

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO
MARK PETTITT FOR HIS SERVICE
TO AMERICA

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, after ably and honorably serving as my chief of staff for more than 9 years, Mark Pettitt will retire in June. Mark has provided exceptional leadership, and I've greatly benefited from having him as my chief advisor. I will miss his sound and candid guidance.

When asked how he came to be my chief of staff, Mark will often reply, "I complained about politics too many times to an old friend." That is only partly true. Really, it was Mark's deeply ingrained sense of patriotism that led him to Capitol Hill.

Mark's tenure as chief of staff caps an already exemplary career as a successful private sector engineer. For Mark, there are few more patriotic acts than simply working hard and contributing each day to America's economic and industrial prowess.

Mark worked hard throughout his career. He earned both his masters and undergraduate degrees in engineering from Brigham Young University. He served as an R&D Engineer and Project Manager at Wylie Laboratories in Huntsville, Alabama from 1978 to 1989. While at Wylie, Mark earned his Professional Engineer license. He went on to work as an Executive Consultant and Product Manager for Intergraph Corporation from 1989 to 2010. As an aside, Mark is a 10th degree Jiu Jitsu black belt.

Given his private sector background, Mark offers a unique perspective on federal policy issues. Always one to put America first, Mark has been particularly active in addressing America's trade imbalances and has long advocated for trade policies that benefit American workers.

As Mark's career concludes, I cannot thank him enough for the value he provided me, the Tennessee Valley, and America. I wish Mark joy and contentment as he embarks on this next phase of life. He is looking forward to enjoying well-deserved time with his wife, Diane, five children—John, Jared, Ben, Nichole, and Joseph—and 12 grandchildren. Mark has earned every bit of that family time.

America is a stronger, more prosperous nation thanks to Mark's exemplary career.

HONORING SWEET MAGNOLIAS
DELI AND GRILLE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the Wuhan Virus pan-

demia it is so inspiring to learn of citizens volunteering to assist persons in need. A classic example is Aimee Crosby of Pelion, South Carolina, who was highlighted in the article, "How sweet it is" by Kay Collins on April 23rd in *The Lexington Chronicle*:

A special recognition to Sweet Magnolias Deli Grille for partnering with the Pelion Senior Center to aid their Meals On Wheels. Owner Aimee Crosby advised WLTX that they have been able to keep all of their employees on the payroll. Because the community has been supportive, they wanted to pay it forward.

Sweet Magnolias joined Meals On Wheels to provide homebound seniors additional meals to have enough food to last all week. The meals include one meat and three sides, a roll and dessert. Each plate has enough food for 2 meals. The community has donated \$600 and aims to raise \$5,000 for 20 weeks of meals.

The restaurant has started a GoFundMe page to help raise money. To donate please visit Sweet Magnolia's Facebook page or GoFundMe.com "Bridging the Gap—Pelion." Call Aimee Crosby during normal business hours for details.

Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission, Council of Aging thanks Sweet Magnolias who generously donated their time and resources to make sure 25 homebound seniors are not forgotten. Their Eastern dinners were delivered by Laura Dowey, Pelion's Senior Center Director, and her daughter.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2020

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week. Taking place during the week of May 10 through 16, 2020, National Police Week highlights our brave men and women in uniform for all their hard work keeping their communities safe. In the Fourth District of Colorado we are lucky to have many exemplary law enforcement officers serving the public every day. These dedicated individuals risk their lives to protect others and are deserving of our deepest gratitude, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to celebrate the many law enforcement officers in Colorado.

I also rise to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by several police officers while serving in Colorado's 4th district. Corporal Daniel H. Groves of the Colorado State Patrol was killed in a vehicle accident during a blizzard on March 13, 2019. He was assisting a motorist who had skidded off the road when another vehicle lost control and struck him. Master Trooper William James Moden, also of the Colorado State Patrol, was killed while assisting at the scene of a previous accident on June 14, 2019. He was also tragically struck by a passing vehicle. These brave men, both of whom had twelve years of dedicated serv-

ice to the Colorado State Patrol, died serving their communities and it is an honor to recognize them for their sacrifice.

HONORING CHING KA LAU AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ching Ka Lau, a native of Hong Kong, has been a resident of Orlando since 1999. In 2005, Mr. Lau and his wife, Shally Wong, first published *Asia Trend Magazine*, which has become a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of strengthening understanding and communication for the local Asian American community.

Over many years, Mr. Lau has worked tirelessly together with local volunteers and community leaders to organize enriching cultural events in Central Florida, including the very first annual Dragon Parade in Orlando's Mills 50 District during the Lunar New Year, the Asian Cultural Festival during May, and the Asian Cultural EXPO in October. These cultural events have helped bridge together thousands of members of the community in sharing the culture of Asia with local Central Florida residents, particularly the youth, and helping to foster pride, inclusion, and diversity. For his work with Asia Trend, Mr. Lau received the Ellison S. Onizuka Humanitarian Award at the 2010 Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida Golden Dragons Awards. Mr. Lau and Asia Trend work together with many groups of amazing and passionate volunteers who come together to educate, connect and engage the community in discussions about Asia's history, arts, and cultures.

Ching Ka Lau is also one of the founders of CHARGE Dragon Boat Team, the first Asian American team to promote the ancient Chinese sport of dragon boating in the community for team building, unity, and a healthy lifestyle.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 102ND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 102nd Anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan gained independence from the Russian Empire and became the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks invaded Azerbaijan in

• 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.

1920 and incorporated it into the Soviet Union a few years later. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Azerbaijan declared independence and was quickly recognized by the United States.

After restoring diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Azerbaijan began a partnership that has continued to this day. Azerbaijanis have fought alongside American troops in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and their country was among the first to express support for the United States after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Azerbaijan has also fostered close ties with American allies such as Israel, providing approximately 40 percent of the oil Israel consumes and partnering on economic and national security issues. Through its leadership in the Southern Gas Corridor initiative, Azerbaijan plays an important role in diversifying energy routes to maintain the energy security of key U.S. allies in Europe. As a pluralistic and secular Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan is also home to thriving Jewish and Christian communities. This religious tolerance has been recognized by the European Parliament.

I extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis on this momentous occasion and look forward to continued partnership between our two nations.

JERRY FALWELL JR., CORRECT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, despite fake news reports during the Wuhan Virus pandemic from the New York Times and the Washington Post parroted by other biased media, President Jerry Falwell, Jr., of Liberty University has been praised May 19th by William McGurn in The Wall Street Journal:

How it must hurt to have to admit: Jerry Falwell Jr. was right.

No doubt this explains why we're not reading stories about how the president of Liberty University kept his Lynchburg, Va., campus open while keeping his community safe from Covid-19. The doomsday predicted when Mr. Falwell announced Liberty students would return after spring break never came to pass.

