

and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, among other organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of West Marin's residents and natural wonders.

Mr. Mery's passing leaves some very big shoes to fill, but thanks to his commitment to youth empowerment, a new generation of West Marin youth have come to the fore to bring his community message into the 21st Century. Michael is survived by Connie, his wife of 35 years, his sister Megan, and numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, the depth of Mr. Mery's service to his community has left a positive legacy across Marin County. He will be profoundly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GOYETTE
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Goyette of Butte, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Goyette is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1967 to 1970 during the Vietnam War earning the National Defense Service Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Award and RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Serving his community as a volunteer for the American Legion, his local VFW and the United Veterans Council, Mr. Goyette has dedicated in his life to helping others. He's spent more than 20 years serving rural communities working as a registered nurse and volunteering with the local ambulance services. It's hard to find a rural community Mr. Goyette hasn't volunteered in. He's also provided many hours in continuing education services for ambulance crews around the state of Montana.

Mr. Goyette also has been the coordinator for his local Honor Guard for several years where he communicates with funeral directors and personnel to make sure fallen officers and retired officers are given the respect they deserve.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Thomas Goyette for his dedication and service.

IN HONOR OF ROGER PENSKE

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has achieved greatness in motorsports, business, and in his community. On October 24th, Roger Penske

was awarded the highest honor a civilian can receive, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award is not given lightly. According to the White House, to receive such an honor one must either contribute "to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or significant public or private endeavors." It is fair to say, that Mr. Penske has done much in his life to grow his community into a better place and his business into the global industry leader it is today.

Mr. Penske has had significant success in both auto racing and business for more than 50 years. After forming his own auto racing team in 1965, Team Penske has won over 500 races and 36 national championships. The team's most recent wins include the 2018 NASCAR championship and 2019 Indianapolis 500, which marks a record breaking 18 Indianapolis 500 victories for a team owner.

Since starting his own car dealership in 1969, Penske Corporation has expanded into a company that generates \$32 billion in revenues and employs approximately 64,000 people. However, Mr. Penske is not only a man with a mind for business, he is also a man with a generous heart. In 2005 he was named Michiganian of the Year after vowing to spend \$35 million, in order to revive and restore neighborhoods in Detroit. Just as Penske Corporation is an exceptional example of a great American business, so also is Roger Penske an outstanding example of an American citizen. Our country is fortunate to have Roger Penske as a role model for generations to come. I offer Mr. Penske my sincere congratulations on this prestigious honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on November 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 610 and Roll Call Vote 611. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 610 and Yea on Roll Call Vote 611.

CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS
CATHOLIC CRUSADERS SOFT-
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE
2019 MISSOURI CLASS III STATE
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic Crusaders softball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Softball Championship.

This is Helias Catholic's third state championship in the history of their softball program. This team and Coach Chris Wyrick should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Helias Catholic Crusaders team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING DALE LONGFELLOW
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Longfellow of Hobson, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Longfellow is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1961 to 1964 with distinction on the USS Coral Sea CV 43 aircraft carrier. During his enlistment Dale earned nominations to the United States Naval Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy and attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

Mr. Longfellow has served his community in many ways. As a volunteer emergency medical technician, as mayor of Hobson, and as a dynamic businessman who for many years employed numerous people in the community.

Mr. Longfellow is known as the person you go to for advice and the one you call if you're in a crisis. Those who know Mr. Longfellow use words like upright, moral and compassionate to describe him. He is a role model to his children and everyone else in his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Dale Longfellow for his dedication and service.

VA OVERPAYMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Tennessee and my good friend from California for their leadership of our Veterans' Affairs Committee. They are a dynamic duo.

Their visits to Little Rock, Arkansas, both as Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, gave local Arkansans a direct voice to leaders in Congress to discuss many of the issues they deal with on a daily basis.

It was a pleasure to host them, and the accessibility they have shown to hear from people in Arkansas and across the Nation speaks to the type of leadership both provide atop the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

I appreciate their kind words about Arkansas and my veterans team in the district, which works tirelessly to ensure the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces receive the benefits and care they deserve.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor to be in support of this list of good bills tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly want to thank my friend from New Jersey, Mr. KIM, for his hard work and collaboration on this important bill for our veterans.