

Costa Transit Authority, now County Connection, earning him the nickname “Mr. Transportation.”

Throughout his time in local government, Bob exhibited an unwavering commitment to serving and improving his community. As a public servant, he was always willing to put aside political differences for the sake of the community.

Bob will be sincerely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him and will be remembered for contributions to Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County.

COMMEMORATING THE 500 YEARS OF THE FIRST VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, as the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Friends of Spain Caucus, I'd like to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the globe. On April 26, 2019, the Spanish tall ship *Juan Sebastián de Elcano* will arrive in Boston, Massachusetts after stops in the U.S. ports including in my district of San Juan, Puerto Rico, as it continues its voyage to commemorate Commissioned in 1928, *Elcano* is a training ship for the Spanish Royal Navy. This Quincentennial presents an opportunity to reflect on the beginnings of our current era of globalization. This first circumnavigation took place between 1519 and 1522 under the orders of Emperor Charles I of Spain. Started by the distinguished Portuguese captain, Ferdinand Magellan, this periplus was completed after his death mid-way through the trip by the Spaniard Juan Sebastián Elcano, the ship's name sake.

The first circumnavigation is a milestone that transformed and connected the world. This sea voyage had profound and lasting scientific repercussions by proving that the earth was in fact not only round but spherical. It not

only enhanced the total sum of human knowledge but also promoted transnational interconnectivity, thereby laying the foundation for today's world, defined by economic, political, and cultural globalization.

The visit by *Elcano* to the United States as part of the commemoration of this transcendental event in the history of mankind, provides a great opportunity, not only to reflect on this feat, but for strengthening the already robust ties that bind Spain and the United States.

Therefore, as we salute the arrival of the tall ship *Juan Sebastián de Elcano*, let's take a moment to commemorate the beginning of the current era of globalization, the legacy and great achievements of expeditionary trailblazers like Magellan and Elcano, and the longstanding relationship between the United States and Spain.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFIS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize VFIS, a division of Glatfelter Insurance Group, as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated service to our Nation's fire and emergency services.

Formerly known as Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, VFIS was established by the late Arthur J. Glatfelter of York, Pennsylvania. A Veteran of World War II, Mr. Glatfelter was a U.S. Marine who served in the Pacific. The values the Corps instilled in him to serve our Country guided Mr. Glatfelter throughout his professional career in supporting the men and women of our Nation's fire and emergency service.

In 1969, Mr. Glatfelter, a well-established insurance agent, recognized a need for specialized insurance coverage for firefighters—a coverage based on their motivations, their aspirations, their needs and the risks they were willing to assume to protect others. He de-

signed a portfolio of comprehensive insurance coverages that took all of these factors into account. Fifty years later, these specialized coverages remain the cornerstone on which VFIS has based its insurance program for the fire service.

VFIS is now the leading insurance provider for emergency services organizations in the Nation. These organizations include fire departments, ambulance services, rescue squads, 911 dispatch centers and more. VFIS also provides an array of consulting services and training programs focused on the operations of these organizations. Aligned with the VFIS insurance program, they are designed to safeguard our firefighters in their duties.

The values that defined Mr. Glatfelter remain embedded in the VFIS culture. Current VFIS staff and key agents have over 1,000 years of emergency services experiences, representing a significant level of giving back to their communities. Many VFIS senior executives are involved in organizations that support first responders—organizations such as the Congressional Fire Services Institute, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Volunteer Fire Council, the National EMS Management Foundation and the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Foundation.

On April 27, 2019, VFIS will conduct a 50th Anniversary gathering to celebrate this significant milestone. The high standard of protection and service that VFIS has provided in supporting our Nation's fire and emergency services for 50 years is a milestone worthy of national recognition. In 1969, Mr. Glatfelter pursued an idea to develop the best insurance program possible to protect our nation's fire and emergency service providers. Fifty years later, VFIS is the number one provider of insurance and risk management services to fire and emergency service organizations in the U.S. I hereby recognize VFIS for its 50 years of dedication and commitment to serving those who serve and protect our communities and thank Arthur J. Glatfelter for his vision and leadership in developing the VFIS Program.

Congratulations to VFIS on celebrating 50 years of dedicated service.