As the Times reported nearly a dozen Liberty students had come down "with symptoms that suggested Covid-19," a fact endlessly repeated in other news outlets. A snarky Financial Times op-ed citing "Falwell's hubris" dropped the qualifiers and asserted "twelve students promptly came down with coronavirus," which was corrected about a week later.

In a part of his early statements on Liberty's reopening that received almost no attention, Mr. Falwell said in its handling of coronavirus Liberty would prove a "model" for others. Would it kill the critics so quickly to paint Mr. Falwell as the Grim Reaper to acknowledge, if only in the name of science, Liberty's experience might have something to teach them.

RECOGNIZING MISS CLEO STEELE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special lady, Miss Cleo Steele, founder and President of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club and also a very dear friend.

Cleo's dedication and invaluable service to her community and the Horry County Republican Party is unparalleled. During her three decades in South Carolina, she has worn many hats and been a master at each. She is a true leader who has been successful in everything she has tackled. Cleo's energy and tenacity are the envy of those a third the age. She never hesitates to tell you what she thinks, and I have learned you best listen. Her willingness to volunteer and help in any way possible epitomizes what it means to be a selfless servant. She is an inspiration to all that know her and all that know her are better for it.

She has served as the Vice President of the Horry County Republican Party, two terms on the South Carolina GOP Executive Committee, and the secretary for my district. Cleo has been a county, state, and national alternate delegate to the Republican Party Convention. In all roles, she has demonstrated passion for the party's conservative platform and enthusiasm.

Her presence and leadership in Horry County are irreplaceable. Cleo has been instrumental to the successes of the Republican Party in Horry County and throughout South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Cleo Steele. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the Nation.

HONORING AMISH PARIKH, M.D. AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Amish M. Parikh, M.D. is a Central Florida native and University of Miami alumni. Dr. Parikh attended medical school at the University of South Florida, completing his residency at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital and his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Florida—Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. He currently practices cardiology at Premier Cardiology in Maitland, Florida.

In addition to being a talented physician, inspired entrepreneur, and a devoted husband and father, Dr. Parikh considers meaningful and consistent service to his community a vital responsibility. Dr. Parikh is President of Premier Cardiology and serves on the Board for the Orange County Medical Society. His long-term leadership involvement with both CAPI (Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent) and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

was taken to a new level when he served as the Convention Chair for the 33rd AAPI Convention and Scientific Assembly held in Orlando in June 2015. Dr. Parikh prides himself on taking a hands-on approach to positively impacting healthcare and education for children, both as a board member for A Gift for Teaching and as part of community outreach initiatives addressing childhood obesity and healthy eating programs. He is also a devoted cultural leader to the Indian-American community, serving each year as the chair of the official India Day Celebration in Downtown Orlando, which was recognized by the NBA as the "Best Heritage Night in the NBA."

In recognition of his ongoing enthusiasm to support arts and culture in Orlando, Dr. Parikh and his wife Beena have recently been added to the "Donor Wall" at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Blending his skills in healthcare with his passion for his community and family, Dr. Parikh is honored to serve and support the Central Florida Community through the Parikh Family Fund.

IN HONOR OF HELEN HORLACHER EVANS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horlacher Evans. Mrs. Evans was born in Fortville, Indiana on June 11, 1920 and will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Evans graduated from the University of Kentucky and began teaching home economics at Versailles High School. After conversations with fellow teachers about the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she joined the Army on a dare in 1942. She was in the first group of Kentucky women accepted for the WAC and at 21 years of age she was one of the youngest. She was accepted for the Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Evans was trained in army food service and served as the Office of the Quartermaster General inspector for stateside WAC mess halls. In early 1945 she was assigned to the European Theatre of Operations with the Office of the Quartermaster General outside Paris, France. At the end of the war she was working along the banks of the Rhine feeding German prisoners of war. Mrs. Evans earned the rank of Captain. Her experience as a WAC is documented as part of the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress.

Upon returning to civilian life, Mrs. Evans began work at the Veterans Administration in Louisville, KY, where she served as a senior training officer until 1951. She has served as a volunteer on many projects related to veterans, including serving as Kentucky's representative on the committee to establish the National Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She received the Spirit of Kentucky Award for Patriotism from the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2018, she was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her 100th birthday, and thank her for her service and sacrifice to our nation

during World War II. As a part of “The Greatest Generation”, Mrs. Evans was an important part of the war effort to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful for Americans like Helen Horlacher Evans. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I yield back the remaining balance of my time.

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT
TSAI ING-WEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan for beginning a second term with a positive message of confidence for the future. It is with the affirmation of democracy by President Donald Trump who has provided advanced weapons to Taiwan to maintain Peace Through Strength.

Taiwan along with Hong Kong are models of how people of Chinese heritage can best achieve economic prosperity through democratic free market capitalism.

The Wall Street Journal published on May 21st an article by Chun Han Wong entitled Taiwan President Holds Firm on China.

“Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen kicked off her second term by doubling down on her strategy for boosting the island democracy’s ability to resist coercion from China, pledging to further revamp the economy, strengthen the military and deepen ties with friendly countries.

In her inaugural address on Wednesday, Ms. Tsai reiterated Taiwan’s rejection of China’s efforts to assimilate the island, which Beijing claims as its territory. But she offered to work with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to stabilize relations in ways that respect Taiwan’s democracy and sovereignty—conditions that China has previously rejected.

“Both sides have a duty to find a way to coexist over the long term and prevent the intensification of antagonism and differences,” Ms. Tsai said.

Ms. Tsai won the re-election by a landslide in January on a pitch to defend Taiwan’s democracy by enlarging the island’s international presence and reducing its economic dependence on mainland China, its biggest trading partner.

Taiwan’s standout success in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic has bolstered the profile of the island of nearly 24 million people, a boon for Ms. Tsai’s agenda. Taiwanese authorities had reported 440 coronavirus infections and seven deaths as of Wednesday.”

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Each May, Americans commemorate two historic anniversaries: the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the

transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. First proposed as a ten-day celebration in 1977, this month celebrates the heritage of Americans who come from Asian and Pacific Island countries and territories. Since the first Asian and Pacific Islanders made the journey to America in 1843, they have enriched the fabric of this great nation with their own unique contributions. I am honored today to tell the stories of two Asian Pacific Americans who live and work in Georgia’s Sixth Congressional District.

Asian Pacific Americans represent a diversity of cultures, experiences, and countries. Throughout American history, these men and women have contributed to the growth and progress of the nation. The story of Asian Pacific Americans has not been without pain, however. During the construction of the transcontinental railroad, thousands of Chinese immigrants worked under dangerous conditions, endured abusive labor practices, and received unfair compensation. During World War II, people of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, imprisoned, and held in desolate places without trial. Even today, Asian Pacific Americans endure hate and discrimination simply due to their heritage. Asian-owned businesses have suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic due to intolerance and xenophobia. As Americans, we must reject and condemn such discrimination and embrace the many differences that make this community a hub of culture and diversity.

