

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HOWARD
BLACKBURN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of Hays, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean War. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

HONORING THE POLISH HIGHLANDERS ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America as the organization prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary. I am proud of the relationship I've developed over many years with the Polish Highlanders Alliance and President Jozef Cikowski. It is a privilege to represent so many Polish Highlanders and I look forward to gathering with them on Saturday, November 23rd for this historic celebration.

The Polish Highlanders Alliance traces its roots back to 1929 when its first chapter, known as a circle, was founded in Chicago. Since its inception, the Alliance has sought to organize Polish Highlanders throughout North America into a unified Highlander family. For the last 90 years, members of the Alliance have worked hard to preserve the unique cultural heritage of the Polish Highlands region, including music, dance, folk costumes, and other traditions. Through the years, the organization has grown to over 80 circles throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Today, the Polish Highlanders Alliance is headquartered on the Southwest Side of Chicago in the Highlander Home on Archer Avenue. The Alliance organizes many cultural events for the Highlander and the Polish-American community including the Highlander Picnic which attracts nearly 3,000 people every year. For its numerous cultural activities, the Alliance has received awards including the Gloria Artis Cultural Achievement Medal. The medal was awarded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for the Alliance's distinguished contributions to Polish culture. In addition to cultural activities, the Polish Highlanders Alliance raises money to provide assistance to churches, schools, and other establishments within Poland and the Highlands region.

This year marks 100 years of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Poland. I am overjoyed that as we celebrate this anniversary, the U.S. is finally including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. As a result, as of November 11 citizens of Poland no longer need a visa to visit the United States. For years I helped constituents obtain visas for their Polish relatives to visit the U.S. for baptisms, weddings, and other family events, and I advocated alongside the Polish Highlanders Alliance for Poland's inclusion in the VWP.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America does to promote unique Polish cultural traditions and to support strong ties between Poland and the United States. The members' devotion to their community and their mission is commendable and I wish them the best as they continue to impart their traditions for generations to come. Good wishes (Sto lat).

RECOGNIZING COLLIN COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, each year during the week prior to Thanksgiving, communities across the country come together to bring awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. Today, I want to recognize the Collin County organizations working to end hunger and homelessness throughout our community.

Today, there are nearly 42 million Americans facing hunger and on any given night, more than 194,000 people will sleep on the street.

While these numbers are sobering, we are incredibly grateful to those in our community who work so hard to ease the suffering of others. Organizations such as the Collin County Homeless Coalition, Family Promise of Collin County, North Texas Food Bank, Minnie's Food Pantry, and Hope's Door New Beginning

Center, Allen Community Outreach, and many, many others work year-round to take care of those less fortunate.

Through these organizations, volunteers, businesses, and faith communities come together to provide necessities like shelter and nutritious meals. They go above and beyond to ensure those in need have access to basic medical care and hygiene products and even provide job training and placement resources to those struggling with homelessness.

As we approach the holidays, let us not only remember and support those facing hunger and homelessness, but also those in our community who give so much for their fellow man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 630. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote number 630 YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on November 19, 2019, I voted in favor of H.R. 5084, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 630. I would like the record to reflect that I supported passage of this legislation on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEGAN HANDAL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Ms. Megan Handal, upon her departure as Clerk, Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, Ms. Handal was personally responsible for ensuring that the Chairs of the Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee had the appropriate administrative information and hearing details, handled all logistics for each hearing, and ensured all hearings ran on time. Ms. Handal coordinated with Congressional Members, Congressional staff, and all witnesses for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

each hearing she oversaw. Ms. Handal was also responsible for quality control of Congressional transcripts, military construction tables, and subcommittee bill and report language. Before her time as Clerk, Megan interned with the House Armed Services Committee in 2015, as well as the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the summer of 2016.

Megan is a graduate of Villanova University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and is an avid supporter of Villanova Wildcats basketball.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Ms. Megan Handal for her dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to our Nation. We wish her the best as she moves on to her next role.

HONORING COMMANDER JIM
MOODY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service of Commander Jim Moody with the Collin County Sheriff's Department. Following a distinguished thirty-seven year career in law enforcement, a grateful community thanks Commander Moody for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Collin County.

In 1981, Mr. Moody began his career in law enforcement with the Atoka County Sheriff's office in Oklahoma. During his time in Atoka, Jim worked in several areas, including Dispatch, Patrol, Civil, Mental, and Warrants. In 1985, Jim joined the Collin County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Officer. Due to his stellar efforts, he was promoted to the rank of Captain over the Detention Facility and as well as Professional Standards. Later, he would hold the position of Support Services Captain and Public Information Officer prior to serving in his current capacity as a Commander.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Commander Jim Moody for his steadfast service to Collin County and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING HERMANN HIGH
SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR
WINNING THE 2019 CLASS II
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hermann Bearcats volleyball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class II State Volleyball Championship.

This is Hermann High School's fourteenth state championship win in the history of their volleyball program. This team and Coach Phil Landolt 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 Hermann Bearcats volleyball team for a job well done.

COMMEMORATING THE
RETIREMENT OF LINDA JAY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Linda Jay, a community leader from Tehachapi, California which I represent, who is retiring from her position as the CEO of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors after an illustrious, decades-spanning career.

As a 30-year veteran of the real estate industry, she managed the Coldwell Banker in Tehachapi, served as President of the Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors, contributed extensively to the Tehachapi News as a real estate expert, and most recently held the position of CEO of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors, one of Kern County's largest trade organizations.

