

Claus' dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Claus' leadership and the role he plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from his presence.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 121. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: H. Res. 156, Calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov—Yes.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM ROBBINS

### HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Robbins, a veteran of the Marine Corps who honorably served our country and his community, and who passed away in January at the age of 90.

Upon graduating from Libertyville High School in 1946, Mr. Robbins immediately enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in China and Guam in the years following World War II. During his service, Mr. Robbins was stationed in Tangku, China and was one of the Marines who defended the Hsin Ho Ammunition Supply Depot against attack in April 1947.

After returning to the U.S. in 1950, he served as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8741's commander for several years and as the Post's quartermaster for 32 years. He was especially known for his work with young people and recent veterans.

In addition, Mr. Robbins was the primary leader in making the veterans' monument in Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville a reality. Every Memorial Day, Jim read off the names of former Libertyville township residents who had died in service to our nation at a community observance ceremony. He viewed this as a great honor and carefully wrote down their names phonetically in a personal notebook to ensure he properly pronounced the name of each fallen hero.

In his professional life, Mr. Robbins was a contract glazing salesman for 30 years. He also worked with the Lake County Forest Preserve for many years at the Fox River Preserve. He leaves behind two children, five beloved grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

It is my great honor and privilege to recognize the life of Jim Robbins and thank him for his service to our country and tireless work on behalf of other veterans in our community.

#### RECOGNIZING RONALD E. POWELL

### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ronald E. Powell for a lifetime of vigorous and effective advocacy protecting the rights of workers in my home state of Illinois, and for working men and women across the United States.

Ron's service in the labor movement began in 1961, when he was hired as a Field Representative for the United Retail Workers Union (URW). Thanks to his effectiveness as an organizer, he rose quickly through the ranks, becoming a Supervisor of Field Staff in 1968, and the Vice President and Director of Field Operations in 1973.

In 1981, the URW, with a membership totaling 6,000 workers, affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and formed Local 881 of the UFCW. (The name "Local 881" was chosen to commemorate the date of its affiliation—August of 1981.)

Ron was elected president of Local 881 in 1983. Under his leadership, Local 881 has grown to represent 34,000 workers and is one of the largest affiliates in the UFCW family of unions that represent over 1.3 million workers across the world. While managing that growth, Ron found time to shoulder other responsibilities, including serving as Vice President on the International Executive Board of UFCW, Vice President of the state of Illinois AFL-CIO, Chairman of the Illinois State Investment Board, and as a member of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Board, and the board of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

Ron's distinguished resumé does not tell the full story of his service to our community. He has worked tirelessly to advocate for the men and women who provide essential but often invisible services in a world increasingly indifferent to their rights and needs. Countless families are grateful to Ron and the efforts of Local 881 for improved wages and safety conditions in industries that include food service and preparation, meat packing, groceries, chemical manufacturing and retail. I know Ron takes great pride in the part he played in the recent enactment of the City of Chicago Paid Sick Leave Ordinance, extending paid leave protection for the first time to thousands of workers (and UFCW members) who live in our community.

Both personally and in furtherance of his work for the UFCW, Ron has been civically engaged, serving as a Trustee on the Village Board of Mundelein, and as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Over the years Ron has supported countless candidates that were committed to protecting the rights of working men and women, including a young United States Senator named Barack Obama who ultimately served two terms as President of the United States.

Many charities owe thanks to Ron as well. Under his stewardship, the Local 881 Charitable Foundation has been a strong supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ron also organized fundraising efforts for Jackson Park Hospital in Chicago and the Little City Foundation, which serves developmentally dis-

abled children and adults in the Chicagoland area.

Ron is blessed with four children—one of whom, Steven, currently serves as President of Local 881 and an International Vice President of the UFCW—and many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is held in esteem by numerous organizers and union officials he has mentored over the course of his career, and the thousands of workers whose lives have been made better through his efforts.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34,000 members of Local 881 of the UFCW, and the millions of hard-working men and women of the state of Illinois who owe so much to Ron Powell, I offer my thanks for nearly 60 years of dedicated and selfless service to our community. Although Ron may have retired from his positions with the UFCW, I know he has not retired from his commitment to service, and on behalf of all Illinoisans and Americans I wish him great success in his next chapter.

#### TWENTY YEARS OF REPRESENTING SOUTH DAKOTA AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, it will be the 20th time Spearfish High School will represent South Dakota at the national "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition this spring.

The team won the state competition Thursday at Black Hills State University.

"It's commendable that you guys do this . . . I think this will be a memorable experience for you," Wes Brown, of the Vantage Institute, a nonprofit organization that provides education, training, and support for issues facing communities, said. He thanked the students for their hard work, the judges for their time, and everyone involved for making the event possible.

The We the People program promotes civic competence and responsibility for upper elementary and secondary students. The program was created in 1987, directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act.

During the competition, student units take on simulated congressional hearing questions, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and current constitutional issues. Each unit prepares a four-minute statement to present to the panel of judges acting as a congressional committee, and they then answer follow-up questions posed by the committee members. The units are scored on understanding, Constitutional application, reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness, and participation.

The Spearfish team is made up of seniors Lily Dennison, Gene Glover, Paxton Klug, Rigel Roberdeau, Kenna Comer, Kennedy Kaitfors, Rylee Niesent, Taylor Hersch, Justin Steedley, Hannah Tysdal, Ana Buchholz, Peter Marich, Morgan Roberts, Zach Tipton, Sophia Caldwell, Nathan Davis, Thomas Friedrich, Ella Neiman, Tim Doerges, Izzy Drumm, Jay Saylor, and Chelsea Williams. Patrick Gainey teaches the class.

