

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Christopher Columbus High School, which celebrated its first football state championship last week.

This recent victory is the result of the hard work and determination of student-athletes, coaches, parents, and the entire Columbus community. This strong character is what helped the Columbus Explorers pull off a dramatic victory with a two-point conversion in the final seconds of the championship game. This year's state title put Columbus' reputation for resilience and hardwork reputation on full display.

In the state championship game, Columbus was faced with what may have been its biggest challenge all season. With little over four minutes left, the Explorers were down 20–7. In spite of the odds being stacked against them and the early celebrations of opposing team, Columbus came out on top once again.

The Explorers overcame obstacle after obstacle. They scored 14 unanswered points, with the final two points coming with eight seconds left to take the lead and win the championship game.

The state title is reflective of Columbus' success not only as a football team, but also as an institution. For decades, Columbus has produced illustrious alumni who have contributed to our community, our country and the world. This success is only made possible through the school's fighting spirit and integrity, which is exactly what the football team left on the field for all to see.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS AND
STAFF ON THE DEDICATION OF
THE NEW ARMED FORCES SERV-
ICE CENTER AT THE SAINT
PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the dedicated volunteers and staff of the Armed Forces Service Center at the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport as they prepare to dedicate a new, larger location. Since the center was opened nearly 50 years ago, more than one million active-duty military personnel, dependents and retirees have received a warm Minnesota welcome and hospitality from its volunteers.

During the Vietnam War, Naval Petty Officer Scott Purdum wrote letters to his mother suggesting that dedicated space in the airport be provided for service members to rest and help boost their morale. He encouraged his mother Maggie to pursue creation of such a place. Sadly, Petty Officer Purdum was killed in a plane crash at the Da Nang Air Base in March 1970. Channeling her grief into action, Maggie started working with airport authorities to make her son's dream a reality for current and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces. She was

granted 600 square feet in a corner of the main floor of the airport, and on November 22, 1970, just four days before Thanksgiving, the doors to the Servicemen's Center were opened for the first time. Those doors have never closed.

The Armed Forces Service Center continues to serve traveling members of the U.S. Armed Forces, family members and veterans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the full co-operation of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the new space is now located behind security and is double the size of the old center to allow for more bunks, a laundry room, a place to store baggage, and even a children's playroom and a place for nursing mothers. This expansion will allow the Armed Forces Service Center to enhance their mission of "Serving Those Who Serve" as they begin their 50th year of service.

While it is supported by a small staff including Executive Director, Debra Cain, and four part-time employees, the non-profit center is run and staffed by nearly 200 volunteers—many of whom are veterans. One of the volunteers for the very first shift in 1970, Jeanne Morford, continues to serve at the center every Monday evening. Operating independently of any national organization, the center relies solely on donations from the community.

It has been a privilege and honor to support the center for many years as a volunteer and as an auxiliary member of the North Saint Paul VFW Post 1350 American Legion Post 39. I have seen firsthand the impact that center volunteers make providing hospitality to our servicemen and women, veterans and their families.

The success of staff and volunteers has not gone unnoticed. In 2012 the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center was named winner of the Joining Forces Community Challenge and honored at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden as part of their Joining Forces Initiative.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to our U.S. Servicemen and women and the selfless volunteers of the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center as they enter a new era of providing excellent hospitality to U.S. servicemen and women, veterans and families.

HONORING LISA LUCAS-BURKE
FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN
THE COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Lisa Lucas-Burke on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor persons who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Lisa Lucas-Burke's lifetime of public service and commitment to the City of Portsmouth, Virginia, as she gener-

ously serves as the City of Portsmouth Vice-Mayor.

Mrs. Lucas-Burke has been employed with the City of Portsmouth for over thirty years and has broken barriers in becoming the only African American female since 1988 to obtain the position of Computer Programmer Analyst in the City of Portsmouth's Information Technology Department. Mrs. Lucas-Burke continues to serve her community with her family business as Program Director and currently serves as Executive Director and partner with Lucas Lodge entities operating at Lucas Professional Center in Portsmouth.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Steering Committee, and the Portsmouth Democratic Committee demonstrates her heart for service. She put enormous efforts in strengthening ties to the local community with her civic involvement with various organizations. Mrs. Lucas-Burke's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Mrs. Lucas-Burke's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from her presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Thursday, September 26th, due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 549; NAY on Roll Call No. 550; YEA on Roll Call No. 551; NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; YEA on Roll Call No. 554; and NAY on Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING KENDALL W. LANE,
MAYOR OF KEENE, NEW HAMP-
SHIRE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kendall W. Lane for his service as the Mayor of Keene, New Hampshire.

After completing four-terms as the Mayor of Keene, Kendall announced his retirement this year. Kendall has a long history of public service and serving the city of Keene, which is marked by his service on the Keene City Council from 1986 until 1993 and again in 2007 until 2011. As Mayor, Kendall has many significant achievements during his time in office, including the redevelopment of Marlboro Street, renovations to the Keene Public Library, and the completion of the Keene Ice Arena in 2016.

As Mayor, Kendall has made climate change a focal point of the City's efforts, and during his tenure, the Keene Community created a clean energy committee and committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in ten years. Mayor Lane's distinguished