Linda's community involvement hardly ends there. In addition to her real estate experience and leadership, Linda has long been an active member on numerous local boards and commissions, including the Tehachapi City Planning Commission, Habitat for Humanity Golden Empire, and the Kern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, to name a few. Linda's public service also extended to local politics, where she served on the Tehachapi City Council for twelve years and was elected Mayor of Tehachapi in 2009.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Linda met her husband Bruce through her work as a realtor when he came to the Bakersfield Association of Realtors in search of advice for a business he was starting. Since getting married in 2012, the Jays have become known as a local power couple heavily involved in all things Tehachapi and Kern County. When retired, Linda and Bruce are looking forward to more family time with their 6 children and 12 grandchildren, and plan to travel throughout the country in their RV coach.

On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to congratulate Linda on a remarkable career, thank her for her dedicated service to the Tehachapi and Kern County, and wish her and Bruce all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL U.S.-
INDIA RELATIONSHIP

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the critical relationship with our ally India. I recently had the great pleasure of sitting down with India's ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Harsh Vardhan Shringla to discuss the critical issues facing India and the importance of the bilateral relationship between India and the United States.

India faces many regional and geopolitical threats. Islamic insurgents are a constant

threat, spreading terror throughout Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India. We should support the government in Delhi in the continued fight against terror. India also faces an increasingly aggressive and assertive China that continues to export its malign influence throughout the Indo-Pacific region. China's behavior is destabilizing India's near-abroad, saddling its neighbors with unpayable debts, as was the case with the port project in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. India is also on constant alert with a hostile and unstable nuclear-armed state to their West—Pakistan.

India is a critical trading partner with the United States. India accounts for about 3 percent of the United States' world trade, which continues to grow year after year. Likewise, the United States is India's second largest trading partner—accounting 16 percent of India's exports. We must continue to work towards strengthening our trade relationship with India, increasing bilateral foreign direct investment, and consider the negotiation of a free trade agreement.

Most importantly, India and the United States share the same values. As the two largest democracies in the world, our countries dually respect freedom and human dignity. It is then no surprise that the population of Indian-Americans grew by 38 percent between 2010 and 2017. Going forward, our relationship with India will only grow in importance. By sharing the same values, we inherently share similar interests and concerns. We must continue working together to confront dangers abroad, strengthen our economic relationship, and advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on the Making Appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H.R. 3055). Had I been present for roll call No. 631, I would have voted "AYE."

RECOGNIZING MR. MIKE VANCE

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Stephen "Mike" Vance for his longtime service to Collin County as an officer of the law.

At the age of three years old, Mike moved to Richardson, Texas, with his family where he attended St. Paul Apostle Grade School and Allen Military Academy. "Mooky," as he is known by many, would go on to graduate from the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University and also earned a degree in Management and Technology from Richland Junior College.

Mike Vance's career in law enforcement began in 1985 when he became an Officer of

the Collin County Reserve unit where he was employed as a Detention Officer in the Collin County Detention Facility. After moving to Anna, Texas in 1988, he would become a full-time Patrol Deputy.

During his time with the Collin County Sheriff's Office, Mike held a variety of responsibilities, including serving warrants and civil papers, working as a narcotics officer and supervisor, and working as a patrol office supervisor. He continued to serve for 17 years as a member of the SWAT team, seven years of which he served as Commander. Additionally, for an impressive twenty-six years, he worked in the Criminal Investigation Division as a Criminal Investigator.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in commending Mike Vance upon his retirement for his thirty-plus year career in law enforcement and for his dedication to ensuring the safety of Collin County and its residents.

RECOGNIZING JODIE PENROD
JOLLY FOR THE 2019 MONTANA
CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jodie Penrod Jolly of Dillon for Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to her country and her support of fellow veterans in her community.

Ms. Jolly is a veteran of the United States Air Force where she served as a nurse for over thirty years. She has received multiple commendations over her time in the Air Force including the USAF National Defense Medal and the Saudi-Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Ms. Jolly had one goal when she came to Dillon: to support and help veterans in the community. She started the Beaverhead Chapter of Joining Community Forces and hosts an annual dinner to honor veterans, active duty personnel, and their family in the community. Ms. Jolly is known to be a go-to person in the community for veterans seeking assistance, connecting them with Veteran service providers. She is also active with the VFW Bill Carroll Post 9040, serving as Senior Vice-Commander.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Jodie Penrod Jolly for her dedication to and support of veterans in her community.

RECOGNIZING DON S. HAVENS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don S. Havens on his retirement from the office of Mayor of Tipton, Indiana. A well-respected public official for many decades, Don's career has been defined by his faithful service to his fellow citizens. Don's record of electoral victories is a testa-

ment to his ability to connect with constituents and to deliver results. Throughout his 12 years on the Tipton City Council and 8 years as Mayor, Don has led the City of Tipton into the new millennium, helping to bring new ideas to fruition by directing projects aimed at building a better community for all of Tipton's citizens.

Growing up in Tipton, Don graduated from Tipton High School in 1963, and furthered his education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. In 1965, Don became a reporter and editor for the Kokomo Morning Times, a position he would hold until 1967. It was in 1967 that Don was called into service for the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam, where he served until 1968. His military service overseas as a Private First Class garnered Don the Vietnam Service Medal. His training and experiences in the military also helped prepare Don for the next four decades of leadership roles he held in both the public and private sectors.

After his time in the United States Army, Don reentered the workforce as a Manager with Anixter Brothers, a wire manufacturing company in Tipton. In 1975, Don started Havens Realty, where he has been at the helm for over 45 years, continuing to grow the business and further strengthen the local economy. Don became a founding member of the Tipton Economic Development Corporation, a group created to help strengthen and develop the Tipton County business community.

Ever the man on a mission, Don continued to be heavily involved in the public sphere of the Tipton community. Spending 12 years on the Tipton Utility Service Board, Don helped to lead this municipally-owned group in its effort to deliver affordable electric power, water and wastewater collection and treatment to the citizens of Tipton. Throughout his career in public office Don has been an innovative force helping to move Tipton forward, opening new economic opportunities to the citizens of the community. He spent a total of 20 years in elected office, never losing an election, including the post-Watergate election during which Don was the only Republican to win his local race. His service record over his 12 years as a member of the Tipton City Council solidified his sterling reputation as an outstanding civic leader.

