

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE LATE PETE FRATES

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Pete Frates, a global icon and champion for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research and awareness.

A lifelong resident of Massachusetts and former Boston College baseball player, Pete Frates passed away on December 9, 2019 after a hard-fought battle with ALS.

Diagnosed with the disease in 2012, Pete spent his numbered days raising funds and awareness for ALS research through his social media phenomenon, the "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge," sparking a global movement that ignited 17 million people into action in order to raise \$115 million for the cause.

Pete lived his life selflessly, leaving behind a strong legacy and lessons we can all learn from—be kind to one another and when faced with adversity, face it bravely and help others like you.

Eight years ago, Pete received a terrible diagnosis and a hopeless prognosis. Instead of falling into a cycle of self-pity and remorse, Pete saw this as an opportunity to help others suffering with ALS. At the time, Pete looked at the one life he had and saw its incredible worth. He then took this one step further, springing into action to improve the lives of others.

My heart goes out to Pete's mother and father, wife, child, and friends. I know they will carry on his legacy and continue his courageous work to bring the world one step closer to the eradication of ALS.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose life is an inspiration to us all. Pete Frates did not die in vain.

HONORING MICHAEL A. HOULEMARD, JR.

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael A. Houlemard, Jr. for more than twenty years of leadership as the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Executive Officer and congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Houlemard was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and grew up in Pasadena, California. He studied at University of California, Santa Barbara and graduated with a degree in Political Science before completing a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies at Occidental College. Following his studies, Mr. Houlemard participated in the prestigious CORO Foundation fellowship program.

Mr. Houlemard's early career included a gubernatorial appointment as a Deputy in the

California Department of Housing and Community Development, time as a Project Manager for the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency, and leadership roles as Executive Director of the Southern California Urban Coalition, Deputy Director of the Pasadena Urban Coalition, and Assistant Dean/Director in the University of California at Santa Barbara Office of Veterans' Affairs.

As Executive Officer of FORA, Mr. Houlemard oversees the broadly representative agency located on the Monterey Bay, which is responsible for former Fort Ord's conversion to civilian reuse program. Mr. Houlemard also oversees a \$100 million munitions and explosives cleanup of 3,400 former Fort Ord acres. In this role, Mr. Houlemard's decisive leadership and expertise resulted in FORA being designated a military base reuse national model by the Department of Defense. Mr. Houlemard's work has also been lauded by the Association of Defense Communities, earning him their Local Reuse Authority Executive of the Year Award, and the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, earning him their Ruth Vreeland Public Official of the Year Award.

Michael A. Houlemard, Jr. has served the central coast of California with adept leadership and tireless dedication over the past two decades, making FORA a model agency for the potential of a civilian reuse program. I hope that Mr. Houlemard enjoys his well-earned retirement spending time with his beloved wife, Christina Valentino, watching his favorite pastime, baseball, and visiting his cherished hometown of New Orleans. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his years of service and encouraging him to let the good times roll (*laissez les bon temps rouler*).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ODESSA FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Missouri Class 3 State Championship won by the Odessa High School football team. Such an achievement is the result of strong leadership and continued dedication by both players and coaches alike. It is truly an honor to recognize this exemplary group of athletes from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

For the first time in a quarter of a century and only the second time in school history, Odessa High School earned the state championship title in a 49–28 win over Cassville High School at the University of Missouri's Faurot Field on Saturday, December 7, 2019. This victory was the culmination of their unwavering perseverance and excellence on and off the field.

Building upon their undefeated record and averaging 55 points per game, the Bulldogs

entered the championship game eager and focused. The Bulldogs took the lead, 6–0, in the first twelve seconds after Senior Bryley Ray's 93-yard kickoff return. Capitalizing on their early advantage, Odessa covered 80-yards in six plays on its third drive of the game. Not giving into Odessa's pressure, Cassville brought the score at the end of the first quarter to 14–7. In the second quarter, quarterback, Josey Meirerend and Ray led Odessa to a 21–7 lead before Ethan Uhrlaub's 1-yard score made it 28–7. Leaving nothing to chance, junior Brett Duncan's 27-yard post pattern completed a five-play, 52-yard drive, sending the Bulldogs into halftime with a 35–14 advantage. But the Bulldogs never became complacent and continued to push themselves.

