

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 predominantly 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