

and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which offers affordable housing to senior citizens in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. Recently, the Daughters of Penelope has also demonstrated support for senior nutrition and isolation with support for Meals on Wheels of America.

In addition to helping the elderly, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to schools, shelters and churches through the "Penelope's Books" program. After ninety meaningful and productive years, it excites me to see what the Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next ninety years.

HONORING ROGER E. HEDGEPEETH

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Roger E. Hedgepeth, one of the longest-serving mayors of Blacksburg, Virginia and a professor at Virginia Tech in that town, who died on November 12, 2019 at the age of 89.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, on January 17, 1930, Roger E. Hedgepeth went to Maury High School and then graduated from Virginia Tech, where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Following graduation, Mr. Hedgepeth served in the Armed Forces during the Korean War. Mr. Hedgepeth returned to Virginia Tech after serving his country and received a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

He married Jenny in 1956. They would remain happily married for 55 years until her death.

Mr. Hedgepeth used the education from his two degrees in mechanical engineering to teach students at Virginia Tech for 38 years.

As a resident of Blacksburg while teaching at Virginia Tech, he was active in his community and decided to make the leap to elected office. After two years of serving on the Blacksburg Town Council, Mr. Hedgepeth became mayor. Mr. Hedgepeth served in that position for 24 years, the second-longest tenure in Blacksburg's history.

As mayor, Mr. Hedgepeth was respected by his colleagues in government as well as his constituents. The relationship between Blacksburg and Virginia Tech during his tenure was so cordial that representatives from other college towns around the country would come to study their success.

Virginia Tech and the town of Blacksburg were fortunate to have this leader and educator in the community. Mr. Hedgepeth is survived by his children Natalie and Michael and grandchildren, Taylor and Austin of Bristol, Virginia, and Risher and Azat of Blacksburg. I offer my condolences to the Hedgepeth family on their loss.

RECOGNIZING THE 11TH ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 21, 2019, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather to celebrate the 11th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. Having become one of the largest Christmas celebrations on the Space Coast, this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, promising a place for family and friends to partake in a wide variety of holiday festivities to get them in the Christmas spirit.

This year's event will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay from 11 am–4:30 pm and will be completely free of charge thanks to over 80 local businesses and organizations that came together to donate food, gift certificates and equipment. Because of their generous contributions, families will be able to enjoy cotton candy, hotdogs, snow cones, bouncy houses, ride horses and trains and even go rock climbing.

Hosting the event will be Eddie Anthony Izquierdo as "Eddie Frost" and Ahriel Brown as "Arctic Ahriel," who will engage families with Christmas singalongs, short skits, and giveaways. A variety of exclusive performances will follow by Grammy Award-winning bassist Trae Pierce and the T-Stones, Chagy the Clown and the acrobats of Cirque Adventure.

The House of Palm Bay, City of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation along with several community business partners such as Thrifty Specialty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, Gator Automotive and Edible Arrangements are just among the few names of many we have to thank for providing the venue and resources to make the celebration unforgettable.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of the House at Palm Bay said in anticipation of the event, "With today's news being filled with division, contention and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with its businesses and citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace is expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus saying, 'Peace and good will towards all men.'"

The City of Palm Bay issued a proclamation in support for this year's celebration, proclaiming December 21, 2019 Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving and spending time with loved ones. This year's Extravaganza brings our community together to remind us of that.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who are doing their part to spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season and those who have worked so hard to make the Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible.

DECEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH

**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the American heroes who nobly defended our nation, and those who lost their lives in the name of that cause, during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

With the 78th anniversary of the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor approaching, I cannot think of a better time to take pause and to remember those Americans who courageously jumped into action upon seeing enemy airplanes overhead. In what would remain the deadliest foreign attack on American soil for 60 years until the devastating events of September 11, 2001, 2,335 American servicemen were killed that day and an additional 1,143 were wounded. In an effort to cripple America's naval might, the Japanese destroyed or damaged 19 United States Navy ships, including eight battleships during the attack. In spite of their best efforts, the Japanese could not defeat American resolve and although our nation was wounded, as the world would later learn, the Japanese had simply awoken a sleeping giant.

As time marches on and we lose more and more members of America's Greatest Generation, I am proud to recognize Arles Cole. Quartermaster Cole was aboard the USS *West Virginia* on December 7, 1941, and heroically defended his ship and its crew at all costs. Quartermaster Cole is one of the few survivors of Pearl Harbor still with us and I am proud that he is my constituent in Oklahoma's First Congressional District. I am honored to recognize Quartermaster Arles Cole not only for his venerable service on December 7th and throughout World War II, but also for his continued commitment to his community.

Every American should take heed of the example set by those brave servicemembers who fought and those who died at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In the face of overwhelming odds, they remained committed to their mission and to their country even if it meant sacrificing their life. I am proud to recognize them today and to remember and honor their service and sacrifice everyday as we enjoy the freedoms that they so gallantly defended.

IN HONOR OF GERTIE WILKERSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gertie Wilkerson and wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

Gertie was born on December 7, 1919, to Everett and Gracie Cline Carter. Throughout her life she has developed the reputation of living a life full of purpose, commitment and keenness in acknowledging blessings from God.

Gertie and her family moved to Annapolis in the 1920's where she began a 30 year career