Going into the second half of the game, Odessa remained singularly focused on their goal of becoming state champs. Carter Westerhold caught an 18-yard pass for a score to complete their first drive of the half while Luke Malizzi led the way on the second to provide the final margin of victory. In a true display of unity and willpower, the Odessa Bulldogs defeated the Cassville Wildcats 49–28.

This momentous accomplishment was achieved not by individuals, but as a united group of young men with guidance from a devoted group of coaches: Mark Thomas, head coach; Barry Blank, assistant head coach; Jeremy Helton, defensive coordinator; Chuck Clemens, special teams coordinator; Kiefer Kratz, JV head coach; and Miles Hoshard, JV offensive coordinator. The accolades of Odessa's football team and coaching staff are a testament to what they have built through their hard work and collaboration.

It is my honor to congratulate each member of the team that have helped Odessa High School to claim this prestigious title. I encourage each player to continue challenging themselves to always give their best on and off the field.

Madam Speaker, please join with Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the Missouri Class 3 State Championship victory of the Odessa Bulldogs, and I encourage all of us to unite together under the same spirit of perseverance, collaboration, and hard work that led this remarkable team to their first state championship win in over twenty-five years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed a roll call vote, and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: Roll Call No. 671—Yes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked tirelessly throughout this past year to get us to this point. It's a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support the conference report.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I worked closely with members on and off the committee to ensure the bill addressed three priority areas affecting our military.

First, the bill includes a number of bipartisan provisions aimed at addressing problems associated with the management and oversight of military family housing. The bill does the following:

Requires the military services to establish a tenants' bill of rights for residents of privatized military family housing;

Requires the Department to establish a standardized assessment tool to be used in evaluating military housing for certain risks, including lead and mold;

Prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements as a condition of moving out of military housing;

Authorizes additional funding to ensure installation housing offices are properly staffed; and

Provides for a temporary direct hiring authority for government housing personnel to increase oversight of private contractors.

Second, the bill authorizes additional funding and includes bipartisan provisions to mitigate contaminated drinking water for households and agriculture resulting from fluorinated compounds around military installations:

Bans DOD use of fire fighting agents containing PFAS by 2024;

Requires DOD to ensure that when disposing of AFFF and supplies used to remediate PFAS contamination, it does so in a manner that is safe and does not create further pollution;

Bans the use of PFAS chemicals in the packaging of the meals (MREs) our service members eat when deployed in combat areas and for training;

Closes a loophole in the DOD Environmental clean-up accounts that was keeping the National Guard from being able to access these funds to address PFOS and PFOA contamination;

Authorizes DOD to provide alternative water to farmers effected by PFAS contaminated agricultural water;

Bans the use fire fighting agents containing PFAS for training;

Bans the uncontrolled release of fire fighting agents containing PFAS for any purpose other than putting out fires;

Addresses DOD's refusal to acknowledge State-promulgated drinking water standards by requiring their use when they are more stringent than federal standards; and

Requires the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to establish a performance standard for detecting PFAS and then conduct nationwide sampling to determine the extent of PFAS contamination and then report to Congress the results.

Third, the bill contains a number of provisions to increase military installation resiliency efforts to ensure better planning to assess vulnerabilities and facility codes to mitigate the risk future natural and man-made disasters:

Requires DoD develop installation master plans that assess current climate vulnerabilities and plan for mitigating the risks to installations from extreme weather events, mean sea level fluctuation, wildfires, flooding, and other changes in environmental conditions using projections from recognized governmental and scientific entities.

Limits DoD's ability to spend planning and design funds until it initiates the process of amending the building standards for military construction (Unified Facility Criteria) to ensure that building practices and standards promote energy, climate, and cyber resilience at military installations.

Requires all proposals for military construction projects to consider potential long-term changes in environmental conditions, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, as well as, industry best-practices to withstand extreme weather events.

Requires DoD to report on the feasibility of transitioning installation planning from 100-year floodplain data to a forward-looking predictive model that takes into account the impacts of sea-level rise.

