

proper that we honor Councilwoman and Former Mayor Debbie Long here today.

HONORING BRYCE PATRICK
JOHNSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryce Johnsen. Bryce is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryce Patrick Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE BLAIR
OAKS FALCONS FOOTBALL TEAM
FOR WINNING THE 2018 MISSOURI
CLASS 2 STATE FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for winning the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Football Championship.

With a perfect record of 15–0, the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team and Coach Ted LePage should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for a job well done.

PROCLAMATION OF GRATITUDE
FOR DR. LARRY MASON'S SERV-
ICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Larry Mason for his devotion and service to his community. Dr. Mason began his medical practice in 1972 in Albany, Kentucky, later moving to Byrdstown Medical Center (BMC) in Tennessee where he has practiced since 1982. His many professional accomplishments include, being named Chair-

man of Board of Directors Livingston Regional Hospital (LRH) as well as serving for many years as Medical Director of Pickett Care and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Mason made many significant contributions to his community and will be greatly missed. He and his wife, Gina, reside in Livingston where they attend First Baptist Church, and together have three children, Luke, Lance, and Lindy, along with several grandchildren. We honor Dr. Mason today with his family, friends, and neighbors with deep gratitude for his service.

HONORING MAYOR NORM YODER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Norm Yoder of Auburn, Indiana who announced his intent to retire next year. A native of DeKalb County, Mayor Yoder graduated from DeKalb High School in 1967 and received a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in 1972. Mayor Yoder then returned to his beloved DeKalb County and started several businesses, including Yoder & Yoder Concrete & Construction and Auburn Skatin' Station. He joined the Auburn Board of Public Works in 1990 and served on the Eckhart Public Library Board from 1992 to 1999.

In 2000, Norm Yoder was elected by the people of Auburn to serve as mayor and has since been reelected five times. During his time in office, Mayor Yoder enacted several policies that positively impacted his fellow citizens. He led the revitalization of downtown into a thriving small-town commerce center and oversaw the development of Rieke Park. Mayor Yoder created Auburn Essential Services, a local provider of telecommunication services, so that the citizens of Auburn could join the information revolution. Mayor Yoder will leave Auburn a more prosperous community, and his leadership will long be remembered.

I wish Mayor Yoder, his wife Peg and his family the very best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life. Our community will miss his leadership and dedication.

HONORING BRYANT WILDER UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of the retirement of a longtime public servant for the Social Security Administration, Deputy Regional Commissioner Bryant Wilder. On January 3, 2019, Mr. Wilder will retire from the Social Security Administration after a career spanning thirty-eight years.

Mr. Wilder began his career in 1980 as a Clerk Typist in the New York Regional Office, Disability Programs Center. Over the years, Mr. Wilder has risen through the Social Security Administration, holding many important po-

sitions. In 2009, he was selected for the highly competitive Senior Executive Service Candidates Development Program. After completing the program, Mr. Wilder was promoted to Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Operations Support. In December 2015, he was promoted to his current position.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wilder has been an impeccable leader. He led the national workgroup that helped enhance office safety throughout the country. And during an active shooter incident, Mr. Wilder courageously took action to protect his staff in the East New York Field Office. Because of his quick thinking, all of the employees were safely evacuated.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honor of Deputy Regional Commissioner Bryant Wilder for his decades of service to our country. His advice and counsel will be missed. I wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATT
GROCOTT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the departure from public service of San Carlos City Councilman Matt Grocott. Councilman Grocott has served from 2001 to 2018, twice as mayor.

During his tenure, the city has undergone enormous change. Although a small community, the city has many distinct neighborhoods and groups of residents. Through all of the changes impacting these constituencies, Matt Grocott contributed mightily to the effort to improve communication between the city and its residents. He regularly provided opinion pieces in local newspapers, wrote online and spoke directly with residents on their doorsteps and at civic events. Everyone could count on Councilman Grocott to offer them information about the public services and initiatives being undertaken in San Carlos.

The city has a new budget process that makes it much easier for residents to figure out what the city is accomplishing. Matt Grocott has supported this process and used it to explain what the city does well and where it needs to improve.

During his tenure, he served on multiple joint power authorities and committees. This is not glamorous work, but these appointments help cities work together to create the greatest value for residents. Councilman Grocott served on the Airport Land Use committee, the SFO Roundtable, the governing board of the library, the Grand Boulevard Initiative to re-imagine our El Camino Real, the South County Fire Authority, the Belmont San Carlos Fire Board, several subcommittees of the City/County Association of Governments, and multiple other boards, committees and commissions intended to answer many quality of life issues that vex any community.

Councilman Grocott has been a staunch advocate for persons on fixed incomes and for taxpayers. He has often persuaded residents as to the wisdom of his viewpoint, and they rewarded him with repeated re-election and, at times, by voting as he recommended on measures on the ballot.

