

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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. GEORGIA M. GAINES

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Georgia M. Gaines, a native of Litcher, Louisiana and retired school teacher. Mrs. Gaines passed away Thursday, November 29, 2018 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Gaines was born in 1922. Her parents were the late Mr. George Chriswell, an entrepreneur and insurance agent, and Mrs. Alma Berry Chriswell, an elementary school principal and education pioneer. She attended McDonald #35 High School in New Orleans, Louisiana because there were no local high schools in St. James Parish for African-Americans.

In 1944, Mrs. Gaines earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While a student at Southern University, she was a proud member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and a student assistant to the wife of Southern University President Dr. Felton G. Clark.

Upon graduation, Mrs. Gaines taught in the Lake Charles public schools. She later returned to St. James Parish and began teaching locally. In 1949, she married Mr. Leroy Gaines, a Texas transplant to the Litcher area.

After thirty years of teaching at St. James High School, Mrs. Gaines retired from the St. James Parish School System. She also worked for the State of Louisiana as an Assistant Director of the Litcher Day Care Center.

Mrs. Gaines was an individual of vision, integrity, pride in family and an endearing asset to her community. Her legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of Louisiana. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Gaines, but surely, we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Mrs. Gaines's survivors include daughters: Debora Gaines, Karen Gaines and Wanda (Danny) Manuel. Sons: Randal Gaines, Darrel (Tilda) Gaines and Daren (Vanessa) Gaines. Ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, including Edna Berry Anderson, and other relatives and friends, including Martha Ray Branch. She was preceded in death by her parents, George Chriswell and Alma Berry Chriswell, her husband, Leroy Gaines, and her granddaughter, Tene' Lemar.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Georgia M. Gaines.

HONORING BRIAN AND CHRISTINE
BRAMMER

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 Brian and Christine Brammer for their contribution to our state.

We first met over a decade ago, as the Brammers were our friends and neighbors who lived two houses down from our home in Shelbyville. Brian is a CPA and a partner at Brammer & Yeend Professional Corporation, which provides accounting services to small businesses and individuals. Like me, Brian overachieved in marriage. His wife, Christine, is very involved in the local community and worked with my wife Jennifer at the local non-profit, Girls Inc. of Shelbyville. Brian also serves on the Board at Girls Inc. Brian and Christine are the proud parents of two great kids—Jack and Katie.

The Brammers were among my earliest supporters in my political journey in Congress. I want to thank them for their friendship and loyalty to me over all these years. The Messer family cherishes the time we get to spend with them and wish Brian, Christine, Jack and Katie all the best in whatever God has planned for their family.

HONORING BROOKS CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY

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 Brooks Construction Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Brooks Construction recently received the HIRE Vets Medallion Program award. The HIRE Vets program, administered by the Department of Labor, recognizes businesses for their commitment to recruiting, employing and retaining veterans. Brooks Construction was recently awarded a gold medal in the medium employer category.

Brooks Construction Company was founded in 1909 by John Foster Brooks and has served our community well for over a century. Today, Brooks Construction is a leader in road construction and repair in northeast Indiana. In addition to its commitment to our veterans, Brooks Construction has supported many local charities and organizations in the greater Fort Wayne area.

I applaud Brooks Construction Company for its commitment to our veterans. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs committee and a veteran myself, I am pleased to see northeast Indiana embracing the unique skills that our veterans bring to the workforce. I applaud the efforts of companies like Brooks Construction to hire the men and women that have given so much to serve our nation. Congratulations to Brooks Construction Company and I thank them for their commitment to our veterans and our community.

MAY'S BREXIT DEAL IS BAD FOR
BRITAIN AND AMERICA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our British allies are making a bad deal. The current Brexit deal that Theresa May's government

has made with the European Union could position the United Kingdom as a de facto colony, where it is subject to EU rules but without any vote. Essentially this would be worse than Britain staying in the EU. Moreover, it could damage the strong economic ties we hold with our closest allies, meaning Americans could end feeling the sting of a bad Brexit deal.

When the British people made the choice to depart from the European Union in 2016, I applauded their decision. Great Britain—which has always stood apart from the continent in its traditions, politics, values, and character—has reasserted its sovereignty with the historic Brexit referendum. Membership in the EU had come at too large a cost to Britain, and the British people have decided to determine they want to chart their own course into the future—not have it determine for them by Brussels. Therefore, as a steadfast ally and friend of the United Kingdom, America should support their decision.

The current proposal, however, could come at a cost to our economic relationship with Britain. Under Prime Minister May's deal, there will be a two-year transition period before the UK can fully separate from the EU which beholds Britain to EU regulations without a vote. During that time Britain will be able to negotiate new trade deals but cannot implement them until 2021. This means even if the U.S. and UK sign a new free trade pact—which we absolutely should—that it will collect dust while Britain is left at the EU's mercy. There is a chance that if the UK and EU do not agree to a new trade deal that the transition period then extends thus further delaying implementation of a new trade pact with the U.S. Meanwhile, Britain's economy suffers.

America needs a strong Britain. The British people have stood by us on our most trying days and are often the first to pledge their support when we act to confront the world's most complex challenges. There is no nation on Earth that is as indispensable to our security and prosperity as the United Kingdom. Any arrangement that potentially weakens Britain's sovereignty or economic well-being is counter to America's interests. For the sake of our alliance, this current Brexit bad deal should not go through.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KAAREN ANN STASKO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kaaren Ann Stasko on her retirement after twenty years of service as an Office Technician for the Fire Marshal's Office of CalFire.

Ms. Stasko was born in Oakland, California on March 21, 1942. As a child, she attended schools in Crockett, California. Ms. Stasko was the first in her family to graduate from college. She took classes part-time while working full-time to earn an Associate's Degree at the age of fifty-seven.

Ms. Stasko has been a dedicated volunteer in our community since she was a child. In her youth, she was an active Camp Fire Girl, as well as a Counselor in Training Camp Gold Hollow. When her children were in high