

Or is campaigning for the mid-term election and those NRA checks too important to you and the Republican Party?

HONORING LEE AND ROSE
MCNEELY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Lee and Rose McNeely for their contribution to our state and Shelby County.

The McNeelys have made a positive and lasting impact in their hometown of Shelbyville. Lee has had an incredible career as an attorney and is a founding partner of McNeely Stephenson, one of the top firms in the state. He has also served as a Trustee at our alma mater, Wabash College, and was President of the National Association of Wabash Men. I know our state is better off today because of the McNeely's extraordinary leadership and service to their community.

On a personal note, Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with Lee and Rose. They are loyal friends and wise advisers, who were among my earliest and most vocal supporters in Shelby County. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

SUPPORTING FAIR PRIVATIZATION
OF TITANIUM MINES IN UKRAINE

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with serious concerns about our national security. My home state of Colorado has a strong military tradition and military installations as well as a rich reserve of natural resources. I understand the importance of a well-equipped, well-supplied military force.

That's why I'm concerned about the current state of titanium mines in Ukraine. This may not seem like a major issue until you realize how dependent American commercial and defense aerospace is on foreign titanium. We import 79 percent of our consumed titanium each year. And much of this titanium comes from Russia.

In fact, key U.S. defense suppliers, like Boeing, GE, and Pratt and Whitney, rely heavily on Russian titanium.

This reliance on Russian titanium for key defense capabilities is deeply problematic in our present geopolitical environment. As the United States has justifiably sanctioned Russia for their interference in our election process and their belligerent activities in Ukraine and the United Kingdom, the Russian government has discussed retaliatory sanctions that could impact titanium exports to the United States.

In view of this precarious Russian relationship, we need to immediately identify alternative sources of titanium. China produces a lot of the metal, but they consume most of what they produce. And our national titanium stockpile was sold off over a decade ago.

A key source of potential titanium comes from mines in Ukraine. Ukraine has pursued a free-market economic reform effort that includes privatizing state-owned companies.

Unfortunately, in the midst of this reform effort, corruption, market distortion, and Russian influence has again reared its ugly head. Powerful oligarchs with ties to Russia and influence in the Ukrainian government are desperately trying to gain control of the titanium mines that are being privatized.

One of Ukraine's primary titanium mine assets is already under the pull of Russian influence. The Zaporozhye Titanium and Magnesium Combine is 49 percent owned by Dmytro Firtash, a Ukrainian billionaire with Russian ties who is under house arrest in Vienna and wanted by the U.S. for extradition due to his efforts to bribe Indian officials.

We cannot allow Russia to gain influence and control over a key source of titanium in Ukraine. Allowing them to monopolize the market for titanium would lead to serious geopolitical implications. Our ability to project power throughout the world, in a way that promotes global peace and stability, is dependent on military hardware that requires titanium for its construction.

Beyond our national security interests are the interests of the Ukrainian people themselves. We should support a fair and equitable process of privatization for Ukraine. A corrupt process would only undermine the rule of law and the country's political system.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the international community must call on Ukraine to support a legitimate and fair process for the privatization and sale of titanium assets. We should push for an open and fair process that would allow global investors and U.S.-Ukrainian joint ventures to compete for these assets.

Supporting a fair and open tender process will benefit not only the United States, but also the livelihood of the Ukrainian people as well as the security of the entire world.

HONORING REV. MATTHEW
BARNES

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Rev. Matthew Barnes for his contribution to our state.

For years, Matt has served as a pastor and spiritual leader at the Indiana Statehouse. Republicans and Democrats alike are blessed to have Matt around to pray with or turn to for guidance. I was fortunate to get to know Matt during my time in the Indiana General Assembly. Without a doubt, our state is better off today because of his extraordinary leadership and service.

Most importantly, Matt is a brother in Christ, and I appreciate his prayers and encouragement over the years. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. No doubt, Matt is a man who will continue to serve the Lord.

HONORING WANDA PAYNE FOR
HER PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of a dedicated public servant, my sister Wanda Payne, who recently retired from the Newark Public School System after thirty-two years of service.

Wanda's journey as a teacher began at the age of twelve, when she volunteered at Newark's Chen School. The following year she obtained a summer position at the school, and she worked there every year until her college graduation. Wanda attended Kean University, where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education.

She taught twenty-nine years at Camden Street School. Her first twenty-five years at Camden Street School were as a kindergarten teacher, then she taught pre-kindergarten for four years. Wanda transferred to Hawthorne Avenue School, where she taught kindergarten and first grade before retiring. Wanda has made a difference in the lives of our most precious resources, our children.

Wanda is dedicated to community service. She spent twenty-five years at the Fresh Air Fund, a program that sends hundreds of children to summer camp and assists seniors, single parents and the unemployed. She was a youth advisor for the North Jersey Youth Club, as well as the Youth in Government and Model U.N. programs for high school students. She is a consummate professional who has truly enjoyed her teaching career and her volunteer work.

I am grateful that Wanda chose to follow in my father's footsteps and become an educator. She has served the children of the Newark Public School System with her heart, and in the process has created an outstanding legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Wanda Payne deserves to be recognized for a job well done during her many years of dedicated service to the children of Newark. I am proud to have such a dedicated sister and wish her much success in her future endeavors. Wanda is the mother of one son and the grandmother of four.

HONORING JANICE SILVEY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Janice Silvey for her contribution to our state and Hancock County.

Janice has spent her career in public service, working in the Hancock County Treasurer's office for over 40 years and serving as the Treasurer for the past six years. Hancock County is better off today because of her extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, I first met Janice almost a decade ago when I was running for Congress. She's an incredible woman and is unrelenting in her passion for advancing our shared Republican principles. She is a loyal friend and wise adviser.

I want to thank Janice for her friendship and support of my work in Congress. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her family.