Later in his career Don was elected to two consecutive 4-year terms as Mayor of Tipton, first in 2011 and then again in 2015. Taking office at a time of economic tumult for cities throughout the country, Don's experience and leadership were integral to the continued success of the local Tipton economy. While many municipalities were struggling to attract new business and limiting civic programs, the city of Tipton was able to grow the local economy and embark on bold public initiatives as a result of the tireless work of Mayor Havens. Working together with fellow city and state leaders, Mayor Havens was able to attract Chrysler FCA to move operations and massive investment to Tipton.

When Tipton was impacted by extreme flooding in April 2013, Mayor Havens and fellow city leaders worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to acquire grants that allowed for homes to be rebuilt and renovated for multiple Tipton residents. Furthering his pride in the city, Don was integral in the creation of the Tipton Main Street Association, a volunteer organization with a mission of helping to build a better Tipton. Recent projects have focused on the

beautification of the downtown area, with landscaping and flower planting transforming downtown Tipton into a vibrant and exciting center for public gatherings. The Alley project revamped an empty downtown alley into an engaging gathering place for the residents and visitors to come and enjoy the heart of the city.

Mayor Havens has also overseen efforts to undertake demolition projects of dilapidated properties throughout the city, as well as a \$3 million investment in parks and recreations infrastructure. Over his last 8 years in office, Mayor Havens and fellow Tipton municipal officials have led a city initiative to invest \$2.5 million into construction projects aimed at fixing and replacing the city's streets, sidewalks, and drainage infrastructure, furthering the efforts to improve the city of Tipton and better serve citizens.

For over four decades, Mayor Don Havens has consistently served the best interests of the City of Tipton, as a member of the Utility Service Board, the City Council and as Mayor. His career record in government has shown Don to be an honest, ethical, and transformative public servant who has had an immensely positive impact on the citizens of Tipton. On behalf of all Hoosiers I thank my friend, Mayor Don Havens for his decades of exemplary service to the citizens of Tipton and wish him, his wife and fellow leader in the Tipton community Tami, and his family all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING COACH BRYANT
WRIGHT OF FESTUS HIGH
SCHOOL FOR HIS 2019 HALL OF
FAME INDUCTION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Bryant Wright on being inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Throughout his 18-year Hall of Fame career, Coach Wright's teams accomplished unbelievable success. He has led the boys cross country team to seven state championships, including the last five in a row, and the girls cross country team to two state championships. He has been a wonderful asset to the school and Festus community. I wish him many more years of success in all of his endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Coach Bryant Wright on an extraordinary career and wish him all the best in his much-deserved Hall of Fame induction.

RECOGNIZING ERIC AND DAVID
GROOS AS CONSTITUENTS OF
THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric and David Groos,

two constituents from San Juan Capistrano, as my Constituents of the Month for April.

Each month, I recognize constituents who have gone above and beyond to help their neighbors, give back to their community, and make the country stronger. As co-founders of a non-profit that provides under-served and at-risk youth with outdoor recreational activities, there is no question that Eric and David are deserving of this recognition.

The brothers' non-profit, Great Opportunities, has served over 3000 young people in my district, mainly coming from San Juan Capistrano's geographically identified gang induction zones where kids are most at-risk of being drawn toward gang activity. Organizations like theirs play a critical role in generating opportunity in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, and I am extremely grateful for the services they provide.

Eric and David provide kids in my district with more than just recreational activities—they are providing experiences that will help kids develop leadership and problem-solving skills, which will serve them well throughout their lives. I believe we must do more at the local, state, and federal to support organizations like theirs that provide under-served youth with the skills they need to succeed in life, and that will continue to be one of my priorities.

I am proud to recognize Eric and David as my constituents of the month for April, and I am deeply grateful for everything they do to give back to our community.

VAN WEZEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall as it prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

An architectural landmark and a cultural treasure, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall was built on Sarasota Bay in 1968 and 1969 and dedicated to the City of Sarasota on January 5, 1970.

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright's son-in-law, architect William Wesley Peters and inspired by a seashell found by Wright's widow Olgivanna near the Sea of Japan, the Van Wezel is the world's only purple seashell-shaped theater.

A true pioneer in the cultural development of Sarasota, the Van Wezel has a history of presenting spectacular Broadway musicals, national and international performers, popular comedians and a compelling mix of classical productions.

Some of the stars that have visited the theatre throughout the years include Lucille Ball, Ray Charles, Bob Dylan, Van Cliburn, Liberace, Luciano Pavarotti, Josh Groban, Carol Burnett, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Hall & Oates, Tony Bennett, Dolly Parton, Jay Leno, Steve Martin and Martin Short, Ringo Starr, Renee Fleming, Vladimir Horowitz, John Legend, Sheryl Crow, Red Skelton, Count Basie and many more.

The Van Wezel's powerhouse 2019 through 2020 Broadway season features seven Sara-

sota premieres including *Come From Away*, based on the events that took place in Newfoundland on September 11, 2001 and the days after, as well as the critically-acclaimed production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, detailing the life and career of the iconic songwriter. They are also thrilled to present returning favorites *Les Misérables* and *The Book of Mormon*.

Furthermore, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall is implementing its 2nd National Endowment for the Arts Grant to bring arts integration to schools. This is done through Schooltime Performances, teacher training, classroom workshops, and family workshops that serve over 30,000 students, teachers, and family members each year.

The Van Wezel has a long tradition of enriching the community and supporting arts education. I appreciate this opportunity to help commemorate its 50th anniversary.

