

John W. Ross Elementary School, located in the heart of Dupont Circle, has shown commitment to hiring excellent teachers who care deeply about their students. With its school motto, "Embraced for who you are and Empowered to be more," John W. Ross Elementary School promotes and values students in a holistic way. I applaud John W. Ross for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

KIPP DC Heights Academy, located in Southeast DC, is known for the importance it places on achievement, community and persistence. Well deserving of this award, KIPP has closed achievement gaps among student subgroups, raising the academic playing field for all. Their strong culture of collaboration and excellence motivates teachers and students alike to work together and become stronger thinkers, readers, writers and mathematicians. I applaud KIPP DC Heights Academy for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

St. Peter School, located in my own Capitol Hill neighborhood, was founded in 1868 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross for the purposes of taking a holistic approach in order to educate the whole child. St. Peter School is committed to cultivating a dedicated team of faculty and staff in one of the oldest continuously operating Catholic elementary schools in Washington, DC. I applaud St. Peter School for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alice Deal Middle School, Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, John W. Ross Elementary School, KIPP DC Heights Academy and St. Peter School for their recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I missed two votes on October 15, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 556, and YEA on Roll Call No. 557.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF SANTA ANA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. HARLEY ROUDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Santa Ana, California on October 27, 2019.

The City of Santa Ana was founded on October 27, 1869 by William H. Spurgeon. Santa Ana rapidly became a hub for commercial, financial, and manufacturing businesses. To this day, the city remains a key pillar to Orange County and its culture.

The City of Santa Ana, commonly regarded by locals as "Downtown Orange County" or as the Golden City for its impressive culture and lively history, is the second most-populous city in Orange County with more than 300,000 residents. Located just a few miles away from the Pacific Ocean, Santa Ana is home to an array of attractions, including the Santa Ana Zoo, Grand Central Art Center, Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, and Discovery Museum of Orange County.

Today I ask that all Members join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the vibrant and wonderful City of Santa Ana, California.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FREELAND AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 473 ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 on the 100th anniversary of its founding. The Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 is a highly respected veterans' organization located in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In its 100 years, the Post has overcome many obstacles, but, through the determination and dedication of its members, it has withstood the test of time and flourished.

In December 1919, Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 received its charter from the national American Legion organization. The first members were men who served the U.S. during World War I as soldiers or in a naval capacity and received an honorable discharge. In fall 1920, the first Commander, John Rugens, presided over the decision to name the Post "Freeland Post" in honor of the 400 Freeland, Pennsylvania men who enlisted to serve during World War I.

The early years of Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 saw low membership, but, under the leadership of Commander R.R. Oberrender and Commander Thomas Welshko, the post persevered and eventually grew into the thriving organization it is today. In 1924, the first Legion Home was purchased, though it would not be the last. Through the late 1920s into the 1930s, Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 moved its Legion Home to several different locations before finally relocating in 2000 to its permanent home at 532 Centre Street in Freeland.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Post has been a pivotal force within the community. Freeland's Semi-Centennial Celebration was sponsored by Freeland American Legion Post No. 473, and its members served on several of the event's planning committees. The Post oversaw the planting of a memorial grove around Freeland High School with name plates on each tree recognizing service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The Legion Auxiliary was eventually organized, first under temporary Chairlady Mrs. R.L. Seitzinger, and then Mrs. A.A. Redelin was elected to inaugurally lead the Auxiliary. In September 1928, Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 Drum and Bugle

Corps was organized with thirty men participating, and, by 1930, the group would be recognized as one of the leading Bugle Corps in the country.

Today, Freeland American Legion Post 473 is very active and well-respected in the community. The Post now also encompasses the American Legion Riders, who help raise funds for children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes, severely wounded servicemembers, and scholarships. On September 28, 2019, the Post donated \$1,200 to the District 12 VA Canteen Fund, and, recently, the Legion Riders had their 14th Emilio Ranieri Run, which is an annual event that benefits the daughter of one of their members.

It is an honor to recognize the Freeland American Legion Post No. 473 on its 100th anniversary. This is a remarkable achievement, and I wish the organization much continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBRA A. HAALAND**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019*

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, on October 15th, I missed Roll Call votes 556 and 557. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call 556 on the bill H.R. 2385, legislation to create a grant program to support the Veterans Legacy Program and ensure that our veterans are not forgotten. I also would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call 557 on H.R. 95, the Homeless Veteran Families Act. As a cosponsor of the bill and the daughter of two military veterans, I strongly believe that we owe it to those who served our country to ensure that they and their families have a safe place to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MIKE ROLLINS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the retirement of Mike Rollins after 40 years of service with Coosa Valley Youth Services.

Coosa Valley Youth Services works with the juvenile court systems of Calhoun County. Rollins has been involved at the facility in some form or another since it opened its doors in 1974. Rollins even spent time as a detainee when he was in his teens and several years after that, he applied to work at the center part-time in maintenance.

Over the years, he worked his way up to guard, manager and all the way to the top as Executive Director. The center has grown and now has 70 employees and 90 plus program participants and detainees. Rollins has a heart for the children and has helped so many of them get back on the right path.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mike and congratulating him on his retirement after a wonderful career.