

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN APPRECIATION OF PLASMA DONORS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of donating plasma and to applaud those individuals that make the commitment to be a plasma donor.

Many Americans are impacted by rare, serious, and sometimes life-threatening medical conditions that are effectively managed by therapies derived from donated plasma. Patients affected by alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, hemophilia, hereditary angioedema, platelet disorders, primary immunodeficiency diseases, as well as other communities rely on plasma-derived therapies. For many of these patients, plasma-derived therapies represent life-sustaining or life-improving medicine that is only available and accessible as a result of plasma donors. Moreover, these therapies represent the cutting-edge of medicine and it often takes dozens of donations to prepare one course of treatment for a single patient.

These communities are collectively represented by the American Plasma Users Coalition, which works on policy issues to protect the safety of plasma donors and plasma products, and to ensure an adequate supply of plasma donations to meet the medical needs of patients. As science advances and we are better able to diagnose these conditions and treat additional conditions due to breakthroughs with plasma-derived therapies, we will need more Americans to make the important choice to donate plasma to ensure all patients continue to have access to essential treatments.

Many of us have already made the commitment to be either an occasional or regular plasma donor. Often times, this decision stems from knowing a patient who relies on plasma-derived therapies and understanding the tremendous impact a simple donation has on their health and the well-being of their family. Plasma donors come from all walks-of-life and all backgrounds, but to the patient community they are everyday heroes.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize the contributions of plasma donors while calling attention to the importance of plasma donation.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the successful career of Dr. G.P. "Bud" Peterson. On Janu-

ary 7, 2019, Dr. Peterson announced that he will be retiring from the role of President at the Georgia Institute of Technology, commonly known as Georgia Tech.

His retirement comes after eleven years of service to this great academic institution. Throughout those years, Bud demonstrated extraordinary leadership. A few examples include having the university accepted into the Association of American Universities, increasing enrollment while other academic institutions are struggling, expanding areas of research, and being named a top-10 public research university. As a graduate of Georgia Tech, I am proud of what this institution has accomplished. Thanks in part to the talented faculty and the direction President Peterson provided.

Dr. Peterson is truly leaving Georgia Tech a better place than when he arrived. Sandy and I wish him well and congratulate him on his wonderful career. I thank him for all he has done to make Georgia Tech a better place, and wish him good luck in all future endeavors.

HAVEN JOOST GIBSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Haven Joost Gibson. Haven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Haven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Haven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Haven built 5 bat houses that hold up to 300 bats each for the Lake of the Ozarks National Park.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Haven Joost Gibson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OATH CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 8, 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on February 8,

2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On February 8, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mahmooda Mohammed, Alice Nyambura Ngatia, Nicholas Ngugi Kiraki, Barbara Lucio, Riste Trajanovski, Janette Magallanes, Tehmina Talib, Birute Arnold, Chantal Mutabazi, Ainka Faustina de Coteau, Ian Frederick Griffiths, Huy N. Huynh, Brenda Berenice Avila Rosales, Rodrigo Garcia, Elisabeth Navarro, Ristana Lazaroska, Elva Lucero Madrigal, Audrey Corinne Kaucoud Behinan, Chulida O'Donnell, Jose Efrain Aguilar, Sohaib Aleem, Moshe Michael Abudraham, Pablo Ernesto Bernaschina, Mayra Mercado-Estrada, Mary Teresa Duffy, Norma Lizeth Cruz, Adriana Bell, Faustin Kagesera, Marisol Bosio, and Hugh Gong.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on February 8, 2019. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA HRTZ AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Angela Hritz as the Teacher of the Year for Okaloosa County, Florida.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ms. Hritz teaches World History at Davidson Middle School, where she has spent her twenty-year teaching career.

Ms. Hritz has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Hritz has continued to exceed all expectations and proves her devotion to her profession in a multitude of ways.

Ms. Hritz possesses the dynamic capability to encompass many different facets in her lessons. She is specifically known for incorporating ELA standards within her social studies activities.

She immerses her students in the content by using Socratic Seminars to deepen their understanding and develop communication skills in a respectful environment.

