

CONGRATULATING A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royce Nelligan for his 41 years of public service.

Earlier this month, Royce retired from his position as Minnesota's Small Business Administration district counsel after a 37-year career. Prior to Minnesota's SBA, he served in the U.S. Air Force and the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Royce for all of his years of service. I thank him for the work he did to help small businesses grow and prosper all across Minnesota. For all the opportunities he helped create and promote, he left our State and our communities better than when he started. I congratulate him on a job well done, and I wish him luck on his next chapter.

CONGRATULATING ANDOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Andover Fire Department for being awarded the 2019 Fire Department of the Year by the Minnesota State Fire Department Association.

This award recognizes the department's efforts to provide outreach to seniors in the community, to recruit women, and for maximizing the use of available resources.

The department's Remember When fire safety program brings firefighters into Andover's senior communities to replace smoke alarms and mitigate any tripping hazards that exist.

The department has made significant strides to recruit women firefighters. In fact, Andover is one of the few departments to have a waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the women and men of the Andover Fire Department for keeping our community safe. Special congratulations to Chief Jerry Streich, Deputy Chief Mark Winczewski, and Battalion Chief John Wallace on earning this important recognition.

CONGRATULATING ELK RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elk River Municipal Utilities for being a finalist for the 2019 Source Water Protection Award.

We often hear when government fails to protect our water, but today, I want to recognize a local utility for going above and beyond to protect our community's water quality.

Every year, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Rural Water Association award community facilities for their work to protect community drinking water. This year, Elk River Municipal Utilities, also known as ERMU, of Sherburne County, Minnesota, was chosen as a finalist because of their diligence in prioritizing water quality.

ERMU sealed an abandoned well that could have posed a danger to the community's water supply. They consist-

ently examine stormwater ponds and their effects on the treatment of drinking water. They issue rebates for more efficient fixtures.

We are proud that this Sixth District utility is an example for our entire State.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Elk River Municipal Utilities for their selection, and I thank them for protecting the health and welfare of their residents and our drinking water.

□ 1030

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, MICHAEL HEMESATH

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Michael Hemesath, President of St. John's University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, for his commitment to education and his service to the St. John's community.

Recently, President Hemesath announced he intends to retire at the end of the academic year. Including his time as a student, President Hemesath has belonged to the St. John's family for 42 years.

As President, Michael Hemesath continued and built upon the College of St. John's reputation for developing great talent and strong faith that is reflected in the alumni and Johnnie tradition.

In addition, President Hemesath leaves his alma mater with a balanced budget, a renovated Alcuin Library, and new buildings, like the Dietrich Reinhart Learning Commons and the St. John's Bible Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Hemesath for all he has done for the College of St. John's. While he is moving on to the next chapter of his professional life, he will always be part of the Johnnie family.

HONORING VIRGINIA BEACH SHOOTING VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today grieving for Virginia Beach, a great city in our district, where the year's most devastating mass shooting happened last Friday.

That morning, 12 innocent people left their homes for work, but they didn't return home to their families, and they never will. Eleven of them were devoted public servants with more than 150 years of combined experience, and one was a dedicated contractor. I am honored to remember them today.

Laquita C. Brown, a right-of-way agent who lived in Chesapeake, was an avid traveler who chronicled her trips to New York City, Europe, and West Africa. A friend of hers called her "Ms. Worldwide." Her 40th birthday was coming up in November.

Ryan Keith Cox, an account clerk who lived in Virginia Beach, had a golden voice and sang in his church choir. He had recently accepted his own calling to the ministry to follow in the footsteps of his father, a friend,

Pastor E. Ray Cox, and the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

During the shooting, Keith guided colleagues to safety, but did not join them so he could look out for others.

Tara Welch Gallagher, an engineer who lived in Virginia Beach, educated the public about clean water and served her city for 6 years. Tara's survivors include her husband and her 22-month-old son. Her husband told a reporter: "She was everything to me."

Mary Louise Gayle was a right-of-way agent who lived in Virginia Beach. A proud grandmother, she had just turned 65, and her children planned to take their mom to Portland later this month to celebrate her birthday.

Alexander Mikhail Gusev, a right-of-way agent who lived in Virginia Beach, moved from Belarus to seek a better life in America. He was a generous and thoughtful person, who was said to grab his lawnmower and cut his neighbor's lawn without even being asked.

Joshua O. Hardy was an engineering technician who lived in Virginia Beach. He was a loving uncle, a healthy eater and runner, he smiled on the job, and found time to write a beloved children's book that spoke to youth about strangers in their midst.

Michelle "Missy" Langer, an administrative assistant who lived in Virginia Beach, loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, Paul McCartney, and the ocean. A friend said, "I will miss her smile and her hugs. That is the hardest thing."

Richard H. Nettleton, an engineer who lived in Norfolk, helped design, install, and maintain Virginia Beach's water and sewer systems. An Army veteran, he enjoyed mentoring young engineers.

Katherine A. Nixon, an engineer who lived in Virginia Beach, was a devoted wife and mother to three daughters, one of whom is just 15 months old. According to her neighbor, her final call was to her husband just moments after she was shot.

Christopher Kelly Rapp, an engineer who lived in Powhatan, played the bagpipes and loved Scottish music. Compared by some to Mr. Rogers, he was known as encouraging and enthusiastic.

Herbert "Bert" Snelling, a contractor who lived in Virginia Beach and was visiting the Municipal Center for a permit; he led his church's security team, and in his work, he did everything from small handyman repairs to building homes.

Robert "Bobby" Williams, a special projects coordinator who lived in Chesapeake, worked for Virginia Beach for 41 years. He helped build the seawall in our city and planned on retiring this year to spend more time with his family.

The losses here will never be replaced, but so many heroes emerged to prevent further horror.

Over the weekend, I saw heroic first responders—police, fire, and EMS personnel—who ran into the line of fire to