

The dancers, musicians, stage crew and artistic directors of this marvelous company have provided many Utah audiences with priceless holiday memories. It is my honor to congratulate them on this 75th anniversary, together with a wish for 75 more years of successful performances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed votes the week of November 18, 2019, due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 625; Yea on Roll Call No. 626; Nay on Roll Call No. 627; Nay on Roll Call No. 628; Nay on Roll Call No. 629; Nay on Roll Call No. 630; Nay on Roll Call No. 631; Nay on Roll Call No. 632; Nay on Roll Call No. 633; Yea on Roll Call No. 634; Yea on Roll Call No. 635; Yea on Roll Call No. 636; Yea on Roll Call No. 637; Yea on Roll Call No. 638; Yea on Roll Call No. 639; Nay on Roll Call No. 640; Nay on Roll Call No. 641; and Nay on Roll Call No. 642.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE VANECEK

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, today I honor the life of George Vanecek, a key leader in the development of the internet and Silicon Valley. He passed away this September at the age of 61.

Born in Prague, Czech Republic, George escaped his home country as a boy with his family during the Prague Spring of 1968 after refusing to join the Czech Communist Party. They settled in the Oregon mountains. He was proud of his adoptive home and believed deeply in its promise of opportunity.

It was this appreciation that drove George's career, but it was his brilliant mind that steered it. George was not only an award-winning programmer at a young age; he was also a talented painter. He applied this artistry to the field of computing. After completing his PhD in computer science, George helped pioneer the first http servers at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) before bringing the world wide web to Purdue University, where he was a professor of computer science and won the Excellence in Teaching Award early in his academic tenure. Then, at AT&T Labs Internet Platforms Division in San Jose, he oversaw the development of a vast platform for internet commerce. George co-founded several companies, working in areas like telecommunications and the early internet of things (IoT). George did this work with pride in the opportunity he had been given when he came to America. He cared deeply about giving back by developing systems in which computers enhanced human capacity. With an eye to the future, George's creativity and vision allowed him to become a leader in his field.

In his final position as Vice President and Chief Architect of Technical Architecture at FICO, he worked on solutions to today's big problems, like fraud detection and algorithmic bias, designing and overseeing the construction of a data streaming platform that could derive intelligent decisions from large amounts of data in real time. Perhaps more strikingly, George was known among his peers for showing up in the office wearing full leather, having just parked the Aprilia Tuono motorcycle he rode between lanes of traffic into the Santa Clara office each morning, not far from my district office.

George was not only a scientist but was also a friend and mentor to many throughout his career and life. He volunteered his time helping small business owners get started in his community. He was a scuba diver, a glider pilot, and a world traveler. He and his family foraged for mushrooms along California's many hiking trails and explored its wineries and local breweries. Madam Speaker, George was a Bay Area man through and through, and I'm proud to recognize him today for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE HOLLISTER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ACCELERATED ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of the students, teachers, and staff at the Accelerated Achievement Academy (AAA) in the Hollister School District. AAA has been recognized in 2019 as a National Blue Ribbon School for fostering an innovative, multi-dimensional learning environment for students across the central coast of California.

The Accelerated Achievement Academy is one of the highest achieving schools in California, using evidence-based professional development and instructional practices in the classroom to engage students in transformative, real-world learning. AAA works with a Project-Based Learning (PBL) model that pushes students to develop deep content knowledge along with critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. Through the PBL model, students interact with businesses, organizations, and their community. These interactions instill in them a sense of agency and purpose and a complex understanding of the world around them and their place in it.

The teachers and staff at Accelerated Achievement Academy are deeply committed to developing bright and high-achieving students into kind and compassionate individuals. Each classroom creates a social contract, an agreement of behavior that builds peer-instructor relational skills to raise the social and emotional capacity of each individual student. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the achievement and hard work of AAA.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK GUILLETTE BECOMING THE CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nick Guilette of Casco, Wisconsin for receiving the Certified Crop Adviser Conservationist of the Year award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). His leadership in agriculture conservation practices contributes greatly to Wisconsin's agricultural industry and set an excellent example of stewardship to the community and the environment.

Nick has a lifelong commitment to agriculture, growing up on his family's farm where they tended over 300 acres of land. He has dedicated his professional career to conservation efforts, excelling in positions such as Advanced Nutrient Management and GPS Technician, Certified Crop Adviser and Agronomist, and Demonstration Farm Project Manager. Utilizing his background in resource management and soil health, Nick provides guidance to local farms as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) within the USDA.

Nick partners with NRCS through his role as Demonstration Farm Project Manager. He works with producers through the Door-Kewaunee Watershed Demonstration Farm Network striving to protect the Great Lakes from excess nutrients and sediment leaving the rural landscape. Nick participates as an educator at field days, farm tours, workshops, and demonstration events on crop and nutrient management practices that build soil health and reduce erosion.

In addition to his partnership with the USDA, Nick is vital in furthering soil and water conservation efforts throughout Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional district. He actively participates in my Save the Bay initiative by lending his expertise at Door/Kewaunee Watershed workgroup meetings. He also played a key role in planning and leading a Save the Bay Field Day, showcasing new techniques in conservation farming to more than 125 producers and members of the agricultural community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Nick for his commitment to land conservation and dedication to Wisconsin's agricultural industry. Northeast Wisconsin is fortunate to have citizens like Nick engaged in promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

RECOGNIZING KIM HERMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kim Herman, Executive Director of the Washington State

Housing Finance Commission, on his retirement.