Ms. Hritz exhibits her passion for education every day in her actions. Her unmistakable love for her job provides a strong foundation for her ability to successfully engage and encourage her students.

Ms. Hritz also effectively draws from her own experiences to compliment her instruction. Having traveled to some of the very places of which she teaches, enables her to better instill a sense of wonder about the world in her students and to encourage them to embrace other cultures.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Angela Hritz for her accomplishments and her profound commitment to the Okaloosa County School District. I offer my gratitude for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019
SEYFER FAMILY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud The Seyfer Family for receiving the 2019 West Metro Chamber of Commerce's Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

This award is reserved for individuals who achieve the highest level of respect within their community. Nominees are known as the "shining stars" of the current business world and must have had a positive economic impact within the Jefferson County community over the last year. This is true of the one and only Seyfer family—Margie, Christy, Don, TinaMarie and Troy—who have all contributed to their community in unique and substantial ways.

Margie Seyfer has co-chaired the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival and Wheat Ridge Kite Flight Festival as well as spearhead membership and recruitment efforts for the Wheat Ridge Business Association. For the past several years, she has also served as a reading tutor for Jefferson County and Denver Public Schools.

Christy Seyfer has also been an integral part of the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival as their designated photographer and organizing the kid's craft booth. She has also volunteered with the Wheat Ridge Kit Flight Festival, Ar-

vada Center Dance Academy, and the Wheat Ridge High School's Boy's Tennis Team Booster Club, After Prom Committee, and STEM Program. In 2015–2016, she co-created the Wheat Ridge Business Association Christmas Tree Auction and served on the planning committee.

Don Seyfer formed Seyfer Automotive in the spring of 1961 and has been actively involved in leadership for the Automotive Service Association, both state and national chapters, and served as the National Chairman for the ASA. Locally, he served as a board member for Wheat Ridge Local Works (formerly Wheat Ridge 2020) and the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

After twenty years of working for Corporate America, Troy and Tinamarie Seyfer, decided it was time to follow their passion and start Seyfer Specialties, a hot rod specialty business in Wheat Ridge. Tinamarie has been on the Board of Directors with the Wheat Ridge Business Association for the last four years and is currently the Vice President. Troy volunteers and/or directs several car shows throughout the year in the community, including the Berkeley Bash and the All Ford Show where money is raised for different charities. In 2014, the couple created the Annual 44th Avenue Rumble which brings together community leaders, car enthusiasts, families, and small business owners in the community as well as raises funds for the Wheat Ridge High School's STEM program.

The Seyfer family has clearly demonstrated an extraordinary ability to influence their community and have used their strong leadership skills to advance community and business success through public service and philanthropy.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Seyfer Family for this well-deserved recognition.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION
OF DR. ELSIE M. TAVERAS, M.D.,
M.P.H.

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, Dr. Elsie M. Taveras, M.D., M.P.H. is Chief of the Division of General Academic Pediatrics and Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital, Conrad Taff Professor of Pediatrics in the Field of Nutrition at Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Taveras is a board-certified Pediatrician, clinical epidemiologist, and childhood obesity researcher, whose focus of research is understanding determinants of obesity in women and children and developing interventions across to prevent obesity and chronic diseases, especially in underserved populations.

Dr. Taveras has published over 190 research studies in her career thus far and has been cited by the Institute of Medicine, World Health Organization, White House Task Force Report on Childhood Obesity, and the USDA-HHS Dietary Guidance Development Project for Birth to 24 Months and Pregnancy.

Dr. Taveras received the Public Health Leadership in Medicine Award from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health for her extensive work improving health and health care in community-based settings.

Dr. Taveras was named Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health, a national center devoted to improving health outcomes for underserved patients, families and communities developing and implementing culturally-competent interventions related to substance use treatment, cancer care equity, obesity prevention, and community health training.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNDER-
GROUND RAILROAD IN NORTH
CAROLINA

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of the Underground Railroad in North Carolina. With the first known stop of the Underground Railroad being in Guilford County, this portion of North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District became a refuge for slaves seeking hope and freedom. I am proud to stand and reflect on the brave individuals like Vestal Coffin and his family, New Garden Quakers who sacrificed immensely for the cause of freedom and justice. In honor of the bicentennial anniversary of the North Carolina Underground Railroad, Guilford County will be hosting several ceremonies, forums, and educational events. As we celebrate National African American History Month, I join the citizens of Guilford County and North Carolina in recognizing this important moment in our nation's history.