Today, I am proud to celebrate a community of Asian Pacific Americans that make up part of the incredibly rich and diverse heritage of Georgia’s Sixth Congressional District. It is my honor to recognize two members of this community in particular: Victoria Huynh and Ching Hsia.

Victoria Huynh is the Vice President of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS), headquartered in Georgia’s Sixth District. Victoria’s upbringing in a Vietnamese refugee household fuels her passion for community building, strategic planning, and policy work with immigrants and refugees in Georgia. She serves as the Advisor of the CPACS’ Advocacy Department and co-chairs the Asian American and Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee, which is working to ensure a complete count for Georgia’s Asian Pacific American population in the 2020 Census. Not only does Victoria serve on my Sixth District Complete Count Committee, but she also helped organize one of the largest “Get Out the Count” Census events in the entire state.

Ching Hsia is the Assistant Principal for the Chinese Cultural School and Vice President of the Chinese Community Federation of Atlanta. She immigrated to the United States with her parents and siblings when she was just 8 years old. As the youngest child among four siblings, she watched her parents struggle to provide for her family due to language barriers and limited employment opportunities. The feeling of making her parents proud was what kept her going through difficult times. When Ching was in middle school, her parents bought a restaurant on Buford Highway, which is also located in the Sixth District. As the only member of her family that spoke English, she interpreted mail, bills, and other documents for the family business. She went on to attend Georgia State University and majored in Spanish with a concentration in International Business. After college, she used her expertise to

help her own family business as well as many other immigrant-owned businesses along the Buford Highway corridor.

Victoria and Ching’s remarkable stories are just two of the many rich narratives that make up the vibrant Asian Pacific American community in Georgia. I am deeply grateful for the services that Victoria and Ching provide to residents across the state, and it is my honor to highlight them both during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During this month and always, I am proud to celebrate the impact of Asian Pacific Americans here in Georgia and across the country.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW MARTIN
AS CONSTITUENT OF THE
MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Matthew Martin, a local Army veteran and trauma surgeon at Scripps Mercy Hospital, as my Constituent of the Month for May. The novel coronavirus has swept through our country, leaving devastation in its path and particularly hitting the residents of New York City. When a colleague reached out asking for more hands on deck at the Jacobi Medical Center in New York City, Dr. Martin did not hesitate to volunteer.

After five deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, Dr. Martin certainly recognizes the call to serve. Upon arriving to the front lines of America’s coronavirus epicenter, the former Army doctor saw a New York City hospital that was overwhelmed and overrun. Every day, Dr. Martin and his new team risked their own health to treat others, even as the virus claimed the lives of fellow healthcare workers.

Despite the hardship he confronted daily, Dr. Martin found inspiration in the resolve and resilience of his new colleagues and did not lose sight of the battle. Since returning to San Diego, Dr. Martin brought back with him the determination he saw in his New York colleagues and a goal to ensure our community never experiences the level of devastation he found during his time at the Jacobi Medical Center.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. As our nation faces this unprecedented health crisis, there are countless first responders and essential workers in California’s 49th district who deserve our gratitude and recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Dr. Martin as well as the courageous team at the Jacobi Medical Team, whose selflessness to join the fight in saving lives is inspiring. I am honored to recognize Dr. Matthew Martin as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank him not only for his service to our country, but also for joining the fight to combat this global pandemic.

HONORING DR. MEHR RAHMATULLAH AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, born in East Pakistan, Dr. Mehr Rahmatullah grew up on a farmhouse surrounded by coconut trees, cattle, goats and poultry. Growing up, she watched her mother volunteer much of her time to those in need and became inspired to seek a profession in which she could do the same.

While studying medicine at Dow Medical University in Karachi, she donated blood frequently to the patients who could not afford care. She also worked to transport patients from her village to the University Hospital in order to be treated by her professors during her clinical rotations. As a Medical Officer, she volunteered treatment to impoverished patients with T.B. using her own meager salary and enforced a practice of supervising patients receiving their medication to ensure that they took it. Although she didn't know at the time, this method was actually the now-famous Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) practice, which was made the standard practice for T.B. treatment by the World Health Organization. She moved to America right after getting married in 1988, and soon thereafter prepared for the United States Medical Licensing Exam.

After passing, she completed her first-year residency training at St. John's Mercy in St. Louis, an affiliate of St. Louis University. In her second and third year of residency, she moved to serve in Internal Medicine at Orlando Health in Orlando, Florida. After almost 25 years into practice and having received certification as a Diplomate from the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Rahmatullah continues to practice as well as volunteer her time at Shepard's Hope Clinic for economically disadvantaged patients and serves as an Honorary Member of a local School Board at MAGO (Muslim Academy of Greater Orlando). She has also served as Chairman of the Credentials Committee at Osceola Regional Hospital in Kissimmee, Florida.

CONGRATULATING REAR ADMIRAL DAVID HAHN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to RADM David Hahn, U.S. Navy, as he completes a 35-year naval career and retires from serving as the Chief of Naval Research.

RADM Hahn was responsible for the operations of the Naval Research Enterprise, which comprises more than 4,000 people in 23 locations and more than 1,000 partners. Over the course of his career, RADM Hahn excelled in all facets of being a Naval Officer. He served as the commanding officer of the USS *Pittsburgh* and served at sea aboard the

USS *Casimir Pulaski*, USS *William H. Bates*, and USS *Springfield*. Ashore, he served as flag lieutenant to Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy; squadron engineer, Submarine Development Squadron 12; action officer, Joint Staff in the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) Directorate; and as a legislative fellow on the staff of U.S. Senator John Warner.

His vision to create a truly unified Naval Research Enterprise helped align, allocate, and accelerate the advancement of knowledge and improve the delivery of new capabilities to Sailors and Marines. His vision of a dominant fighting force now and in the future served as an inspiration to the thousands of members of the Naval Research Enterprise who directly support the warfighter. Reminding all stakeholders that the Naval Research Enterprise mission is "Future Naval Power," RADM Hahn reinvigorated the structure of the Office of Naval Research and brought a cohesive vision with three key messages:

Invest in the right scientists to ensure the Navy and Marine Corps are always linked to scientific discovery.

Provide a steady infusion of relevant technology into existing programs of record, and Disrupt an adversary's calculus through innovative capabilities.

Among his many achievements, Rear Adm. Hahn revamped the Future Naval Capabilities and Innovative Prototypes processes to more effectively and more quickly field new capabilities. Through these efforts, Rear Adm. Hahn successfully deployed 20 Future Naval Capabilities and one Innovative Naval Prototype to the Navy and Marine Corps, including the Navy's first directed energy weapon system onboard the USS *Portland* (LPD-27).

