

unions across the county. His expertise and years of experience will benefit the NAFCU Board and local credit unions for years to come.

I congratulate Lonnie Nicholson on this achievement and wish him success in his new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors.

RECOGNIZING SMOKEY BEAR'S
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear. Through his dedication to responsible outdoor recreation, public safety, and environmental conservation, Smokey has become an indispensable part of our nation.

The state of Michigan is home to some of the most pristine forests in the country—attracting visitors from around the world and providing Michiganders with a quality of life that is second to none. However, something as simple as a cigarette butt or unattended campfire could spark a disastrous fire in the right conditions, making our precious lands susceptible to unimaginable damage. Since 1942, the U.S. Forest Service has used Smokey Bear, the beloved hat-clad grizzly, to educate Americans on the importance of responsible fire practices.

With our ongoing struggle against devastating wildfires, Smokey's mission is as important today as it has ever been. Between the Hiawatha, Ottawa, and Huron-Manistee National Forests, Michigan's First District is home to nearly three million acres of National Forests. We in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula understand the importance of safe and responsible outdoor recreation. Smokey Bear continues to play a critical role in our efforts to promote access to the outdoors while protecting the health and beauty of these natural treasures. I'm grateful for Smokey Bear's and the U.S. Forest Service's 75 years of advocacy and work to ensure future generations can enjoy the same natural beauty we so deeply treasure. Smokey's birthday will be celebrated on August 9th at Straits State Park in St. Ignace, overlooking the Straits of Mackinac and the Mighty Mac bridge.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to celebrate Smokey Bear's 75 years of education, public safety, and conservation. On behalf of my constituents, I wish him and the U.S. Forest Service all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING J.V. FLUEHR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize J.V. Fluehr, an outstanding citizen from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

J.V. is committed to service to our community. For his Eagle Scout project, Jack beau-

tified the property of the nonprofit organization Shamrock Reins. J.V. is dedicated to ensuring our veterans are properly honored upon their return home.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I congratulate J.V. on his achievement.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT E. COLTER
AND CATHERINE STROMDAHL
COLTER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert E. Colter and Catherine Stromdahl Colter of East Alton, Illinois for celebrating their 102nd and 100th birthdays, respectively. Robert, born on August 3, 1917 in Titusville, Pennsylvania and Catherine, born on July 27, 1919, were married in Catherine's hometown of Warren, Pennsylvania on March 21, 1942. This year, Robert and Catherine also celebrated their seventy-seventh wedding anniversary.

Robert and Catherine moved to East Alton, Illinois in 1962, where they continue to reside in the same home today. When they are not spending time with their children and many grandchildren, Robert and Catherine dedicate their time giving back to their community. As members of East Alton First United Methodist Church for over 50 years, the Colters have made a lasting impact on countless people. Their commitment to each other and the betterment of their community is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. Colter and Mrs. Catherine Stromdahl Colter for their many years together and their contributions to Southern Illinois.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS ELLIOTT J. ROBBINS

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Elliott J. Robbins died on June 30, 2019, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, while conducting operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. SFC Robbins was born in San Diego, California on August 18, 1987, and spent most of his life in North Ogden, Utah. He was 31 years of age.

SFC Robbins joined the Army in June 2006, and after years of training completed the Special Forces Qualification course in 2016 and was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado. SFC Robbins was part of a unique brand of our nation's elite warrior class called the Green Berets. The Green Beret motto is "De Oppresso Liber"—to free the oppressed. He was assigned as a Medical Sergeant with the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Robbins deployed three times in support of the United States: first to Iraq in 2007, then to Afghanistan in 2017 and again in January 2019. His third and last tour would have been over only three weeks after Robbins passed away.

SFC Robbins' decorations and awards are too numerous to list here, but include: the Army Commendation Medal with Combat Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, and the Parachutist Badge, to name a few.

SFC Robbins' service epitomized the best of the American soul: courageous and selfless. He was buried with full military honors on July 19, 2019. Our hearts go out to his family and friends, especially the bereaved wife and infant son of this great patriot.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WIELAND

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a fantastic member of the metro Atlanta community, Mr. John Wieland, who founded John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods in 1970. In his first year as a home builder, working out of his Volkswagen, he built 20 homes! Fast forward nearly 50 years and more than 30,000 satisfied homeowners later, he has established himself as one of the Southeast's leading builders of semi-custom homes.

Mr. Wieland is a past president of both the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association and the Home Builders Association of Georgia, and he is a Senior Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders. In 1991, Mr. Wieland was awarded the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association's Lewis Cenko Award for lifetime achievement and is a member of the Home Builders Association of Georgia's Hall of Fame.

And the accolades don't stop there. Mr. Wieland has been named National Builder of the Year by Professional Builder Magazine, America's Best Builder in 2005 by Builder Magazine, and his company won J.D. Power and Associates award for Highest Ranked Quality Among New Home Builders in Atlanta for three years running.

In addition to his success in the home building industry, Mr. Wieland has proven time and again his success as a member of our community through his stewardship of others. He served as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and is a past Chair of the Advisory Council for Emory University's Center for Ethics. He also served as the Director of the High Museum of Art for three years beginning in 1998.

