

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. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. 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 Fame. 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.