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

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Straugh of Dillon for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service and leadership in his community.

Mr. Straugh served with the U.S. Navy for 30 years and served in Vietnam. Mr. Straugh received many commendations during his time in the Navy, including the Vietnam Service Ribbon and the National Defense Ribbon.

Mr. Straugh is a known leader in his community. He served on the city council and multiple committees to improve the community, such as the site selection committee for the Veteran Home in Butte. Mr. Straugh is active in the American Legion, serving as Commander and Vice Commander during his time. Additionally, Mr. Straugh volunteered his time driving with DAV van and logged more than 7,500 hours.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Thomas Straugh for his service to our country and his leadership in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE'S 12TH AN-
NUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 12th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball invitational. In observance of this special event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will host a celebratory corporate luncheon at the Majestic Star Casino Event Center in Gary, Indiana, on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, followed by the basketball invitational at

West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 29, 2019, and Saturday, November 30, 2019.

The Lakeshore Classic aims to support the education and guidance of the youth of our communities to positive paths, actions, and endeavors. The Gary Chamber of Commerce has invited Mr. Kenny Lofton, an East Chicago native and retired Major League Baseball (MLB) player, to be the keynote speaker for the event. Born and raised in East Chicago, Mr. Lofton graduated from Washington High School and was an all-state basketball player. Following high school, Kenny accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of Arizona, where his unprecedented skills led his teammates and coaches to believe that he was able to play any professional sport. During Mr. Lofton's junior year, he joined the University of Arizona baseball team. Kenny's speed and potential were widely recognized by baseball scouts, and he was soon drafted in the 17th round of the 1988 MLB draft. During his outstanding major league career, he played on several different teams and was a six-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove Award winner. Mr. Lofton was also inducted into the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame and the Negro League Baseball Museum Hall of Game. In addition, he is one of only two men that played in a college basketball Final Four and an MLB World Series. In 2007, Mr. Lofton retired from his seventeen-year MLB career, and for his hard work and determination, he is to be commended.

Upon retirement, Mr. Lofton created his own film company, FilmPool, Inc., a full-service production company with a mission to bring diversity to the screen. He is also a board member for the Still Got Game Foundation, a not-for-profit organization for former professional athletes and philanthropic individuals that provides charitable resources in promotion of social change in our local communities and throughout the world. Recently, Mr. Lofton presented the Cleveland schools with \$15,000 from the foundation and his celebrity poker tournament. Kenny Lofton's contributions to the youth of our communities and his support for positive social reform will have an unforgettable impact for generations to come.

At this time, I would like to recognize the schools participating in the Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. These schools are dedicated to positively impacting Northwest Indiana through academic excellence and sportsmanship, and they are successful in their efforts. The participating schools include West Side Leadership Academy of Gary, John Marshall Metropolitan High School of Chicago, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy of Gary, East Chicago Central High School, George Washington High School of Indianapolis, 21st Century Charter High School of Gary, and Charles Tindley Accelerated High School of Indianapolis.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, the organizers and sponsors of the 12th annual Lakeshore Classic, and the devoted volunteers who make this event possible. Their influence, passion, and dedication to our youth in Northwest Indiana are truly commendable.

RECOGNIZING COL BOBBY
TOWERY, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of Colonel Bobby Towery, Jr., who passed away on October 26 at the age of 59.

Colonel Towery answered the call to serve our great nation with the United States Army in 1983 from the University of Mississippi Army ROTC. He retired as a Colonel after 30 years of active duty service. Colonel Towery married his wife, Lisa, in 1984, and together they lived in 19 different homes before settling in Oxford, Mississippi, after his retirement.

Colonel Towery set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an active member of St. Peters Episcopal Church in Oxford, Mississippi, serving as an acolyte, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, and head of ushers. Colonel Towery was also an active volunteer in his community, from sports coaching to booster clubs. He also had a passion for fitness and enjoyed spending time outdoors with his family and friends.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Lisa Carver Towery of Southaven, Mississippi; his two sons, Captain Patrick Towery of Fort Carson, Colorado and Nathan Towery; as well as many friends and extended family members.

Colonel Bobby Towery's life was one of service, grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE DAILY GLOBE
IN IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Daily Globe in Ironwood, Michigan, upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through a century of community investment and growth, the Daily Globe has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula.

Seeing the need for a daily newspaper in the Western Upper Peninsula, Frank E. Noyes founded the Globe Publishing Company in the fall of 1919. The Daily Globe's first edition was published on November 20th, 1919. Its headline covered the tension between President Woodrow Wilson and the Senate regarding the proposed League of Nations following World War I. In 1936, construction began on its current location, under the leadership of Frank's son, Linwood. Over its century of operations, the Daily Globe would grow to be the local institution it is today.

In addition to their daily publications, the Daily Globe publishes two annual visitors guides, sports previews, home improvement guides, and other specialty pieces. They have also found success in the 21st century, with a large online presence and daily updates to its website and social media. They provide a critical service to the people of Gogebic and

Ononagon Counties, and the impact of their work cannot be overstated. Day after day, the Daily Globe shows what can be achieved when a group of people work together for the betterment of their community. An open house will be held in honor of their centennial on November 20th.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Daily Globe in Ironwood for its 100 years of success, community growth, and service to the people of the Upper Peninsula. On behalf of my constituents, I wish it all the best as it ventures into the future.

CONGRATULATING FATIMA HIGH
SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019
CLASS II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima Comets cross country team for winning both the boys and girls 2019 Missouri Class II State title.

