

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.

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#### HONORING AUSTYN SMELLEY

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#### 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

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#### 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.

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#### HONORING BOB DINGEMAN

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#### 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.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RICK JOHNSON

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#### 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

Clouds, the Hemingway-Boulders, the McClure-Jerry Peaks, and the Owyhees, they should be thanking Rick Johnson for his work, his effort, and most importantly his ability to compromise with others.

I will miss Rick greatly as a leader and as my partner in conservation, but I know he is not leaving us forever. I will always have my friend I can call on.

I am wishing Rick and his wonderful wife Roberta, the best of luck in their future endeavors and retirement. I thank them for all that both of them have done for Idaho.

VERTAFORE, INC.

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Vertafore, Inc. for celebrating their 50th anniversary.

For more than fifty years, Vertafore has provided software services to the insurance industry worldwide. Founded in 1969, Vertafore was previously known as AMS Holding Group, Inc. In 2017, they relocated their headquarters to Denver, Colorado where they have created hundreds of jobs in the city and partnered with the thousands of agents across the state. The mission at Vertafore is to transform the way the industry operates by putting people at the heart of insurance technology. By focusing on their customers and delivering results you can see, they offer a level of trust and security that's at the heart of the insurance industry. It is that service and level of trust that has allowed the company to be successful for over fifty years.

To all the employees of Vertafore, congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the insurance community and contribution to the state of Colorado.

HONORING THE MONCOVICH FAMILY AND THE ORIGINAL SPRING LAMB BARBECUE

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moncovich family for their commitment to philanthropy to empowering their community and bettering the lives of others through the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue. Mr. John Moncovich founded the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue in Watsonville, California 60 years ago, and his son, Mr. Bill Moncovich, has chaired the event since his father's passing in 1972. Since its inception, the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue has been a celebration of family, friends, and the fight against cancer on the central coast of California.

In May of 1959, John Moncovich held the very first Original Spring Lamb Barbecue. The Original Spring Lamb Barbecue started as a simple gathering among friends to collect donations for charity. Held annually, it has evolved into a beloved community event bene-

fitting the American Cancer Society. Volunteers from a local produce company, California Giant Berry Farms, and agriculture industry members from the Pajaro Valley commit their time and energy each year to make the event a memorable one. Live music, family friendly activities, and a horseshoe tournament make this a community event for culture and fun, all while benefitting families who have been affected by cancer.

The Original Spring Lamb Barbecue is the oldest consecutively held fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in the United States and has been recognized as such by the charity. Ten years ago, the organization congratulated the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue for raising over \$1 million worth of cumulative proceeds. This year, the event will celebrate its diamond anniversary for 60 years of outstanding community leadership and fundraising efforts for cancer research.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedication and commitment to cancer prevention and community service that John and Bill Moncovich and the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue have provided to the Central Coast. We are fortunate to have such a longstanding tradition of community fundraising organized every year by the Moncovich family and California Giant Berry Farms. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Moncovich family and the Original Spring Lamb Barbecue.

U.S. TERRITORIES MID-DECADE CENSUS ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would require the United States Census Bureau to conduct a census every five years in the U.S. insular areas of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This legislation is necessary because the priority, availability, timeliness, and types of data collected by federal agencies in the insular areas remains deficient compared to data collection in the states. Without accurate and timely information on changes in the economy, employment, income levels, and other key indicators, insular governments are hindered in the establishment of appropriate policy. And without these data, governments and the public are less able to assess the effectiveness of policies that have been established.

Every decade, the Census Bureau conducts a census throughout the country to determine the number of people living in the country. In the insular areas, detailed demographic, housing, and socioeconomic data is also collected in the decennial census using a "long-form" questionnaire consisting of about 75 questions. The decennial census conducted in the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico only asks 10 questions because the vital information gathered in the decennial census is now acquired annually in the American Community Survey.

The American Community Survey does not include data from the insular areas. The Census Bureau has claimed that a lack of funding to collect the data and the absence of a prov-

en methodology tested in the territories leaves the Bureau unable to include our districts and the hundreds of thousands of Americans living there. As a result, the insular areas have to wait every 10 years for critical, up-to date information on education, income, housing, jobs, and insurance that surveys like the American Community Survey provide. This data is vital to sustain economic development and for prudent government and business decisions. The decennial census is inadequate to this need. The allocation of federal funding for numerous programs is also largely based on the most recent census data available. With no alternative, most current funding allocations to the insular areas are based on data from the previous decennial census. 2010 Census data will continue to be used for many federal program funding allocations until 2023—the earliest key 2020 Census demographic data for the insular areas will likely be available.

As an alternative to annual surveys, my bill would require the Census Bureau to conduct a mid-decade census in the insular areas. The bill starts the first mid-decade census in 2025 and in addition to the decennial census, a census will be conducted every five years. This will provide more current data in the insular areas, similar to that provided by five-year estimates produced by the American Community Survey. Having a mid-decade census will also enable insular governments and the Census Bureau to plan and conduct data collection efforts that are often logistically challenging in these diverse, remote regions. My bill also authorizes appropriations for the mid-decade census, based on costs estimates provided by the Census Bureau to conduct the 2020 decennial census in U.S. insular areas. I ask my colleagues for their support.

RECOGNIZING COLTON SCRUDDER

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our hardworking D.C. office interns, Colton Scrudder. Colton is a native of Coppell, Texas and studies finance at Georgetown University. He has been with our office since January. Colton was a great help getting our office up and running.

From drafting letters and memos, to giving Capitol tours, Colton was always eager to assist. Colton is an intelligent, diligent young man who aspires to continue serving his community.

We'll miss having Colton in the office and wish him all the best in the future. On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, we thank Colton for his help.

HONORING GARRETT WINHEIM

**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 Garrett Winheim. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship