

and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to three extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Sheerine Karamzadeh, Texas Tech University; Elisabeth Foster, University of Texas; and Alejandro Izaguirre, St. Edward's University.

Madam Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

#### CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JEAN WEST

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Jean West, a long-time resident of Detroit, Michigan, who will celebrate her eightieth birthday on December 11, 2019.

Ms. West has always been an engaged and active member of her community. She draws her strength from her family and community. As the matriarch of her family, she has always strived to uphold values that reflect strength, dedication and community and serves as a role model for her children and loved ones. Her strong family values are reflected in the life she leads and her willingness to always do for others.

Ms. West has never shied away from standing up for what she believes in. As an advocate, she doggedly pursues better for her community. She has remained active in the fight for civil rights, working with organizations like the NAACP to ensure equity for people of color and for her community. She continues to fight for a better community. Whether it's advocating for resources or uplifting her neighbors, it is clear that she believes in the good of people and future of Detroit.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Jean West the happiest of birthdays.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HATSUKO "SUSIE" KUSAKA

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Hatsuko "Susie" Kusaka from the City of Anaheim, California.

Born on November 14, 1919 in Rexburg, Idaho, Mrs. Kusaka has lived a rich life: raising a family, tending to crops of potatoes and strawberries, and caring for guests at the Disneyland Hotel.

Susie spent most of her childhood in Southern California and Japan. After marrying Shuichi Kusaka, she moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where she and her husband ran a potato farm. During that time, their four children—Warren, Alice, Ted, and Naomi—were born.

In 1953, the family moved to California, settling in Anaheim, where they made a living as strawberry farmers.

In 1978, at age 59, Susie began a second career with Disneyland Hotel. In 1987, she was named national "Room Keeper of the Year" by the American Hotel Association. She retired in 2009 after 22 years of hard work and dedication. In June of 2016, she moved into Walnut Village Retirement Community in Anaheim.

Along with enjoying her community's many amenities, she delights in visits from her family members, including her grandson, Brian, and a granddaughter-in-law, Katharine.

Please join me in wishing my constituent, Susie Hatsuko a happy 100th birthday and many more years of good health and happiness.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN DITSLEAR

#### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Ditslear on his retirement from the Office of Mayor of Noblesville, Indiana. A well-respected public servant, Mayor Ditslear's career has been defined by his steadfast leadership of Noblesville. His many decades of public service in a number of different roles has greatly impacted the community and its citizens.

A native son of Dublin, Ohio, Mayor Ditslear graduated from my alma mater, Miami Univer-

sity in Oxford, Ohio, with a degree in finance. After graduation, Mayor Ditslear chose to serve his country by joining the United States Navy. Serving in the early 1960s, at a time of tumultuous international relations, Mayor Ditslear and his fellow sailors were tasked with transporting their Marine and Army counterparts to active theaters in Vietnam. During this time in the United States Navy, Mayor Ditslear rose to the rank of lieutenant while developing his leadership and situational management skills.

After completing his naval service, Mayor Ditslear moved to Noblesville in 1966, where he invested a great deal of time in his community as a volunteer. He served as a board member for many community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Noblesville Boys & Girls Club, Riverview Hospital Foundation, Hamilton East Public Library and the United Way of Hamilton County. Ever the leader, Mayor Ditslear is also a past president of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Noblesville Redevelopment Commission, the Life Underwriter's Association and the Indianapolis chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters. It is clear that Mayor Ditslear's service to the citizens of Noblesville has reached far beyond his time in public office.

After his service in the Navy, Mayor Ditslear entered into the business world joining the American United Life Insurance Company in Indianapolis. His success in the insurance business led him to start his own company Ditslear Insurance, with offices in Indianapolis and Noblesville. After many prosperous years, Ditslear Insurance merged into the Ditslear Elmer Group, where success continued.

Mayor Ditslear made his initial foray into elected office with three terms on the Noblesville School Board, from 1984 to 1992 and then again from 2000 to 2004. This experience helped to prepare Mayor Ditslear for the rigors of serving in higher public office. When the opportunity presented itself in 2003, he chose to run for mayor of Noblesville, a race that he would go on to win against four general election opponents.

After assuming the Office of Mayor of Noblesville in 2004, and later joining the Republican Party, Mayor Ditslear would lead the city in continued growth over his four terms and became the longest tenured mayor in the history of Noblesville. His successful stewardship of the local economy has had major impacts on both the operations of the city and its citizens. Since 2004, the assessed value of the taxable property increased 134 percent from \$2.4 billion to \$6.04 billion today. By 2016, the population of Noblesville grew by over 10,000 people to more than 60,000 residents. This growth led to the school system adding additional schools to support the younger population and helping to improve access to education.

Mayor Ditslear led several quality of life initiatives, resulting in the development of Hamilton Town Center, and Federal Commons in addition to four new parks. Mayor Ditslear also worked to increase the amount of outdoor walking trails 183 percent by extending the Midland Trace Trail from Westfield to the center of Noblesville. His focus on the heart of the city also included renovating the downtown area through facade grants and road improvements and a focus on the White River. The Riverwalk Trail project provides a walkway down to the White River and provides citizens

the opportunity to enjoy nature. Mayor Ditslear was also instrumental in attracting SMC, a Japanese pneumatic technology company, to make a massive investment in the Noblesville community creating over 600 new jobs by locating their North American headquarters to the city.