EARL W. AND LINDA M. LAMMERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Earl W. and Linda M. Lammers, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 16, 2019.

Earl and Linda fondly recall how they met on a blind date in October and have since loved and cherished each other for over half a century. Earl and Linda have never met a flea market they didn't like and both willingly suffer through deer hunting season or never ending music shows at the Missouri Theater. They also continue to spend many days and nights a year in the most fun place on earth—Branson. Earl and Linda have leaned on each other through losses of dear friends and family, and both have spent their time together supporting their children and grandchildren in all school and community endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, their friends, and their sons, Kevin and Scott, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren in congratulating Earl W. and Linda M. Lammers and wishing them many more years of health and happiness together.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019
JOYRIDE BREWING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joyride Brewing Company for receiving the 2019 Medium Business of the Year Award from the West Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Located in Edgewater right across from Sloan's Lake, Joyride Brewing is a small craft brewery focused on producing great quality brews with a fun atmosphere. Along with their majestic views, they have a 10-barrel brewhouse with eight serving tanks and six fermenters. Currently, their taproom holds around 95 people and they have plans to open a rooftop this spring.

When they first opened, their goal was to put the word "neighbor back in to neighborhoods" and they have done just that, helping bring together residents and neighbors to share ideas and good beer. This is also demonstrated with their annual anniversary street party.

Another story that embodies their fun-loving spirit is their mascot, Roger. Roger was the first elephant ever used by Barnum and Bailey's Circus. Barnum would keep Roger and the other elephants at Sloan's Lake during the winters while they weren't touring, providing daily entertainment to the surrounding community. To that end, they felt like Roger embodied their motto: "Life is about enjoying the journey, not always the destination."

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joyride Brewing Company for this well-deserved recognition.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 41st commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like the 44th President of the United States and First Lady, Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, respectively; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr. and Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, artists, and entrepreneurs like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Gwendolyn Brooks, Shonda Rhimes, Ava Duvernay, and Oprah Winfrey, just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activist, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Madam Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never-ending challenge of perfecting our union.

A few years ago about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman Charles Rangel, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions.

They proved that "the antidote to racism is excellence in performance," as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Madam Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism,

cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Madam Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous men and women who are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women who helped to make Houston the wonderful, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive, and progressive city that it is:

1. Mayor Sylvester Turner
2. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
3. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
6. Mr. John Brand
7. Ms. Ruby Moseley
8. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
9. Ms. Doris Hubbard
10. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
11. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
12. Mr. Deloyd Parker

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

TRIBUTE TO PV. 2 GARY JOHN
BORBA, II

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pv. 2 Gary John Borba, II who lost his life too soon at the age of 23. Born in Hanford on July 6, 1995, Gary joined the United States Army on October 20, 2017 and was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Gary was a young man full of life, hope and aspirations. He was someone full of character who enjoyed spending time with his family and making people smile.

Above all Gary was someone who brought joy to the lives of those he surrounded. He

had a passion for the outdoors, guns, hunting and aspired to become a police officer upon completing his service in the Army.

Gary tragically lost his life on January 19, 2019 at the Fort Campbell base in Kentucky serving our nation. His dedication to the United States and willingness to serve is something we shall never forget.

He leaves behind his devoted wife, Araceli Borba, his mother Carol Elliot, father Gary J. Borba, Sr., stepfather Corey Elliot, sister Madison Borba, brother Mathew Borba, his half-brothers Branden Borba and Jacob Borba, and half-sister Brigitte Borba.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and life of Gary John Borba, II. May he rest in peace and may we always remember the sacrifice he made for our country.

