

lives in alcohol-related car accidents, and 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, considerable progress has been made in decreasing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, especially here in the Washington Metropolitan Region. According to the Council of Governments, the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities, injuries, and crashes have all decreased since 2014. However, more work still remains as 28.04 percent of all traffic fatalities in the region in 2016 were alcohol or drug related.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Joseph Winkeler, City of Alexandria Police Department; Officer Michael Mitchell, Arlington County Police Department; Officer Bryce Cooper, City of Falls Church Police Department; Patrol Officer First Class Rashid S. Roberts, Fairfax County Police Department; Officer Jonathan Heavner, Town of Herndon Police Department; Deputy Gerald Presson, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office; Trooper First Class Anthony Wallace, Maryland State Police; Officer Zachary Speck, Metropolitan Police Department; Police Officer III John P. Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police; Police Officer First Class Thomas H. Kosakowski, Prince George's County Police Department; Officer Matthew Sciabica, Prince William County Police Department; Officer Seth A. Carll, United States Capitol Police; Traffic Safety Unit, United States Park Police; and Trooper Lucie Vajglova, Virginia State Police.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 36 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President and CEO Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Gary Cohen for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EVAN A. KARLIK, USN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lieutenant Commander Evan Karlik, United States Navy, on his final day serving as a legislative fellow in my Washington, DC office. Evan has played a critical role this year supporting my work on the House Armed Service Committee and representing the large Navy community in Eastern Connecticut.

As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, I have the high honor of overseeing much of our nation's Navy. This year, as our subcommittee considered how best to fund important shipbuilding programs, reform Navy career paths, and review command and control of naval forces, Evan provided important insight and guidance into how our subcommittee could best provide the resources and platforms that our Sailors and Marines need to achieve mission success.

Evan has also seized the initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs. He spurred a review required by this year's National Defense Authorization Act into how the Department of Defense reviews and awards imminent danger pay to servicemembers deployed to dangerous locations around the world. He has also served as the staff-lead for the Friends of Australia Caucus, of which I serve as co-chair, ensuring that the ties between our countries remain as strong as ever as we celebrated 100 Years of Mateship in 2018.

Evan is leaving Congress but he isn't going far. His next assignment will take him just across the river to support rolling out the Navy's fleet of F-35 fifth-generation fighter aircraft. On his final day here in Congress, I wish LCDR Karlik the best of luck in his new role, fair winds, and following seas.

COMMENDING DIXIE VALENTINE LOBMEYER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dixie Valentine Lobmeyer for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past four years.

Miss Lobmeyer was born on February 8, 1997 in Hanford, California. After graduating from Hanford West High School in 2015, Dixie received her Associates of Arts degree from College of the Sequoias this year. She plans to attend California State University, Fresno beginning in 2019, studying Communications and Media Relations.

Miss Lobmeyer has been a member of my Congressional Team since 2014, serving in multiple roles. After showcasing incredible talent and potential as an intern, Dixie was hired in 2015 as our Staff Assistant. Her responsibilities quickly grew as she proved to be an effective and successful staffer. Dixie managed the daily operations of my district office, overseeing the intern program and producing tens of thousands of congressional certificates for the community. She also acted as my representative at many events, effectively communicating the ideals of our office. It isn't a hyperbole to say Miss Lobmeyer had a role in every aspect of district office operations. She is a hard, dedicated worker who was highly respected by her peers and was able to create and foster connections with constituents, business leaders, and public officials.

In 2017, Dixie transitioned to a campaign-centered role with my team. She became the Republican Party's Congressional Field Director for the California's Twenty First Congressional Race, managing the Kings County Victory program. Dixie recruited, hired, and su-

pervised hundreds of interns and organized voter contact initiatives. She continued to demonstrate leadership and served as an effective communicator. With her many successes and responsibilities, it is often forgotten that Dixie is younger than most of her peers. She is only in her early twenties but commands the respect of veteran political operatives.

Outside of work and school, Dixie enjoys volunteering in her community. Public service is her passion and she strives to give back to the city that has given so much to her. Dixie's family is also very important to her and she loves spending time with her brothers and sisters. For fun, she likes to go hiking with her friends and enjoy the natural beauty of California.

This January, Miss Lobmeyer will be moving onto new ventures. Knowing Dixie, her work ethic and talent, I have no doubt she will achieve many great things in her future. She is a natural leader who will inspire people for years to come.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on roll call No. 443 through No. 445.

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 443, I would have voted aye; had I been present to vote on roll call No. 444, I would have voted aye; and had I been present to vote on roll call No. 445, I would have voted aye.

HONORING DR. HOWARD SIMON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true Florida civil rights icon, Dr. Howard Simon. Dr. Simon has served as executive director of the Florida branch of the American Civil Liberties Union since 1977. Before his appointment to his current position, Dr. Simon oversaw the ACLU's Michigan branch. Remarkably, his 44 cumulative years of service as a state director is the longest in the ACLU's 98-year history. In this capacity, he has been an outspoken champion for marginalized communities.

During Dr. Simon's tenure, the regional ACLU affiliate has taken on many major cases to defend Floridians' civil liberties. It successfully fought to end the use of paperless electronic voting systems after problems were exposed during a 2006 congressional election. This led to the optimization and standardization of voting across every county in the state.

Under Dr. Simon's leadership, the organization has also filed several lawsuits to halt dangerous initiatives passed by the state legislature. One suit successfully blocked a law requiring all applicants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to submit to baseless drugs tests. As the representative of one of the most disadvantaged districts in the country, I am deeply concerned by attacks on public benefits programs on which many of my constituents heavily rely.