His selfless commitment to serving our nation has left us safer and better prepared to respond to threats around the world. We wish him the very best in retirement after an impressive and impactful career. Fair winds and following seas, Admiral Hahn.

FUELING FEARS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, an extraordinary insight has been provided by one of South Carolina's most respected business leaders, Peter Brown in The State of Columbia on May 21st. His message is valuable to all Americans as we work together to defeat Wuhan Virus.

FUELING FEAR ABOUT COVID-19 WILL HINDER SC DURING REOPENING

Back in March our concerns about COVID-19 were driven by fears of worst-case scenarios: massive infection statistics, high mortality rates, overwhelmed hospital systems and extreme mortality rates.

Prevention was the goal—and the efforts launched sought to flatten the curve of infections and deaths while reducing the overall strain on the health care system.

CLEAR RESULTS

And here are the results we've seen: Expected infection rates, but lower than expected levels of hospitalization.

Lower than expected mortality rates with most fatalities occurring among the popu-

lations predicted to be hardest hit: the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.

Success in employing personal safety precautions like social distancing and wearing face masks.

But some things haven't worked.

Hospitals and associated medical practices suffered dramatic reductions in patients and business. Why? Because they had to cancel all elective surgeries rather than simply staggering them. Meanwhile, "stay at home" orders by state and local governments ended up sidelining tens of thousands of people, forcing them to file for unemployment benefits while also crippling the economy.

INACCURATE PREDICTIONS

And through all of this, what we have learned is that the virus may be less deadly than originally thought.

The reality is that predictions of potentially millions of deaths from COVID-19 have simply been inaccurate—and that high-population hotspots like New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts make up nearly half of all the nationwide cases and deaths.

In South Carolina the number of new infections remains manageable, and the percentage of new cases versus total cases continues to decline even as our testing efforts increase.

But that's not what is being reported by media outlets, which are desperate for clicks and viewers. Every new case of COVID-19 is treated as breaking news, and anchors broadcasting from home is a gimmick that does more harm than good.

SELLING FEAR

This can't be the model going forward.

We have to coexist with COVID-19, and that means putting into place realistic, sustainable measures that recognize that until the virus is cured, life for those who are most at risk will dramatically change. The fears of a second wave of COVID-19 are driven by fear rather than data, and they do not help us create a sustainable way to coexist with the coronavirus. We need to have a realistic way to address how to protect those most at risk, as well as giving them the tools for coping with a "new normal"—a reality that the rest of society has already started to acknowledge by acting responsibly to keep infection rates low. Simply put the media are selling fear. But the rest of us must go on with our lives. The rest of us must coexist with this virus.

LET'S REOPEN

So it is time to let individuals—who care about the people in their families more than any government ever will—lead the way through cautious responsibility.

And it is time to let businesses reopen with the same degrees of responsible caution so that people can earn livelihoods and provide futures for their families.

We should continue to proceed with caution.

We should continue to practice social distancing.

We should continue to wear face masks.

We should be willing to stay at home if we are not comfortable with the pace of reopening our state.

But we should reopen united as one.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD WHITE, SR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Floyd White, Sr., who

passed away on April 1, 2020 at the age of 90. He was a well-known advocate in the Fresno, California community and a role model for many in the Central Valley. A true trailblazer, Floyd and his brother James were the first African American fire fighters in the City of Fresno.

Floyd White, Sr. was born in Oklahoma; he and his family moved to Fresno, California when he was young. He excelled in sports and academics at Edison High School and Fresno City College, playing football and running track and field. Floyd was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War and earning the rank of Sergeant.

On September 1, 1954, Floyd White, Sr. and brother, James White made history as the first African American firefighters in the City of Fresno. Floyd would make history as Fresno's very first African American Fire Chief. Throughout his career, he fought for equal rights, higher education, and fair employment for all. Floyd won a historic lawsuit against the City of Fresno for racial discrimination alongside Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, then Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. During his time in the force, he was mentor to young African American fire fighters and made sure they had an ally to turn to. He truly had a passion for standing up for what is right and helping others during times of need.

Floyd dedicated much of his time to the community he loved dearly. He was an honorary Deacon of Saint Rest Baptist Church and was past Commander of the American Legion Post 511. Floyd was a lifetime member of The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and an Eternal member with Highest Honors of the 33rd Degree Free Masons Raisin City Lodge Number Five. Following his retirement from the Fresno Fire Department, Floyd was sure to stay busy. He became a business owner, worked as a corrections officer, substitute teacher and bus driver.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Whelma Jean White; sons Floyd L. White, Jr. and Cedric W. White, Sr.; and daughters Carolyn J. White, Jennifer L. White, Rae L. White and Donzetta White Hale. He also leaves behind his brother James Porter White, sister-in-law Joyful White, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and loving friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mr. Floyd White, Sr. I join his family, friends, and the community in celebrating his great life.

HONORING GRANDMASTER CHAN PUI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Grandmaster Chan Pui is one of the leading pioneers in introducing martial arts to the United States. After immigrating to the United States in 1968, he began teaching the Wah Lum Kung Fu System in Boston, MA. In 1980, he moved the

headquarters of the Wah Lum System to Orlando, FL where he built the first kung fu temple in the United States, the Wah Lum Temple.

He was the first person to begin the tradition of Chinese New Year celebrations in Central Florida and used these events as an opportunity to educate his community on the Chinese culture. Grandmaster Chan has been featured in magazines and documentaries for his revered style and prowess in the martial arts industry. Most notably, his life is captured in a documentary directed by his daughter titled Pui Chan: Kung Fu Pioneer. Along with this documentation of his work, his skill and prowess are also exemplified through his inductions in several martial arts Halls of Fame. In addition to his many accolades, Grandmaster Chan has also trained a professional demonstration team that performs at all the major theme parks in Central Florida. Through his philanthropic efforts, he has raised over \$30,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Recognized and esteemed by many, Grandmaster Chan has been an integral part of contributing to and preserving martial arts knowledge in the world. Of all his endeavors and accomplishments, most important to him is his love for his family, his pride in his students, and his whole-hearted practice of his system's motto of integrating respect, kindness, fellowship, and strength in martial arts. In his life, actions, and practice of martial arts, his philosophy is evident, it's not just a job, but a way of life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMITA JACOBS

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Samita Baumritter Jacobs. Sookie, as she was known, passed away at her home on April 27, 2020 at the age of 89. Throughout her extraordinary life, I am told she spread her unique warmth, spirit, goodness, and generosity to all who were lucky enough to know her.

The daughter of Ted and Florence Baumritter, Sookie grew up in New York City. After being set up on a blind date with Howard Jacobs, it soon became clear that they were soulmates. Sookie and Howard married on June 5, 1952, and for the next 63 years they were partners in everything.

