

packing houses, and as a machinist for Wishbone and Honeywell. Each of these positions offered a unique point of view on the needs of the worker. This gave Mr. Rojas a clear view of the blue-collar community in Kansas City and the ways in which the lives of workers needed to be improved. From these experiences, a desire to serve and improve the lives of others was sparked within him.

As a U.S. Navy veteran serving in the Korean War from 1952 to 1955, Paul Rojas joined the ranks of great men and women who defended the United States on the frontlines. Mr. Rojas continues to exhibit the commitment he showed in his service to the United States with his membership in the Korean Veterans Association, Veterans of Underage Military Service, and the American Legion. Within these organizations, he advocates for those who have served, are currently serving, and who wish to serve their country in the future.

After serving in the Korean War, civic engagement remained a pillar of Mr. Rojas' life. He served on various boards and commissions at the city and county level before pushing to become the first Hispanic elected to the Missouri General Assembly. As a State Representative, Paul Rojas initiated national meetings of Hispanic elected officials, leading to the establishment of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Mr. Rojas also helped found the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC in order to help hundreds of Hispanic and minority owned businesses network and gain access to resources.

After his service as a Missouri State Representative, Paul Rojas continued his devotion to service. He is now chairman of Guadalupe Centers Inc., the organization that supported his family in their time of need. Guadalupe Centers provide training programs, education, after school activities, and family support programs. Mr. Rojas also advocates for the welfare of seniors as a member of the Kansas City Silver Haired Council. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, an organization dedicated to charity. Recently, through Guadalupe Centers Inc., Rojas championed the decision to repurpose a building and create a youth recreation center that provides students with a safe location for extracurricular activities and opportunities to keep them out of trouble.

Throughout his life's work, Paul Rojas has served as a model of leadership and selflessness. His service in the U.S. Navy, his position as a Missouri State Representative, his chairing of the oldest Latino serving non-profit, Guadalupe Centers Inc., and his other leadership positions demonstrate his commitment to his community and his country. Mr. Rojas has made a unique contribution to each of these organizations, representing the reality of many underrepresented communities. His counsel empowers organizations to better make decisions about how to benefit those they serve. He continues to create a community that is well equipped to handle the issues it faces.

It is a privilege to stand today and recognize the contributions and devotion of Mr. Paul Rojas. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Rojas' remarkable service to the people of the Greater Kansas City area and beyond.

HONORING WESTERN FARM
CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JARED HUFFMAN, to recognize Western Farm Center as the recipient of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Friend of the Farm Bureau award. For 52 years Western Farm Center has been the premier feed stores that serves farms in the Santa Rosa area.

Western Farm Center was founded by brothers Larry and Lou Bertolini in 1967. The store is currently owned and operated by Lou's daughter Maria Bertolini Frampton and her husband Trevor Frampton, who is the general manager of the store. Western Farm Center has been a staple in Sonoma County for decades. The store provides essential feed, seed, and supplies to the surrounding rural community, as well as exceptional customer service.

For more than thirty years, Western Farm Center has worked alongside the Sonoma County Farm Bureau to bridge the rural and urban gap by bringing chicks and ducklings to the Farm Bureau's Ag Days, a celebration that introduces city children to the wonders of the farm community. Western Farm Center has provided straw and additional resources for other events held by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Western Farm Center is known for being run by people who are generous and involved in our community. They frequently provide food and other supplies to Pony Express, All Aboard Dog Rescue, Sonoma County Animal Services, and Dogwood Animal Rescue. Western Farm Center played a large role in the days and weeks following the October 2017 wildfires. Along with their vendors, the store provided pet food, hay, and grain for cats, dogs, and horses that had been left homeless by the fires.

Madam Speaker, Western Farm Center is an important business in our community and has been aptly honored with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Friend of the Farm Bureau award. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the store and its owners here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ALEXANDER MIKHAIL GUSEV

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Alexander Mikhail Gusev, who was senselessly murdered in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center shooting. Virginia Beach lost Alexander far too soon.

Alexander worked as a right-of-way agent for the Department of Public Works for the City of Virginia Beach for nine years. Alexander emigrated from Belarus and gained an education first from Tidewater Community College and then through Old Dominion Univer-

sity. His friends described him as a great guy and a good friend. Alexander's life of hard work and service to the community, as well as his faithful friendship, will forever be remembered.

Alexander will be missed by all his loved ones. Hampton Roads significantly benefited from his presence; he made our community a better place. Today we remember and honor his life.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE JORDAN VAL-
LEY DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Jordan Valley District Library upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted service, reliable staff, and community investment, the Jordan Valley District Library has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Opened in July 1919 as the East Jordan Public Library, a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and an incredibly determined board of directors and staff built the library into the local institution it is today. Over the course of 100 years, the Jordan Valley District Library forged its path to success while maintaining its commitment to the community it was built upon. While its building and name may be different today, the Jordan Valley District Library still promotes the same ideals of giving the curious a place to explore and discover. The library's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated today, July 11th, in its original building first constructed in 1919. Day after day, the Jordan Valley District Library continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Jordan Valley District Library and its staff for 100 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Jordan Valley District Library all the best in its future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NA-
TIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill The Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act to recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The Defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a