

degree in Library Science, before continuing her education at the University of South Florida where she received a Master's in Administration and Supervision.

She served for 59 years at Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where she was on the finance committee and served as a choir member and secretary. In addition to serving at her church, Florida worked for 40 years as a teacher within the Hendry County School System. After retiring from teaching, Florida felt she could still serve her community so she began working as a full-time librarian at the Harlem Library where she worked until she retired in 2014.

Throughout her career, Florida was recognized again and again for her hard work and dedication to those around her. She was the first black librarian in the state of Florida within the integrated school system and was named "Children Intermediate School (CIS) Teacher of the Year" in 1987. She was also an active member of The Order of the Eastern Star fraternity. In May, 2017 the Harlem Community Library was re-named in her honor, and now serves the community as the Florida B. Thomas Library. And, just last year, she was honored with The Heritage Award for 2018.

Madam Speaker, Florida Thomas was a champion for her community and she positively impacted the lives of many in Harlem and surrounding communities. I extend my deepest condolences to her husband, Melvin, and the rest of her friends and family during this extremely difficult time. Florida Thomas was a blessing to our community and I am proud to honor her memory today. She will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION PIPES AND DRUMS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hampshire Police Association Pipes and Drums as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. In October of 1994, New Hampshire State Police Sergeant James Noyes was shot and killed during a standoff with an armed barricaded subject. Inspired by the Boston Police Gaelic Column's performance at Sergeant Noyes's funeral, members of the New Hampshire Police Association set out to create a pipes and drums band of their own. Coming together from various police departments across the state, a small group was assembled in December of 1994 and made its official debut in 1996 during the New Hampshire Police memorial in Concord.

Ever since, this distinguished band has grown in size and notoriety. We gather to celebrate a quarter century of this effort, and to acknowledge and honor the life of Sergeant James Noyes and of every New Hampshire law enforcement officer who has been tragically killed in the line of duty.

Sergeant Noyes's sacrifice is a humbling reminder about the acute danger our brave police officers face each day as they put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. Their service deserves our appreciation and

our undying support. In order to truly honor their service and sacrifice, we need to do more than pay lip service to their effort. As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to fight for additional resources that allow them to do their jobs effectively for the rest of us.

In order to properly serve New Hampshire's First District and pay appropriate respect to the services we are lucky to receive from our New Hampshire police officers, I am committed to fighting on their behalf in Congress, to guarantee that our law enforcement officials have the resources they need to combat the opioid crisis, keep our streets safe, and protect our communities from harm.

Congratulations to the New Hampshire Police Association Pipes and Drums on 25 years of excellence. It is my honor to serve them as the Representative of New Hampshire's First Congressional District.

KENDALL McCOY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kendall McCoy for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kendall McCoy is a student at The Manning School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kendall McCoy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kendall McCoy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING VICKI HAUGEN'S 37 YEARS AT VERMILION ADVANTAGE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vicki Haugen, who took over leadership of Vermilion Advantage 37 years ago.

Vermilion Advantage is the lead economic development office for Vermilion County, Illinois. Vicki began her tenure at Vermilion Advantage during a time when the business environment in Danville and Vermilion County was in turmoil. Major businesses, which had contributed for many years to the financial and economic health of the community, were leaving or considering doing so. Rather than be defeated by these setbacks, Vicki enlisted other community leaders to pull together and develop a coordinated plan to keep the losses to a minimum and attract replacements for those business that left.

Vicki saw early on that if the community was to survive and prosper, the political, business, education, and community leaders would need to work together. This became the focus of Vermilion Advantage. More than simply an advocate for the community, Vicki had a comprehensive vision focused on creating the next generation of community leaders and a skilled and educated workforce, diversifying the economic base of the county, and developing a cooperative environment between labor and management, to name just a few of her initiatives.

A major component of what Vicki has done is sell outside companies to the advantages of locating their operations in Vermilion County. Doing this for several decades has likely made Vicki the most informed and effective champion of Vermilion County. Her steady efforts over the past 37 years has had an inestimable impact on the community that she cares so much for.

Indeed, Vicki's efforts are a labor of love. She grew up in Vermilion County, graduated from Danville High School, and lives in the community she helped remake. Her tireless efforts, mental toughness, professionalism, and unshakable faith that Vermilion County was worth trying to save has made a difference worthy of recognition.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to rise today to recognize Vicki Haugen and to thank her for her leadership of Vermilion Advantage for these past 37 years. That leadership, by the way, has led to the creation of well over four thousand full-time jobs and counting. I wish Vicki all the best and Vermilion Advantage continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, March 25, 2019. Had I been present, I would have vote YES on Roll Call vote 126.

LEAH MENDOZA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leah Mendoza for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Leah Mendoza is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Leah Mendoza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leah Mendoza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have