Establishes a pilot authority for the Department of Defense to carry out military construction projects, with prior congressional notification, that enhance military installation resilience, mission assurance, support mission critical functions, and address known vulnerabilities.

Authorizes an additional \$133 million for military construction projects under the Department's Energy Resiliency and Conservation Investment Program.

Directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a black start exercise at three major military installations to ensure installation resiliency in the case of a total power outage.

I'm proud of the funding authorized by, and legislative provisions included within the Readiness Subcommittee's jurisdiction. The bill authorizes \$261.6 billion in operation & maintenance funding to support training, maintenance, and military operations; \$11.8 billion for MILCON, family housing, and BRAC; and \$4.1 billion in emergency authorization for MILCON for recovery of military installations damaged by natural disasters. The conference report also provides twelve weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for our troops and includes key provisions of my bill, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, which will require DoD to input any Occupational Environmental Health hazards exposure into servicemembers' records while deployed, so it is tracked throughout their career and into veteran status.

Additionally, this year's NDAA funds important priorities at Travis and Beale Air Force Bases in my district. The military construction projects authorized in this bill will support the new KC-46 mission at Travis Air Force Base

and will improve resilience and power supply at Beale Air Force Base, enabling it to continue to support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and multi-domain operations.

While there are many positive outcomes, I am disappointed that the prohibition of funding for the deployment of new, low-yield nuclear warheads for submarines did not survive the conference process, and am also disappointed in the omission of critical provisions that were in the House-passed bill to reform border deployment and ensure funding for our military is spent wisely and as Congress intended, and not on an unnecessary border wall, such as the following:

Preventing the President from diverting Defense funding to pay for an unnecessary border wall;

Prohibiting funding for the construction of a wall, barrier, or fence along the southern land border;

Amending the emergency construction authority (10 USC 2808) to limit the total cost of military construction projects undertaken during a national emergency to \$500 million, with a further limit of \$100 million for construction projects within the United States; and

Prohibiting reprogramming of funds into the counter drug account, which has been used by the Administration to do construction along the southern land border.

Overall, I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and would like to thank the Readiness staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Brian Greer, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, Megan Handle, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Betsy Thompson and Dan Naske, for their tireless work. Dan will be departing the Hill after next week, and I would like to personally thank him for his hard work and sharing his expertise with us this past year. He has been an invaluable member of my staff and we will miss him dearly.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats, and with that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY20 NDAA.

HONORING MICHAEL DAVID
SPADARO'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE NEW YORK STATE
POLICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael David Spadaro's 25 years of dedicated service to the New York State Police.

Michael David Spadaro joined the State Police in 1994 and since then has served the State of New York with honor and distinction. Throughout our community, professionals in law enforcement, like Trooper Spadaro, dedicate their careers and risk their lives each day to keep us safe. Whether it be patrolling the highways connecting our towns, supporting local law enforcement, preventing terrorism, or responding to natural disasters, the New York State Police get it done. That is in no small part due to the dedication of Troopers like Michael David Spadaro. On behalf of New York's

21st Congressional District, I would like to thank him for his dedicated and unwavering commitment to public service. As Trooper Spadaro closes this chapter of his life, I have the utmost confidence that he will continue to admirably serve the community and I wish him the very best in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS E.
TAYLOR, P.E.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas E. Taylor as he retires after 30 years as Executive Director for the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD). Over the course of his career, he planned, directed, advanced and ultimately delivered UTRWD as a critical regional water supply system for the majority of the UTRWD member cities and other customers across Denton County.

Mr. Taylor graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, he joined the City of Dallas as an entry-level engineer and rose through the ranks to become the youngest department head at the city, serving as head of three different departments. As Director of Dallas Water Utilities from 1980 to 1986, he managed retail services for Dallas, plus wholesale water and wastewater services for 25 other cities. He was also responsible for adding two new water supply reservoirs to the system.

Subsequently, Mr. Taylor helmed the Steering Committee to create a Master Plan for the future regional water supply needs of communities in the Denton County area. The plan included securing legislative approval for a new county-wide wholesale utility special district. Supported by many entities, the Upper Trinity Regional Water District was approved by the Texas Legislature June 16, 1989.

