

States for the often-thankless job that they do. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these key public servants.

**RECOGNIZING BASCOM PALMER
EYE INSTITUTE**

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to speak about South Florida's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Consistently recognized as the best eye hospital in the nation, Bascom Palmer treats over 250,000 patients every year at its five centers in Miami, Coral Gables, Plantation, Naples, and Palm Beach Gardens.

In addition to serving as a national model for excellent eye care, Bascom Palmer acts as the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Miami.

The center provides students with the opportunity to work with world-class doctors and conduct innovative research to improve patient care and treatment methods.

Eye care is a delicate science.

The doctors, students, and staff at Bascom Palmer demonstrate every day not only their vast knowledge of the constantly developing field of ophthalmology, but also their enormous compassion for patients who suffer from blindness, glaucoma, ocular cancer, and other debilitating conditions.

It was a joy to partner with this stellar team of medical professionals when I led the University of Miami.

I am grateful to know that the eye health of South Florida is in good hands with Bascom Palmer leading the field.

**CONGRATULATING SBA CAPITAL
REGION SMALL BUSINESS PER-
SON OF THE YEAR CHRIS
MARTELL**

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chris Martell, President of Druthers Brewing Company of Saratoga Springs, on being named this year's Small Business Person of the Year by the Syracuse regional office of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Founded in 2009, Druthers is a craft beer success story in New York's 20th Congressional District. This thriving company has opened three brew pubs in our region in less than ten years, serving award-winning beer and inspiring all who take smart chances and invest their energy and passion into their work.

On behalf of their many patrons and fans across New York's Capital Region, including those of us who enjoy their beer cheese and hamburgers, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chris and the entire team who make Druthers Brewing Company so special. I am honored to share the accomplishments of Druthers during National Small Business Week, and I hope that Chris's passion and vision ignite in us a renewed appreciation for

supporting our local small business community.

**HIPPIE BOTS OF CLIFTON MIDDLE
SCHOOL, MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA**

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Hippie Bots of Clifton Middle School in Monrovia, California, who became the first middle school robotics team to win the FIRST Tech Challenge Los Angeles-Southern California Regional Championship.

This extraordinary accomplishment made them the first middle school team in our region to qualify for the World Championship. At the World Championship in Houston, Texas on April 17–20, the team faced adversity yet showed its resolve by battling back into contention on the final day of competition. Although the students did not win, they truly made Monrovia and our entire San Gabriel Valley proud with the way they conducted themselves and represented their city throughout the season.

We send our many congratulations to Sophia Adkins, Evan Asti, Lucas Corsi, Christian Figueroa, Alex He, Ian Hughes, Dylan Polanco, Caroline Squire, and Miles Wilson, as well as their teacher, Paul Flores. They have made us very proud; and we wish them the very best in the future.

**H.R. 986, THE PROTECTING AMERI-
CANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDI-
TIONS ACT OF 2019 AND H.R. 2157,
A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLE-
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL
TO HELP AMERICAN COMMU-
NITIES RECOVER FROM RECENT
NATURAL DISASTERS**

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to express my support for H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act. For too long this Administration has undermined and attacked the care of our most vulnerable Americans and perpetuated unjust barriers to treatment. By passing this bill my colleagues are fulfilling the will of the American people, who used their voice to tell Washington that these partisan attacks on the Affordable Care Act were unacceptable.

The American people also care about protecting the only planet we have. Climate change continues to threaten the safety of Americans every year by fueling the frequency and severity of natural disasters. In my state of California, the fire season has turned into a year-long ordeal. People in California have lost so much as these fires get worse and worse. We've lost lives, homes, communities, and livelihoods. H.R. 2157 is another step towards recovery. Among other things, it provides funds for emergency forest restoration, to farmers struggling with crop and livestock losses due to wildfires and other disasters,

and for legal services for people who need legal help during the recovery period. H.R. 2157 provides needed relief for Californians and all Americans, including those living in Puerto Rico and other territories devastated by hurricanes.

Importantly, this bill also prevents Defense funds from being used to construct an unnecessary and ineffective wall along the southern border. When we have real problems to fix, we cannot waste a penny on an unnecessary slogan. Instead, we need to be addressing the healthcare needs of Americans and ensure they can get back on their feet in the wake of natural disasters, as we have done today.

As always, I want to take the time to thank those who have worked tirelessly to improve our nation's healthcare, environment, and response to natural disasters.

**RECOGNIZING THE EXCEPTIONAL
SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DURAID ANTONE TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND ORANGE COUNTY, CALI-
FORNIA**

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of my constituent, Duraid Antone, who recently received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor for a lifetime of service to our nation.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented each year to individuals who have distinguished themselves through inspired service to our nation and accomplishments in their field. Past recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor include seven former presidents, Supreme Court justices, and many other illustrious American leaders.

Mr. Antone was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and moved to the United States when he was six years old. As a young man, he was called to serve as an active-duty intelligence officer in the United States Army. He later found success in the medical device industry, starting a company in Newport Beach, California, located in my congressional district.

Mr. Antone has lived the American Dream. He has proven, like so many before him, that if you come to our nation, embrace our ideals, and work hard, you can build a life here in the United States of America.

