

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

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 veteran 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