Kim Herman has served as Executive Director of the Commission since its beginning in 1984, guiding the organization through changing economic conditions and championing affordable housing in Washington State and across the country. Under Mr. Herman's leadership, the Commission has helped over 73,000 families become homeowners and assisted the development of 128,000 affordable multifamily housing units statewide. The Commission utilizes the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the private market, and community partnerships to help families build a solid foundation with accessible and affordable housing. Last year, Mr. Herman was inducted into the national Affordable Housing Hall of Fame, a well-deserved recognition of his decades of work helping Washington State's most disadvantaged citizens, including seniors, farmworkers, and people experiencing homelessness, as well as moderate-income families.

Mr. Herman has built and supported the capacity of housing organizations throughout Washington. He helped to create the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and has served on the boards of countless organizations and policy groups, including the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Impact Capital.

Mr. Herman's work in housing has expanded not only the Commission's expertise, but the capacity of housing organizations throughout the state and the country by dedicating his time to multiple leadership positions at the National Council of State Housing Agencies and the National Rural Housing Coalition.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Kim Herman's dedication to expanding access to affordable homes and congratulate him on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of Washington State.

CONGRATULATING THE EAST ST. LOUIS FLYERS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East St. Louis Flyers for winning the Football 6A State Championship. After breezing past their opponents by a score of 43–21 in the finals, the team secured a perfect 14–0 record and their third state championship title under coach Darren Sunkett.

After the tragic and untimely loss of two players, Jermaine Falconer and Jaylon McKenzie, earlier this year, the Flyers found the inspiration to carry on and honor the memory of their fallen teammates. Despite incredibly difficult circumstances, the Flyers excelled on the field, outscoring their opponents by an average of over 36 points per game. These young men put their hearts into every game, and their hard work paid off with an accomplishment that they can be proud of for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the players, coaches, and families of the East St. Louis Senior High School football

team for their incredible season. Southern Illinois is proud of them.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF THE LOWER EASTSIDE ACTION PLAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detroit's lower eastside communities for their ten years of engagement in the Lower Eastside Action Plan.

The Lower Eastside Action Plan, known commonly as LEAP, started through community group engagement in order to address disinvestment and structure demolition in Detroit's east side neighborhoods. The program has successfully engaged more than five thousand residents to strengthen neighborhood ties and repurpose vacant land. Residents working hand in hand have been able to reduce blight, prevent tax foreclosure, enhance public green spaces, and so much more.

Please join me in salute to the countless Detroit residents who have made the Lower Eastside Action Plan a successful community venture for the past ten years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONOR LAMB

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays I missed two votes on December 3, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643, and YEA on Roll Call No. 644.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN LOPEZ-CARDOZE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze, a seventh-grade life science teacher at Capital City Public Charter School, for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year.

The DC Teacher of the Year award is granted each year to a public or public charter school teacher who is dedicated to student growth, and creating connections with families and communities, and who provides high-quality instruction.

Lopez-Cardoze, whose father was born in El Salvador, is the first Latino recipient of the DC Teacher of the Year award. He follows in the footsteps of the 2019 DC Teacher of the Year, Kelly Harper, who was the first DC teacher to become a finalist in the national competition for teacher of the year since 2005.

Lopez-Cardoze is a devoted teacher. He views his work as a way to pay back the

scholarship he won as a student, which made it possible for him to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and become a teacher. The award comes with \$7,500 and makes Lopez-Cardoze eligible for the National Teacher of the Year award. Lopez-Cardoze is still paying off his student loans but he has pledged to use \$5,000 of his award, and to double that amount through fundraising, to create a scholarship fund to allow a student at Capital City Public Charter school to go to college.

His concern for his students is unfailing. When a student with sickle cell anemia approached him about proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health, he led his students in developing an organization to educate the public about diseases often found among people of color.

In his three years at Capital City Public Charter School, in Northwest DC, Lopez-Cardoze has made himself an integral part of the community. He serves as the school's Science Department chair, seventh-grade team lead and middle school representative on the school's Equity Core Committee. As a member of the Equity Core Committee, he co-creates diversity, equity and inclusion sessions for staff and works to create a more culturally competent learning environment for his students.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year and for his commitment and dedication to DC students.

HONORING SISTER PAULETTE LOMONACO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sister Paulette LoMonaco, a cherished public servant and respected New York leader. Sister Paulette has dedicated her life to helping the vulnerable children, youth and families of New York City, most recently as the executive director of Good Shepherd Services. As she retires this year, I wanted to pay homage to the work she has accomplished on behalf of so many New Yorkers.

Sister Paulette was Good Shepherd Services' longest serving executive director, holding the position for 37 years and serving the agency for a total of 50 years. Under Paulette's leadership, Good Shepherd Services transformed from a small provider of out-of-home care for vulnerable girls into one of the largest youth social services agencies in New York City. Today, the agency works with 30,000 children, youth and families annually as well as informs policy debates and innovative models concerning youth outcomes within New York City and beyond.

Notably, Sister Paulette's unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and families has led to prominence and respect with city and state leadership. In fact, Sister Paulette fearlessly engaged with mayors and the archdiocese, fighting for accountability on social issues and, ultimately, modernizing New York City's conception of a nun in the 21st century.