Over the past 30 years as Executive Director, Taylor has effectively led the development and growth of UTRWD in meeting the needs of more than 25 participating communities. He recruited and developed a top-notch staff to accomplish UTRWD's mission to acquire raw water supplies, implement strategies for treatment, delivery, reclamation and reuse of water resources. Under his leadership, the organization navigated the necessary permitting challenges to initiate permitting and construction of Lake Ralph Hall reservoir that will provide one of the first new water supply lakes necessary to continue support for the fast-growing communities composing the North Texas region.

Taylor has been honored as one of the "Top Ten Public Works Leaders in North America" by the American Works Association. Also, for his concerted efforts and expertise to improve the profession of utilities, he was recognized by the American Water Works Association with the William T. "Doc" Ballard Award.

Much of the economic growth and quality of life enjoyed by the communities in Denton County and North Texas would have been impossible without Tom Taylor's ambition, vision and work ethic. It is my honor to recognize Mr. Thomas E. Taylor's commitment as a public

servant and the legacy he leaves in the form of UTRWD's important role in Texas' incredible economic growth and prosperity.

HONORING BARNEGAT VFW POST
10092

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Barnegat, New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10092, which recently received a National Outstanding Community Service Award for their efforts supporting the veterans' community in Ocean County.

Over the last several years, the Barnegat VFW Post 10092 has dedicated itself to being an active leader in supporting the veterans, families and students of Barnegat, and Ocean County community as a whole. Post 10092 offers two scholarships for Barnegat High School students, and coordinates two essay contests, the Patriots Pen and the Voice of Democracy, directed towards high school students from the area. In 2017, the Post began to offer a police, fire and EMS recognition awards program for Barnegat, a Junior ROTC recognition awards program for the local high school, as well as a Christmas in Camouflage program with the elementary schools. These programs have succeeded in honoring those who serve and have engaged the community with the important work the VFW does every day.

Recently, the Barnegat VFW Post found that their neighbors lacked a VFW chapter and so could not engage in the same VFW programs that Barnegat residents had. Just this past year, Post 10092 expanded their programs to include Stafford Township schools and Southern Regional High School. Through this expansion, the Barnegat Post has lived up to the VFW's legacy of service to communities across our nation.

I'd like to thank the Barnegat VFW Post 10092 for their years of service to the veterans and their families, and to our schools in Ocean County. I am proud to fight in Congress for the needs of our veterans and servicemembers, and am proud to work alongside distinguished colleagues like the men and women of the VFW Post in Barnegat.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT TONY
ANGELI ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Special Agent Anthony "Tony" E. Angeli on his retirement from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This past year, Tony served on my Judiciary Committee staff as a detailee from the DEA. In total, Tony has served as a detailee for nine years in this body and in the U.S. Senate.

Both my staff and I have found Tony to be a diligent and knowledgeable asset to the

Committee. In his capacity as a detailee, Tony has played an integral role in shaping public policy concerning illegal narcotics. This includes his important role in combatting the opioid crisis currently gripping our nation.

A former prosecutor, Tony previously prosecuted child abuse cases and juvenile crimes, and argued multiple appellate cases. He shifted from his career as a prosecutor by entering the DEA, eventually serving in multiple capacities in the Miami Field Division and at DEA Headquarters. In Miami, he investigated complex international drug conspiracy cases and followed up his experience as a line agent by entering management as a supervisory special agent overseeing large-scale drug investigations. Tony then moved into intelligence work, where he worked with U.S. and foreign intelligence agencies to further DEA's mission. He also became an experienced trainer by teaching law enforcement courses to the U.S. State Department at the International Law Enforcement Academies.

Tony's experience on Capitol Hill is something that sets him apart from nearly all federal law enforcement agents. He contributed to the development of our nation's drug policy by serving on both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, a rare professional combination for anyone. His law enforcement expertise made him a go-to expert for other staff and members of Congress. The country has been well-served by having a public servant like Tony offering his knowledge and skills for an such extended and valuable time in Congress.

I thank Tony for his service to our country, and I wish him all the best as he transitions into a new, well-deserved, and exciting phase of his life.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
DARIEN, ILLINOIS' 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th birthday of the city of Darien, Illinois.

