

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