

Selfless, legendary, and valiant are all words that come to mind when thinking about all that this man accomplished in his life.

Colonel Gray is survived by his wife Sue of 72 years, five children, 12 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Colonel John Edward Gray.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE FRIENDSHIP CAFÉ

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Friendship Café, a restaurant created by the nonprofit The Friendship Circle of Fort Lauderdale. This café uplifts adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities by providing them with jobs and employment training in the food service, hospitality and customer service industry.

According to the Department of Labor 80 percent of adults with disabilities do not enter the workforce due to various barriers to employment. The Friendship Café aims to lower that percentage by fulfilling a vital role in Fort Lauderdale as a safe, secure, and educational environment where adults with disabilities can earn a living wage.

The café will serve a Mediterranean inspired menu curated by world renowned Israeli chef Yoram Getter. Bill Fienberg, the President of Allied Kitchen and Bath, donated his firm's labor and materials to build the café, International decorator Perla Lichi of Perla Lichi Designs helped the café complete their image with a French inspired interior design. Due to the leadership at the Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center and their support and partnership with the Friendship Circle adults with disabilities in Fort Lauderdale are now provided with resources to help them succeed in finding employment.

Please join me in congratulating the Friendship Circle and their community partners on the opening of the Friendship Café.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8; YEA on Roll Call No. 9; YEA on Roll Call No. 10; NAY on Roll Call No. 11; YEA on Roll Call No. 12; and NAY on Roll Call No. 13.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KATHRYN LANGE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the exceptional service

of Ms. Kathy Lange, who served as the Congressional Liaison and Patient Advocate at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Kathy began her Federal service career in 1999 with the DEA and has since put in over 21 years of dedicated service. From 2009 to 2015 she served as the Director's secretary at the Richmond VA Medical Center, playing an invaluable role within the support team. She then progressed to become a Congressional Liaison/Patient Advocate in 2015 where she has served until her retirement this year.

Kathy's exceptional service to Virginia veterans is unmatched in her compassion and dedication. In her years as a Congressional Liaison, she assisted the Virginia Congressional Delegation's staff with veteran's casework needs, highlighting her passion to provide excellent service. She often goes above and beyond to ensure the needs of veterans and staff are met. She will certainly be missed in her retirement.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Ms. Lange and congratulating her on a job well done. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES' LESBIAN, GAY, BI- SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER LOCAL OFFICIALS CONSTITUENCY GROUP

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the National League of Cities' (NLC's) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Local Officials (LGBTLO) constituency group for their continuing service furthering the rights of the LGBTQ community. The LGBTLO constituency group advocates for the inclusion and full participation of LGBTQ municipal officials, and supporters, in the National League of Cities.

Established in December 1993 by a group of municipal officials attending the Congress of Cities in Orlando, Florida, LGBTLO became a constituency group of NLC under the leadership of Councilmember Sherry Harris from Seattle, Washington. The members of NLC LGBTLO work to encourage equality, inclusiveness and non-discrimination, and have focused on several issues including: the Census, the HIV/ AIDS pandemic, both as a public health and a health care funding issue; domestic partnership policies and legislation; and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the current LGBTLO leadership: Vice Mayor Tom Green (Wilton Manors, FL), Mayor Jeffrey Slavin (Somerset, MD), Councilmember Victor Aguilar, Jr. (San Leandro, CA), Commissioner Andy Amoroso (Lake Worth, FL), Councilmember Chris Clark (Mountain View, CA), Commissioner Tim Loneragan (Oakland Park, FL), Councilmember Ty Stober (Vancouver, WA) and Councilmember Nancy VanReece (Nashville, TN) for their hard work and dedication to promoting equality for all and ensuring the voice of the LGBTQ community is included in municipal discussions.

HONORING THE USS "PITTSBURGH"

HON. CONOR LAMB

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the USS "Pittsburgh" on its decommissioning on January 17, 2020.

The USS *Pittsburgh*, a *Los Angeles*-class fast-attack submarine, was launched on December 8, 1984 and commissioned on November 23, 1985. This submarine is the fourth ship to receive the name USS *Pittsburgh* and has long had a special relationship with the city through the Navy League Pittsburgh Council, the Submarine Veterans Association of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Relief Crew.

The USS *Pittsburgh* conducted submarine-launched Tomahawk missile attacks during both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and completed many other missions vital to national security. In November 2017, the USS *Pittsburgh* completed its 1,000th dive, an achievement few boats carry.

The USS *Pittsburgh* carries the fitting motto "Heart of Steel", which reminds me of the determination and passion of all Pittsburghers. Please join me in honoring the USS *Pittsburgh* for its nearly 35 years of service protecting U.S. interests around the world and all the remarkable crewmembers who have served aboard it during that time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WEIGH HABITATS OFFSETTING LOCA- TIONAL EFFECTS ACT OF 2020

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Weigh Habitats Offsetting Locational Effects Act of 2020, or the WHOLE Act. As Central Washingtonians know all-too-well, Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing and delisting decisions have huge, lasting impacts on local communities and environments. The ESA was signed into law to protect and revitalize species of endangered or threatened animals and wildlife, but as time passes, this law, which has not been updated since 1973, has had increased negative effects on local communities—where the true impacts of species recovery unfold.

Unfortunately, the law has been used as a political spearhead for frivolous litigation that can negatively affect private property rights, public land use decisions, and American jobs. And like many other regulations coming out of the nation's capital, relying on top-down decisions from bureaucrats only limits economic prosperity, local conservation efforts, and the celebration of recovered species.

Under current law, only conservation efforts taking place within the critical habitats of endangered or threatened species are considered during environmental reviews or impact studies of federal actions. But we know that habitats and ecosystems expand beyond arbitrary government-drawn lines.

My legislation would ensure that all conservation measures are considered when federal decisions that impact ESA-listed species