

the Linebaugh family and Jim's many loved ones. This American hero will not be forgotten, and I will continue to honor his remarkable legacy in Adams County and America.

HONORING MIKE BARBOUR OF THE  
VETERANS FOR FOREIGN WARS  
AND THE AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 43 UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Barbour, who is retiring from his position as the Service Officer for Veterans for Foreign Wars and the American Legion Post 43. With a long and illustrious career serving our country in Vietnam and advocating for veterans in Naperville and Aurora, Mike has distinguished himself as a valuable and dedicated member of the community.

Mike served with the U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam. Since 1994, he has devoted his time to educating veterans and their families about benefits and health care they can receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As an honorary board member for Naperville Responds for Veterans, Mike has served as an important resource for veterans by helping to share their stories to the younger generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mike Barbour's exemplary service to the veterans of Naperville and Aurora and congratulating him on a prominent career.

CONGRATULATING BRIAN MIXON

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Mixon on his retirement after 4 years of active duty and 32 years of civilian service with the Department of the Army.

Brian served honorably as an air traffic and airspace officer, and was recognized for his work when he was awarded the Air Traffic Control Manager of the Year award by the Air Traffic Control Association in 2019. This national award is formally known as the General E.R. Quesada Memorial Award, and it's a medallion award presented to an individual for outstanding achievement and contribution during the previous year as an Air Traffic Control Manager.

This is not the first time Brian has been recognized for his exceptional work. He also earned two other national awards, among many others.

Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia's First Congressional District is one of the premier power projection platforms in the Army, which is utilized to deploy thousands of soldiers and essential equipment. Brian's contributions have been essential to the readiness capabilities of the units that utilize Hunter Army Airfield. I can't thank him enough for his many years of steadfast dedication to serving our great na-

tion, and I wish Brian the best as he begins his retirement.

HONORING MAYOR JOSE ALVAREZ  
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Mayor Jose Alvarez was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to the United States in 1971 as a child. He grew up and attended public school in Miami-Dade, started a family and began a career with the Florida Department of Transportation. In 1997, he and his wife, Darlene, made the decision to move their family to Kissimmee. Married now for more than 32 years, they have five beautiful daughters and five grandchildren.

Mayor Alvarez is a Licensed Real Estate Broker and small a business owner. Throughout his 20 years as a Realtor, he has had the privilege of serving his industry and community by taking part in numerous home ownership and business growth initiatives. Among numerous appointments to industry committees and boards, he's served on the Florida Association of Realtors Board of Directors, the Mid-Florida Regional MLS Board of Directors, and, in 2009, he was elected to serve as President of the Osceola County Association of Realtors.

Over the years, Mayor Alvarez has served numerous causes, boards, and committees throughout Osceola County. An experienced leader, advisor, and representative of both industry and cause, he is frequently called upon when leadership, integrity, credibility, and deal-making skills are vital for the success of an endeavor. Now in his second term as an elected member of the Kissimmee City Commission and the First Hispanic Mayor to be elected in the City of Kissimmee, Mayor Alvarez continues to play important roles on a range of topics. Mayor Alvarez' true passion is the people he represents.

From multi-million dollar endeavors to life-changing initiatives, through his various board memberships and affiliations, Mayor Alvarez has been responsible for advising CEOs and lawmakers, contributing to strategic plans, approving budgets and business decisions, evaluating management, and representing his charge to stakeholders.

HONORING EARLINE P. MALLETT  
MELCHOR

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Earline Mallett Melchor.