McKAY RUSSELL MARBLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize McKay Russell Marble. McKay is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

McKay has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years McKay has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, McKay organized his troop to nail 600 metal plates to the power poles in Gallatin Missouri, so the city could slide in numbers to help them identify different power poles.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending McKay Russell Marble for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES J.
DIMATTEO

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Charles DiMatteo, who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday on February 8.

The son of a produce store owner father and a seamstress mother from Sicily, Charles lived the American Dream. He was born at home and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, as one of nine children. His parents were well-known in the area as co-founders of Sacred Heart Church on North Street in the North End. Charles went to school and helped out in the family store.

Charles received a draft notice and entered the Army Air Corps in 1942, serving as a radio operator and marksman. He was in 16 missions under fire in places like Burma, China

and India. He suffered serious injury while unloading a cargo plane and was hospitalized. Charles continued his service until 1946, when he was honorably discharged with many service medals and honors.

Following his military service, Charles worked as a railroad claims agent and ran a wholesale produce business. His fruit baskets were legendary in the area and he was referred to as the "Basket King." He is a lifelong member of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). After retiring at age 70 and relocating to Florida, he joined DAV Chapter 133 in Pompano Beach.

Charles is known as a generous man who has supported many charities over the years. Charles is also a family man with a loving wife Anita, two children, 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Despite knee replacement and back surgeries, Charles still gets around quite well at age 99. Not surprisingly, he is a fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots, and enjoys watching their games on television. His other hobbies include following the stock market, swimming and dining out.

Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Mr. Charles DiMatteo and his service to his country and his community. Happy Birthday, Charles.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019 SPAY
TODAY, NEUTER NOW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Spay Today, Neuter Now for receiving the 2019 Nonprofit of the Year Award from the West Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Angelina Piccoli brought her vision to help pets and pet owners in need to life and founded Spay Today in 2009. Over the last ten years, the company has grown from two employees to 20, serving over 10,000 pets each year. To date, the company has spayed and neutered more than 65,000 cats, dogs and rabbits and provided low-cost vaccines, microchips and other veterinary care to thousands more.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Cassie Tanner, and the Board of Directors, Spay Today purchased a building at the end of 2017 and renovations are nearly complete on the new clinic in the Eiber neighborhood in Lakewood. Their relocation will allow them to expand the safety net for pets in need by adding much needed basic wellness services along with a community outreach program.

Spay Today works with community partners like The Action Center and Colorado Pet Pantry to provide free veterinary care to pet owners struggling financially. In 2016, they launched Healthy Paws, a voucher program which has provided nearly 1,000 free spays and neuters to pets in need.

Thank you to Spay Today, Neuter Now for their commitment to providing high-quality, accessible and affordable spay, neuter and basic veterinary care to our community. I extend my deepest congratulations to Spay Today, Neuter Now for this well-deserved recognition.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCHOOL
COUNSELING WEEK AND
VANESSA IAQUINTA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National School Counseling Week, and to honor a treasured member of my community and school counselor at Norwalk High School, Vanessa Iaquinta. Ms. Iaquinta has dedicated over 20 years to empowering students and serving as a role model, mentor, and advocate to students and their families in our community. She always goes above and beyond what is expected of her to serve the students at Norwalk High School.

In addition to her role as a counselor, she has taken on many leadership roles. Ms. Iaquinta leads the AVID program, which serves over 200 students and has been immensely successful under her guidance, achieving an inspiring 100 percent college acceptance rate. She also serves as the counselor for the Project Lead the Way, which offers students interested in the medical field the opportunity to take classes and field trips to help them achieve their college and career dreams.

Ms. Iaquinta developed class presentations to help students create four-year plans, discuss graduation and college requirements, and provide other resources to support students in planning for post-secondary school. She also organized the other counselors to provide evening appointments for parents who otherwise would not be able to meet with counselors to discuss their child's academic performance and progress. Ms. Iaquinta truly cares about students and wants them to succeed. She has contributed to Norwalk in many ways, and works hard to bring new ideas and programs to the school that will benefit the students.

Norwalk High School is a special place because of dedicated professionals like Ms. Iaquinta, and I couldn't be more proud to honor her today. If more people were like Ms. Iaquinta, the world would be a much nicer place. In honor of National School Counseling Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all the school counselors who are making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD L.
WATTENBARGER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Donald Wattenbarger of London, Kentucky, a retired Laurel County Sheriff's Deputy who dedicated more than 20 years as a bailiff for district and circuit courts.

