

at his home, while the auditor and secretary of state worked in the brick building that housed the state bank.

The first capitol building was destroyed by fire in 1823 and a second capitol building was built in haste the following summer. Two years later people refused to enter the building for fear it would collapse, and so a third capitol building was constructed, which is the one that stands today.

Abraham Lincoln began his political career in Vandalia in 1834, and five years later the Illinois General Assembly met for the last time in the Vandalia Statehouse. In one of its final acts, the legislature deeded the building to Fayette County and the town of Vandalia. The State of Illinois purchased the old statehouse and public square in 1918 to ensure its preservation for future generations, and in the decades following carried out a major effort to restore the building to its Lincoln-era appearance.

Madam Speaker, with four days of activities planned, the celebration promises to highlight the city's rich history. It is an honor to recognize the City of Vandalia as it celebrates its bicentennial, and I wish it all the best for the future.

IN HONOR OF JANE LAIRD FOR  
HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Laird for her exceptional service to the United States of America. Mrs. Laird's instrumental role as a Rosie, riveting during World War II, is worthy of commendation.

The daughter of a coalminer, Jane Laird was born in Bearcreek, Montana. In 1943, before she could graduate high school, Mrs. Laird moved to Dearborn, Michigan to work for the Ford Motor Company. During World War II, she helped construct the B-24 bomber, The Liberator, riveting the cockpit of the aircraft. Mrs. Laird's efforts as a riveter at Ford Motor Company highlight the many significant contributions of young women during World War II. After riveting for the Ford Motor Company, Jane Laird worked part time at E.J. Korvette, where she remained until her retirement.

Jane Laird's work embodies the duty we have to our community and our nation. A breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Laird stands as a model of strength, sacrifice, and service. Her generation's critical contribution to progress will always be remembered. Beloved for her sense of humor and tenacity, Mrs. Laird will finally receive her high school diploma this weekend. We thank Jane Laird for her instrumental work as a riveter and congratulate her on her graduation. We are grateful for her dedicated service to this nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jane Laird for her exemplary service as a riveter. Her graduation this weekend stands as a testament to the dedication, perseverance, and sacrifice she has displayed over her lifetime.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF KAREN  
COMSTOCK OF CHINO

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Chief Karen Comstock of the Chino Police Department. After almost 35 years of public service and dedication to the Chino community, she is finally retiring and will be sorely missed.

Chief Comstock honorably rose through the ranks of the Chino Police Department. Beginning her career in 1985, she served as a cadet and reserve officer for five years before being brought on as an official police officer. Comstock held many other positions including field training officer, patrol supervisor, and detective bureau supervisor, as well as serving at the Criminal Investigations Bureau as a detective and as a member of the Crisis Negotiations Team.

In recognition of her excellent leadership, Comstock was promoted to Chief in 2014. She served as Chino Police Department's first female police chief and is now retiring as one of only 22 female police chiefs in California. Chief Comstock not only established standards of excellence, but also carved out new pathways for future female leaders in the Chino Police Department.

Chief Comstock was not only a leader within the Chino Police Department, but also served as a mentor in the community, committing more than 14 years to Chino Police Department's Explorer Program to assist young adults with entering law enforcement careers.

She has left a lasting mark on the Chino Police Department. As a lifelong citizen of Chino, she has demonstrated bravery, dedication and loyalty to her hometown and profession—earning her the esteem of the men and women of the Chino Police Department and the community at large.

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Chief Karen Comstock on the House floor today. Her decades of commitment and contributions to the City of Chino are worthy of admiration.

2019 MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST  
POINT APPOINTEES

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rudolph Caleb Churchill and Edward Custy, Military Academy at West Point Appointees from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. I believe America's greatest assets are our brave men and women in uniform. These individuals are making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserve our utmost support for their service. It is with great pleasure that I give Rudolph and Edward my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend these young people and their families for their commitment. On be-

half of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, it is an honor to recognize Rudolph Caleb Churchill and Edward Custy as appointees to the United States Military Academy at West Point for their commitment to protect and serve our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE TEUTOPOLIS  
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Teutopolis High School baseball team on winning the 2019 Illinois Class 2A championship. Teutopolis defeated Pleasant Plains 12-6 for the title, capping a 28-8-1 season for the Wooden Shoes.

The team's dedication and hard work were evident again, as the Wooden Shoes advanced to the state championship game for the third straight season and added a second title to the one captured in 2017. Head Coach Justin Fleener formed a team with both high production in the batter's box and resilient defense in the field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team: Mitch Hemmen, Mitch Hardiek, Brady McMahon, Trenton Schwerdt, Tyler Runde, Andy Niebrugge, Justin Hardiek, Derek Deters, Evan Addis, Hayden Ruholl, Dawson Smith, Evan Wermert, Brock Deters, Matt Deters, Clint Weber, Brayden Will, Luke Ungrund, and Dylan Overbeck.

Madam Speaker, the players, coaches, and the entire community of Teutopolis should be very proud of their accomplishments. I wish the graduating seniors the best in their future ventures and good luck to those who will return for a chance to make it back-to-back championships next season.

CELEBRATING THE 2019 GIANT  
NATIONAL CAPITAL BARBECUE  
BATTLE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle. This event, sponsored by Giant, has become a Washington summertime tradition. It takes place in the first full week of summer each year and brings together tens of thousands of Washington area families and visitors to the nation's capital in the spirit of unity, community and celebration. This year, the celebration will take place on June 22-23, 2019.