As Noblesville continued to grow and expand to new heights under Mayor Ditslear's leadership, the Mayor and his team also led initiatives with fellow civic leaders and local business owners to maintain the vitality and attractiveness of downtown Noblesville. A long-time sector of commerce in the city, and the location of the Hamilton County Seat since 1824, downtown Noblesville has been the epicenter of Hamilton County since its inception. Working with groups such as Noblesville Main Street and various local businesses, Mayor Ditslear was able to encourage continued growth and revitalization of downtown Noblesville. Initiatives such as First Fridays, Jazz on the Square, and Small Business Saturdays, helped to build a sense of community that has made downtown Noblesville the focal point of life in the city once again.

By focusing on the infrastructure of the city, improving parks and community spaces, promoting quality education, and even playing a role in founding the Roots of Life Community Church with his wife, Head Pastor Teri Ditslear, Mayor Ditslear has impacted his city as both a government official and a committed, longtime resident.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I thank Mayor Ditslear for his many years of service to the city and people of Noblesville, Indiana. I wish him, his wife and fellow civic leader, Pastor Teri Ditslear, and his family the best in a well-deserved retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, on S. 151, the TRACED Act, I was unable to cast my vote as I was giving a eulogy of a close friend and mayor in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 647.

#### HONORING MAJOR JEREMY PARR

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Jeremy Parr for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Major Parr is transitioning from his current assignment to serve as a Battalion Operations Officer at Fort Hood, Texas.

Hailing from Corpus Christi, Texas, Major Parr was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps from Army ROTC in 2007. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Distribution from Texas A&M University and a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University.

Major Parr served in a broad range of assignments during his 12 years as an Army officer. He has served in one combat deployment to Iraq with Task Force 2-16 Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

I had the privilege of working with Major Parr, who served as a fellow in my office, throughout 2017 and during his succeeding assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Parr diligently coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, performance and commitment to the mission, as both a fellow and liaison, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on members and staff of the United States Congress.

Throughout his career, Major Parr has positively impacted soldiers, peers and superiors. Our country has benefited from his leadership, judgment and passion for the Army profession.

The foundation of Jeremy's success is his family. His wife, Yulia, and his children, Joshua, Evan and Alexander, are the light of his life. In addition, Jeremy's parents, Debra and Earl, exemplify the selflessness and humility that characterize the families of all of our service members.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Jeremy Parr since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Jeremy for service to our country and wish him all the best as he continues his service in the United States Army.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LOBOSCO ASSOCIATION

#### HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the history of the Lobosco Association, which will celebrate the 60th Lobosco Association Christmas Party on December 8, 2019 in Fredon, New Jersey. Four generations will gather to celebrate the strength of their family. They remain bound by the ideals of the first Loboscas who immigrated to this great nation and, through their sacrifices, enabled their descendants to attain the American Dream.

The Association has helped the Loboscas support one another, gather together, and strengthen the bonds of family. Family has been a constant throughout the years. The Association's dedication to Italian-American history and culture has kept its members deeply-rooted to their shared ties and able to continue growing towards the future.

The Association began on April 28, 1957, when the descendants of Michele and Vincenza Lobosco first organized the group. They formed the Lobosco Association to strengthen the bonds of family and lend support to one another. The family's journey to Paterson, New Jersey, began with the early death of the family's patriarch, Michele. From their humble beginnings in Sala Consilina, Italy, seven of the ten surviving children came to Paterson to establish new roots and provide their children with greater opportunities. An-

gelo came in 1912 at age 19, followed by Rosario, Michele, Luigi, Giuseppina, Attilio, and Emilio. They overcame language barriers and limited resources in a country that considered them foreigners. Their family cohesion, drive, and determination helped them to persevere and lay a foundation for a prosperous future for their descendants. As the family grew, the Association was formed to help maintain the close ties they shared.

To keep the family together, the Association has organized various festivities, picnics, and trips, the most enduring of which is now the annual Christmas Party. Since the first one on December 21, 1958, the Lobosco Association Christmas Party has been an opportunity for generations of Lobosco family members to share in the joy of the season and family company. For 60 years, the descendants of Michele and Vincenza have continued the tradition of a Christmas Party to instill in younger generations an appreciation for the meaning of family. They come to connect with seldom-seen family members, meet new ones, celebrate their heritage, instill pride, and keep the family spirit alive.

As Members of Congress, we have the deeply rewarding opportunity to learn about and recognize groups like the Lobosco Association. They represent great American stories. Their contributions have strengthened this country for many years and will continue to strengthen it for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in this chamber to join me in recognizing the members and friends of the Lobosco Association and wishing them a joyous 60th Lobosco Association Christmas Party this holiday season.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF JERRY BROWN

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2019*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa, Jerry Brown.

After a decade of leadership at the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) where he served the people of our county, Jerry will be leaving at the end of the year. His 18 years at CCWD were supported by his strong educational background in mechanical engineering, civil engineering, and business administration. Prior to joining us in the Bay Area, Jerry started his career with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

During his tenure with CCWD, Jerry held various leadership positions and was appointed General Manager in September 2010. Throughout his career, he has worked in the water planning industry to ensure the proper management of water system facilities and secure water quality and supply to the public.

Jerry has influenced state and federal water policy through his participation on various boards and committees such as the Bay Area Council, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, and the California Urban Water Agencies. Above all, Jerry has placed his focus on customer service. Some of his notable achievements during his time with CCWD include constructing resilient and climate-adapted facilities and cultivating a strong safety culture within the organization.