

HONORING THOMAS J. MANN, IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas J. Mann, IV. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has served his troop as Patrol Leader and earned the rank of Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Thomas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Thomas built bat houses for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas J. Mann, IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL FIGUEROA

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Samuel Figueroa of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Samuel Figueroa was an outstanding employee who worked at the Creekside Health and Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis. Having worked at the center since its opening in September 2017, Mr. Figueroa was a dishwasher. We are only aware of his role as dishwasher and are unaware of work in road and building construction. Those who had the opportunity to witness Mr. Figueroa work witnessed a man who took great pride in his job. While on the clock, Mr. Figueroa routinely made others smile and laugh. He was also careful to ensure that the facility was as clean as possible. On many occasions, fellow employees witnessed Samuel scanning the parking lot for trash to dispose of.

By all accounts, Mr. Figueroa was the model employee. Always on time with a smile on his face and willing to go the extra mile, he desired to serve those in need. Mr. Figueroa will be remembered for the wonderful impression he made on his peers, residents and all those who interacted with him on the campus.

The story of Mr. Figueroa is one that is uniquely American. This record is a testament to those ideals he embodied of service and sacrifice, which are inherent to the American spirit. Though Samuel is no longer with us, his spirit of good will and generosity in the halls of Creekside and in the hearts of those whose lives he touched endures.

THANKS BLAKE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great man and citizen of the Show Me state, Mr. Blake Hurst, as he celebrates his upcoming retirement. Since being elected the President of the Missouri Farm Bureau on December 7, 2010, Blake has helped strengthen the Bureau financially and grow its influence in Washington, D.C.

The Missouri Farm Bureau was founded as the first state Farm Bureau in the United States in 1915, and over the years, it has grown to include over 130,000 members. During his tenure, Blake was a strong advocate for Missouri's farmers. He will be leaving the Missouri Farm Bureau in a stronger position than when he came into office and has ensured the long-term success and influence of the organization.

Blake has been an active member of the Missouri Farm Bureau for much of his life, serving on the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee before becoming the statewide chairman and eventually serving on the state board of directors. For eight years, Hurst served as a district board member for the state of Missouri and seven years as the Vice President of the Bureau. Blake has earned a national reputation as a leader in agriculture policy. Over the years, Blake has written numerous pieces which have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, The American, Weekly Standard, Wilson's Quarterly, Reader's Digest, Today's Farmer, and the Show Me magazine of Missouri Farm Bureau. Hurst continues to be an active member of his community, running a wholesale greenhouse business with his wife, Julie, daughter, Lee, and sons-in-law, Ryan Harms and Matt Schlueter.

I wish Blake the very best as he embarks on this new chapter of life, and I am grateful for his service to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on November 16th and November 17th due to not being present in Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YES on Roll Call No. 219; YES on Roll Call No. 220; and NO on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING JERALD MUTCHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerald Mutchler. Jerald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jerald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jerald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jerald has earned the rank of Hardway Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jerald has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jerald helped in with Our Lady of Mercy Country Home Bench Rebuild.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jerald Mutchler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN POTTS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Potts, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who has retired after 25 years of service in the Federal Government.

Brian earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1994, where he played football and studied accounting. Upon graduation, Brian began his career as part of the Department of the Navy Financial Management Trainee Program. During this time, he worked as an auditor for the Naval Audit Service and as a budget analyst for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). Brian excelled in the program, and he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence.

After completion of this program, in 1997, Brian joined the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction as a professional staff member. After leaving the Hill briefly to work as an auditor for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Brian returned to the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction. In 2004, Brian moved to the Senate Subcommittee on Defense where he would stay until 2014, at which time he became Minority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

When the Senate switched control in 2015, Brian was hired to be the Majority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, a position responsible for a portfolio exceeding \$500 billion in annual spending. In 2019, I asked Brian to become my National Security Advisor on my House Appropriations Committee staff, and he proved to be a trusted advisor. Brian could always be counted on to give great insight into the issues that face our men and women in uniform.

Brian is known for his love of sports, and I know he is enjoying retirement with his son, Owen, and attending his baseball and basketball games. We wish Brian the best in his new adventure and thank him for everything he has done for our nation's security.