

other community resources and during the holidays she can be found organizing food and gift drives for the less fortunate. The designation of Michigan Volunteer of the Year is well deserved. Her passion for volunteerism, patience, kindness, and devotion to the community is inspiring to all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kimberly Ismail and her life-long commitment to the Dearborn community. Ms. Ismail has positively impacted countless lives in the City of Dearborn as well as across the state of Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF ROCCO LONGO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Rocco Longo, who served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than four decades as a public servant.

A resident of Duxbury, Rocco Longo spent his entire life in Massachusetts. Rocco served as Billerica's town manager for three years before accepting the town manager position in Marshfield. His retirement as Marshfield's town manager wrapped up a four-decade career serving in municipal government. In 2018, Rocco was awarded the Joseph Moakley Public Service Award from Bridgewater State University.

Following his retirement, Rocco never truly stopped working. He served in multiple interim positions as well as serving as an instructor in a local government leadership certification program at Suffolk University. In these roles, he is remembered as a great friend who had a talent for bringing people together. He was a calming force in times of trouble, and never failed to lift the spirits of those he worked with.

Rocco Longo led a life dedicated to local government, his community, and his family. He not only excelled in his work, but he was a loving husband to his wife Colleen and father to his children Parker and Tyler. He will be dearly missed in my home state.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Rocco Longo. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to his family, his local community, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES
SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS
PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Charles Smith, a man who has dedicated his life to the betterment of the public education system in the great state of Missouri. Mr. Smith is retiring after six years as President of the Missouri National Education Association

(MNEA), six years as Vice-President of the same organization, and decades as a public-school teacher. He leaves behind a legacy of magnanimous leadership and a passion for public service, which will continue to impact the lives of young people throughout Missouri.

As Mr. Smith retires from his position as President of the Missouri National Education Association, he will be greatly missed by his peers and colleagues. In this role, he oversaw 35,000 members, while serving as the official spokesperson for the organization, as well as acting as a liaison between local and national leaders. Upon graduation from Northwest Missouri State University, his extensive career began in Kansas City's Center School District. He spent twenty-seven years there, teaching communication arts and advising the journalism program, eventually becoming the chair of the department. Mr. Smith directly impacted the lives of thousands of students throughout his tenure in the Center School District, instilling in young people ambition to pursue their dreams. George Washington Carver once said, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Mr. Smith's work in education has truly brought that precious freedom to the youth of Missouri through a lifetime of dedicated service and steadfast commitment.

Mr. Charles Smith has a passion for social justice and bettering the lives of others, which is evident by the time he has spent as an activist for the African-American community. He served as the first Vice President of the Missouri NAACP for fourteen years, later becoming the organization's President for the next six. He spent time as the National Chairman of the NEA Black Caucus where he advocated for over 400,000 African-American teachers, education support professionals, college students, retired members, and administrators. He has worked to create an inclusive community in which all people are afforded equal rights and opportunities. Mr. Smith's commitment to advocating for the African-American community in Missouri not only speaks volumes to his meritorious character, but also reflects the legacy he leaves behind, as an educator, activist, and proponent of necessary change.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Charles Smith on his retirement, as he has gone above and beyond the duty of a citizen to give back to his community time and time again. He leaves behind a legacy of great leadership, as his accomplishments continue to grow and touch every corner of our community. He will be greatly missed by his peers, colleagues, and the community that has benefited from Mr. Smith's leadership. I am proud to recognize this exceptional civil servant for the work he has done and the lives he has touched within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSH
SYRJAMAKI

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades-long service of Mr. Josh Syjamaki and to congratulate him upon his retirement from Congressional service. A na-

tive of the Iron Range of Minnesota, Josh dedicated himself to bettering his neighbors' lives, both in his home state and across the country. His tenure in government began over 25 years ago, as a Committee Clerk in the Minnesota State Senate, and continued through prominent roles in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

A public servant of the highest order, Josh was a listener whose finger always rested firmly on the pulse of his office's constituents. As a senior aide to the late Senator Paul Wellstone, Mr. Syjamaki visited every corner of Minnesota, hearing the stories, dreams, and concerns of everyday citizens. His collaborative approach to government continued in his work as Representative Tim Walz's Chief of Staff, where he met with farmers, businesspeople, and local leaders across Minnesota's first district, determined to affect meaningful change and to build a stronger community. This, Madam Speaker, is what representational government is all about.

Mr. Syjamaki selflessly advocated on behalf of the American people, forcefully supporting needed improvements for our nation's brave veterans. As a National Coordinator for the United Steelworkers Union, Josh organized grassroots campaigns to ensure that laborers received fair wages and job security. In his last months as a Congressional staffer, Josh joined me in structuring my office and developing key strategies to best serve the people of Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District.

Above all, Mr. Syjamaki always believed, "We all do better, when we all do better." That collectively, people can unite to cultivate a brighter tomorrow. His ability to strategically motivate and inspire fellow citizens produced decades of leadership that improved schools, bettered working conditions, improved the lives of our nation's veterans, and expanded access to health care.

While his tenure in the federal government ended this past March, Josh's unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens continues today in Minnesota. As the Chief of Staff in the State's Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Syjamaki wields his belief in every person's potential to establish a reformed correctional system that focuses on education, sharply reducing the likelihood that an inmate will reoffend, and producing a more vibrant society.

I am joined by my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives, countless former staff members, and citizens across the great State of Minnesota in expressing my sincere appreciation for Josh's tireless service to this country. I look forward to witnessing his continued success and wish him well on his Congressional retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD, IL

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Lombard, and to celebrate its beginnings and the important contributions made by its citizens over its long and vibrant history.