

RECOGNITION OF EMILIE MA, PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS HONOREE

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Emilie Ma, a young student from my district who has been named an honoree in Arizona by the 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. She was recognized for volunteering her time to help families struggling with poverty.

Ms. Ma assists with charitable efforts for low-income families at the Native Health Center. She donates her time to a club she founded at her school named the Modern Health Organization which provides services to patients with mental and physical needs. Ms. Ma has been an example to her peers, inspiring them to care for others and their communities.

We must encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions young citizens like Ms. Ma make in the lives of others. We all need more empathy. Everyone can work together to help the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers, like Ms. Ma, are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GPGCLCC). As one of the longest-standing LGBT agencies in our state, GPGCLCC has promoted an inclusive business environment by empowering and supporting LGBT and LGBT-allied businesses in Phoenix.

The GPGCLCC is the oldest non-profit LGBT chamber of commerce in the United States and has been recognized as one of the strongest and fastest growing in the nation. By expanding opportunities for its over 2,000 members and supporting Phoenix charitable organizations, the chamber has fostered economic justice within the LGBT community and a spirit of giving in the city's private sector. In addition to monthly professional development and networking events, the GPGCLCC encourages community engagement through events like "LGBT Night Out at the Ballet" and their Small Business Saturday Block Party. They have cultivated a well-rounded outlook in which businesses are not only economically beneficial to their community; they contribute to the culture and environment of their area as well.

As the organization celebrates its fortieth anniversary, I wish to congratulate the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce on all of its achievements and thank them for their service to our city.

RECOGNIZING LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to take this moment to recognize Lithuanian Independence Day. The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, will be commemorating this special occasion with a celebratory event on Sunday, February 16, 2020, at the Chesterton Moose Lodge 1623 in Chesterton, Indiana.

On February 16, 1918, an Act of Independence was signed by the Council of Lithuania, which gave the country its independence from Germany. This day is proudly celebrated as State Independence Day. Lithuania maintained its independence until 1940 when it was annexed by Russia. The country remained under Soviet rule for almost fifty years before regaining its freedom in 1990. Independence Restoration Day is celebrated on March 11 each year in honor of Lithuania's reestablished independence. Lithuanians in Northwest Indiana and all over the world celebrate these days of independence with great enthusiasm and pride.

The members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, are to be honored, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their dedication to civic, cultural, educational, and social programs. For their significant contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, the members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, are worthy of the highest praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day and honoring the members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, for their loyalty and dedication to their culture and traditions. The Lithuanian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and diversity of Northwest Indiana, and we are truly grateful for the organization's service to Northwest Indiana and beyond.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS A. BUSSIÈRE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to express my gratitude to Lieutenant General Thomas A. Bussiere for his years of dedicated service to the United States of America, the Air Force, and the great state of Alaska.

As Commander of Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, Alaskan Command, and Eleventh Air Force, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, he is responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan joint operations area, operations to defend North American air sov-

ereignty from foreign military aviation incursions, and the planning and execution of all homeland defense operations within the area of responsibility.

In 1935 Brigadier General Billy Mitchell stated, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world." Since taking command in August 2018, General Bussiere has expanded upon General Mitchell's sentiment and has become a tireless advocate for Alaska and Arctic readiness. So much so that he is the first Alaskan Command Commander to be designated as the USNORTHCOM Lead for Arctic Affairs.

Since graduating from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Norwich University in 1985, General Bussiere has exemplified what it means to be an American Airman. However, he is more than the stars on his shoulders and the wings and ribbons on his chest that illustrate his military career. General Bussiere has also endeared himself to Alaska's communities. Additionally, he has continued to work with and advocate for Alaska Natives. In a show of respect, three Native communities bestowed Native names upon him; giving him the Inupiat name of Alongnonnuq, the Yup'ik name Evuneq, and the Tlingit name Litseenikaa.

On January 13, 2020, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper announced that the President nominated General Bussiere for assignment as Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command. While I am saddened to see him leave Alaska, I am proud that he will continue serving as a sentinel for our Nation.

STANDING UP FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, the President's budget, released yesterday, proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. I'll never stand for that. We have to make sure that we're protecting our seniors. We can't go back to a time when our seniors were living in poverty. We also have to make sure that we protect folks with disabilities.

I have authored a number of pieces of legislation that would reduce out-of-pocket costs and the price of prescription drugs. We can't support this budget, and I'll keep fighting to make sure that health care is affordable and that we take care of this nation's seniors.

HONORING MR. JAMIE WILLIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great Texan and United States Army veteran, Jamie Willis of Copperas Cove, Texas.

Since 2016, Jamie has run Canes for Veterans Central Texas, an organization that creates free walking sticks for veterans in need.