

graduated from the Napa Valley College Paramedic Program.

Ms. Flores is dedicated to emergency medicine and committed to our community. She was deployed to assist with the fires in Napa, Lake and Butte Counties last year. During her fourteen-day deployment, Ms. Flores evacuated hospitals, residences and nursing facilities. No task was too small for her. She did everything within her power to help residents and caregivers affected by the fire. She thrived in the high stress environment and used the uncertainty to drive her forward.

Madam Speaker, we thank Daniela Flores for her dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING HELLAS LIBERTY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Hellas Liberty Maritime Museum and the Hellenic Merchant Marines.

Madam Speaker, we must recognize the Hellenic Merchant Marines and their heroic deeds during World War II, with over 2,000 Hellenic Merchant Marine lives lost and close to 70 percent of the Hellenic Shipping fleet being decimated by the Axis Powers. Hellenic merchant ships transported much needed supplies across the treacherous Atlantic Ocean for the Allies.

The *Arthur M. Huddell*, built in 1943 in the great state of Florida, was commissioned in the PLUTO (Pipe Line under the Ocean) operation, which supplied oil to our allies in Europe during World War Two. It is one of the few remaining Liberty Ships, built for this purpose. In a post-war period, the vessel was continually used to create underwater infrastructure functioning largely as a cable ship, occasionally responding to the request of the U.S. Navy.

After serving our country dutifully, first for the Navy, then for commercial uses, the *Arthur M. Huddell* was retired in 1984, laid up with the majority of the U.S. reserve fleet in the James River. This retirement was not permanent; the 21st century saw renewed attention at the retired fleet to be used for educational purposes.

The Greek State was interested in acquiring the vessel, to be used as a floating museum. The reciprocal aspiration of the U.S. govern-

ment, the result of action taken by many Greek-Americans who were following Rhode Island Senator Leonidas Raptakis and Connecticut representative Dimitrios Yiannaros, with much of the mobilization activated by ship owner Spyros M. Polemis as well.

The U.S. and Greece reached and signed an agreement on June 30, 2008. After U.S. Maritime Administrator Sean Connaughton and Greek Minister of Merchant Marine Georgios Voulgarakis completed this transfer of ownership, The *Arthur M. Huddell* was officially renamed to the *Hellas Liberty*. Departing a month later, the ship arrived in Greece, for extended repairs before being recommissioned as a floating museum.

On February 8, 2019, the museum will celebrate its 10th anniversary, honoring the close and fruitful relationship between Greece and the United States of America. Congratulations to all.

CONGRATULATING INNKEEPER'S
COFFEE ON ITS TWENTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Innkeeper's Fresh Roasted Coffee for its twentieth anniversary of operation in Galesburg, Illinois.

Innkeeper's has been a space for the Galesburg community to come together since 1998 when Mike Bond and Johan Ewalt first began serving freshly roasted coffee. In 2003, the two took a chance and decided to expand their business even as factory closings threatened to devastate the local economy. With investment, hard work and creativity, Innkeeper's managed to succeed, grow and become a central space for friends and family to enjoy one another's company. Innkeeper's small batch roasting method and their use of environmentally friendly shade-grown coffee sets them apart.

It is in small businesses like Innkeeper's that rural communities have found stability and their perseverance makes me proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would again like to formally congratulate Innkeeper's Fresh Roasted Coffee on its twenty years in business and thank them for their service to our community.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN DON
RICCI AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO
OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Rosa Fire Captain Don Ricci, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Ricci is a Sonoma County native. He graduated from Montgomery High School and attended the Santa Rosa Safety Center, a department at the Santa Rosa Junior College. He began his career in public service in 1992 when he joined the Bennet Valley Fire Protection District. Mr. Ricci served in that department as a firefighter, engineer and lieutenant. In 1998, he joined the Santa Rosa Fire Department as a firefighter-paramedic. In 2002 Mr. Ricci was promoted to Engineer and in 2004, to Fire Captain. He also serves as a lead instructor for the Live Burn Cadre and as a paramedic Field Training Officer. Additionally, he is a Tactical Paramedic on Henry 1 (the Sonoma County Sheriff's helicopter) and the SWAT Team in the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department.

On January 22, 2018, Mr. Ricci displayed the utmost dedication to public service and fire safety. He was on Medic Engine 5 when it was dispatched to an odor investigation that was revealed to be a working structure fire. Mr. Ricci upgraded the assignment and instructed his team to launch a defensive fire attack. As he gathered intelligence around the property, a house, he saw a neighbor trying to rescue an elderly woman from a small window. After he realized he was unable to rescue the resident from outside the structure, and knowing the window was too small to enter with a self-contained breathing apparatus, he removed the apparatus and entered the smoke-filled building. Mr. Ricci first evacuated the resident out of the small window he had entered. He then evacuated the resident's dog. Because of his courage and swift action, Mr. Ricci prevented a tragic loss of life in our community.

Madam Speaker, we thank Fire Captain Don Ricci for his dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor him today.