

long-term legislative plan and was integral in overseeing all operations and staff in my Washington, D.C. office. As a member of my team, Ms. Vetter was greatly respected by her coworkers for her professionalism and dedication to her work.

Outside of work, Ms. Vetter enjoys golfing, going to the gun range, hiking, and like a true Italian, making and eating pasta. However, she spends most of her freetime with her Labradoodle, Sullenberger "Sully" McCormack who she and her fiancé, Ryan James McCormack, brought home on June 12, 2018. Additionally, Ms. Vetter is looking forward to her marriage to Mr. McCormack, which will take place on November 2, 2019.

Ms. Vetter's time in my office will come to an end as she becomes the Communications Director for Congressman Van Taylor at the beginning of the 116th Congress. Knowing Ms. Vetter's work ethic, professionalism, and undeniable love for the United States of America, there is no doubt that she will be successful in her new office and in all of her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Anna Raquel Vetter for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 13, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 435, YEA.

REP. JARED POLIS FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Representative JARED POLIS on his victory in the Colorado gubernatorial race even though it means he is leaving Congress.

I have worked with Representative POLIS on Science Committee issues over the years given his district contains both a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) office. Congressman POLIS has shown an acute knowledge regarding High-Tech issues given his experience running internet-based companies in the private sector and his philanthropic work in the area.

I wish him the best of luck as he starts this new chapter serving the constituents of Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE BOLD VISION AND STEWARDSHIP OF OMAR BROWNSON DURING HIS TENURE AS FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT AT RIVER LA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold vision and stewardship of Omar Brownson during his tenure as founding Executive Director and President at River LA. Omar led efforts to transform the Los Angeles River, bringing renewed interest and a holistic approach to restoring its 51-mile expanse.

Since 2010, Omar has helped forge new partnerships that traverse public, private, and philanthropic sectors, fostering creativity and innovation. The vastness of the Los Angeles River and the diversity of the communities it connects create unique challenges that demand unique leadership. Through forward-thinking initiatives, Omar has been able to tackle these challenges through a wider lens—seeing opportunities to address inequity and climate change.

The history of the Los Angeles River is written by many and Omar has become squarely embedded in that history. Through the passionate collaboration of all those committed to its future, our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the beauty of this natural resource. As policy makers, advocates, and community leaders, we must all continue working together to create policies that ensure the protection and vitality of all of our planet's natural resources, including the Los Angeles River.

I ask all members to join me in commending Omar Brownson for his incredible dedication to the Los Angeles River.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call no. 431, YEA; On Roll Call no. 432, YEA; on Roll Call no. 433, YEA; and on Roll Call no. 434, YEA.

THANKING COLE JONATHAN ROJEWSKI

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cole Jonathan Rojewski for his near decade of service to the Central Valley Congressional Delegation, and particularly, for his work in various roles over the last six years for California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Mr. Rojewski was born in Clovis, California to parents Cynthia and Al Rojewski. Cole enjoyed growing up in Clovis countryside with his sister, Dena, and the family's many animals. From an early age, Mr. Rojewski had a love for animals and being outside. As a child and young adult, Cole was an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA), something he continues to participate in today as a mentor to young FFA members. Cole attended Clovis High School and Clovis East High School, where he was a member of the school's men's golf team and graduated in 2006. Following his graduation from High School, Mr. Rojewski attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated in 2011, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

It was while attending CSU Fresno that Cole found an interest in politics. Beginning in 2010, Cole worked for Congressman DEVIN G. NUNES as a Field Representative in his Clovis District Office. Mr. Rojewski continued to work for Mr. NUNES throughout his time in college, and also had an active role on campus as Vice Chair of the Central Valley Region of the California College Republicans.

In 2012, Mr. Rojewski played a vital role in my first campaign for Congress. Following my election that November, Mr. Rojewski joined my team in Washington D.C. Throughout the last six years in my office, Mr. Rojewski has played a vital role in our success representing the Central Valley, having served as my Office Manager, Campaign Manager, Deputy Chief of Staff, and most recently as my Chief of Staff from 2015 to the end of 115th Congress.

Cole's natural leadership abilities, supreme work ethic, and keen political instincts have made him a truly invaluable member of my team, and an excellent public servant elevating the needs of the people of the California's Central Valley throughout the halls of Congress and our nation's Capitol.

Following the 115th Congress, Cole's time in my office will come to an end, but I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for him. I have no doubt he will continue his great work in politics and will have many great achievements in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Cole Rojewski for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize PAUL RYAN's 20 years of exemplary Congressional service with great appreciation and gratitude.

I think Speaker of the House may be the toughest job in America. A Speaker has to gather 218 votes to approve any measure, unlike executives who can simply issue orders.

PAUL may be the first Speaker who didn't seek the office and, instead, was drafted by the Republicans in Congress—a true testament to the respect his colleagues have for him. And he has handled the speakership with humility, dignity, and confidence.