

award-winning meteorologist who is recognized nationally for her innovation and leadership.

Tanja is the Meteorologist in Charge at the Glasgow Weather Forecast Office in Montana. Starting as a meteorologist in Glasgow in 2001, she has been a supervisor since 2015. In fact, Tanja is one of only 8 percent of female supervisors for National Weather Service (NWS) field offices.

Tanja's research benefits Montana's ag producers. Tanja and colleague Bill Martin helped develop an innovative cold weather advisory tool that helps livestock producers take precautions during calving season, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Their work earned them the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Administrator's Award in 2011.

In 2014, the American Meteorological Society (AMS) presented Tanja with the Kenneth C. Spengler Award for her collaborative approach to ensure weather forecasts result in timely and appropriate public responses. The NWS recognized her with the Isaac Cline Award for Outreach in 2011 and the Isaac Cline Award for Leadership in 2002.

Throughout her 25-year career, Tanja has served in many public and professional advisory positions, and she has a passion for mentoring others. She mentors junior colleagues through the AMS and the NWS. She often encourages young people to embrace STEM courses and enhance their education with communication, business, and leadership training.

Madam Speaker, for her accomplishments in the sciences, dedication to the public, and 18 years of service to Montanans, I recognize Tanja Fransen for her spirit of Montana.

HONORING AUSTYN SMELLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austyn Smelley. Austyn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 606, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austyn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austyn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austyn has received the World Conservation Award, Paul Bunyon Award, and Ironman Award. Austyn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austyn built a series of games for the 6th Grade Center of the North Kansas City School District.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austyn Smelley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PURDUE MARCHING BAND'S 100TH PERFORMANCE AT THE INDY 500

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th performance of Purdue University's "All-American" Marching Band at the Indy 500, along with Director of Bands Jay Gephart becoming president of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the band performing pop tunes, patriotic songs, and Indy 500 ceremonial music like "God Bless America" and "Back Home Again in Indiana." The band builds the sound, color and emotion leading to the start of the race, thrilling fans for the past century.

The All-American band has become part of the fabric of the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Nearly 300 members pay their own way each year to return to the Indy 500 from around the United States to perform on the track and under the Pagoda.

They also invite high school bands from across the Midwest to participate in the Parade of Bands that has marched around the course before the start of the race since 1922 and have appeared in every nationally televised IPL 500 Festival Parade since its debut in 1957.

Thanks to Director of Bands Jay Gephart, Purdue's participation in one of Indiana's most storied traditions has held strong at the "Racing Capitol of the World." I congratulate every band member—former and current—and Director Gephart on their remarkable achievements.

HONORING BOB DINGEMAN

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Colonel Robert "Bob" Dingeman, a decorated veteran and beloved community leader, who dedicated his entire life to service.

Bob's commitment to service began when he was just a teenager. Bob was living with his family in Hawaii and serving in the Reserve Officer Training Corps when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred.

Bob helped to get the women and children to safety before joining the defense of the base. The events of that day led Bob to a life of military service.

He graduated from West Point in 1945 and went on to serve in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. During his decades of service, Bob earned a Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army, Bob earned multiple master's degrees and worked as a college professor at San Diego Miramar College, teaching math, history, and political science.

Bob also became a pillar of San Diego's Scripps Ranch community, where he, his wife Gaye, and their children made their home.

Bob helped create the town's council, the Scripps Ranch Civic Association; organized

many annual traditions, including the 4th of July Parade; and established the community newsletter.

The Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School opened in 1995, so named by the San Diego Unified School District to recognize Bob Dingeman's accomplishments in the community. The school celebrates Bob Dingeman Day every year on June 12, Bob's birthday.

Scripps Ranch and San Diego are better off for Bob's leadership and community involvement. His legacy of military and volunteer service will continue to be an example for us all.

Please join me in honoring Bob Dingeman for his dedication to Scripps Ranch and his service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RICK JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rick Johnson upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Idaho Conservation League. His leadership will be greatly missed by myself and many others.

For the past three decades, Rick has been the seminal leader in Idaho protecting Idaho's outdoors and environment. Whenever I am asked who in the conservation community to speak to in Idaho, the answer is always Rick Johnson.

When I first met Rick in the 1990s, I would describe the environmental community as having a single mission of fighting and objecting to almost anything proposed by the resource industry.

Through the years, I am pleased to say that both Rick and I have evolved and recognized that there are other ways to accomplish conservation. Rick's willingness to recognize the needs and concerns of others and his willingness to look for options where all parties can win, have made him a leader in the nation in finding ways to reach consensus on difficult conservation issues.

Rick and I have been through many battles together. We started with a not so harmonious discussion of nuclear power at my first wild Idaho and one day we ended up in the Oval Office with the President signing the Boulder-White Clouds and Jerry Peak Wilderness bills.

You learn a lot about an individual when you work for 15 years together on a wilderness bill and go camping in the mountains you are both trying to protect.

They also learn a lot about you. Rick was able to recognize my sincerity and concern for Idaho's special areas and more importantly convey that to others.

Rick wasn't a partner in crime, he was a partner in conservation. We were both able to maximize "wins" for our respective sides that they could take to the bank. He conserved hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness and I was able to create security and certainty for counties, ranchers and motorized users.

Working together we were able to find the proverbial "win-win" that everybody is looking for but always seems elusive. We found it, and Idaho is better off for it.

As future generations of Idahoans gaze over the beautiful vistas of the Cecil Andrus-White