The Giant Barbecue Battle event has raised millions of dollars for District of Columbia charities and USO-Metro over the past 26 years, along with countless donations to area food banks.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle features the Giant National BBQ Championship, the National Pork BBQ Championship, the Smokin' with Smithfield Rib Contest, the Perdue Sizzlin' Chicken Contest, the Turkey

Smoke BBQ Cooking Contest, the True Aussie Lamb Contest and the Nation's Best BBQ Sauce Contest.

In honor of the event, I also want to recognize the participants, who represent some of the District's and the Nation's best BBQ talent, cooking in the spirit of competitive barbecue. Its participants have the honor of representing the District wherever other State Barbecue Cooking Championship winners are welcomed.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle as "The Official National Barbecue Championship and the official kick-off of summer in our Nation's Capital" and in wishing its participants the best of luck.

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IN HONOR OF DEARBORN, MICHIGAN'S 95TH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

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**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of our nation's servicemembers at Dearborn's 95th Memorial Day Parade. On this day of remembrance, we recognize our veterans for their selflessness and courage.

Organized by the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council and the City of Dearborn, the city's Memorial Day Parade is one of the largest in the United States and the oldest continuous parade in the state of Michigan. The ceremony draws the Dearborn community together to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. This year, the event recognizes Gold Star families and honors the many nameless soldiers who have died in service of this country. This tribute serves as an important reminder of the patriotic sacrifice of the families of our servicemembers.

The contributions of our veterans embody the duty we have to our community through tireless work, compassion, and leadership. On Memorial Day, we honor their selfless public service, and remember those who have given their lives in service of our country. On this day we reaffirm our commitment to supporting our veterans as they continue to protect our nation and commend their families for their sacrifice. We thank our brave servicemembers for their selflessness and sacrifice, and we are grateful for their commitment to serving the American people abroad and at home.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the many servicemen and women of our nation for their distinguished service. I wish the Dearborn 95th Memorial Day Parade a successful celebration to mark this special occasion.

CONGRATULATING AMBER PATCH-TROXELL ON WINNING THE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD THROUGH THE KEWANEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amber Patch-Troxell for winning the Meritorious Service Award through the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Patch-Troxell's dedication to the Kewanee community is admirable, and I commend her for winning this award.

Ms. Patch-Troxell graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1999 and went on to pursue a career in insurance. She has been with Farmers Insurance for 11 years, and is an asset to the Kewanee community. So much so that she has been recognized in the community already by receiving the Elks Club Citizen of the Year award and the Kewanee Park District's Child's Best Friend award. Ms. Patch-Troxell also started Patchy's Toy Drive and has provided Christmas gifts to children and teenagers in need in the community, while also providing a helping hand to families who are faced with loss due to fire or a medical emergency. Her fundraising events have become community happenings where her kindness and generosity have not gone unnoticed. I admire Mr. Whitcher's service to Kewanee and thank her for her many contributions to the community.

It is because of community leaders like Ms. Patch-Troxell that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Amber Patch-Troxell for winning the Meritorious Service Award given by the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce.

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2019 NAVAL ACADEMY APPOINTEES

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Mitchell and John Moroney, Naval Academy Appointees from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. I believe America's greatest assets are our brave men and women in uniform. These individuals are making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserve our utmost support for their service. It is with great pleasure that I give Nathan and John my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend these young people and their families for their commitment. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, it is an honor to recognize Nathan Mitchell and John Moroney as appointees to the United State Naval Academy for their commitment to protect and serve our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF THE TOLEDO ZOO'S PROMEDICA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize Jeff Sailer, the Executive Director of the Toledo Zoo, and his team for the opening of the ProMedica Museum of Natural History. After years of renovation, this beautiful museum is now open to the public.

An academic at heart, Jeff Sailer has made his mark on the city of Toledo with his visionary and unique approach to zoo management. Thanks to his work, Toledo is home to more than 9,000 animals that inspire and remind us of the importance of conservation. Families like mine have so many wonderful memories at the Toledo Zoo, and now the thoughtful exhibits and impressive building of this new museum offer a striking way to appreciate the past while looking forward to the future.

Its an incredible museum, and something Toledo can be proud of for generations to come. Congratulations to Jeff Sailer and his team.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALTIMORE MINE TUNNEL DISASTER

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Baltimore Mine Tunnel Disaster, one of the deadliest mining accidents in Pennsylvania's history.

On June 5, 1919, more than a hundred miners entered the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company's Baltimore Mine Tunnel No. 2 in Wilkes-Barre. Disaster struck when 12 barrels of blasting powder ignited, killing 92 miners and injuring dozens. Historians believe the blast was caused by a loose power cable that came into contact with the trolley, causing the powder from the rear cart to ignite. Unfortunately, only seven miners escaped unscathed.

Following the disaster, legislators questioned the official procedures and safety regulations in mining plants. They believed regulations were not followed entirely, and many blamed the Baltimore Mine Tunnel Disaster on an ambiguous and lax mining code. Historians believe the incident could have been avoided if the Pennsylvania mining code had explicitly prohibited the transportation of powder in the same trolley cart as miners. As a result, legislators passed sensible protections that restricted the access and distribution of blasting powder by employees. To this day, the Baltimore Mine Tunnel Disaster remains one of the deadliest industrial accidents in Pennsylvania's history.

It is our responsibility to commemorate this day in Northeastern Pennsylvania's history, remember our region's roots in anthracite coal, and honor the legacy of those who lost their lives in the mines.