After starting a family in New York, Sookie and Howard moved their young children to southern California so they could start their own furniture business. Sookie was the aesthetic force in the endeavor while Howard handled the business side. With their complementary talents and temperaments, their one Ethan Allen store soon turned to five—and they were known for their excellence, value, and integrity. Customers and staff not only respected Sookie, they loved her.

Nothing was more important to Sookie than being with her family, and she cherished trips and visits with her children and their families. In their later years, Sookie and Howard moved to Rancho Santa Fe in the 49th Congressional District to be closer to their daughter Ami and

her family. Sookie's devotion to Howard knew no bounds, caring for Howard's every need through his declining health and difficult bout with Alzheimer's.

Sookie taught her family by example that a glass could be half full. She faced numerous health challenges in her life. When she had her first bout with cancer in the late 1970s, the doctors gave her a less than 10 percent chance of living for more than three years. She made up her mind quickly that she was going to be one of the 10 percent. Her courage and determination were simply inspirational. Throughout her life she met every challenge with her fierce determination and loving care for those around her.

CONGRATULATING BULGARIAN SUCCESS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, I commend the government of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov for its handling of the unprecedented Wuhan Virus pandemic. After a state of emergency declaration lasting ten weeks, the Bulgarian government announced on Tuesday that the country's famed archeological treasures, monasteries, mountain havens along with world-class Black Sea resorts, marinas, sports centers, restaurants, bars, and cafes will reopen on June 1st.

As of this week, Bulgaria has reported 2,460 confirmed coronavirus cases, including 133 deaths, a relatively low number for Europe. Prime Minister Borissov and Health Minister Kiril Ananiev started relaxing the lockdown back in April, while still enforcing strict social distancing and other important measures which succeeded in containing the spread of the Invisible Enemy.

The Bulgarian government deserves high praise for its handling of this unique public health crisis and for exhibiting an impressive level of leadership in the face of this challenge. The American people will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Bulgaria, and we look forward to seeing our friends in Sofia in better days with warm Bulgarian hospitality.

Bulgaria is ably represented in Washington with Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev who is serving in the tradition of Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, as one of the House Co-chairs of the Azerbaijan Caucus, I am honored to recognize the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, commemorating Azerbaijan's 102nd year of independence and democracy. On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan became the first secular democratic state in the

Muslim East. Though it was absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1920, Azerbaijan again declared its independence seven decades later in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan's Republic Day serves as a time to highlight and reflect on some of the country's best qualities, including its strong relationship with Israel, its focus on energy security, and its key role in regional stability.

A Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan also hosts a thriving, secure Jewish community, and the Azerbaijan-Israel bilateral relationship is strong.

Additionally, Azerbaijan is committed to protecting global energy security, especially through its efforts regarding the Southern Gas Corridor, which will decrease the Caspian region's dependence on Russian oil.

A stalwart U.S. ally, Azerbaijan has aided U.S. and NATO forces by providing critical refueling stations, and Azerbaijan's troops have fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in Afghanistan. In addition, Azerbaijan has contributed to the security of Kosovo and Iraq and supports peacekeeping operations under the United Nations and NATO. Azerbaijan is also committed to global nonproliferation efforts and participates as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Azerbaijan is a significant U.S. partner in a strategically important area of the world, and I urge my colleagues to join me to commending the people of Azerbaijan on their Republic Day.

HONORING PAULINE HO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Pauline Ho is a U.S. Certified Public Accountant in both Florida and Washington, as well as a U.K. Chartered Accountant. Besides having a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Hong Kong, her hometown, Pauline has obtained a master's degree in administration from Andrews University of Michigan, and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Central Florida.

In 2008, she founded Laus Consulting Services LLC, a company providing accounting, payroll, tax, and consulting services to small businesses. During this COVID-19 pandemic, she proactively seeks to assist her clients by helping them navigate loans and secure financial assistance in these challenging times. Pauline is highly active in the local communities as well. She is the former President of the Chinese American Association of Central Florida, Vice Chair to both Finance and Business Development Committees of Asian American Federation of Florida in Central Florida, and a Board of Directors member at Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Furthermore, Pauline actively holds the positions of Advisor of the Chinese School of CAACF, Auditor and Past Scholastic Award Chair of Asian American Heritage Council of Central Florida, Chair of REACH of Central Florida, which is a high school non-profit orga-

nization dedicated to serving the local communities, Board of Director of Mills 50, Board of Director of the Sharing Center, Board of Director of United Against Poverty, and CPA of numerous nonprofit organizations.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ELMIRA V. GILBERT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of, and express sadness over, the passing of an extraordinary woman, Elmira "Nana" V. Gilbert: Elmira moved to West Palm Beach, Florida when she was five years old and lived there for nearly nine decades. She passed away on March 5, 2020, just a few months shy of her 105th birthday.

She was one of 52 members to graduate from the first high school for African Americans in Palm Beach County in 1935 and served as the vice president of her Class Reunion Committee for many years. She always lived her life to the fullest, embracing her role as matriarch of the Shederick, Gilbert, King, Brown I, and Brown II French families.

Elmira was an extremely resilient woman having survived the many injustices of segregation and numerous hurricanes, including the deadly hurricane of 1928. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Elmira's many family members and friends. Our nation grieves with you, and I pray that you may find comfort during this extremely difficult time.

FRATERNITY SERVES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has proven itself of serving the community as we all work to defeat the Wuhan virus. The Aiken Standard on May 25th in an article by Matthew Einfinger presented the following acts of kindness. A presentation photo highlighted fraternity members Ray Williams, Everett Chandler, Anthony White, and Will Jones. Fraternity buys lunch for Aiken police Officers.

"In an effort to show support and thanks to local police, Aiken Omega Psi Phi chapter provided lunch to officers at the Aiken Department Public Safety on Thursday.

Around noon, members of the local chapter carried boxes of food and drinks provided by Chick-Fil-A in Aiken. [Owned by Tom Johnson]

Ray Williams with the Sigma Pi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., said it's a way to give back to area officers who work daily to keep Aiken safe.

In addition to serving Public Safety, another group from the fraternity served lunch to We Care Nursing Home in New Ellenton.

"We wanted to show some support for our Aiken Public Safety by providing them lunch because they're putting themselves out on the line every day to protect and serve us regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, "They're still out there doing our best to keep us safe."

Chief Charles Barranco with ADPS said the support from the community through lunches and simple thank you's has meant a lot to the law enforcement division.

"We're part of the community and when the community partners with us it's pretty cool to see the engagement especially when there's a fire call or police call going on," Barranco said. "Many groups, such as the Omegas, have been part of COVID-19 response and we're very thankful."

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTIST MARGARET HUDSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. TJ COX to honor and pay tribute to the life of local artist Margaret Hudson, who passed away on February 2, 2020 at the age of 93. Her iconic clay sculptures of California wildlife and young children were loved for generations.

