

no longer behind him. He turned around to find that his friend's truck had skidded on ice and hit an embankment, crumpling the side of the truck and shattering the passenger window before coming to rest back in the middle of road. It was a miracle that only one person was seriously injured. Brock Meister would not have survived the next few moments without Ryan's bravery and quick thinking.

Ryan recognized immediately that he needed to keep his friend's neck in place until help arrived. As he held tight to Brock's head and neck, reassuring him and physically preventing him from moving, Ryan kept him calm by repeating the words, "My boy, Brock," and called 911. Ryan didn't leave his friend's side that night, and it kept him alive. He then helped him navigate the long, difficult road to recovery, making the two-and-a-half-hour drive to and from Indianapolis to be with his friend in between football commitments. It is truly an honor to represent young Hoosiers like Ryan who put their own needs aside to help others, and whose strength and compassion stand as a guiding light in our community. Ryan's natural leadership and strong will are surely just the foundation for the amazing future that lies ahead of him. I have no doubt he will go on to do great things and will continue to positively impact the world around him. Hoosiers will, continue to look up to his ability to seize opportunity and lead with kindness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Topper epitomizes the selflessness and readiness to help that are so valued in northern Indiana. He shows us what it means to be a Hoosier, an American, and, above all, a true friend. On behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, it is my honor to recognize his valiant actions.

HONORING HEIDI BENZONELLI-BURDEN

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Heidi Benzonelli-Burden, who was honored as Humboldt County Citizen of the Year on October 20, 2018, an award she richly deserves.

Heidi Benzonelli-Burden's contributions to the Eureka community are exemplary. As program director for the Westside Community Building Initiative and president of the Westside Community Improvement Association, Ms. Benzonelli-Burden has been a driving force for the improved health and livability of Eureka's Westside. Ms. Benzonelli-Burden worked with these groups and law enforcement, code enforcement, and neighbors to address 30 chronic nuisance properties and 10 alleyways in West Eureka, and alleviate graffiti, trash, drug houses, and other hazards to clean up blight.

Among the Westside Association's greatest achievements has been the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Community Center and Park, which transformed a boarded-up elementary school into a thriving social center. The center hosts square dances, movie nights, a safety fair and more. Ms. Benzonelli-Burden was even the cook at the community center for its first two years, helping feed and nurture neigh-

borhood children. In 2017, she was awarded the Kiwanis of Henderson Center Non-Profit Businesswoman of the Year award.

Ms. Benzonelli-Burden attended Humboldt State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resources Engineering and a master's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Strategic Sustainability. She is now a research analyst at Humboldt State's California Center for Rural Policy and putting her education to good use for the benefit of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Heidi Benzonelli-Burden's commitment to bettering her community and congratulating her on her service to the North Coast.

HONORING ANGIE THOMAS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable author, Ms. Angie Thomas, who is a native of Jackson, Mississippi.

As a teen, Thomas indulged in the art of hip-hop while also publishing an article in Right-On Magazine. In 2011, she received a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Belhaven University located in Jackson.

In 2015, Thomas was awarded as the inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant by The We Need Diverse Books Organization. In 2017, Thomas was recognized at the Mississippi Book Festival for inspiring young Mississippians that they too "can reach their dreams."

Thomas is the author of the No. 1 New York Times Bestseller novel, *The Hate U Give*, which pushes a powerful message of social justice and the issues facing African-Americans throughout this country. The novel was acquired by Balzer + Bray imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

*The Hate U Give* has received one of the highest amounts of starred reviews received for a young adult novel and will be published in over 20 countries. It has also been on a national young adult best-seller list for over 80 weeks.

In 2018, *The Hate U Give* was made into a movie and opened in select theaters on October 5th. By mid-October, it was showing nationwide. *The Hate U Give* movie is directed by George Tillman and stars actress Amandla Stenberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Angie Thomas for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

LTC ANTHONY SOMOGYI TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC Anthony Somogyi, a native of Palisade, Colorado, for his unwavering commitment to this nation as he prepares for retirement.

LTC Somogyi graduated from Palisade High School in 1994, later attending the University of North Dakota on an Army ROTC Scholarship. After completing his degree in Aeronautical studies with an emphasis in rotary wing aviation and a minor in Military Science, he went on to attend Army flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

LTC Somogyi began his military service when he was assigned to 1st Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division in Fort Hood. After a promotion, he was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom where he had the rare opportunity as an Aviator to serve as a crewmember on an M-3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle and established the Tactical Operations Center and Remote Retransmission Sites for the squadron.

Upon his return home, LTC Somogyi attended the Aviation Captain's Career Course at Fort Rucker, where his hard work earned him a place in the last class to attend resident Combined Arms Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. While there, he completed the Aviation Maintenance Manager's Course and the OH-58D Maintenance Test Pilot's Course on his way to Fort Polk. After six months, LTC Somogyi took command of F Troop, 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry in time to move the unit to Fort Lewis. Once he established operations, he spent a year as Commander before leaving Active Duty and moving back to Colorado.

Most recently, he served as Commander at the High-Altitude ARNH Aviation Training Site. He trained students in power management and environmental flight techniques. In this capacity, he routinely conducted search and rescue missions in the mountainous regions of Colorado. LTC Somogyi's lifelong work has resulted in his receiving the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Cavalry Spurs, and the Order of St. George.

LTC Somogyi has not only had a fulfilling professional life, but a rich personal life as well. He married his high school sweetheart, Korey, and they were blessed with two daughters, Noel and Andee. When he is not working, LTC Somogyi spends most of his time in the great outdoors, either hunting, camping or fishing with his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, LTC Somogyi has dutifully served his nation for twenty years and his dedication will be remembered. It is my privilege to recognize him for the important work he has done throughout his life and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABIGAIL PECK ON HER INDUCTION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor athlete Abigail Peck, who was inducted to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on November 3, 2018. Peck was among those honored during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame held in Plains, PA.