Mr. Wieland is a graduate of both Amherst College and the Harvard Business School, and he received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Amherst College. Additionally, he is an elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., where he ministers to our community every day.

On behalf of all those touched by John's dedication and service, I want to say thank you, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT ONTARIO EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter located in Oswego, New York. Fort Ontario holds historical significance as the only shelter for European Holocaust victims in the United States during World War II. At the time, the Fort was America's first exposure to the damaging extent of the Holocaust and today serves as an important reminder of our nation's responsibility to defend the freedoms and rights of all individuals.

On July 17, 1944, 982 European refugees from 18 different countries boarded the USNS *Henry Gibbons* in Naples, Italy to cross the Atlantic Ocean as they fled Nazi persecution. The refugees arrived at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter on August 5 following the 19-day journey, which marked the beginning of their ten month stay at the fort.

Fort Ontario, which was also known as Safe Haven, shielded the refugees from violent persecution and tyranny in Europe. The shelter was closed in June 1945 and many refugees became American citizens, while some returned to Europe. Although it was open for less than a year, the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter played a critical role in saving the lives of the 982 refugees who resided in the fort.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter's 75th anniversary. Since serving as a shelter for European refugees, Fort Ontario has been recognized as a significant site by the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Thousands of visitors travel to Fort Ontario each year, and they are reminded of the Holocaust victims who took refuge there and America's role in protecting these vulnerable individuals.

CONGRATULATING BERNARD J. STANAWAY, JR. FOR BEING NAMED 2019 U.P. VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for being named the 2019 U.P. Veteran of the Year. Through his dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to his community, Bernard has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The U.P. Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of

past commanders of various service organizations throughout the peninsula. It is given to recognize Yooper Veterans who go above and beyond in their service to their local communities and fellow Veterans. None are more deserving of this honor than Bernard. During his military career, Bernard served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, where he was decorated with the Korean Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, SCR Service Deployment Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His devotion to the people of his country and community has not wavered since he returned from military service.

It is impossible to fully list all the ways in which Bernard works to better the lives of U.P. Veterans. He is an active member and has served in a variety of leadership positions at the American Legion, AMVETS, DAV, VFW and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Additionally, Bernard serves Veterans as the Marquette County Trust Fund Agent, aids Veterans at the D.J. Jacobetti Home on outings at AMVET picnics, visits homebound Veterans, transports Veterans to appointments to Iron Mountain with DAV, attends Veteran funerals, plows snow for homebound Veterans, and helps Veterans in need with service claims and medical bills. Bernard has devoted decades to the people of Michigan, and his tireless efforts have directly improved the lives of thousands of U.P. Veterans.

Outside of his work with Veterans organizations, Bernard is active with the Boy Scouts of America, where he has served Troop 372 as the Charter Organization Representative, Assistant Scout Master, Den Leader, and Troop Committee member. He is also an active member of the NRA, Masons, Knights Templars, Project Evergreen, and No Barriers. As a servicemember, a Veteran, a volunteer, and a Yooper, Bernard consistently puts the needs of others before his own. He will be honored as the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year at a ceremony during the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba on August 15th.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for his decades of service to fellow Michigan Veterans, and for being named the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bernard all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGER MONTE MARTI FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CONSERVATION IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Ms. DeBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Monte Marti, the district manager at

the Snohomish Conservation District and valued member of our community, in honor of his retirement on August 9th, 2019. Mr. Marti has a long history of active participation in the betterment and support of Snohomish County in Washington state. Raised on a farm in the Columbia Basin in Eastern Washington, Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and our environment began early in his life. He pursued this path academically, achieving a Master's degree in Agriculture Economics with an emphasis on natural resources from Washington State University. That was certainly not the end of Mr. Marti's work in conservation. In 1983, Mr. Marti began volunteering at the Snohomish Conservation District, becoming a volunteer board member. Almost a decade later, he took on another volunteer position as secretary-treasurer for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. His illustrious career continued as he served on the WACD Plant Material Center Advisory Board, and finally as the district manager at Washington's own Snohomish Conservation District. I cannot fully express how much his dedication to our state and our community means to all who have the pleasure of meeting him.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Marti has never ceased his conservation efforts. As district manager he worked tirelessly to build strong relationships between with environmental groups and his reputation as a collaborator is well deserved. Thanks to Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and natural resources, he brought passion to his work that will not be forgotten, and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Marti, for your unwavering love of our state, our region, and the importance of conservation.

CELEBRATING JIM MONKEN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Jim Monken, a loving father, football coach, and mentor who helped young men in East St. Louis become champions on and off the gridiron.

Youth coaches serve not only to help players win games, but to teach them responsibility and accountability as they grow into men. Coach Monken will be remembered by those who played under him as a father figure who did everything in his power to ensure they succeeded in life. If you played for his team, you were a member of his family for life. In fact, before his recent passing, Coach Monken was visited by many of his former players, a testament to his life-long impact on those who played for him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Coach Jim Monken, one of the most successful youth football coaches in Illinois history and an even better human being.