In addition to his commitment to serve and protect the people of Laurel County, Don had a generous heart for local youth. He was a former chairman and avid supporter of the

local Shop with a Cop program, providing children in need with the opportunity to go shopping during the holidays with an officer or first responder from the Sheriff's Department. He and his wife, Virginia, were instrumental in bringing the program to London in 1996. As a result of their perseverance and fundraising efforts over the last two decades, Shop with a Cop has continued to grow and give hope to children who need it the most. Don was also a board member of the London-Laurel County DARE program for many years, where he tirelessly worked to prevent drug abuse through school education programs.

Don was a faithful member of the Calvary Baptist Church and a member of the C.D. Ward Masonic Lodge and Oleika Shriners Temple in Lexington, Kentucky. He was also named a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Paul Patton. In fact, Don was so beloved by his hometown, he was voted a "London Living Treasure" in 2018, an award presented to those who have given a lifetime of service to London and Laurel County.

Don's commitment to Laurel County is a testament to the impact one person can have on a community. My wife, Cynthia, and I send our heartfelt condolences to Virginia and the host of family, friends and community members whose lives were affected by this great man. We deeply appreciate the compassion he shared and the service he gave to his community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Don Wattenbarger for a lifetime of dedicated service in southern Kentucky.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION
OF THE HONORABLE STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DANILO BURGOS

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, the Honorable Danilo Burgos is the State Representative for Pennsylvania's 197th State House district and is the first Dominican-American to represent the neighborhoods in North Philadelphia of Fairhill, Kensington, Hunting Park, Glenwood, and Feltonville in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; and elected in 2018 as the first Dominican-American to hold that seat in the legislature.

Representative Burgos and his family have strong ties to Huntington Park and where Representative Burgos first became interested in social justice and community activism that led him to be a co-founder of the Philadelphia Dominican Grocers' Association to support and galvanize Philadelphia-area grocery and bodega owners like his family to engage with their communities and become informed and involved in American politics.

Representative Burgos works with business and community leaders to create economic stability and safer communities in North Philadelphia, serving on the boards of the Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing Project, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Visitation Community Center, and Proyectos Sin Fronteras, among others.

Representative Burgos has made political engagement a priority placing an emphasis on

highlighting and supporting political engagement; "Get involved in what you care about—as a community, as a human being," Burgos said. "Don't let others dictate your future."

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019 GALA
FOOD FOR THOUGHT CATERING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Food For Thought Catering for receiving the 2019 Small Business of the Year Award from the West Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Forty years ago, Wheat Ridge native Suzanne Smith, and another parent thought the 420 students at the parochial school their children were attending deserved more than a cold sack lunch every day. For six years, the two mothers came to the school once a month to prepare a hot lunch for the students. Several years later, Suzanne was asked if she could prepare food for a rehearsal dinner. Food For Thought Catering was born and today the company caters everything from small intimate dinners for two to events for 250 people as well as breakfast, lunch, dinner, business meetings special events, and afternoon teas. "Food with thought" has been their guiding principle and motto ever since.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Food For Thought Catering for this well-deserved recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALPHA
KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
PINK GOES RED DAY FOR HEART
HEALTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for the extraordinary work it does all throughout the nation.

On January 15, 1908, nine college students on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

As a member of the Xi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I take great pride in my sorority's tradition of service and the many programs that it has established to serve our communities.

One of the founders, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, dreamed of creating a support network for like-minded women coming together for mutual uplift, and coalescing their talents and strengths for the benefit of others.

What began as a small band of sisters in 1908, transformed over the ensuing 111 years into a globally-impactful organization of nearly 300,000 college-trained members, bound by the bonds of sisterhood and empowered by a commitment to servant-leadership that is both domestic and international in scope.

As Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has grown, it has maintained its focus in two key arenas: the lifelong personal and professional develop-

ment of each of its members; and galvanizing its membership into an organization of formidable power and influence, consistently at the forefront of effective advocacy and social change that results in equality and equity for all citizens of the world.

