

In 1904, Thayer United Methodist Church was officially opened as a place of worship for the residents of the town. Since then, the church has grown immensely; it now provides the area with far more than a place to pray. This is where the residents of Thayer come to make strides towards improving their local community.

The Thayer United Methodist Church is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 115 years. Today, we celebrate the church for their dedication to serving Thayer. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Thayer United Methodist Church for a successful 115 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

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HONORING LAUREN BROWN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a biology teacher in the Second Congressional District has been selected as the 2019 Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year of South Carolina by the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

According to the New Irmo News, "the award is given annually to a teacher who shows a passion for teaching biology. Each state, province, and territory recognizes an Outstanding Biology Teacher."

Ms. Lauren Brown has been teaching biology for 9 years, the last five years have been at Spring Hill High School. She was also honored as the American Legion Teacher of the Year from Chapin Post 193. She has also served for three years as a coaching teacher with the University of South Carolina's Education program.

Our communities in the Second Congressional District are grateful for leadership like Ms. Lauren Brown's. Congratulations to Lauren for earning this distinct honor.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on June 3, 2019, I missed Roll Call Number 234, On Approving the Journal, due to a longstanding prior commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

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GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
MONTH

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone that we have a

responsibility to do everything we can to address the epidemic of senseless gun violence that is plaguing our nation.

June is Gun Violence Prevention Month and we must use this opportunity to come together to not only raise awareness of gun violence but also take action.

We're reminded again after the recent Virginia Beach Shooting that too many of our loved ones are lost to senseless gun violence that could be prevented by keeping firearms out of dangerous hands.

That is why I was proud to vote for H.R. 8 and urge my Senate colleagues to do the same.

This common-sense bill will prevent private firearm sales to prohibited purchasers, and close online and gun show loopholes. Thus, we will move towards ensuring firearms are obtained responsibly.

While this bill does not cover everything, it is a step in the right direction that will make the United States safer for our families and communities.

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CONGRATULATING KENN AND  
BETH ZELTEN FOR BEING  
NAMED 2019 CITIZEN DRIVERS

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Kenn and Beth Zelten for being named 2019 Citizen Drivers. Through their dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to their community, Kenn and Beth have become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Citizen Driver program honors the hard-working professional truck drivers that demonstrate good citizenship, safety, community involvement, and leadership. None are more deserving of this honor than Kenn and Beth. During their more than 30-year career as a team, they have driven nearly 5 million miles, receiving multiple awards for their customer service, safety, efficiency, and overall excellence. When they're not driving, Kenn and Beth are active in their community—supporting charities like the St. Christopher Fund, The Salvation Army, Mission of Hope, and Landstar BCO Benevolence Fund, and working with several groups to help the less fortunate like Abundant Life Mission and Project Give.

There are more than 3.5 million professional truck drivers in the United States. While their work often goes unnoticed and underappreciated, it is vital to keeping our economy moving and daily life on track. Programs like Citizen Driver are a tremendous opportunity for us to recognize the hard work and dedication of professional drivers like Kenn and Beth that go above and beyond and serve as role models for every American.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Kenn and Beth Zelten for their decades of service and for being named 2019 Citizen Drivers. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such selfless and devoted individuals. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Kenn and Beth all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Monday, June 3rd. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 232, YEA on Roll Call No. 233, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL  
RICHARD BELAND

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor life of Colonel Richard Beland of Poquoson, Virginia—a dedicated patriot and public servant who passed away surrounded by family on Friday, May 10, 2019.

His 30 years of service in the United States Air Force included training students for a decade, flying 290 combat missions in Vietnam, serving as an Advance Agent for Support and Security for Air Force One for two different administrations, and serving as a member of the NATO Flight Safety Group. Following his retirement in 1989, Colonel Beland served his local Poquoson Community's Board of Zoning Appeals for 18 years, with eight of those years as Chairman. He also faithfully served as a lector and usher at Langley Air Force Base Chapel.

Colonel Beland's dedication to his country and local community brings great honor to our district. I am proud to recognize Colonel Beland's leadership and the role he played in making America a better place.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 6—American Dream and Promise Act, I would have voted YES on roll call No. 240, had I been present.

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TORNADOES AND HEROISM

**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of heroes, in support of unity, and in support of the compassion that I witnessed in the Eighth District of Ohio after 19 tornadoes devastated Southwestern Ohio last week.

On May 27th, communities in Mercer, Miami, Darke, and Preble Counties, and counties adjacent to the Eighth District, were devastated by tornadoes with winds upwards of 140 miles per hour.