Margaret Metzler was born to David and Sadie Metzler in Fresno, California. From a young age, Margaret enjoyed spending time outdoors with animals at her parent's home in Fresno's Old Fig Garden neighborhood. She and her family also loved hiking and camping, especially in Sequoia National Park. Her appreciation of the Central Valley's beautiful landscape grew from a young age, which would later influence her art.

Margaret attended college in New England and studied art and theology. She would go on to serve as a missionary in Japan for several years. Margaret met and married her husband Gilbert Hudson in 1955 and shortly after moved to South Korea as missionaries. Gilbert taught physics, and Margaret taught English, at the University of Daegu. They had four sons in South Korea and lived there until 1967.

After returning to the United States, the Hudson family lived in various parts of the country. Her love for art blossomed when living in New York, where she first began to experiment with materials such as decaying barn wood and automotive trims. In Maryland, she began working with red clay. Margaret finally found her style of art in red clay and began sculpting from her memories of South Korea.

In 1968, the family moved to Coalinga, California, but after her husband became ill with Valley Fever, they moved to Fresno to be closer to family. Margaret realized after Gilbert's recovery that she would need to help support the family financially. In 1972, she decided to open a business, Earth Art's Studio and became one of the first female arts entrepreneurs in Fresno.

In 1988, Margaret lost her father, son, and mother within one year. She used art as her therapy and created pieces that were much larger than her original work. After 20 years of working with clay, Margaret attended Fresno City College to expand her artistic abilities to include paint. In 1992, she went to London and Paris and was inspired to paint on canvas. That same year, Margaret held her first art show.

Margaret's artwork is a fixture throughout the Central Valley. Her "Mama Bear" sculpture is displayed at Valley Children's Hospital,

and several pieces are located at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Her clay sculptures are a staple in homes all over the county.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in recognizing the life of Margaret Hudson. Her artwork continues to inspire and is a cherished part of life in the valley. We join her family, friends, and members of the community in honoring her great life.

REMEMBERING JAMES J. "JIM"
LOFTUS, JR.

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the life of James J. "Jim" Loftus, Jr., a member of the "Greatest Generation", who recently passed away in Pleasanton.

Jim was born in 1924 in San Francisco. He attended high school in Alameda, graduating from St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in 1942. Like so many he answered the call to service following the attack on our country, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in December of that year.

During World War II he worked as a mechanic. His service took him to action in the New Hebrides Islands, Solomon Islands, Kwajalein, and Peleliu, prior to his discharge in October 1945.

In 1947, Jim married the love of his life, Mary, joined the USMC Reserve Signal Battalion in Alameda, got a job as a lineman at the PAC Bell phone company, and settled in San Francisco. He had two young children before his country called on him once more.

His unit was called up in July 1950, and he was sent to fight in Korea. There he worked as a field radio operator and was attached to combat units going from Inchon to Chosin, which truly put him in harm's way.

Following his discharge Jim returned to California and his job at PAC Bell. He eventually rose to the level of supervisor before retiring after 35 years with the company.

Jim was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Catholic parishes in which he lived. He also very much enjoyed gardening and traveling, especially to see members of his family.

Jim and Mary had six children. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary, and son James J. Lotus III. He is survived by five daughters—Jeanne O'Brien, Teresa Loftus, Rosemary Back, Eileen Manger, and Julie Trudell, as well as 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jim constantly gave of himself—to his friends, his family, and his country. He will be deeply missed, and my deepest condolences go out to his friends and loved ones.

HONORING MITAL HALL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Mital Hall, PMP, LEED APO+M, has 20 years of experience in sustainable development including working with universities, federal, state, and local governments and businesses. Her expertise lies in strategic planning, policy development, and implementation of programs that focus on high efficiency, low impact building design and operations, impacting over 50 million square feet of space, and through the management of small and multi-million-dollar programs. Mital's ability to synthesize the discipline of professional project management with the multifaceted, stakeholder intensive process of sustainability has led her to success in some of the largest institutions in Florida.

As Vice President for ecoPreserve, Mital oversees all programs and strategic direction. Her skill set includes the incorporation of cost-effective and sustainable solutions into organizational structure, policy development, energy efficiency program administration, and much more. She is also responsible for helping to create a company environment that embodies social responsibility through decisions that are both tactical and strategic in nature. Her leadership style is distinguished by a team-oriented approach that uses solutions-based strategies paired with a high level of positive morale.

Mital is a published author and currently serves as President on the US Green Building Council—Central Florida. She serves on several other boards including University of Central Florida's (UCF) India Center; UCF's Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity Center; University of Florida Sustainable Design and Construction; SmartCities Chair for the Indian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida; Airports Council International—Sustainability Working Group; ARCP Environmental Impacts Review Committee, and Project Management Institute. She has even served as a United Nations Delegate, representing Orlando and offering a private sector perspective to sessions. She has also recently been accepted into the National Renewable Energy Lab Energy Executive Program.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
LIEUTENANT COLONEL (LTC)
THAD THOME ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Thad Thome for his retirement from the United States Army after over 20 years of service.

LTC Thome's record of service with the U.S. Army is truly impressive. He began his career

after enlisting in 1989 by working in the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion. He ended his enlisted service in 1992 as a Sergeant. LTC Thome earned his commission in 2000 and served with the 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment in Friedberg, Germany. After which, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and from 2006 to 2007 to advise intelligence personnel.

LTC Thome deployed as the Deputy J2 for CJTF-10 in Afghanistan during operations from 2014 to 2015, which brought the combat phase of U.S. operations to a close and began a new phase of Operation Resolute Support. He also served in the CENTCOM J2 Operations Division as the Global Force Management Team Lead, frequently traveling to Kuwait, Qatar, and Afghanistan from 2015 to 2017 to support combat deployed HQs with critical Intelligence personnel support to counter strength issues. LTC Thome's contributions to U.S. Army and Joint Forces Intelligence throughout his career ensured successful operations and the national defense of our nation.

Originally from Rapid City, LTC Thome is a native South Dakotan and I am proud to have such an exceptional servicemember call South Dakota home. Our state and country are better because of citizens like him. I thank LTC Thome and his family for their tremendous sacrifice, and I extend my deepest congratulations for his retirement.

HONORING COLONEL THOMAS G.
FALZARANO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Thomas G. Falzarano, USAF, who passed away on May 12, 2020 after a lifetime of distinguished service to his country. Colonel Falzarano was a devoted husband, a caring father, a leader of character, and a champion for our nation's ideals.

Thomas G. Falzarano was born September 20, 1972 in Nashua, New Hampshire to George Marshall and Joan Denise (Campagnone) Falzarano. Growing up with five siblings meant that he had to hone his competitive spirit and leadership skills early. Such skills prompted him to seek an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, which he acquired.