In order to maintain its commitment to servant-leadership, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority hosts an international conference every two years.

On July 6–July 12, 2018, my fellow Sorors from all around the world came to my hometown in Houston to launch "New Dimensions of Service by Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership and Service."

At this conference Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority decided on new targets of focus for the next two years, which include: HBCU for Life: A Call to Action; Women's Healthcare and Wellness; Building Your Economic Legacy; The Arts! and Global Impact.

February 2019 is Women's Healthcare and Wellness month.

To kick off Women's Healthcare and Wellness month, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has joined with the American Heart Association in the fight against heart disease in order to improve the health of all women.

On February 1, Alpha Kappa Alpha women all over the world took off their pink and wore red for the day to raise awareness of this deadly disease for their "Pink Goes Red Impact Day."

Alpha Kappa Alpha chapters are bringing awareness to the devastating effects of heart disease in communities around this country.

My chapter, Xi Alpha Omega hosted a Zumba and Line Dancing Class at our Houston Texans YMCA to promote a fun and healthy way to stay heart healthy.

As we observe Pink Goes Red Impact Day and Heart Health month on the international level, here are some unsettling truths about heart disease and high blood pressure and undeniable truths about prevention that can help to stem the tide of this dreadful disease.

Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 50,000 African-American women annually.

Forty-nine percent of African-American women 20 years of age and older have heart disease.

Only one in five African-American women believes she is personally at risk.

Only 52 percent of African-American women are aware of the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.

Only 36 percent of African-American women know that heart disease is their greatest health risk.

These unsettling truths are the reason that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has made Heart Health and Wellness Month one of its most important initiatives.

Although there is nothing that will 100 percent guarantee a life without high blood pressure and heart disease, there are several things women can do every day to take steps towards a healthier life.

Be honest about their health. There are several things that can be done to reduce the risk of heart disease: exercise regularly; eat healthy; know your family medical history; and monitor and treat pre-existing health conditions.

Moderate salt and sodium intake and read the label and be knowledgeable about what is contained in the food consumed.

Commit to improving eating habits by developing a healthy diet and healthy cooking skills,

eating more fruits and vegetable and staying hydrated.

Get moving. Live an active lifestyle and eliminate sedentary practices from daily routine.

Schedule regular check-ups with their physician to monitor their health.

During the Women's Healthcare and Wellness month, I encourage all women to join me in walking, running, exercising, and educating ourselves and our communities on heart health.

RECOGNIZING ALANNA ROHLING
AS THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2019-
2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise recognize Alanna Rohling 2019–2020 Teacher of the Year for Escambia County, Florida. Ms. Rohling is a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Park Elementary School in Pensacola, FL. Throughout her tenure as an educator, Ms. Rohling has served the Escambia County School District with a deep and unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult professions—yet also one of the most rewarding. Ms. Rohling continues to prove her devotion to her profession in a multitude of ways.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her kindergarten class. Even with the demanding responsibilities of maintaining a classroom, she also contributes to her school and community. She is the Grade Level Co-Chair, a member of school's Leadership Team, the STEM Committee Co-Chair, and still makes time to be a Mentor Teacher and a Student Mentor. She shares her time and talents generously with all her students.

Generations of Ms. Rohling's family have also served as educators. A quote that holds special meaning for her is: "A good education is your child's strongest tool for success"—and in her actions, Ms. Rohlings has certainly helped equip all children with the educational tools they need to succeed.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Alanna Rohling for her tremendous accomplishments, and her many contributions to education in the Escambia County School District.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude for her service. I wish her all the best for her continued success.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REAGENTS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rocky Mountain Reagents for receiving the 2019 West Metro Chamber of Commerce's Chairman's Award for Minority and Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Started in 1951 as S & K Reagents, Rocky Mountain Reagents is a small but vital supplier of chemical products to the medical and healthcare community in the Denver Metro area. Phyllis Sordelet purchased the company in 1988 and rebranded it as Rocky Mountain Reagents in 1996. During that time, it went from a basement business to occupying a 20,000 sq. ft. facility and a preeminent supplier of thousands of high-quality and custom chemical products to industry sectors, including aerospace, healthcare, law enforcement, education, industrial laboratories, water treatment, and bioscience.