On December 13th, 1969 the communities of Marion Hills, Brookhaven, Farmingdale and Hinsbrook united to incorporate as the city Darien. Today, Darien is known as "A Nice Place to Live," which perfectly describes this city.

The area was initially inhabited by the Potawatami and Ottawa Native Americans with the surrounding waterways serving as their trade routes. The farming communities of Cass and Lace were established along a stagecoach line in the early 1800s. An inn, tavern and post office served 15 stagecoaches that transited the area. Today, Darien continues to serve as a transportation center with easy access to the commuter train line, as well as Interstates 55, 355 and 294.

The six square mile town is home to approximately 6500 families. Darien is a vibrant, growing community dedicated to its citizens. The Indian Prairie Public Library has grown from a volunteer-operated bookmobile to a state-of-the-art facility that is a center for learning and community activities. The Park District Sportsplex includes three National Hockey League sized ice rinks as well as an

indoor soccer field, enabling children and adults from surrounding areas to hone their athletic skills. Civic pride and a commitment to others is demonstrated by organizations such as the Darien Woman's Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Good Work Sunny Patch Project, VFW, and the Darien Lions Club, which is one of the largest in the state. These groups serve others through food pantries, holiday giving, clothing drives, art and writing events, and scholarships.

It is an honor and privilege to congratulate Darien on its 50 years of growth and accomplishments. I congratulate Mayor Joseph Marchese, the City of Darien's Birthday Committee, and each of its citizens on this wonderful milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, on December 10th, I missed roll call vote 660. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

HONORING THE WILLINGBORO HIGH SCHOOL CHIMERAS FOR WINNING THE NJSIAA REGIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Willingboro High School Chimeras football team, who last week won the NJSIAA Group 1 South Regional Championship.

Led by head coach Steve Everette and a strong roster from starters to reserves, the Chimeras showed outstanding teamwork and perseverance all season. From a dominant offensive line to their lockdown defense, the team's balance and focus helped them bring home the Group 1 South Regional title.

In the final, Willingboro's strong defense, rushing attack and ability to stretch the field helped propel them to a 50-14 victory over Penns Grove. The Chimeras played through pressure in the final to finish the season on a 12-game winning streak, ending the year 12-1.

I'm proud to be able to celebrate the success of some of the talented student-athletes from my district in New Jersey. I want to congratulate Coach Everette and the Willingboro team on their tremendous season, and for bringing the title back to Burlington County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, on December 11, 2019, I was unable to be present to cast

my vote on the Motion to Table the Motion to Reconsider H.R. 729, because I was unaware that an additional vote had been called. Had I been present for roll call No. 671, I would have voted "AYE."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GUADALUPE CENTERS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the victory of the Guadalupe Centers Charter High School Boys soccer team. This victory establishes the team as Missouri's Class 2 Champions—the first championship title in school and program history. The achievement of such a title undoubtedly required strong leadership matched with unparalleled levels of passion and dedication. I am proud to represent the exemplary work of athletes like these in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Not only did they finish this season with a winning 22-2 record, the team—comprised of first or second-generation Americans—demonstrates a uniquely American story of hard work, diversity, sacrifice, and perseverance. Embracing both their differences and their similarities, this united identity gave the team a unique sense of purpose and comradery that eventually led them down the path to victory. For many, the struggles along the path to this achievement were symbolic of the sacrifices many of their parents and loved ones made for them to have this opportunity.

Under the direction of head coach, Ricky Olivares, the Guadalupe Center Aztecs made their first tournament appearance in school history. They eventually reached the state final by beating Southern Boone High School 2-0 with sophomore Luckyboy Tarley scoring both goals in the shutout. On November 23, 2019, Guadalupe Centers High School went head-to-head with St. Louis Priory School. In a tense game, senior leader David Portillo scored three of the four goals, Tarley scoring the other. With the support of freshman goalkeeper Henry Godinez and the rest of the team, the Aztecs pulled off a 4-3 win over the four-time state champions, Priory.

It is my pleasure to congratulate each of the vitally important team members that helped Guadalupe Centers Charter High School claim this title, and I encourage each player to continue challenging themselves to pursue all that they do with the same passion and tenacity displayed in this historic season.

