

HONORING THE ISLAMIC CENTER
OF CULPEPER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Islamic Center of Culpeper on the occasion of the ground breaking of their new mosque.

Culpeper, Virginia is home to a growing, close-knit Muslim community known as the Islamic Center of Culpeper, (ICC). For many years the ICC community has been worshipping in a very small space lacking proper heating in the brutal winters and air conditioning in the scorching summers. The facility even lacked an adequate washing facility to perform ablution before prayers. The ICC searched for nearly five years before finding and purchasing a parcel of land in January of 2016. Immediately, they made plans to begin constructing a brand-new mosque to serve as a place of worship and a place for community.

The ICC had no idea of the challenges they would face.

Since 1995, every pump and hall permit application submitted to the Culpeper County Government by a house of worship had been approved, but in April of 2016, the County denied ICC's permit application.

The County also ordered a moratorium on any new pump and haul applications, which barred ICC from any attempts to re-apply, and in advance of one of the local zoning hearings, protesters hung a banner stating, "NO ISLAMIC CENTER!" in big black letters.

The ICC fought back.

Muslim Advocates and Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer filed a lawsuit against the County on behalf of ICC, following a lawsuit by the Department of Justice and one month later, the ICC and the County reached a settlement. The ICC could move forward with their plans to build a mosque, and the County issued a statement welcoming the ICC and compensated the community for their expenses.

Please join me in honoring the ICC and their resilience as they celebrate this milestone project.

RECOGNIZING ROGER KNOELL FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Knoell of Butte for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Knoell is a veteran of the United States Navy serving in the Vietnam War. Over his twenty years of service, Mr. Knoell received multiple medals and awards, including the Submarine Dolphin Warfare Pin, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon returning to his community, Mr. Knoell dedicated his time to veteran groups in Butte.

As a member of the American Legion, he served as a key member in the selection of the of Butte for the new Southwest Montana Veterans Home. Outside of his work with veterans' groups, Mr. Knoell serves on the Board of Directors for the Legion Oasis Apartment Complex, which provides low- and medium-income housing for the residents of Butte. He is also known to be a great Butte promoter, bringing events to the community such as the Harley Owners State Rally, and the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Roger Knoell for his service to his country and his dedication to the Butte Community.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Apprenticeship Week.

In my home state of Idaho, more than 1,500 students participate in registered apprenticeships. This is a jump of fifty percent in just the last two years. More than 280 Idaho companies participate in apprenticeship programs. They include companies like Micron Technology, that enroll about 350 people every year in their apprenticeship program. But success in apprenticeship programs is about more than numbers. Take the story of Bryan Brandel, who comes from my hometown of Meridian. Bryan grew up watching his father and grandfather work as linemen for the phone company. Bryan seemed to be following in their footsteps when he enrolled in a Vocational Technology program at Meridian High School. He learned practical skills, including how to weld. As Bryan was completing high school, his father and grandfather encouraged him to pursue a traditional four-year degree. He finished his degree; but wasn't sure what to do next. He went on to graduate school, still not sure what he was going to do. Months before completing his dissertation, Bryan realized that he did not want to pursue Ecology or Biology. He thought about his passion. That took him back to his high school Vocational Technology program. He made the bold step of becoming a lineman in the electric utility industry. After finishing school at Northwest Lineman College, he started working for Idaho Power, completing their lineman apprenticeship program. He obtained a journeyman position on a line crew, and today is a line crew foreman. Bryan's story is typical of the many young adults in our communities who follow traditional education paths that might not be right for them. Because of his experience, Bryan actively promotes apprenticeships for Idaho Power. He speaks to high school students about the wonderful opportunities they bring. His story is truly inspirational. Apprenticeship programs create good-paying jobs, allow students to complete programs debt-free, and provide a sense of accomplishment. They give Idahoans like Bryan, and all Americans, opportunity and purpose in our market economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CY-
BERSECURITY CAREER AWARE-
NESS WEEK

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, November 11th marks the start of National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week. This week-long campaign focuses on local, regional and national interest to engage the community on not only the importance of cybersecurity but career opportunities in the field.

Cybersecurity IT workers play a vital role in upkeeping the integrity of our systems, networks, and programs as well as pioneering new ways to promote system strength against unforeseen threats. In a highly interconnected and increasingly globalized world, there has never been a more important time than now to raise awareness.

Unfortunately, America is facing a critical shortage of people trained in cybersecurity. There are currently over 300,000 jobs nationally that need to be filled in the cybersecurity workforce and globally, an expected shortfall of 1.8 million cybersecurity professionals by 2022. This deficit can easily be filled by American talent and continued commitment to making educational resources available early.

In my own district, we are playing our part by educating the public about what role cybersecurity plays in their everyday lives and how impactful a career in cybersecurity can be. To raise awareness of the importance of cybersecurity, several of our local colleges along with CareerSource Brevard, Brevard School District, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast and Florida High Tech Corridor to name a few, will come together to discuss the role of cybersecurity in our economy, in enhancing public safety and national security.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week.

RECOGNIZING NEIL NEARY FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Neary of Butte for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and commitment to the American Legion.

Mr. Neary is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. He was a member of the engineering corps and received commendations including the Good Conduct Medal. After his service in the Army, Mr. Neary brought back his spirit of service to his community as a member of American Legion Post 1 in Butte.

As a member of the Montana American Legion for 62 years, Mr. Neary has been an important figure for the Legion. He served in various roles over the years and was the Department of Montana State Commander for three