Earline P. Mallett Melchor was born October 1, 1930, to the late Percy Polk and Frenchie Foreman Polk in Drew, Mississippi. She was the oldest of six siblings, of which she is the only one living. She has lived in Quitman County since December 15, 1945. She attended grade school at Marks Industrial High

School, before the name was changed to West Side and Quitman County. She graduated on May 25, 1950. After graduation Earline immediately started working with Mrs. Ultimo Taylor on Riverview Plantation known as Self Farm. On December 4, 1950, she enrolled in Coahoma Junior College to get an Educator License. She then went to Rust College, Mississippi Valley State, and later attended Jackson State in Jackson, Mississippi, where she earned a B.S. degree. In 1963, she completed a master's degree in Special Education. She taught at West Side School for 26 years. Mrs. Melchor devoted herself completely to the Quitman County education system. She retired on June 4, 1994, with 43 years and 5 months of service. She enjoyed all the years worked in the Quitman County School System, with her students being her favorite part of the job.

She is a member of the Shady Grove M.B. Church, where Rev. Larry Smith is the pastor. She has been a member since 1946, and held many positions in the church. Despite having a heart attack, she remained a faithful member. Mrs. Melchor is grateful to The Lord for blessing her, and she is thankful to relatives, church members, friends, her Pastor and Wife and all who have supported her. She enjoys sewing, traveling, and helping others.

Mrs. Melchor served as a Board Member of the Quitman County Development Organization, Counselor for the Gala Committee, Former Fire Fighter for the town of Falcon, and member of the MAE. She also served as a poll worker for many years and Election Commissioner for the town of Falcon. In addition, she is also a longtime member of the NAACP. She is also a farmer and landowner, having brought lunch for her students before the free lunch program was implemented.

The mother's one son, Gene W. Mallett. She also raised her sister's son, the late Steven L. Polk. She has many grandchildren and nieces and nephews. In Mrs. Melchor's words, "I give God all the Glory."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Earline P. Melchor for her dedication to serving her community and this great state.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF EMMANUEL LU-  
THERAN CHURCH

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the 75th anniversary of her parish school, Emmanuel Lutheran School. These significant milestones are worthy of celebration.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church was founded in Dearborn, Michigan in 1895 with Christian Thiel, Gottfried Hebestreit, and Louis Rechlin Sr. acting as the first trustees and Johann Lange, Wilhelm Ziegler, and Fredrich Sylvester servings as elders. A year later, Henry Behrens became the church's first pastor, and the church celebrated the opening of its newly erected sanctuary at Military and Morley Avenues. In its early years, the church quickly grew. In 1900, the congregation became a

member of the Missouri Synod, and the parish founded Emmanuel Lutheran School in 1945, with Mr. Al Wied as the first teacher. In 1960, Emmanuel Lutheran Church dedicated her new sanctuary across from the original sanctuary, where the parish continues to flourish today.

Today, Emmanuel Lutheran Church is led by administrative pastor Reverend Joel Basely and assistant pastor Reverend Paul Wolff who encourage all to life of faith, love, understanding, and trust, and Paul Berwolf serves as principal and teacher of Emmanuel Lutheran School. Emmanuel Lutheran Church has made a meaningful difference in the community by providing a breadth of programs and services for the benefit of all. Notably, the parish has developed a partnership with the St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, which has been integrated with the parish school to provide a bilingual education to students and faculty.

Over the course of 125 years, Emmanuel Lutheran Church has become a pillar of the Dearborn community. The parish has demonstrated a true commitment to serving Dearborn and encouraging all to be passionate, devoted, and kind community members who strive to follow the Word of God. Emmanuel Lutheran Church continues to be a welcoming place for all to gather, worship, and develop the gifts God has bestowed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We are all grateful for its service to the Dearborn community and wish it continued success and prosperity in the years to come.

REMARKS ON THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet with India's Consulate General Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni to discuss the bilateral relationship between India and the United States, and I rise today to recognize the critical importance of this relationship with our ally, India.

In any part of the world, Madam Speaker, individuals and families need to feel safe when they leave their homes and go to work. Terrorist groups need to be strongly opposed in all forms. Without question, India is a strong partner in the fight against international terrorism. As a part of this pursuit, the Indian Government recently repealed Article 370—a temporary Article of the Indian Constitution that forced citizens of Jammu-Kashmir to live under different laws than all other Indians. It was meant to be a stopgap measure since this region's government had yet to be formed.