This is the Fatima High School girls' sixth state championship and the boys' second state championship in the history of their cross country program. This team and Coach Marc Bridges should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state title to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets cross country team for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored for the second time as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, Indiana, in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am very proud that Immaculate Heart of Mary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hun-

dreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Immaculate Heart was one of 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive. Furthermore, this is the second time the Warriors of Immaculate Heart have been named a prestigious Blue Ribbon school, achieving this designation also in 2005. Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the leadership of Principal Ronda Swartz, Immaculate Heart has become a beacon of educational excellence.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. As a Catholic institution it has been the mission of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School to provide an exceptional academic experience grounded in making God known, loved and served. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future through the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Immaculate Heart engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Immaculate Heart of Mary School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Immaculate Heart give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Immaculate Heart of Mary School. I am very proud of them.

CONGRATULATING ALYSHA
BUTLER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alysha Butler, a social studies teacher at McKinley Technology High School in the District of Columbia, for being named the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. She was honored on October 2, 2019, at the Yale Club in New York City.

Butler is the first teacher in D.C. to be recognized with this award. As a social studies teacher, she brings history to life for her students and challenges herself to bring them the untold stories of the past. As the granddaughter of a World War II veteran and Bahamian immigrant, she recognized the absence of stories like her family's in public education. She works to bring these voices and stories into the classroom each day.

Butler is known to teach history through art and storytelling, and frequently uses the District itself as an educational resource. By taking her students on trips around D.C., which

provides many historic sites, she has earned the title, "Queen of Field Trips."

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History was founded in 1994 to promote history teaching by providing resources and support to those in education and recognize the efforts of leaders in the field. Each year, the Institution selects one exemplary American history teacher who encourages a passion for history in their students as the National History Teacher of the Year, and awards them \$10,000. We are proud that Butler represents D.C. with this year's award.

Butler has also received the 2019 Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of United States History Award; a 2019 GrantEd award; and was selected as the 2010 Miramar High School Teacher of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Alysha Butler for being named the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and for her dedication and commitment to D.C. students.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY
VEHAUN

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jerry VeHaun, who will retire after forty-seven years of dedicated service with Buncombe County Emergency Services.

Mr. VeHaun's dedication to serving those in crisis has been evident throughout his life. He served as the Director of Emergency Services where he saw the Buncombe County Emergency Medical Services grow from only employing first aid trained personnel to an advanced life support service employing paramedics and advanced EMTs.

Throughout his career he has led various emergency management and response organizations. He served as President of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association and was awarded the General Edward Foster Griffin Award twice. He also served as President and Certification Commission Chairman of the International Association of Emergency Managers, where he was a recipient of the Clayton R. Christopher Award. He served as President of the Western North Carolina Safety Council. He served as Chairman for the North Carolina Domestic Preparedness Region 9 and was a member of the North Carolina State Emergency Response Commission. Mr. VeHaun also served on the Boards of the Asheville/Mountain Area Chapter of the American Red Cross; Metropolitan Sewerage District; Aston Park Healthcare Center; MANNA Food Bank; and the Buncombe County Rescue Squad, where he served as Chairman.

Mr. VeHaun's heart of service is displayed by his dedication to the people of North Carolina, and also to the nation in times of tragedy. As a member of a federal Disaster Mortuary Operations Team, he was deployed to New York following the September 11th attacks and to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

It is my great pleasure to celebrate Mr. Jerry VeHaun before the United States House of

Representatives and thank him for his diligent service to his community, the great State of North Carolina, and this country.

CONGRATULATING JAY
HILDEBRANDT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jay Hildebrandt on an incredible broadcasting career. Award-winning anchor and reporter Jay Hildebrandt, has been a staple in the community for decades. Jay began his career in Twin Falls, Idaho at KMVT-TV where he anchored for two years. After moving away for a few years, Jay found his home in Idaho Falls where he has co-anchored with Karole Honas for nearly 30 years.

Besides his day to day anchoring and reporting, Jay has been involved in a number of special projects for the newscasts over the years. For 28 years Jay produced weekly Wednesday's Child reports. Each week, a child living in a temporary foster home, who needed an adoptive family was featured. Many viewers were touched by the children's stories, and hundreds of them were adopted due to Wednesday's Child.

Hundreds of outstanding high school seniors were also featured by Jay in his weekly Distinguished Student series of reports.

Along with his Local News 8 job, Jay keeps busy a couple mornings a week as an adjunct instructor at Brigham Young University Idaho teaching public speaking and broadcast performance classes, which he finds extremely rewarding.

During his years in Idaho Falls, Jay has been involved in a number of local community activities. He has served on the Governor's Children's Trust Fund Board, the Region VII Health and Welfare Advisory Board, and the Safe Place Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, Jay Hildebrandt will be missed throughout Eastern Idaho, but his career has provided an incredible template as to how the news ought to be reported.

CONGRATULATING FESTUS HIGH
SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019
CLASS III STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus Tigers boys cross country team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State title.

This is Festus High School's fifth consecutive state title. This team and Coach Bryant Wright 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 Festus Tigers boys cross country team for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 and missed three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 587, YEA on Roll Call No. 588, and YEA on Roll Call No. 589.

HONORING CHARLES MOIR

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Charles Moir, who died on November 15, 2019 at the age of 88. Mr. Moir was a highly successful basketball coach and mentor at both Virginia Tech and Roanoke College.

Charles Moir started his career in basketball by playing in college for three years before becoming a high school coach. In his eleven years coaching high school basketball, he finished with a career record of 224 wins and 43 losses. His time coaching high school basketball prepared him to become the assistant coach for Virginia Tech in 1963. Four years later, Mr. Moir assumed the head coach position at Roanoke College.

During Mr. Moir's time at Roanoke College, his strong leadership led the team to five conference championships, four NCAA tournament appearances, and even a national championship in 1972 during his six-year tenure. In his time at Roanoke College, he amassed an impressive record of 133 wins and 44 losses.