His career in the Air Force shaped Colonel Falzarano's personal leadership style. His three R's (Respect, Readiness, and Responsibility) complimented the service values of the Air Force. His embodiment of these characteristics was seen in every sphere of his life. None more prevalent, however, than the relationship that he had with his wife Stacey and children Trevor, Spencer, Michael, Thomas, and Valentina.

Competence in every aspect of the profession of arms is a moral obligation for those accepting a commission. For those under his command, Colonel Falzarano set the example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and service. He did not take lightly the responsibility of mentoring, inspiring, and challenging the sons and daughters entrusted to him. His strategic assignments and personal decorations after

graduating the Air Force Academy in 1994 speak to his proficiency and exemplary performance as an Officer.

His personal decorations and career advancement paled in comparison, however, to the pride he exhibited when speaking about the Airman he was fortunate enough to lead. He met with spouses and families throughout the 21st Space Wing—ensuring their voices and concerns were heard. He took time to mentor Airmen under his charge; he listened to squadron commanders, group commanders and first sergeants in order to fully understand the needs and concerns of the Airmen. Regardless of rank, he met and followed up with every individual seeking his expertise.

He embodied the aspects of servant leadership. He made it a point to learn the job of everyone under his command so that, when the time came, he could advocate on their behalf. This included standing shoulder to shoulder with Airmen of the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron filling potholes, shadowing security forces throughout his area of operations, suiting up with EOD to participate in a bomb simulation; meeting with the space operators from the 10th Space Warning Squadron and the many Air Force civilians that made the mission possible. He took time to speak with, listen to, and thank everyone from the commissary bagger staff to the public affairs team that allowed his Airmen to focus on their task at hand. Colonel Falzarano believed that the entire 21st Space Wing family had a role to play, and if he could invest in the lives of those under his charge, the Airmen would have exponential success in their mission. He was a Commander that understood the impact his physical presence had on the units he led and made the well-being of his Airmen a priority.

Through his character, competence, and leadership, he made a difference in the lives of everyone with whom he came in contact. Colonel Falzarano's positive impact throughout the enlisted, commissioned, and civilian ranks will have a ripple effect on Air Force leadership for generations to come. It was a privilege to have met Colonel Falzarano and it is an honor to recognize his incredible life.

VIRTUAL GREATER LEXINGTON
CHAMBER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the always thoughtful Daisy Wilson Harman on May 21st in the Lexington County Chronicle highlighted the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce being innovative as it promotes its community and citizens during the Wuhan virus pandemic.

There has been so many changes in our lifestyle since the pandemic hit in mid-March. Last Tuesday our Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce held its first monthly without members or breakfast, but by virtual means. Sponsored by Burr Foreman McNair, their message was “how pandemic has affected minds of your potential customers, their thoughts on travel, eating out, and overall concerns and more.” The basic overall thought is we have experienced change in every part of our life, and we are living in unprecedented times.

Even though concerned about the unknown, it is encouraging that consumers seem to be embracing the new normal. They are confident about getting back to work and life with safe practices.

Chernoff Newman gave all important insights and data on this new lifestyle in which we are living.

It appears much travel will be within our state or country rather than abroad. This places change in our tourism industry. It was very informative program.

AZERBAIJAN'S 102ND REPUBLIC
DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, May 28, 2020 marks Azerbaijan's 102nd Republic Day, the day on which the country became the first Muslim-majority secular democratic state. Since regaining its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has proven itself a partner of the United States particularly in its commitment to regional stability and security cooperation.

As someone who has traveled to Israel nineteen times and championed the cause of the U.S.-Israeli friendship since first coming to the House, I applaud Azerbaijan's commitment to ensuring that the Azeri and Israeli people remain good friends. Indeed, home to a thriving Jewish community of around 30,000, Azerbaijan is one of the few countries with a predominately Muslim population that is a staunch supporter of Israel.

Azerbaijan is also committed to regional security and stability. With its dedication to countering terrorism and nuclear proliferation, its support for U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and its contributions to UN and NATO peacekeeping missions, Azerbaijan continues to contribute to the stabilization of the region.

Madam Speaker, although friends will have difficult conversations at times, those discussions are based in honesty and respect. Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on their Republic Day.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
FINDLAY BEING NAMED THE
TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio for being recognized as the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States for the sixth year in a row. The issuing magazine, Site Selection, announced the 2020 award by describing Findlay as “being propelled into superstar status.”

In order to be considered a micropolitan city, the area must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Over 550 of these cities were evaluated on business growth and economic sustainability. Findlay was able to secure this award for the sixth year in a row because of their focus on residential develop-

ments in 2019 that met Site Selection's criteria.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has allowed for continued economic growth in Findlay. Over the past six years, 1,000 new jobs have been created in Findlay alone. This success would not be possible without the partnership and cooperation between the Findlay government, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire Findlay community.

Madam Speaker, Findlay has routinely served as an example of what a strong community and a commitment to its prosperity can do by implementing their renowned “Findlay Formula.” This formula continues to pay dividends and serves as an example to cities across the country.

I congratulate Findlay for another year as the Nation's top-ranked Micropolitan Community.

HONORING DR. EJAZ GHAFFAR AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Dr. Ejaz Ghaffar graduated from Khyber Medical College in Peshawar, Pakistan. After graduation, he completed his residency at North Shore Community Hospital in Forest Hills, New York.

Having a longstanding passion for inpatient medicine, Dr. Ghaffar joined a Hospitalist group and moved to Orlando. For the last 20 years, he has worked as a hospitalist and was elected by his peers as chairman of the Department of Medicine at Osceola Regional Medical Center. He would later be elected as the Chief of Medical Staff and would play a critical part in overseeing the rollout of numerous quality improvement and safety projects.

Dr. Ghaffar is currently the Site Director for Graduate Medical Education at Osceola Regional Medical Center and has played a key role in starting the Internal Medicine Residency program at Osceola Regional Medical Center. He is glad to be part of the amazing journey that transformed Osceola Regional Medical Center from a small community hospital to a major teaching facility in Central Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM TO
FRIDGE ACT OF 2020

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill—The Farm to Fridge Act of 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants across the country have been forced to close—and as a result, many farmers have been unable to sell their food. This has dramatically disrupted incomes and supply

chains, and resulted in food waste. Meanwhile, families across the country are struggling to find new ways to purchase affordable food beyond grocery stores as they adhere to social distancing and experience disrupted food supplies.

In the face of COVID-19, farmers are eager to pivot from selling to restaurants wholesale to selling direct-to-consumer, but in order to do so, they need expensive machinery and marketing funds to make this transition. At the same time, merchants need support to expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help communities access locally- and regionally-produced agriculture. All the while, consumers are eager to purchase food products locally and regionally.

