

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE CAPITAL GAZETTE, RECOGNIZED AMONG TIME MAGAZINE'S PERSON OF THE YEAR HONOREES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay a heartfelt tribute to the men and women of the Capital Gazette. The staff at the daily paper, based in Annapolis and covering news across Anne Arundel County and the surrounding area, were recognized last month by TIME as one of its 'Person of the Year' honorees. They joined murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi; Maria Ressa, a reporter in the Philippines working to expose corruption amid the country's drug war; and Burmese journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone, imprisoned for covering the plight of Rohingya refugees. TIME's award focused on the dangers facing journalists as they seek to fulfill their role as 'guardians' of truth. At the Capital Gazette, that danger took the form of a deadly mass shooting on June 28, 2018, which killed five employees and injured several others.

On that tragic day, a gunman entered the Capital Gazette offices in Annapolis and took the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Wendi Winters, and Rebecca Smith. It was a targeted attack by a mentally disturbed individual who should never have been able to acquire dangerous firearms. The attack came after months of vitriol leveled at the press, where reporters were called 'enemy of the people' and lambasted as purveyors of 'fake news.' To their credit, even after this deadly shooting took the lives of their friends and colleagues and after having to endure threats targeted at them and other journalists, the staff of the Capital Gazette continued their important work of reporting the news to the people of Maryland and released an edition of the paper the very next day. They would not be deterred from their mission, so critical to our open and deliberative democracy.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of the Members of this House will join me in congratulating the Capital Gazette and thanking its staff for the hard work they do every day—as well as all the members of the press who are risking danger to report the news. We must continue to stand up for the freedom of the press, which is critical to the liberty of our people and to all nations around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. HARDER. Madam Speaker, I missed these votes because of travel delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 44, and YEA on Roll Call No. 45.

CONGRATULATING THE SAUK VALLEY AREA OF COMMERCE ON RECEIVING A FIVE-STAR ACCREDITATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce on receiving a Five-Star Accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce was one of 120 chambers across the nation to receive this accreditation this past year.

Founded in 1912, the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce has gone on to develop their organization's abilities into one of the finest in the nation. The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce represents many communities across both Illinois and Iowa, where they work to expand economic opportunities in the region. With this accreditation, it is clear the Sauk Valley Area will continue to benefit from the efforts of this organization as we begin the new year. I am impressed by the work they have done to improve the well-being of local businesses across our region and congratulate them on a job well done. As we look to the future, I am eager to see how the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce builds upon this distinction and uses it to expand upon their successes and continue to improve the local business community. A strong workforce is key to a strong community, and this five-star recognition speaks volumes to that commitment.

It is because of groups such as the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce on its five-star accreditation and thank them for their service to our community.

CONGRATULATING TONY ANDERSON FOR RECEIVING THE 2018 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Tony Anderson for receiving the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Tony has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Since 1929, the Distinguished Service Award has been given to leaders who have had a tremendously positive impact on the Traverse City area. Through his decades of service to his community, Tony has shown himself to be more than deserving of this honor. Through his Marathon4Kids organization, Tony has completed 43 marathons in 43 states and raised more than \$400,000 for Big

Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan. This year, he plans on running in Mississippi, Idaho, Kansas, and New Mexico as a part of his mission to complete marathons in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Tony's determination has been previously recognized on multiple occasions, including being named "Volunteer of the Year" at the 2012 Michigan Governor's Service Awards. In addition to his work with Marathon4Kids, Tony has served as a volunteer firefighter, an emergency medical technician, and as a key member of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he is the former president of the Freedom Builders—a faith-based organization that provides housing assistance to the local community. The impact of his work in Traverse City and across Michigan cannot be understated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Tony Anderson for receiving the 2018 Distinguished Service Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Tony all the best in his future endeavors.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP STRATEGY TO REGAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 353, my bill that directs the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

I would first like to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL for working with my team to bring this great legislation to the floor. From 2009 to 2016, Taiwan attended the World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization's annual summit, under the status of an observer. However, following the election of Taiwan's current President Tsai Ing-wen, the People's Republic of China has stepped up its campaign to marginalize Taiwan's participation in the international community. In 2017 and 2018, due to increased political pressure from the People's Republic of China, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the World Health Assembly.

Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Assembly, serves no purpose other than to placate Beijing's insecurity. The World Health Organization exists to address shared transnational health challenges, and Taiwan has proven time and again that it is a model contributor to world health. Since 1996, Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries.

The United States and the U.S. Congress have long supported Taiwan's participation in international organizations, and this legislation will continue this important work. My bill will help ensure that the U.S. diplomatic strategy to advocate for Taiwan's presence at the World Health Assembly adapts to Beijing's increased efforts to box out Taiwan. A similar