In addition to overseeing the ACLU's legal, public education, legislative lobbying, and membership and fundraising programs, Dr. Simon frequently pens editorials for regional publications, challenging policies that undermine Floridians' constitutional freedoms.

I am grateful to Dr. Simon for his work defending Floridians' civil liberties. Unfortunately, it is often the most disadvantaged who are targeted by policies that threaten their rights or otherwise lack the necessary resources to defend themselves.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Howard Simon and congratulate him on a remarkable career. Dr. Simon recently announced plans to retire after leading the Florida ACLU affiliate for 21 years. I wish him all the best and thank him for his exemplary service to my home state.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAIPEI AND PHOENIX

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Phoenix, Arizona and Taipei, Taiwan. Additionally, I would like to congratulate Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-Je on his successful reelection.

For the past 40 years, Taipei and Phoenix have shared a commitment with the goal of promoting cross cultural understanding along with municipal and technical cooperation and business opportunities. This bond has enabled people-to-people relationships between the residents of Phoenix and Taipei. The program has also offered opportunities to our youth who want to broaden their knowledge of different cultures. Taipei's Mayor Ko Wen-Je has been a strong advocate of the program and I commend him for his continual support.

I would like to take the time to show my appreciation to the Sister City Program for its positive impact on Arizona's economy. The program has helped to form international understanding and goodwill between our two nations. I look forward to continued dedication between these great cities. It is my honor to wish these two cities a happy 40th anniversary and congratulate Kon Wen-Je on his victory.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 STARS OVER DULLES AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community and to congratulate the 2018 "Stars Over Dulles" Award recipients.

This year, at the 23rd Annual Stars Over Dulles Awards Luncheon, the Chamber will honor those extraordinary businesses, nonprofit organizations, and citizens who have dedicated their talents and activities to enhancing our economy and our community.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing this community, I have been proud to partner with the Chamber on promoting the region's pro-business climate and celebrating the service that so many individuals and businesses provide to our community.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2018 Stars Over Dulles Awards:

Arts Community Leader: Evan Hoffmann, NextStop Theatre Company; Distinguished Veteran: Ono Brewing Company; Financial Leader: Northwest Federal Credit Union; First Responder: Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police Department; Health & Wellness Leader: Meg Donnelly, Meg Donnelly, LMT; Hospitality & Tourism Leader: Westin Washington Dulles; Minority Business Leader: Mike Williams, The Growth Coach; Non-Profit Leader: Chuck Birdie, Loudoun Free Clinic; Real Estate & Development Leader: Tammy Meyer, Stonebridge Title, LLC; Small Business Leader: David Hillelsohn, DHill Financial; Technology Leader: Madhu Garlanka, Allwyn Corporation; Transportation Leader: Doug Pickford, Dulles Area Transportation Association; Workforce & Education Leader: Dr. Anthony Copeland, Westfield High School; Young Professional: Young Kim, McLean Insurance Agency, Inc.; and Eileen D Curtis Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2018 Stars Over Dulles Award recipients and in thanking these businesses and individuals for their many contributions to our region's economic success and quality of life. Their efforts are among the many reasons why Northern Virginia remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business. I congratulate the honorees on receiving these awards and wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING MR. ANTONIO GONZALEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, who passed away on November 11, 2018. Mr.

Gonzalez hailed from my hometown of San Antonio, and shared his life with his wife of 26 years, Alma Martinez, and their two daughters Ysabel and Sara. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Gonzalez was born in Norwalk, California on December 17, 1956, and put great emphasis on his education. Mr. Gonzalez completed undergraduate coursework at the University of California San Diego from 1975 to 1977, completed graduate coursework in Latin American History at the University of California Berkeley from 1981 to 1982, and graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio where her studied American history.

Mr. Gonzalez has been a longstanding advocate for the underrepresented and the less fortunate.

Throughout his career, he was a champion of voter and minority rights, building relationships with Latino communities throughout Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, El Salvador, and Haiti.

In 1994, Mr. Gonzalez also assumed the presidency of the William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI), a nonpartisan national Latino public policy and research nonprofit organization, and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), the oldest nonpartisan Latino voter participation organization in the U.S. During his tenure, Mr. Gonzalez conducted extensive survey research on Latino voter behavior, Latino voter mobilization, and helped triple Latino voter registration from 5.4 million in 1994 to 15.3 million in 2016. With the help of WCVI, Mr. Gonzalez founded the National Latino Congreso in 2006 where thousands of Latino Organizations meet annually.

Mr. Gonzalez was also a fierce advocate for equal representation under the law. Mr. Gonzalez led SVREP in protecting Latino voting against suppressive "Voter ID" laws in Texas and Arizona. From 2015 to 2017, Mr. Gonzalez led a successful campaign which resulted in more than 50 California school boards and cities to replace their outdated election systems with "single member" district election systems.

From 2004 to 2016, Mr. Gonzalez hosted a weekly radio show on Pacifica's KPFK in Los Angeles called "Strategy Session with Antonio Gonzalez," and steered a nonpartisan coalition of 55 organizations during the Los Angeles City Mayoral election that resulted in the first Latino Mayor in America's 2nd largest city.

With the passing of Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, we have truly lost a pillar in the Latino community and a beacon of home in our nation. Mr. Gonzalez's legacy will leave a lasting impact for many years to come, and his lifelong dedication changed the lives of San Antonioans, Texans, and people around the world.

COMMENDING MRS. EILEEN GRACE MARTINHO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mrs. Eileen Grace Martinho for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California.