San Carlos is known as the City of Good Living. Its streets are more bike friendly because Councilman Grocott is an avid supporter of bike riding for the entire family. Its trails, playing fields and parks are more enjoyable because Matt Grocott insisted that parks have facilities as accessible as possible to all residents. His advocacy for small business is heartfelt and longstanding. He is a trusted advocate for many merchants throughout the city.

After many years in public service, Councilman Grocott has decided to move on to different challenges and will also have more time to spend with his wife, Vivian, and step-son, Daniel. He will be remembered as a man who believed passionately in local government. While a community may ultimately speak with a single voice about a given subject, it takes many voices to create this result. Through long nights and difficult deliberations, Councilman Grocott contributed to governing San Carlos towards a better future. I join the community in thanking him for his service and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING CRAIG DUNN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

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

I have had the pleasure of knowing Craig for more than a decade. Craig served Howard County as the GOP Chairman for nearly my entire tenure in Congress. Although Howard County is not in my district, we have grown to become close friends and he remains a trusted advisor to me. Craig served the County with honor and distinction for years, and I have no doubt that our state is better off today due to his extraordinary leadership and service.

I want to thank Craig for his friendship and loyalty to me over all these years. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER PETER FLYNN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who continue to serve this great Nation with honor—men such as Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Peter Flynn, United States Navy.

For the past year, LCDR Flynn served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A 2004 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, LCDR Flynn is a proud Surface Warfare Officer who served onboard USS *Port Royal* (CG-73), USS *George Washington* (CVN-73), USS *Thach* (FFG-43), and USS *Mobile Bay* (CG-53). During his assignment in my office, LCDR Flynn provided senior-level input for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and

intelligence matters. Additionally, he executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of Virginia's First Congressional District with distinction.

Furthermore, LCDR Flynn provided exceptional support to me as a staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Chairman. LCDR Flynn dutifully provided me with guidance on what the Navy's path forward should be in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His recent experience in the surface community was invaluable to my work in Congress.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus, the Co-Chair of the Navy-Marine Corps Caucus, and the Chairman of the United States Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, I relied on LCDR Flynn to organize quarterly events with government, military, and private sector leaders. These events allowed key decisionmakers to work together for the advancement of our future Naval Officers as well as the construction and repair of the ships on which they will serve.

LCDR Flynn also directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion, and he leveraged his personal and operational experience in the Navy to respond to the most challenging inquiries. In addition to his efforts locally, LCDR Flynn took on projects with regional, state, and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions.

LCDR Flynn's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers. I would also like to thank LCDR Flynn for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, both for our Nation and our great Navy. His impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. I have no doubt that LCDR Flynn will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish Pete and his wife Lucy the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having Pete serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that members of our all-volunteer force like Pete stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

LCDR Peter Flynn has done a fantastic job. Best of luck and may God bless him, his family, and all the Sailors he is charged with leading.

CELEBRATING THE CASPER
MOBILE LITERACY PROGRAM

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of North Georgia faculty, students, and community volunteers who have been working with Gaines-

ville students to improve their reading skills through the Casper Mobile Literacy Program.

This program was initiated by Dr. Annmarie Jackson, an assistant professor of education at the University of North Georgia. Dr. Jackson noticed her department had a component focused on reading but lacked a component focusing on literacy.

In the spring of 2018, the program began serving around 30 students in kindergarten through fifth grade who attend Riverbend Elementary School. Many of the children in the program are reading below their grade level and would not be able to attend a literacy clinic or obtain a tutor aside from access to the Casper Mobile Literacy Program.

The program welcomes students after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to receive support in reading and writing. Dr. Jackson and her volunteers lead the students through an engagement activity, guided reading, vocabulary review, and extension activities related to the reading selections.

I commend Dr. Jackson and the University of North Georgia faculty members, students, and community members who volunteer their time each week to help the children in our community become stronger readers.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ITHACA YMCA

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ithaca Young Men's Christian Association for 150 years of service to the community.

On November 23, 1868, a group of young men in Ithaca held a meeting in the Cornell Library. The basement of that library would become the first home of the Ithaca YMCA, consisting of a gymnasium, baths, parlor, reading room, and offices.

Since that day 150 years ago, the Ithaca YMCA has remained dedicated to their mission to foster youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The Ithaca YMCA has a record of inclusivity, serving all young people in its community. In earlier years when other parts of the country lacked diversity, the Ithaca YMCA was able to boast that one out of every five members was a girl as compared to the national average of one in 15.

Their engagement in the Ithaca community has been stalwart in developing character in local youths. The YMCA has been faced with adversity over its record of 150 years, confronted with low membership during war time and not one, but two devastating fires. Each time the YMCA has rebuilt and regrown membership, bringing the community of Ithaca and Tompkins County together.

We applaud the longevity of the Ithaca YMCA and wish them future success as they continue to serve our local youth.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me in celebrating the YMCA for 150 years of dedicated service to the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County.