After Mr. Moir's time at Roanoke College, he became the head coach for Virginia Tech in 1967. His time at Virginia Tech was ripe with success, evident through his record-breaking career of 213 wins throughout his 11-year tenure. Additionally, Mr. Moir led the Hokies to four NCAA Tournament appearances and four National Invitational Tournaments.

Charles Moir was inducted into the Roanoke College Hall of Fame, the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Moir was known as a coach who invested in his players on and off the court. Dell Curry, a former Virginia Tech and NBA star told the Roanoke Times, "He helped me grow into a man . . . A great father figure, a great coach."

Charles Moir was the type of basketball coach that brings out the best in student athletes, and his passion for his players and the game will always be remembered.

He resided in my hometown of Salem during his time at Roanoke College and moved back after leaving Virginia Tech. He was held in high regard by the Salem community. His son Page, who played for his father at Virginia Tech and followed him into coaching, remembered, "He was a good dad, just like he was as a coach." I offer my condolences to the Moir family on their loss.

RECOGNIZING GWEN SANDERS AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Gwen Sanders, a North County San Diego resident, as my Constituent of the Month. Gwen has dedicated her life to giving back to our community and volunteering for a wide range of organizations throughout the region, including the North County Chapter of the NAACP, the City of Oceanside, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), and more.

As a longtime civil rights activist, Gwen received the NAACP Woman of the Year Award, the Oceanside Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, as well as several recognitions for her community service. She has volunteered for the Oceanside Police and Fire Commission, the Community Relation Commission, and led a program to help local students pursue higher education. Gwen's long track record of public service goes on, and there is no question that her dedication to serving our community has made Oceanside and all of North County a better place to live. Gwen personifies John F. Kennedy's famous quote: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Gwen's public service is commendable, and it's important to note that she did all of this work while also raising two children, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She is also a two-time breast cancer survivor, liver transplant recipient, and awaiting a kidney donor. I'm in awe of all that Gwen has accomplished in the face of these extraordinary challenges, and I am deeply grateful for her service. I am proud to recognize her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING MOHAWK
TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON BEING NAMED A 2019 NA-
TIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Mohawk Trails Elementary School of Carmel, Indiana, in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am very proud that Mohawk Trails Elementary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Mohawk Trails Elementary School was one of only 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive. Under the guidance of a dedicated staff and dynamic Principal Jennifer Greene, the Mohawk Trails Turtles have become a beacon for success in youth education.

Mohawk Trails Elementary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future through the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Mohawk Trails engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Mohawk Trails Elementary School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Mohawk Trails give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Mohawk Trails Elementary School. I am very proud of them.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRIAN GREER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Mr. Brian Greer, upon his departure as Professional Staff Member, Readiness Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, Mr. Greer was responsible for a portfolio consisting of Army readiness, training, logistics, and maintenance policies and programs; organic industrial base policy; the Defense Logistics Agency; civilian personnel and service contracts. Brian has served as a Professional Staff Member in the House Armed Services Committee since October of 2016. Prior to his time in the House of Representatives, Brian served as the Military Legislative Assistant to Senate Minority Leader Senator CHARLES SCHUMER, where he advised the Senator on defense, foreign policy and energy issues. Brian has also served as a Legislative Assistant for Representatives John Bocchieri, Parker Griffith, and DAVID SCOTT. Finally, Brian spent time working as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs focusing on installations

and environment as well as operational energy plans and programming. His vast experience in defense policy, both on the Hill and in the Pentagon, has helped senior leaders make informed decisions for over a decade.

Brian is a native of Marietta, Georgia, holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where he focused on international security policy and a Bachelor of Arts in international relations from the University of Virginia. Brian is also an avid supporter of the Atlanta Falcons.

Brian is married to Natalie, who continues to support him in his service to our nation.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Brian Greer for his dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to our Nation. We wish him the best as he moves on to his next role.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on its 200th anniversary of the first issue of the Arkansas Gazette.

As the state's leading news source, the Gazette has delivered reliable local, national, and international news for Arkansans for two centuries. Its first issue appeared on November 20, 1819.

The Gazette has also recently unveiled a convenient digital format of the latest news.

A new digital subscription to the newspaper provides access to a large package of news related to business developments, feature stories, and sports, which can be viewed using a phone, tablet, or computer.

This is a generation of advanced technology and it is important to produce easy-to-access journalism for newspaper readers.

I would like to extend my congratulations to President and General Manager Lynn Hamilton, and the entire Arkansas Democrat-Gazette team, and wish the company much continued success for generations of Arkansans to come.

JOHN J. MCGRAW, SR.

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize East Tennessee Orthopedic Surgeon and U.S. Army Colonel John Jay McGraw, Sr. as he announces his upcoming retirement from OrthoTennessee.

Not only is Dr. McGraw known for his remarkable contributions to the medical profession and 34-year military career, but he has long been a community leader in East Tennessee where he has held public office and served on numerous boards.

In 2018, Dr. McGraw was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Pain Management Best Practices Inter-

Agency Task Force. In this role, he identified best practices for pain management and issued recommendations for addressing the opioid epidemic. These findings are now used by Congress to advance legislation on this issue.

I am honored to call Dr. McGraw my friend, and I know I speak for many in East Tennessee when I say congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SWEAT, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Alton Sweat, Jr., a journalist, longtime civil rights and good government advocate and a friend, who died Friday at the age of 83.

I knew Joe as a lobbyist for and executive director of the Tennessee Municipal League, which he represented when I was in the state Senate. He was highly respected as a lobbyist and was always well-informed and he wrote a regular column on politics and legislation for the municipal league newspaper that members of the General Assembly always appreciated. Before that, he had been a respected reporter for The Associated Press, covering Elvis Presley's return to Memphis in uniform; the plane crash that killed country music star Patsy Cline in 1963; and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. Joe also created the news bureau at Vanderbilt University and edited The Vanderbilt Hustler and later was the first lay editor of The Catholic Register.

