

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE BY CAMP LIVE OAK AND FOUNDER KEN EVANS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 30 years of exemplary service to South Florida by Camp Live Oak and its Founder, Ken Evans. Under Ken's direction, Camp Live Oak has been a leader in children's environmental education since 1989.

As the only American Camp Association accredited camp in Broward County since 1990, Camp Live Oak believes that every child is gifted and designs a challenging curriculum to keep young minds sharp during school breaks. It employs certified Broward County teachers to help instill a sense of environmental stewardship in its campers through beach clean-ups, sea turtle education, native plantings, and recycling initiatives.

Beyond the valuable services it provides to its campers, Camp Live Oak continues to provide direct benefits to the local economy and the environment. It draws employees and families from around the world, ensuring more dollars are spent at businesses in our community. In this role, Camp Live Oak has also been instrumental in the revitalization and preservation of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park by bringing awareness, funds, and families to the park for the last 30 years.

I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Ken Evans and Camp Live Oak for the amazing work they have done over the years to educate the public and to help our environment.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN WESTCHESTER DIVISION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division, as it celebrated its 125th anniversary on October 25, 2019.

Located in the City of White Plains, New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division provides critical mental health care services to New York metro area children, adolescents, adults and seniors. The facility is staffed by Weill Cornell Medicine clinicians, who work diligently to study mental illness, provide patient-centered care, and promote activities that support mental health healing. Housed in gracious buildings across 200 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, the hospital offers patients a tranquil environment to receive the care they need and deserve.

For its high quality of services and commitment to its patients, NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Division has received national recognition for excellence in nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition program. The facility was also the first behavioral health hospital in the nation to be formally named by Planetree Inc., an international non-profit pro-

moting the development and implantation of innovative, patient centered models of care delivery, as "Gold Certified for Excellence in Person-Centered Care."

New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division has been an invaluable partner in making the City of White Plains and the surrounding area a healthier and more prosperous community. Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow members of Congress to join me in expressing both congratulations and thanks to the past and current employees and supporters of New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division for their 125 years of distinguished service to our community.

RECOGNIZING GRACE CRUNICAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, along with Representatives BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, RO KHANNA, MARK DESAULNIER, and ANNA ESHOO, I rise to recognize Grace Crunican, who earlier this year retired as the general manager of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system.

Grace began her long career in transportation management in 1979 when she was appointed to the Presidential Management Intern Program at the U.S. Department of Transportation. She continued to work in a variety of roles in transportation management before going to Seattle to direct its Department of Transportation.

In Seattle she implemented its Transit Master Plan, which included Seattle Connections, the Bike Master Plan, the Freight Mobility Strategic Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan. These initiatives helped to reduce congestion and commute times, helping Seattle achieve the U.S. Kyoto Protocol goals.

In 2011 she joined BART as general manager. In that role Grace oversaw a staff of more than 3,000 full time employees operating a \$15 billion transit network. With over three decades in the public transportation industry, she displayed the necessary leadership and focus to provide safe and reliable transportation services for all Bay Area communities.

Grace's hard work and dedication will result in the replacement and expansion of more than 1,000 new rail cars for BART. Her leadership also encouraged collaboration with BART's labor force to ensure both riders and workers benefit from policy changes.

She developed and implemented policies that deepen BART's ties to the communities it serves by prioritizing inclusive planning that benefits small business owners, low-income and homeless riders, and the LGBTQ community. Her affordable housing initiative enhanced accessibility by requiring the inclusion of no less than thirty-five percent affordable housing on all BART transit-oriented development projects. Additionally, she coordinated local and federal resources and fostered regional partnerships to reduce congestion for eastern Contra Costa County communities during peak commute times and led the opening of BART's Oakland International Airport and Warm Springs/South Fremont stations.

Grace has been a tireless advocate for improved public transit throughout her career.

We want to thank her for her years of service to the Bay Area and to wish her well in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JAMES NICHOLS, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Sergeant James Nichols of Princeton, Texas.

Mr. James "Nick" Nichols enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1967 as a Materials Specialist for the Strategic Airlift Command providing support operations during the Vietnam conflict until his discharge in 1971. For his service, Specialist Nichols was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Nichols has found a multitude of ways to serve within our community, perhaps most notably as the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2150 in McKinney, a leadership role that he has held for nearly a decade. During his tenure with the VFW, he has led a number of community service initiatives including an outreach program for students centered on patriotism and a membership outreach program that engages community business leaders through the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs in McKinney.

As a respected member of our veterans community, Mr. Nichols sat on the McKinney Armed Services Memorial Board where his efforts led to the successful completion of the Veterans Memorial Park in McKinney. In addition, Mr. Nichols has been an active participant in the local Marine Toys for Tots Program where he manages the coordination efforts for volunteers. Most recently, Mr. Nichols led fundraising efforts to support the Collin County Historical Museum's Centennial Celebration of America's entry into World War I, resulting in an exhibit that would honor the role of our Collin County soldiers in the Great War.

Air Force Specialist James "Nick" Nichols is justifiably admired by a multitude of civic leaders for his efforts to support our veterans and military, ensuring that Collin County remain a stronghold of support for our defenders of freedom.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Specialist Nichols for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than