of the year. She is passionately devoted to improving her community both through her career and volunteerism. Her inspiration and motivation to work and volunteer in the Senior Care industry comes from her grandparents and their spirit of hard work and sacrifice that they passed on to her. Since 1986, when she worked to help open one of the first care centers in California focused on individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, she has helped care providers, families, and the community understand and care for those suffering with the disease. Her work in my Senior Advisory Group, the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, and the Solano Senior Coalition has been essential to my awareness and understanding of the critical issues facing our senior communities. As the co-chair of the Solano Walk to End Alzheimer's Planning Committee and a member of the Congressional Advocacy Group, Ms. Unger is no stranger to my office and provides invaluable insight to me and my staff on a regular basis. The significant positive impact she has had on this community cannot be overstated, and she is extremely worthy of this recognition.

DEPARTURE OF MATHEW  
WEIDINGER FROM THE WAYS  
AND MEANS COMMITTEE STAFF

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a trusted advisor, a good friend, and by any standard one of the best to ever serve the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Mathew Weidinger.

With all of Matt's insight into how this Committee functions and his knowledge of its many storied traditions, it'd be easy to think he began his career under Chairman Fitzsimons when this Committee was founded in 1789, but that just goes to show how truly valuable Matt is around here.

For over 25 years, Matt has played an important role in the major accomplishments of this Committee. From each hearing, markup, and piece of legislation our Committee has led, Matt has been there, ready to serve and willing to go the extra mile to make sure the job not only gets done but done well. His name and reputation are nearly synonymous with the Ways and Means Committee.

Serving five different GOP Chairmen—Archer, Thomas, Camp, RYAN, and BRADY—and being an integral part of our Human Resources and Social Security Subcommittees throughout his tenure, Matt's voice and unparalleled attention to detail has helped shepherd through laws that have directly benefited the lives of millions of children and families. From foster care and adoption, to child support, disability, and unemployment—especially the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act—it has always been about what is best for taxpayers and families.

Most notably, Matt is our last connection to the successful 1996 welfare reforms that set consistent policies for non-citizens and led to the greatest increase in single mothers returning to work and decrease in poverty. We learned as a nation that in expecting more, more can be achieved, and we seek each day to build upon that success.

When the Great Recession hit our nation, Matt again provided the focus on work and expectation that was needed, reforming the unemployment insurance program in ways that will improve the success of the unemployed for decades to come.

Any Member of this Committee going back almost three decades could tell story after story about Matt's sharp intellect, incredible recall, and dedication to serving the American people. Matt is a true patriot who could have picked a career in any field. Instead, he chose to serve. We are all so grateful for that choice.

With the many demands from his busy schedule, Matt has never ceased being a mentor to dozens and dozens of staffers, all who today would testify that they are better at their jobs because of Matt.

As I was first joining this Committee, outgoing Chairman Bill Archer was singing Matt's praises and advising me to seek his insight on welfare reform and the other myriad programs that make up our Committee's work on Human Resources. Chairman Archer gave me good advice, and my respect and admiration for Matt has only grown throughout the years. I have turned to Matt for continued guidance and judgement as we've tackled historic issues like tax reform and health care.

On behalf of our entire Committee, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Matt. For the countless late nights and early morning's Matt spent here, I would like to especially thank Matt's family, his wife, Jean, and his eight children JC, Andrew, Cara, Hannah, Erin, Joe, Mike, and Claire. I wish Matt and his entire family all the best as he starts the next chapter of his life. Our Committee will not be the same without Matt, but it will forever be a better place because of his service.

TRIBUTE TO SUSIE MEADE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Susie Meade, Superintendent of Winterset Community School District who has been named the 2018–2019 Superintendent of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Dr. Meade has been superintendent of the Winterset district since 2012 and previously served as assistant superintendent at Ankeny Community Schools. She began her career in education as a secondary home economics teacher in Faribault, MN. This award is based on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and focuses on a shared vision of leadership, safe efficient and effective learning, work with parents and community and a presence of fairness, integrity, and ethics.

I applaud and congratulate Susie for her award and for providing the youth in Iowa's Third Congressional district the education that they will need to be successful in the future. I am proud to represent her and the entire Winterset Community School District in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Susie Meade and wishing her continued success in the future.