

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Anna Frushour. Her appointment to the bench is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and commitment to the law. I am grateful for her service and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE REGIONAL PARKS
FOUNDATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Regional Parks Foundation on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Since its establishment in 1969, the Regional Parks Foundation has supported the East Bay Regional Park District and its community. The Foundation serves the vibrant and diverse communities of Northern California's East Bay area, including parts of California's Fifth Congressional District. The Regional Parks Foundation is deeply committed to making parks available and accessible to everyone in our community.

The Regional Parks Foundation works to support universal access to parks, promote environmental stewardship, organize and fund educational and recreational programs and acquire parklands. The foundation provides community education around important legislative initiatives that preserve open space, protect our natural resources, and promotes park access for under-served populations.

The Foundation has been instrumental in the environmental education and enjoyment of citizens of all ages and abilities. The Regional Parks Foundation has sent over 10,000 young people to environmental education programs and has funded thousands of other opportunities for seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities. The Foundation has fundraised nearly \$50 million to support our communities and parks. These funds enable the foundation to provide swim lessons, loan out safety gear, organize community tree planting, shoreline clean-ups and other environmental restoration projects.

Madam Speaker, the Regional Parks Foundation has been instrumental in supporting the betterment and longevity of our open spaces. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the foundation on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

CONGRATULATING J. THOMAS
MAY ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR SERVICE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate J. Thomas May for re-

ceiving the University of Arkansas System President's Medal for Service.

This award is given by the school's president and cabinet to recognize those who have "demonstrated a distinguished and sustained commitment to helping the UA System carry out its mission to the state through their time, knowledge, and philanthropy."

Mr. May has long been a resident of the Fourth Congressional district and was previously the president and CEO of Simmons Bank. May is also the only person in Arkansas history to have served as both Chairman of the Board and Acting President of the University of Arkansas System. His contributions to the University of Arkansas for Medical Science and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have led to growth, development and successes at both institutions.

His life is an example of servant leadership and one of what wise stewardship and grace can accomplish in the lives of others. I and the rest of the Fourth District of Arkansas are proud to call Mr. May one of our own. I take this time to congratulate him once again on this tremendous honor and to thank him for his service to our district and our state.

CHIEF DAN BRENNAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud retired Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dan Brennan on being awarded the West Metro Chamber of Commerce Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

Throughout his career, Chief Brennan left his mark on Jefferson County—from the Lakewood Police Department, to helping create Jeffcom 911 and a regional SWAT Team, to a community approach to policing that addresses the causes of crime, not just the crime.

Brennan began his 42 years in law enforcement with the Lakewood Police Department rising through the ranks from Police Agent to Commander. During his career at Lakewood Police Department, he worked in multiple positions where his leadership and dedication to the community became apparent.

After being appointed Chief of the Wheat Ridge Police Department in 2005, along with other department employees, Brennan developed a new mission statement for the department: Exceptional people providing exceptional service. They also established a core set of values, with integrity at the core—which became Chief Brennan's mantra for the next 14+ years.

At the Wheat Ridge Police Department, he led the charge for a community policing approach to responding to crime, traffic, and quality of life issues in the community while ensuring all officers and supervisors received CIT mental health training and engaging the community and stakeholder groups to listen to community concerns and feedback. During that time, he served on various local, state

and national boards and committees, including as the President of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police. Throughout his esteemed career, he was awarded numerous awards and recognitions and was known for always trying to do the right thing for the right reasons.

Chief Brennan's leadership, compassion, is collaboration, and integrity left a positive mark on our community for years to come. I extend my deepest congratulations to Chief Dan Brennan for this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his countless contributions to our community.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY
FIREFIGHTER HOLIDAY DINNER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sonoma Valley Firefighter Holiday Dinner and recognize the outstanding efforts of firefighters throughout Sonoma Valley.

At the time, the 2017 North Bay Wildfires were the most devastating in our state's history. We saw firsthand, that wildfires do not respect district or regional boundaries. In response, firefighters from near and far came together to protect our community. Firefighters from all over the valley fought shoulder to shoulder to save lives and property, risking their own lives along the way. Our entire community, both firefighters and civilians alike, left with a renewed sense of comradery and partnership that continues to permeate the area today.

Following this extraordinary united effort, the Glen Ellen Volunteer Firefighter Association extended their annual holiday celebration to their teammates, past and present, from the entire Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority, as well as the Kenwood and Mayacamas volunteer stations. The holiday dinner honors the incredible sacrifices made by the entire fire community and is a joy to all who participate.

The dinner brings together all current volunteer and career firefighters, department board members, retired chiefs, battalion chiefs, and their spouses. Meals are prepared and delivered to the on-duty firefighters staffing their stations. It is a time to honor past leadership, reflect on the year's successes, and support the Explorer program to help develop future staff. Additionally, there is an opportunity to recognize spouses, widows, and families, as it takes an entire village to support those on the front line.

Madam Speaker, the Sonoma Valley fire agencies are always ready to help and protect our community. Their unparalleled commitment to protecting Sonoma Valley makes them a model for the region. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.