Madam Speaker, this measure hindered the application of progressive federal laws of the Indian Government. As a result, Pakistani-based terrorist organizations conducted terrorist activities that accounted for thousands of innocent lives being lost and detrimentally impacted economic opportunities in the region. In August of 2019, both Houses of the Indian

parliament voted to end the temporary status of Article 370 in order to bring peace, stability, and the opportunity to chart out better futures to the people of the region.

I applaud the current steps taken by Prime Minister Modi to boost economic development, fight terrorism, and fight corruption. These steps forward are good for the long-term stability of Jammu-Kashmir and we should support the Indian Government in this endeavor.

RECOGNIZING LARRY VIGNOLA AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Larry Vignola for his 10 years of service to the City of Coral Springs, Florida. Larry moved to Coral Springs when he was 5 years old, where he received a public-school education, attending Coral Springs Elementary and Middle Schools, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

After graduating from the University of Miami, Larry decided to give back to the community where he grew up and was first elected to serve as City Commissioner in 2010. Larry also acted as Coral Springs Vice Mayor for two years, and is Chair of several key committees, including the Youth and Family Committee, the Principal Education Committee and the Teen Political Forum, where I have been a regular guest speaker, and have seen Larry's commitment to our future leaders firsthand.

As an alumni and City Commissioner Larry has always been there for the students, teachers and administrators of MSD before and after the tragedy in 2018. Through this dedication to public service, there is no doubt that Larry has made a significant positive impact on the Coral Springs community.

As an avid sports fan, Larry has also devoted much of his life to coaching and mentoring young athletes, serving on the Coral Springs American Little League Board of Directors and chairing the Coral Springs Sports Coalition. He is a proud family man and enjoys spending his free time with his wife Aimee and their three children, Madison, Ava and Aimee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Larry Vignola and his service to Coral Springs and Florida's 22nd Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LIZ CHENEY**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the International Association of Drilling Contractors on its 80th anniversary as a trade association.

In 1940, the International Association of Drilling Contractors, commonly known as

IADC, was formed to address the need for a collective voice advocating for the interests of the oil and natural gas contract drilling industry. Since then, IADC has been the world's leader in developing drilling safety protocol and standard operating procedures.

Today, IADC continues to exemplify the ideal model of leadership and remains committed to teaching the core values of safety, environmental stewardship, and continuous improvement of technology to generation after generation of America's energy workforce. Over the years, IADC has maintained 1,000 plus members worldwide, seventeen regional chapters, seven student chapters, and has accredited the training of nearly 2 million persons employed in the oil and gas industry, many of which have been hardworking Wyomingites. With six member companies operating in-state, IADC plays a critical role in the exploration and production of Wyoming's vast natural gas and oil reserves.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my gratitude to the International Association of Drilling Contractors for eighty years of unwavering competence, professionalism, and commitment in support of the transformational drilling industry that sustains the energy intensive demands of our modern society.

HONORING KRISTOPHER THIGPEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Kristopher Thigpen, a native of Taylorsville, Mississippi. Football and athletics have always been a very important part of his life growing up. After having a stellar career in high school, he signed with Jackson State University and was a member of the football team. He then transferred and played at Jones College. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree.

He has served as a middle and high school coach with stops in North Forest High School, Collins High School and Carver Middle School, Coffeerville High School and Ridgeland High School before going to Terry High School last year as offensive coordinator. Over the course of ten years as an educator and a coach, he has helped 33 football players receive college scholarships, was Head Coach of the Year at Ridgeland High School in 2019, and won a total of four state championships as a player and a coach.

He resides in Byram, Mississippi, with his wife, Mrs. Michele Thigpen, and has three children: Jekhyla, Krishon, and Kasen.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Kristopher Thigpen.

CITY OF JESUP 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Jesup's