Madam Speaker, please join with Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the victories of the Guadalupe Centers Aztecs, and I encourage my fellow citizens and constituents to unite together under the same spirit of perseverance, collaboration, and hard work that led this remarkable team to their monumental victory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 675 on Motion to table the motion to reconsider H.R. 5038. If present, I would have voted "nay."

MR. HENRY COLE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 19, 2019, Mr. Henry Cole of Washington, D.C. will celebrate his centennial birthday.

Mr. Cole and his nine siblings were born and raised right here in the nation's capital, where he developed a love for his family, his hometown, and his nation. During World War II, Mr. Cole honorably served in the United States Navy and was stationed at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After the war, he returned home to Washington, D.C., where he continued his pursuit of the American Dream. Mr. Cole worked as a machinist at the Washington Navy Yard, opened a family-owned restaurant with his sister, and eventually retired from the United States Postal Service in 1980 after a long, distinguished career in public service.

I believe one of the most moving and inspirational aspects of Mr. Cole's legacy and life is the love affair he shared with Gloria, his beloved wife of 68 years. Together, they raised seven children—Theodore, Shelia, Sylvia, Linda, Rex, Alice and Don. Those seeds planted with love continue to flourish in their 25 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, there is an African proverb that says, "What you help a child to love can be more important than what you help him to learn." Mr. Cole adored his family, his country, and his community; however, he never restricted his devotion and wisdom to his immediate family and maintained an open door and served as a father figure and role model to countless others.

As we strive towards realizing the dream of a nation at peace with itself and her neighbors, Mr. Cole witnessed and was an agent of change. On the behalf of a grateful nation, I thank this beloved patriarch for embodying courage, character, compassion for the last century.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am proud to join the family and all who know and love Mr. Henry Cole in honoring him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING JAMES W. OXFORD,
NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION, FOR HIS
DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James W. "Bill" Oxford, the National Commander of the American Legion, for his service to our nation and his dedication to the American Legion.

Mr. Oxford served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, was discharged as a sergeant in 1970, and later joined the North Carolina National Guard. He ultimately retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Mr. Oxford, a Legionnaire since 1986, was elected National Commander of the American Legion on August 29, 2019, during the American Legion's 101st National Convention.

Orange County is thrilled to welcome Mr. Oxford as he visits our beloved American Legion Post 291, which has been a fixture in the Newport Beach community for nearly 100 years.

I urge all members to join me in recognizing Mr. Oxford for his work on behalf of American veterans and legionnaires across the United States.

HONORING BITTLE PORTERFIELD III

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Bittle Porterfield III, a Roanoke native, businessman, and champion of the area's education and arts, who died on November 29, 2019 at the age of 75. Mr. Porterfield was incredibly involved in the Roanoke community, and his goal was to make the Roanoke Valley and Virginia a better place to live.

Bittle Porterfield III was born on March 9, 1944. He attended Roanoke College for his undergraduate degree. After graduating, Mr. Porterfield served in the United States Army for two years. He then earned a master's in business administration at Virginia Tech. Mr. Porterfield worked in the beverage industry for most of his career, leading two family-run businesses.

In addition to business, Mr. Porterfield had a passion for education. He was the president of the Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, where he oversaw maintenance for three museums, three performing arts centers, and the region's arts council. Mr. Porterfield was also the President of the Taubman Museum of Art.

Mr. Porterfield took any opportunity he saw to benefit the Roanoke Valley. This is evident in his service as Chairman for the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, the Foundation for the Roanoke Valley, and the Roanoke Valley Business Council. Mr. Porterfield was also the President of the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The effort that Mr. Porterfield poured into education was noticed, and he was appointed

to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Additionally, he served on the Radford University Board of Visitors.

Mr. Porterfield also used his passion for aviation at the Virginia Aviation Board, where he was a member. He also served as the Chairman of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission.

The Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia were fortunate to have such a strong proponent and leader of education and business in their community.