The Farm to Fridge Act would bridge all these entities by expanding two existing programs for efforts to diversify farms' and merchants' customer bases: the Value Added Producer Grant program and the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. Both of these programs will ultimately inject necessary capital to help both farmers and merchants to close gaps in our supply chain, supplement income to farmers, and increase food access for families.

I thank my colleague, Representative FRED UPTON, for introducing this important, bipartisan measure and urge my colleagues to support it. After all, during this coronavirus pandemic, the last thing families should worry about is access to food.

NATIONAL GUARD SELFLESS
SERVICE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week, almost six-hundred members of the South Carolina National Guard are on Active Duty Orders, selflessly serving their fellow citizens to combat the effects of the Wuhan Virus and provide help to South Carolinians. There service is made possible by the steadfast resolve of South Carolina's Governor Henry McMaster and Adjutant General, Major General Van McCarty. As a grateful 31-year veterans myself of the National Guard with three Guard sons—Alan, Field Artillery, who served in Iraq, Julian, Signal, who served in Egypt, and Hunter, Engineer, who served in Afghanistan. I especially appreciate Guard service.

During this challenging time, it is inspiring to witness so many National Guard Service men and women choose to help their communities. Here are a few of South Carolina's citizens who choose to serve in the National Guard, combating the Wuhan Virus.

Captain Daniel Nix, of Chapin, is Military Police Officer in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Captain Nix has supported over one-hundred missions throughout South Carolina's Joint Task Force in support of Wuhan Virus operations.

Master Sergeant Michael Keene, of Columbia, is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Specialist, and has supported over one-hundred missions in South Carolina.

Specialist William Stout, of Gaston, and Mikayla Battersby, of Lexington, are combat

medics in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Between the two of them, they have screened almost one-thousand people in support of relief operations.

Staff Sergeant Jennifer Heller, of Lexington, is a medical specialist in the South Carolina Air National Guard. Staff Sergeant Heller has screened over three-hundred people in support of ongoing operations.

Captain Stephen Zagorski, of Irmo, and Second Lieutenant Cullen Parrott, of Chapin, provide their expertise to help fellow citizens. Captain Zagorski is a Field Artillery Officer in the South Carolina Army National Guard and has planned and supported over one-hundred missions throughout the State. Second Lieutenant Parrott is an Ordnance Officer in the South Carolina Army National Guard and has supported over fifty missions that delivered important supplies to South Carolinians across the State.

Sergeant Elizabeth Hicks, of Lexington, is a supply sergeant in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Her efforts have positively impacted Soldiers and citizens. She organized and ensured the delivery of food and water to over five-hundred National Guards Service men and women, to include local citizens.

Major Michael Morris, of Lexington, serves in an important role as a human resources officer. Through Major Morris' adept organizational skills and positive leadership traits, he supported over one-hundred relief missions throughout South Carolina to aid in the fight against the Wuhan Virus.

First Lieutenant Brittany McKoy, of Gaston, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Rice, of Lexington, assisted numerous Service Members and fellow citizens in South Carolina. Between the two of these great American citizens, they've supported almost one-hundred service and relief missions, in response to the Wuhan Virus.

Colonel Timothy Wood, of Columbia, is a Logistics Officer in the South Carolina Army National Guard. His efforts have positively impacted citizens throughout the state as he has tirelessly planned and coordinated over two-hundred missions throughout the State.

I am grateful for the leadership of Governor McMaster, Major General Van McCarty, and these men and women who choose to serve our Nation. It is important to recognize their achievements. God Bless our Troops and let us never forget the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IN HONOR OF THE UPCOMING
RETIREMENT OF PETER M. HAYES

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career and outstanding public service of my dear friend, Peter M. Hayes. I would like to congratulate Peter on his upcoming retirement which is well-deserved.

During the Reagan Administration, I got to know Peter when he served as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of Interior, and was the Deputy Director of Congressional Liaison for two Secretaries of the Inte-

rior. During that time, I was working at OMB with David Stockman and we shared some great personal and professional experiences as we began our careers in Washington, D.C. This bond of friendship formed in those years has only strengthened and grown.

In 1985, Peter joined the Salt River Project (SRP), the nation's third-largest public power utility and the largest supplier of water to the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. SRP provides water and electricity to more than 2 million people in metropolitan Phoenix and is one of the largest raw water suppliers in Arizona, managing an extensive system of dams, reservoirs, wells, canals, and irrigation laterals.

In a career that spanned four decades in the private and public sector, Peter was a leader in public policy and brought vision to a wide array of energy and water issues that helped Arizona. He played a critical role in the negotiations on Capitol Hill and with the President George H.W. Bush administration during the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, which led to scrubbers being installed on the Navajo Generation Station. During his tenure as Associate General Manager, Peter worked to support many issues in furtherance of Arizona's economy, including the expansion of public education, the development of the Valley's transportation systems, and the infrastructure to support Arizona's sports and tourism industry.

Peter's business and community leadership included terms as Chairman of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, a Board member of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, a Trustee of the Arizona Science Center, a member of the Dean's Advisory Board of the ASU Barrett Honors College, and a member of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. His commitment to education and the principles of American democracy led him to lead the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute as Chairman of the Board and worked to establish the Institute as the nation's premier civics education organization.

In addition to his many contributions to public service, Peter is a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He and his wife Lynn live in Phoenix, though look forward to spending more time in Pinetop. With humor, charm, goodwill and vision, Peter has been a great friend, and he has been a leader to those who seek to make Arizona and the United States a better place.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the leadership of Peter M. Hayes and commend him for his service to the Salt River Project, Arizona and the United States.

HONORING SIMON CHOY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Simon Choy was born and raised in Southeast Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as the eldest child of three. At the age of 11, he made up his mind to come to America, fascinated by the culture and opportunities the country had to offer. He firmly believes that America has so much to

offer to those that are willing to explore new territories without any boundaries. Unafraid to break tradition, he left the only life he knew and flew to America to continue his undergraduate and graduate studies. Simon earned an undergraduate degree in Finance and Computer Science and a graduate degree in Systems Management.

Currently, he is working at the Tupperware Brands corporate headquarter in Orlando, Florida, as Vice President of Human Re-

sources Worldwide. He has been with Tupperware Brands for over 19 years and has held progressive and high impact positions at the company. Prior to Tupperware Brands, he worked in the high-tech telecommunication, healthcare and hospitality industries. Simon's passion is developing and mentoring others to help improve and change their lives. During his free time, he works with various organizations to serve and help people, especially young people, to build their confidence.

He is very active in the local community, volunteering in various non-profit organizations like the Junior Achievement, Salvation Army, and the United Way. Simon is also active in the business community, he is currently, the President-Elect, of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Simon is married to his best friend, Belinda, for 30 years and has 3 beautiful children, Samantha, Samuel and Spencer.