As a representative of the Tennessee Municipal League, he twice served on the board of directors of the National League of Cities. Later, representing the National Democratic Institute, he was sent to Bulgaria and Ukraine as the former Soviet satellites transitioned to democracies. After retiring in 1998, Joe joined his good friend Hedy Weinberg in lobbying for the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and became a board member of both the Tennessee and national ACLU.

Joe and I shared a love of Memphis State University and Memphis politics as well as a devotion to justice. I want to express my sincere condolences to his wife Marilyn; his sons Joseph, Stephen and Michael and daughter Cynthia and their extended families; and his many friends and colleagues. His was a life well-lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 556; YEA on Roll Call No. 558; YEA on Roll Call No. 559; YEA on Roll Call No. 560; YEA on Roll Call No. 573; YEA on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 615; YEA on Roll Call No. 616; YEA on Roll Call No. 617; NAY on Roll Call No. 618; YEA on Roll Call No. 619; NAY on Roll Call No. 620; YEA on Roll Call No. 621; YEA on Roll Call No. 622;

NAY on Roll Call No. 623; and NAY on Roll Call No. 624.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Monday, November 18, 2019 and missed three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 625, YEA on Roll Call No. 626, and YEA on Roll Call No. 627.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. FRANCIS BORGIA VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS III STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Francis Borgia Knights volleyball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Volleyball Championship.

This is St. Francis Borgia's eleventh state championship win in the history of their volleyball program. This team and Coach CJ Steiger 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 St. Francis Borgia Knights volleyball team for a job well done.

REMEMBERING ROBERT LAVENTURE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of Robert LaVenture, a committed organizer and unyielding advocate for workers, who devoted over 49 years of his life to fighting for the American worker in the labor movement.

Robert first became involved in labor organizing after graduating high school when he began work at an International Harvester foundry in Waukesha. During his time in Waukesha, Robert's stalwart advocacy allowed him to proudly serve as trustee, local union steward, vice president and of Local 3740. His dedication was recognized by his peers and led him to be elected president of the union. As president, Robert helped to create the state of Wisconsin's first employee education center and later developed other centers throughout the state when he served as Wisconsin's AFL-CIO Coordinator.

Robert embodied the greatest traits of a union organizer by devoting himself to building the labor movement and improving the lives of workers across the country. After serving as

state coordinator for the AFL-CIO, Robert served as a United Steel Workers International Staff Representative in the San Francisco Bay Area and then in Oklahoma. In 2009, recognizing Robert's tireless and effective work on behalf of United Steel Workers, he was made district director of District 12, coordinating USW work in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington. While serving as director, Robert used his decades of committed work to successfully negotiate countless contracts on behalf of steel workers across the western U.S.

Robert's legacy is that of a tireless union organizer, devoting countless hours to fighting on behalf of American industry and workers in the U.S. and abroad. Robert's work will continue to help the lives of countless people and his spirit will be missed. Please join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING FIRST LADY OF ANDREWS, SC, MAJOR DANISHA L. McCLARY ESQ.

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Danisha L. McClary, a United States Army veteran and First Lady of Andrews, South Carolina.

Major McClary has served our nation with honor and distinction. As a Judge Advocate General, she served as the Chief of Administrative Law for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, Trial Counsel for the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood, Texas, Chief of Foreign Claims for the Multi-National Division in Iraq, and as the Chief of Military Justice at Port Jackson, South Carolina.

Additionally, Major McClary served as the Program Manager for the U.S. Army Sexual Assault Prevention Program at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. She earned high awards and accolades including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal.

Major McClary officially retired from the Army in the summer of 2016 and immediately opened her law practice. Since then, she has served her community as chair of the Andrews Economic & Community Development Committee and as a member of the Georgetown County Accommodations Tax Committee.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Andrews in recognizing Major Danisha L. McClary for being chosen as the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Veterans Day Parade in Andrews, South Carolina. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the nation.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANDERSON AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, this Veterans Day, it is my honor to announce

that Mr. Charles Anderson, a relentless fighter for veterans throughout North County, is my Constituent of the Month. Mr. Anderson has dedicated his life to supporting veterans and their families, serving as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Tri-Cities Chapter 95, and belonging to the Oceanside Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10577 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 493.

As Commander of the local Disabled American Veterans chapter, Mr. Anderson has made sure that veterans in our community receive rides to medical appointments and helped veterans receive the Veterans Affairs benefits they've earned. He's helped veterans find gainful employment and financial security, and he's worked to ensure that veterans do not become homeless.

Mr. Anderson's service with local veterans groups is commendable, but there are also several cases where he went above and beyond to help a local veteran and their family in a desperate time of need. When my office heard that a Marine Gulf War veteran was struggling to make ends meet due to a service-connected terminal illness, it was Mr. Anderson who immediately made arrangements to support the veteran's family financially until the Veterans Benefits Administration could deliver benefits. When I heard from a caregiver of a Marine veteran who was at risk of becoming homeless, Mr. Anderson stepped up to cover the veteran's rent until we could work out aid from the VA.

On this Veterans Day, we must do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We need to fight for the support and resources that veterans have earned and deserve, and that's exactly what Mr. Anderson does every single day. As long as I have the privilege to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will look to Mr. Anderson as a shining example of what it means to serve our veterans with reverence and resolve. I am deeply grateful for Mr. Anderson's service to our veterans, and I am proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SAINT MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. I am delighted to congratulate Saint Maria Goretti School in Westfield, Indiana, for the second time since I've been in Congress, in celebration of this special occasion.