Mr. Porterfield's survivors include Charlotte Kelley Porterfield; his sons Bittle Wilson Porterfield IV and wife, Holly, and Forrest Kelley Porterfield and wife, Katie; and grandchildren Bittle Wilson Porterfield V, Jackson Watkins Porterfield, Forrest Shepperson Porterfield, and William Hines Porterfield. I offer my condolences to the Porterfield family on their loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN L. SANETTI'S DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen L. Sanetti for his decades of dedicated service upon his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Steve is a fierce defender and ardent supporter of our constitutional right to keep and bear arms, but is first and foremost an American patriot. A member of Virginia Military Institute's Class of 1971, Steve graduated with honors before earning his Juris Doctor at Washington and Lee University School of Law. While attending VMI, Steve was a member of the Executive Committee, Battalion Operations, president of the Rifle and Pistol Club, and four-year member of the Rifle Team. I venture to say that Steve is a pretty great shot. From 1975 to 1978, Steve proudly wore the uniform of the United States Army in the First Cavalry Division Staff Judge Advocate at Ft. Hood, Texas, attaining the rank of Captain. Steve continues to live by the Army core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage to this day and holds true his oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

Following a two-year stint as Litigation Counsel at Marsh, Day & Calhoun in Connecticut, Steve was hired by Bill Ruger in 1980 as the first general counsel for one of the nation's leading firearm manufacturing companies. For nearly three decades, Steve rose through the ranks to President and has devoted his life to Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. Without question, this prepared him well for taking over the helm as President and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation—the trade association for America's firearms and ammunition industry—and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute. In his nearly 12 years at NSSF, Steve has guided the foundation through times of both turbulence and growth. Under Steve's leadership, NSSF's firearms safety and education program, Project ChildSafe®, has seen tremendous success and new partnerships have been established with the American

Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Department of Veterans Affairs to address suicide and with ATF to prevent firearms from landing in the wrong hands. Because of Steve's unwavering commitment to both developing genuine solutions that make for safer communities and respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens, NSSF continues to be a leading voice in the national conversation to promote firearm safety and responsibility. Steve can certainly take pride in his work at NSSF and in helping to ensure that future generations have opportunities to enjoy the great pastimes of hunting and the shooting sports.

I thank Steve for his service and love of country. As Steve begins the next chapter of his life, spending more time with family—in particular his grandchildren—and growing the next generation of sportsmen, I congratulate him and wish him, his wife Carole, their children and grandchildren all the best.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. DONALD COLE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to express my sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cole on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on December 14, 2019.

Donald Dwight Cole and Edna Earl Mize married on December 14, 1969 at Millport Church of Christ. Their story began when they met in study hall as juniors in high school, where they were the only students in the class. Don grew up Millport, AL, while Edna grew up all over the country as the daughter of a U.S. Air Force veteran until the military brought her to Millport in 1965. It is the classic love story. Don, the football player, and Edna, soon to become Homecoming Queen, fell in love as high school sweethearts and soon found themselves at the University of Alabama.

After college graduation Don was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and Edna began teaching English. Over the next few decades the Air Force would station them in Aurora, CO; Goldsboro, NC; Washington, DC; Uijeongbu, South Korea; Colorado Springs, CO; Nashville, TN; back to Colorado Springs, CO, and then to their last tour back in Bowie, MD.

In their retirement years they continue to serve in their church, Columbus Church of Christ, run the consignment store Cole's Collections, serve on the South Lamar Rescue Squad, Millport Chamber of Commerce and the C3 Northwest Alabama Economic Alliance.

They learned their strong faith, work and personal ethics from parents, which they've also taught by example to their two children, Eric Lee Cole (Kensington, MD) and Emily Cole Monahan (Columbus, MS). They have always stayed close to their roots and family in Lamar County, and remain avid Alabama football fans. Celebrated now by their 2 children (Eric and Emily), 2 grandchildren Thomas Cole Monahan (Columbus, MS) and Ryan Lee Cole (Kensington, MD) . . . theirs is truly a love story of obedience to God, loyalty and perseverance.

Fifty years later their love story, and the Air Force, have taken them all over the world and

included countless adventures and friends, but they will tell you that their faith and their family has been their greatest blessing. Back on November 24, 2019, their children hosted a 50th Wedding Anniversary reception from 2:00 to 4:00 at Columbus Church of Christ in Columbus, Mississippi.