I commend Mr. Antone for his many accomplishments in service of our nation and our Orange County community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating him on his receipt of a 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

**IN RECOGNITION OF JAMIE LAND'S
SERVICE TO KENTUCKY**

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Jamie Land of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, for his retirement from the Elizabethtown Police Department. Chief Land

has honorably served in the Elizabethtown police force for over 21 years, and he will be missed when he retires at the end of this month.

Before joining the Elizabethtown Police Department in 1998, Chief Land served as a military policeman in the United States Marine Corps. Land's distinguished career at the department started as a patrol officer, and he has held many roles at the as he has risen through the ranks, including detective, a leader of the police department's special response team, patrol sergeant, and deputy chief of operations. Throughout his tenure with the Elizabethtown Police Department, Chief Land has dedicated himself to his community and proven himself to be a trusted leader.

I thank Chief Lind for his years of service to the Elizabethtown community. I wish Chief Land and his wife Brandi nothing but the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER MARK GRABOSKI FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Commander Mark Graboski for his retirement as Executive Officer of the Air Station Traverse City, United States Coast Guard. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion, Mark has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Mark graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Madison through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1989 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. Following deployments in the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf, he transitioned to the U.S. Coast Guard and served in Washington and Alabama. He ultimately landed in Michigan at Air Station Traverse City, which operates Air Facilities throughout the Great Lakes region—performing search and rescue operations and other critical missions along the entirety of Lake Michigan and significant portions of Lakes Superior and Huron.

As Executive Officer and a helicopter pilot, Graboski led a team of 168 personnel and three MH-60 helicopters for search and rescue operations throughout the Great Lakes and Midwest. He has accumulated more than 5,600 flight hours, and his decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, three USCG/Navy Commendation Medals, two USCG Achievement Medals and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards. His exceptional leadership skills are reflected in the excellence of those who have served under him and the trust placed in him by the people of Northern Michigan. Commander Graboski's constant dedication to the public good is commendable, and the impact of his work on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Commander Mark Graboski for his service to the people of our state. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a devoted individual. On behalf

of my constituents, I wish Mark all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CLAUDIA JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Claudia Jackson, a Corpus Christi native, for her commitment to serving Del Mar College and promoting education in the community.

Claudia Jackson started her career at Del Mar College nearly 42 years ago, and in 1977, became the Director of Public Information. By 2013, thanks to her work ethic and perseverance, she rose to become Executive Director of Strategic Communication and Government Relations.

During her tenure, the College Relations Office staff received roughly 100 marketing and advertising awards, including a Gold Medallion of Excellence from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Ms. Jackson's leadership was felt throughout Del Mar College, as she served as a member of the President's Executive Team and was responsible for interacting with local, state, and national elected officials to discuss and promote the college's various needs and initiatives. Additionally, she represented the College on the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Board, and the Mayor's Interagency Group.

Time and again, Claudia Jackson demonstrated her passion for education, and commitment to the city of Corpus Christi. Ms. Jackson was named Corpus Christi YWCA Woman of the Year in Communications in 1993. She received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District IV in 1997.

Claudia Jackson represents the very best of the 27th District of Texas, and I would like to extend to her my thanks and appreciation for her excellent service and devotion to education.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S NURSES FOR NATIONAL NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Nurse Appreciation Week.

Since 1993, this week from May 6 through May 12, ending on Florence Nightingale's birthday, has allowed us to express our deepest gratitude and admiration toward our nurses, the beating heart and a major driving force of America's healthcare community.

Despite its critical importance to our healthcare system, nursing continues to face critical staffing shortages from rapid job growth and a significant number of nurses approaching retirement—in fact, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing projects that we will need more than 200,000 additional Registered Nurses by 2026.

Having enough nurses to do the job results in lower mortality rates, safer conditions for patients and a decrease in the average stay at hospitals. The fact is, nurses save lives, make healthcare safer and more efficient, and provide us with comfort and compassion during some of our most painful times.

America's nurses are also on the front lines of our nation's growing opioid epidemic. In 2016, my team and I worked to grant buprenorphine prescribing privileges to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, allowing them to provide needed medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. Since that expansion, more than 5,000 nurse practitioners and physician assistants have become waived providers of medication-assisted treatment, greatly expanding our treatment capacity, particularly in rural areas where doctors can be few and far between. If we invest in and empower our nursing workforce to their full potential, they can be powerful agents of change to help us turn the tide in this epidemic.

We must champion and empower our nursing professionals. This week we celebrate America's nurses, whose endless dedication uplifts our families, heals our neighbors, and betters our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed votes on 5/8. I was forced to return to my district with the President who was surveying damage from Hurricane Michael. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 187, and YEA on Roll Call No. 188.

16TH ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD LUPUS DAY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2019

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, today marks the 16th annual observance of World Lupus Day. It serves as a forum for lupus organizations and advocates to call attention to the need for increases in funding for medical research, educational programs, and improved access to medical care.

Lupus is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease that is highly individualized, extremely volatile and can affect any organ system of the body, including the skin, joints, kidney, brain, heart, lungs, blood and blood vessels. It currently affects over 300,000 Americans, and there is no known cause or cure.

There is no limit to lupus and it affects all nationalities, race, ethnicities, gender and age. For example, it is the leading cause of kidney disease, stroke, and premature cardiovascular disease in young women, and affects woman 9 times more often than men.

With continued commitment to this important day, I would like to again recognize World Lupus Day and demonstrate our nation's concerns for the needs of millions of Americans and their families affected by lupus.