

lives of every resident of Lancaster. I have always been impressed by his tenacity to ensure that the people and businesses he represents have their voices heard at the highest levels of government and the successes he has achieved over the course of his public service. Over the past ten years, Lancaster has undergone a period of unprecedented economic growth, and this is undoubtedly in no small part because of Mark's steady hand and dedication to his community. While it is Lancaster's loss to see Mark leave city government, I am confident that he has laid a foundation that will contribute to the city's success for years to come. As Mark begins this new chapter of his life, I wish him, his wife, Karen, and their family all the best.

HONORING DARLENE GUTHRIE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Elkhart Police Officer, Darlene Guthrie. Her acts of selflessness, sacrifice, and public service have distinguished her among her peers, and she is well-deserving of recognition.

For 20 years, Darlene served as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department, displaying a dedication to public safety and commitment to service that have truly made northern Indiana a better place to live. Now Darlene is serving her fellow Hoosiers by joining the Indiana Guard Reserve.

Darlene has also spent countless hours rescuing animals, helping her neighbors get back on their feet, and volunteering in her community. She combined her experience in law enforcement with her passion for animals to become a nationally certified Animal Cruelty Investigator, eventually taking on the role of rewriting Elkhart County's Animal Ordinance and updating the Elkhart Police Department's animal law summary. And she served on the Elkhart County Humane Society's Board for four years and even became interim director.

She goes above and beyond in everything she does, and her drive to make a difference has not only shined light on the causes closest to her heart but has made her a local leader that organizations and institutions look to for guidance. Her distinguished leadership and love of family, community, and country are what brought her to her most recent accomplishment at the age of 52: graduating from the Indiana Guard Reserve Basic Training on December 15, 2018.

Darlene's determination to never give up no matter what life brings is an inspiration to us all and teaches a positive message of perseverance. We can all learn from someone who never shies away from a challenge and always strives to do what is right. It is a privilege to represent Hoosiers like Darlene who continue to strengthen our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Darlene Guthrie for her honorable service to the northern Indiana community, and congratulating her on her graduation to become a member of the Indiana Guard Reserve. Darlene is a role model, a leader, and a dedicated public servant who inspires us all.

STAND FIRM BRAVE IRANIANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year has been another important year in pushing back on the tyrannical Iranian regime. The passion and determination of the Iranian people in the face of a corrupt and despotic regime provides much needed inspiration to us all.

We are witnessing historic times in Iran. The Iranian people are still fighting for their rights in the streets. As much as the regime tries to hide it, or use violence to suppress it, change is coming to Iran. The world is more aware that the Supreme Leader and his thugs are not moderates that should be welcome among other responsible nations. Instead, through the bravery of the Iranian people, the world knows they are murderers and thieves.

There is a reason why Iran has earned the title of the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism. It sends millions of dollars to fuel wars in Syria and Yemen and enriches its proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, Bahrain and Gaza. A few weeks ago, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism Bureau at the State Department told my subcommittee that Iran spends \$1 billion dollars a year to support its terrorist proxies. It steals this money from the Iranian people and responds with brutality if they dare speak out. But they continue to speak out.

I have always been proud to stand with them. The cause of freedom in Iran is just and righteous, and it will never be silenced. Together we are having an impact. The people of Iran, including the MEK, have sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty. They have spoken the truth and have exposed this regime for the evil it is: a state run by terrorist thugs. Iranians have been imprisoned, tortured, and murdered fighting for the cause of freedom. Iranian dissidents have been forced to flee their homes, refugee camps in Iraq, and the wider region to escape the Mullahs reach. Fortunately, many Iranians have found safety in the West and we are working tirelessly to make sure Iran's evil intentions can no longer hurt them. Throughout all of it, these Iranians have stood firm with remarkable courage.

But the fight is not over, because the fight for freedom in Iran is not over. The regime continues to find ways to evade sanctions, and so we must continue to pursue them. With the help of the Iranian people, we will find how they cheat and expose them.

The Mullahs are relentless, so we must be too. In the end democracy and justice will prevail as it always has. The American people stand with the people of Iran, because we believe in freedom, liberty, and the American way. They must keep their heads high, and remember they are on the right side of history. The tide is turning. Iran will be free.

And that's just the way it is.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO MRS. ELSIE
MAYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend the happiest of birthday wishes to Mrs. Elsie Mayer, a resident of the Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, and a centenarian, who will be celebrating her 107th birthday on December 23, 2018.

Elsie was born in Poland on December 23, 1911. It was a world much different from today. From an early age, she learned to endure famine, poverty and the human cost of war. Elsie's life is characterized as one of a survivor and a woman with great strengths and unyielding selflessness.

She came to America at the age of 10 with her family who first settled in Manhattan, and later moved to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It is in Williamsburg years later that she meets her future husband Joseph. Together they raised three children, their sons Martin and Stuart and daughter Marsha. Elsie worked hard, enjoying sewing and baking, especially apple pies for her family.

Over the course of 107 years, Elsie has experienced countless remarkable events in New York and our country. Elsie symbolizing decades of longevity and hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in a growing segment of American life: the Centenarian. Over the years, special individuals like Elsie have contributed to our nation and witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. She has lived through some of the most exciting times in our nation's history.

Today, Elsie enjoys the company of her surviving and beloved children, grand-children and community. She has many friends at the Independence Neighborhood Senior Center. As we celebrate her birthday, we celebrate her faith, her optimism, her health and the innumerable lives she has touched throughout her life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Elsie Mayer on this special occasion of her 107th year birthday.

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA ANN RILLO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Kayla Ann Rillo for her service to my office and the people of California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Ms. Rillo was born on September 19, 1994 in Paterson, New Jersey to Diane and Anthony Rillo. Growing up in Totowa, New Jersey with her three sisters, Alyssa, Reanna, and Tia, Ms. Rillo always had immense love and pride for her family. Coming from a large family, Ms. Rillo has a natural competitive drive, a strong sense of self-awareness, and the ability to distinguish herself from others. Through that, Ms. Rillo succeeded academically with ease as she competed in varsity track, basketball, and softball at Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls, New Jersey.

After graduating from Passaic Valley Regional High School in 2012, Ms. Rillo went on