As the Cole's representative to Congress, I send them my best wishes and my prayers that they will have many more happy years together.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHY
COOMER

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cathy Coomer, who will retire on December 31, 2019 after thirty years of dedicated service with the Buncombe County Government.

Ms. Coomer's dedication to serving North Carolina began on January 12, 1990. As Safety Officer, Ms. Coomer is responsible for the safety and well-being of a workforce of 1,500 employees. She has been an integral part of the Buncombe County Emergency Services Operation and earned her certificate as a North Carolina Executive Level Emergency Manager.

Throughout her career, Ms. Coomer has held leadership positions on numerous state and local committees. She served as President for the Western North Carolina Safety and Health School and the Western North Carolina Safety Council. She served as President for the North Carolina Association of Local Government Employee Safety Officials. She was also on the Conference Program Committee with the North Carolina Emergency Management Association.

Ms. Coomer's leadership and dedication to the people in North Carolina was on clear display during her efforts in response to numerous emergency and disaster situations, including the Blizzard of 1993, Hurricane Frances, Hurricane Ivan, Hurricane Irene, and several other various non-declared events.

It is my great pleasure to celebrate Ms. Cathy Coomer before the United States House of Representatives and thank her for diligent

service to her community, the great State of North Carolina, and this country.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, this year marks the centennial anniversary of the Sebastian Inlet District, which not only serves as a premier recreational destination for families to enjoy but plays an important role in our local economy.

Created in May of 1919 by a special act of the Florida State Legislature, the Sebastian Inlet District was originally chartered to maintain the navigational channel between the Atlantic Ocean and our Indian River Lagoon. In the mid 1800's, the first settlers in the town which would become Sebastian, saw the opportunity to create an opening on the barrier island.

By 1905 there had been six attempts to make the official "cut" but it wasn't until Roy O. Couch, now a very prominent name in the district, formed the Sebastian Inlet Association and persevered to get the necessary permits. His efforts came to fruition in 1919 when the official charter was granted and in 1924, when the Sebastian Inlet was officially opened for business.

Today, the Sebastian Inlet continues to attract visitors and locals alike, having become a popular spot for fishing, boating and surfing, all within the scenic backdrop of Florida's scenic East Coast. Water sports enthusiasts and naturalists have enjoyed Sebastian State Inlet Park, now one of the most visited parks in Florida, for its wildlife and natural beauty.

Since its establishment, the Sebastian Inlet has played an important role in promoting economic prosperity for the area, having an annual economic impact of 200 million dollars for the region. The inlet is also responsible for protecting our natural treasures such as our Indian River Lagoon, home to some of the most biodiverse marine life in the country. Some of the vital work the inlet does in partnership with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection includes bypassing sand to

downdrift beaches, erosion control and ensuring public safety.

In celebration of the inlet's centennial, the Sebastian Inlet District has begun to hold a series of educational lectures by marine biologists and environmental scientists. This will give local residents the chance to learn about what their community is doing to preserve our waterways, particularly the inlet and the Indian River Lagoon.

The role that the Sebastian Inlet District employees and volunteers play in preserving this park is vital to our community, and I salute them for their hard work and contributions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the centennial of the Sebastian Inlet District.

HONORING THE SHAWNEE HIGH
SCHOOL RENEGADES FOR WIN-
NING THE SOUTH-CENTRAL JER-
SEY GROUP 4 REGIONAL CHAM-
PIONSHIP

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Shawnee High School Renegades football team, who last week won the South-Central Jersey Group 4 Regional Championship.

Led by head coach Tim Gushue and a strong roster from starters to reserves, the Renegades showed outstanding teamwork and perseverance all season. From a stellar offensive line to their lockdown defense, the team's balance and focus helped them bring home the South Central Group 4 Regional title.

In the final, Shawnee's strong passing game and dominant defense helped stand up the opposing rushing attack and propel them to a shutout 34-0 victory over Hammonton. The Renegades played through pressure in the final to finish the season as South Jersey champs, ending the year at 10-3.

I'm proud to be able to celebrate the success of some of the talented student-athletes from my district in New Jersey. I want to congratulate Coach Gushue and the Shawnee team on their tremendous season, and for bringing the title back to Burlington County.