

better off today because of the Showers' extraordinary leadership and service in their community.

On a personal note, I have known J.R. and Carol for the past two decades. They hosted my first event as a state legislator in Shelby County. And, they have supported our efforts every step of the way since. J.R. and Carol are loyal friends and wise advisers. Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with the Showers and I will always be grateful for their support of my work in Congress. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

ISIS IS RESURGING IN THE PHILIPPINES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ISIS fighters are regrouping in the Philippines. It was only a year ago that Philippine forces, with help from the U.S. military, retook the city of Marawi after a bloody five-month siege. Reports now suggest that fresh ISIS foreign fighters have arrived in the area and are preparing to unleash a new wave of terror. America must be prepared to blunt their resurgence.

It should surprise no one, that after the fall of ISIS's so-called caliphate in Syria and Iraq, that the terror group would disperse its fighters and attempt to build a new caliphate somewhere else. Two decades of fighting jihadists has shown they are an adaptive and relentless foe. ISIS itself was defeated by U.S. forces in Iraq almost a decade ago but because of Obama's naïve withdrawal, was able to rally new recruits and exploit instability in the Middle East. But we have learned our lessons and will not stand by as ISIS attempts another revival.

We are in a long war with ISIS, al-Qaeda, and other extremists. From Mali to Mindanao, America has stood ready to confront jihadism much as we stood ready to counter communism around the globe during the Cold War. The Philippines is a strategic ally of the United States and we will not abandon our commitments. We must see to it that the Philippines have what they need to crush ISIS's attempted comeback and ensure its lasting defeat.

ISIS's attempts to regroup will not end in the Philippines. Our successes against ISIS remain fragile and, without continued vigilance, can be undone. Our allies must know that the U.S. is prepared to stand with them but also note that it is their fight as well. It is their security that is most threatened by ISIS's crusade of terror. We are in this fight together until the ideology that drives Islamic extremism relegated to history.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIBBY GERMANO, KENNA GIFFORD, AND NICOLE SIMOS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 115th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young professionals has been nothing short of exemplary. During their time in my office, Libby, Kenna, and Nicole served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, conducted legislative research and learned a great deal about the United States Congress. I know they all have especially bright futures ahead of them and I look forward to seeing them build their prospective careers.

All three of these impeccable interns have made plans to continue their educational careers throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their service this autumn.

HONORING MAYOR MIKE BETTICE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Mayor Mike Bettice for his contribution to our state and the City of Batesville.

Throughout his career, Mike has served the City of Batesville with honor and integrity. As mayor, Mike has done an incredible job of engaging the Batesville community and working to ensure its success. Our state is better off today because of his leadership and service.

On a personal note, we are both proud alums of Wabash College. Mike is a loyal confidant and among my closest friends in politics. I want to thank him for his support of my work in Congress and wish Mike continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department and to thank its dedicated members for their commitment to their community and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department was founded in September 1943 by 53 Lebanon residents without any equipment or station of their own. The first chief of the company, Clark W. Standish, obtained permission from the State Forestry Department to use their truck and equipment until Lebanon could procure their own. Since the department's inception, its volunteers have consistently served the Town of Lebanon demonstrating courage and compassion in times of crisis and distress for their friends, families, and neighbors. For decades Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has also provided the same exceptional and brave service to surrounding towns and communities under mutual aid agreements. The department has grown and adapted to the changing needs of the Town while remaining an all-volunteer force, providing fire, EMS, and hazmat services for the protection of life, property, and the environment.

This growth and innovation by Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has intensified in the wake of the post-9/11 world. As my colleagues know, the new Department of Homeland Security, which was created in the wake of the tragedy, established the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which has provided recurring grants to local departments all across the country. The grant process is an annual one and requires knowledge and expertise for departments big and small to access these funds for needed equipment and training. In Connecticut's Second District, the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has graciously hosted annual AFG seminars for communities all across the region. Given that this program is competitive, Lebanon's willingness to share updates on ways to successfully navigate the grant process speaks highly of their commitment to public safety for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring these dedicated public servants both living and deceased, whose dedication and heroism have made this auspicious occasion possible. All firefighters and EMTs make sacrifices of time and take significant personal risks for the protection of the communities they serve. We in eastern Connecticut are ever so fortunate and grateful to be protected by the courageous men and women of Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

HONORING MATTHEW BRITTAIN OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent, Matthew Brittain, for his accomplishment in earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in scouting; only a small number of Boy Scouts earn this auspicious title. The Eagle Scout is performance-based and has high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by myriad requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the community.