Started by President Reagan in 1982, the United States Department of Education awards the National Blue Ribbon designation to both public and private schools across our great nation. The award celebrates great American schools like Saint Maria Goretti that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. Throughout the country this award is given to

recognize the upper echelon of educational institutions, that through the dedication and passion of their amazing educators, students, and parents have strived to ensure that every student reaches their full potential and maximizes their academic success.

Having previously received this prestigious award in 2013, the Fighting Angels of Saint Maria Goretti School have shown just how deep the commitment to excellence is ingrained in their staff, faculty, parents and student body. This honor is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing its students with an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Saint Maria Goretti School was one of 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this achievement all the more impressive. Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Lafayette and the leadership of Principal Vince Barnes, Saint Maria Goretti School has become a beacon of educational excellence.

Saint Maria Goretti School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. As a Catholic institution the clergy and staff work diligently with students to provide an excellent education, focusing on the spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical well-being of each child. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future by the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Saint Maria Goretti School engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Saint Maria Goretti School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I have great respect and admiration for our nation's educators and their mission to provide the students of this great nation with the strong academic foundation critical to future success. Schools like Saint Maria Goretti School are an example of how we accomplish this vital mission. The outstanding educational techniques developed at Saint Maria Goretti School should stand as a model for school districts throughout the nation. The commitment to excellence from the students, parents and educators at Saint Maria Goretti School has transformed the school into a beacon of educational achievement. Once again, congratulations to Saint Maria Goretti School. I am very proud of them.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON H.R. 3055

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted against H.R. 3055, a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 20, 2019.

Let me be clear: I strongly support the majority of the funding extensions and protections in this CR. This includes the well-deserved 3.1 percent pay raise to our men and women in uniform, of which I also voted in favor earlier

this year in separate legislation. The compensation for our men and women in uniform should never be compromised by Congress's inability to pass annual funding legislation.

I am also pleased that this CR includes a provision that would protect federal highway funding and generate new jobs. Using my position as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I worked to ensure that the CR included a provision that would repeal Section 1438 of the FAST Act of 2015. Section 1438, which was included at the insistence of Republican leaders in 2015, will rescind \$7.6 billion of federal highway funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 if it is not repealed.

I strongly support repeal of Section 1438, which is long overdue. Transportation agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are counting on Congress to prevent this massive, multi-billion dollar cut from going into effect. Although I unfortunately had to vote against the CR for unrelated reasons, I applaud my colleagues for taking this issue seriously and including the rescission repeal in this must-pass bill. I'm pleased we are taking a positive step to finally give states the certainty they need to carry out long-term projects that create jobs and help their communities.

Furthermore, I strongly support the extensions in the CR to protect funding for Community Health Centers, which provide a vital lifeline for health care services to thousands of Oregonians and millions of Americans across the country. I am also pleased that this legislation extends funding for the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program, two health care workforce programs that provide resources to support the training of health providers in rural and underserved areas.

In addition, I am pleased that this legislation protects funding for important health care programs including Medicare and Medicaid programs, disproportionate share hospitals, the Community Mental Health Services Demonstration Program, the Special Diabetes Program, and funds to respond to the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

I also strongly support the funding extensions provided to ensure the Census Bureau has the funding it needs to continue carrying out the 2020 Decennial Census.

Moreover, I support the CR's funding extension for the critical Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to match state child care expenditures and make scheduled contingency fund payments. The legislation also ensures that the current caseload in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which serves low-income seniors, is maintained.

However, I opposed the CR because it includes absurd provisions to extend mass surveillance programs under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This includes Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which has allowed for mass surveillance of Americans' call records, as well as roving wire tap provisions and so-called "lone wolf" authority.

I am strongly opposed to these data collection and mass surveillance programs, which I believe are unconstitutional. I voted against the original PATRIOT Act in 2001, and I have continued to oppose reauthorization of this and related mass surveillance programs unless and until significant reforms are made to protect the constitutional privacy rights of U.S. citizens.

For years, I have urged congressional leadership under both parties to take up meaningful reform of these government spying programs and allow for sincere, robust debate on how to restore Americans' constitutional rights to privacy while also protecting our nation's security. In July, I was one of 7 Democrats to vote against the Intelligence Authorization Act because it did not contain any significant reforms to curb government surveillance.

That's why I joined my colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees urging them to finally take up meaningful surveillance reform legislation before Section 215 and related FISA provisions expire on December 15 of this year.

Regrettably, this CR is yet another example of Congress's habit of kicking the can down the road instead of engaging in long-overdue, substantive debate on surveillance reform legislation. Congress owes it to the American people to end government mass surveillance and restore Americans' civil liberties and constitutional rights.

As I've always said, while we must ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to assess, detect, and prevent future terrorist attacks, I don't believe we have to shred the Constitution and Bill of Rights in order to fight terrorism.

The bottom line is that it is beyond time for Congress to provide long-term stability and funding in its annual appropriations process. The Democratic-led House completed nearly all of its appropriations bills before September 30, the end of the Fiscal Year. Because the Senate did not get its work done in time, bridge funding in the form of continuing resolutions has been needed to keep the government open. Congress needs to get its act together and halt the ridiculous and irresponsible lurching from short-term fix to short-term fix.

I hope the Senate can get its work done so we can finally stop the budget gimmicks and spend our time working on important issues like fighting climate change, improving access to health care, upgrading our dilapidated infrastructure, investing in public education, and more. That is what Americans expect, and that is what they deserve.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine testimony from the Government Accountability Office on privatized housing findings to

include responses from the military services on ongoing reports of sub-standard housing conditions and services.

SD-G50

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the future of United States policy towards Russia.

SD-419

DECEMBER 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management to examine United States Navy ship and submarine maintenance.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine testimony about servicemember, family, and veteran suicides and prevention strategies.

SR-222

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's report on alleged abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

SD-226