Unit 4, made up of Buchholz, Marich, Roberts, and Tipton, were named the best unit for the Spearfish team, and Friedrich was named the Larson Best Speaker Award for the team.

Lead-Deadwood High School, taught by Matthew Campbell, also competed. The team is made up of students Chayton Bower, Carter Nelson, Eric Schumacher, Kyler Farmer-Winsell, Hunter Gudith, Chase Ladner, Michael Crawford, Harley Priest, Jasmine Riter, Luke Fish, Keegan Huntington, Zak Mau, Wyatt VandeVelde, Dylan Arehart, Dylan Janke, CJ Murray, Megan Snow, Raygan Mattson, Maxx Percy, Mackenzie Wetz, Zoe Bourgo, Brianna Pfeiffer-Munoz, Kaitlin Wilks, Carly Mehlberg, Abiah Morrison, and Alexis Morrison.

Unit 6a, made up of Bourgo, Pfeiffer-Munoz, and Wilks, was named best unit, and Pfeiffer-Munoz was named the Larson Best Speaker Award for the team.

Brown encouraged everyone to spread the word about the program. He said in the last decade, the most teams that participated in South Dakota were seven, versus the two teams competing this year. He added that Wyoming has 18 teams competing to represent the state.

"Thanks so much for putting in the effort," Brown said.

Spearfish High School will join approximately 1,200 students from 56 high school classes from across the nation to compete in the We the People National Finals April 26–29 at the National Conference Center in Washington, D.C.

"I'm really proud of how hard the kids worked," Gainey said of the students. "They put in—it's not just class time—they meet outside of school, they meet at each other's houses, they go and interview professionals, they talk to lawyers and public officials, to get information for their presentations. It's a class, I think, that inspires a lot of devotion and commitment to each other. I like it because it's a little bit like football or basketball in that you could have the smartest kid in the state and you still might not win because it's a team effort."

#### RECOGNIZING FEMALE LEADERS OF COLLIN COUNTY

#### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, celebrated each March, "Women's History Month" serves as a time to honor and recognize the momentous achievements of women who have and continue to shape the United States today.

What began as a week-long celebration in 1981, has evolved into a month reserved to celebrate female leaders across the nation. Established annually by Presidential Proclamations since 1995, each March, we hear stories of incredible women who have broken barriers, set records, and inspired us all from coast to coast.

This year, I am especially proud to highlight a group of women making history right in Texas' Third Congressional District.

Collin County, Texas contains eleven District Courts, with eleven presiding judges, and seven County Courts at Law, with seven presiding judges.

In 2017, the addition of new judges brought the total number of female judges serving on the District Courts to six, meaning, for the first time in history, the majority of the court seats were held by women. But, just this year, with the election of another judge in Texas' 219th District Court, there are now seven women serving on the county's district benches.

Making the accomplishment even more remarkable, just twelve years ago, there was only one female judge on the county's benches.

While only 33 percent of judges throughout the United States are women, Collin County is leading the way for women in law and justice careers with 64 percent of the district benches served by female judges.

To our great female judges, Judge Corrine Mason, Judge Angela Tucker, Judge Jennifer Edgeworth, Judge Andrea Thompson, Judge Cynthia Wheelless, Judge Jill Willis, Judge Piper McCraw, and Judge Emily Miskel, I thank them for their service to our county, to Texas, and as an inspiration to so many.

Madam Speaker, today, and every day, let us honor those women setting course for the next generation of American leaders.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to Global Recycling Day on March 18. Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognize, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

The creation of Global Recycling Day is aimed at the promotion of a global and united approach to recycling. The mission of Global Recycling Day is to help world leaders understand that recycling is too important not to be a global issue, and to ask all citizens of the world to think of recyclables in terms of what they are: valuable resources, not waste. By combining as many voices and efforts as possible on a single day, together we are raising awareness of the urgent need to be more reliable recyclers and more conscientious consumers.

There are six major natural resources on the planet, Madam Speaker—water, air, coal, oil, natural gas and minerals. I think recyclables ought to be thought of as the world's Seventh Resource.

Recycling prevents more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year than those generated by the entire aviation industry, while simultaneously reducing the need to extract the Earth's finite virgin natural resources. Without recycling, all our used refrigerators, plastic bottles, packing boxes, cars, cell phones and paper cups would contribute to the growing waste mountains, which are either incinerated or sent to landfill—never to be used again.

In the United States alone, we recycle more than 130 million metric tons of scrap materials every year and employ more than 130,000 American workers. These valuable materials go directly back into the manufacturing chain, helping manufacturers be more energy efficient.

Global Recycling Day 2019 will work to get more young people engaged with the power of the Seventh Resource through a variety of key partnerships. The initiative will also work with businesses and entrepreneurs globally to share their innovation, concepts and ideas for better recycling practices in the future.

As the House Recycling Caucus Co-Chair, I am committed to helping foster economically viable and sustainable recycling in the United States to protect our environment, save energy and conserve natural resources for my kid's and their kid's futures.

Recycling is the easiest way all of us can make a positive difference in our planet's future while supporting our economy through the creation of tens of thousands of jobs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Global Recycling Day by getting involved and, of course, by recycling.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE WATKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2019 I was absent from the floor due to a visit to the Oval Office for a bill signing. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 121.

#### HONORING REGINA DARDEN FOR RECEIVING THE TIDEWATER CHAPTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

#### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Regina Darden on receiving the 2019 Humanitarian Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Regina's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. I am inspired by her commitment to create and establish the first summer homeless shelter in Hampton Roads, called Helping Others Pursue Excellence (H.O.P.E.). H.O.P.E. is an exceptional organization that has served over 600 homeless guests during the summer of 2017 and continues to grow.

Regina's dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to recognize Regina's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from her presence.