

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