This, of course, didn't all happen by accident. It happened due to hard work and long hours by Phyllis and her daughter, Elizabeth. They worked tirelessly to cultivate lasting relationships with vendors, customers, and the local business community. They have operated with the principles of integrity, teamwork, and empowerment to become a resource partner and ally in pursuit of each of their clients' unique visions. They continue to grow and thrive and are soon-to-break ground on a 26,000 sq. ft. expansion. Their commitment to offering quality products, exceptional customer service, and community-building philanthropy has already made a difference and will continue to be felt in the years to come.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rocky Mountain Reagents for this well-deserved recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, I missed votes in the House due to inclement weather in Illinois. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 60, NAY on Roll Call No. 61, NAY on Roll Call No. 62, YEA on Roll Call No. 63, NAY on Roll Call No. 64, and NAY on Roll Call No. 65.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION
OF JUSTICE ROLANDO T. ACOSTA

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, Justice Rolando T. Acosta serves as Presiding Justice of the New York Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Division.

Justice Rolando T. Acosta over his many years of community service in Washington Heights and Inwood where Justice Acosta helped found the Latino Commission on AIDS, a leader in creating the Harlem Community Justice Center, and long-time supporter of Alianza Dominicana.

Justice Rolando T. Acosta and his family as immigrants to the U.S. relied on the generosity and availability of community services and has made a commitment to working for groups including the Legal Aid Society where his judicial knowledge and personal experience resonate with members of the community seeking to better their lives.

Judge Rolando T. Acosta is a proud graduate of Columbia College and Columbia University Law School and recipient of Columbia University's Medal for Excellence and Wien Prize for Social Responsibility, as well as the Latino Judges Association's John Carro Award for Judicial Excellence and previously been selected as Judge of the Year by the National Hispanic Bar Association.

INTRODUCTION OF EASTERSEALS
100TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce today a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the Easterseals. On April 22, 2019, the Easterseals will celebrate 100 years as America's first non-profit organization to serve individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

Once only focused on serving children with special needs, Easterseals expanded its mission in the 1940s to serve children and adults. For decades now, their innovative services opened the doors to assist seniors, veterans and individuals with autism.

The Easterseals had a tragic beginning. In 1907, a streetcar accident in Elyria, Ohio, took the lives of eight people because there was no local hospital to treat their injuries. One of the deceased was the 18-year-old son of Edgar F. Allen, who in his sorrow was inspired to raise the funds necessary to build a local hospital. 18 months later, the Elyria Memorial Hospital was built and opened with 32 beds.

Eight years after that, another Elyria hospital opened for "crippled children." On April 22, 1919, Mr. Allen organized with civic leaders from Elyria, Cleveland, Sandusky, and Toledo, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan to form the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, the original name of the Easterseals.

May the festivities of this 100th anniversary year bring renewed faith and opportunity to those aided by Easterseal services. Through rehabilitation services, new and fulfilling life opportunities become possible.

Let us all take inspiration in the words of founder, Edgar F. Allen: "Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take . . . but by what we give." Congratulations to all associated with such an important organization.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019
VILLAGE AT BELMAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Village at Belmar for receiving the 2019 Large Business of the Year Award from the West Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Village at Belmar is a locally owned and operated community designed to provide an unparalleled lifestyle experience for seniors. Our innovative Village, with more than 300 residents, was conceived and inspired by Phil

Shapiro, Tom Finley, and Susie Reimer. With more than sixty years of combined senior living development, marketing, management, and ownership experience, the three of them co-founded Ascent Living Communities based in Denver.

Their philosophy is “meaningful connections” which is demonstrated through their dedication to maintaining a presence at the community through engagement with the associates, residents, and their families. Village at Belmar is a thriving community and is always seeking ways to continually improve in

order to provide an elevated quality of life for those they serve in the greater Lakewood and Jefferson County area.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Village at Belmar for this well-deserved recognition.