

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.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-  
QUIRE AN ACCREDITATION PROC-  
ESS FOR EDX TESTING

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2020*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will combat bad actors taking advantage of Medicare by requiring an accreditation process for electrodiagnostic studies or EDX testing.

EDX testing is used to diagnose and guide treatment for neuromuscular conditions that range from the uncomfortable, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, to the life threatening, such as ALS and muscular dystrophy. Current Procedural Terminology requires that a clinician trained in EDX testing personally perform invasive needle electromyography and either perform or directly supervise nerve conduction studies. These requirements ensure proper testing is guided in real time based on bio-feedback from active study and a knowledge of health history and potential diagnoses.

An ongoing challenge for EDX testing has been an increase of fraud and abuse when mobile labs send "technicians" to provide an excessive number of tests that are often not medically necessary and tend to be performed poorly, providing inaccurate results that are not clinically relevant. A 2014 report by the HHS OIG entitled "Questionable Billing for Medicare Electrodiagnostic Tests" found \$139 million in annual suspicious spending in this area.

This bill will require that professionals performing EDX testing first demonstrate that they have the proper equipment to conduct the test. Second, professionals must demonstrate that they have the proper training to interpret the results by going through an accreditation process managed by government entities and professional societies. Accreditation has been successful in combating fraud in other patient areas such as mammography and sleep labs.

This bill will protect patients seeking treatment by ensuring they receive the most accurate results possible and I strongly urge my colleagues support for its passage.

CELEBRATING THE ALLIANCE BE-  
TWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2020*

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the longstanding friendship and continued alliance between two great nations: the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Seventy years ago, American and Allied servicemembers and civilians bravely came to the defense of South Korea, fighting alongside so many brave Korean citizens against North Korean aggression. While three long years of bitter conflict yielded only a stalemate, from the shared sacrifice and courage of millions emerged an enduring alliance and friendship between the United States and South Korea

based on a common vision for the world and shared values for our peoples. The Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea endures to this day as a pillar of stability for the entire IndoPacific region. And in just the three generations since the Korean War, South Korea has emerged as one of Asia's great success stories, building a dynamic and diverse economy with a vibrant civil society and popular culture celebrated the world over.

However, the relationship between the American and Korean peoples goes even deeper than the Korean War. In 1882, representatives of the United States and the Joseon Dynasty established diplomatic relations between their countries through the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation. This was the first treaty Korea signed with a Western power, a treaty that first acknowledged Korea's status as an independent country.

My Hawaii has also played and continues to play a major role in the strong relationship between our two countries. In 1903, the first Korean immigrants arrived in the United States through Hawaii, and I am proud of Hawaii's history and present as the gateway for new generations of Korean American immigrants and as a major bridge between our countries and peoples. Today, there are over two million Korean Americans across the United States, with almost 35,000 residing in my home state of Hawaii. It is a true honor to represent such a diverse and accomplished community that has contributed so much to the richness of Hawaii.

Today, this House passed two resolutions recognizing the importance of the U.S.-South Korea alliance. H. Res. 809 expresses the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, and H. Res. 1012 recognizes the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership.

I am proud to support both resolutions and will continue to pursue opportunities to strengthen this crucial relationship, as well as to support Korean American communities in Hawaii and across the country.

Thank you: (Gam-sa-ham-ni-da and mahalo)

RECOGNIZING WAUKEGAN TO  
COLLEGE

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2020*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to rise today to celebrate an amazing program in my community, Waukegan to College, and to honor this year's class: Alexis Valdovinos, Moises Arreola-Malagon, Daisy Camacho, Maurice Davison Jr., Diana Diaz, Justin Garcia, Jesus Murillo, Jose Ochoa, Giselle Palomar, Emilio Salgado, and Gabriela Serna-Gutierrez.

A year-round college readiness service, the Waukegan to College program, or W2C for short, launched in 2009. Over the course of students studies, W2C seeks to advance individual's intellectual and emotional development, cultivating a strong commitment to com-

munity and a profound belief that they can build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. By establishing high academic expectations and counseling students and their families on the college application process, W2C helps students realize their full potential by making the dream of college a reality.

All of these students will be the first in their families to attend college, and were selected for the W2C program due to their impressive academic achievements and their contributions to their local communities. As leaders inside and outside the classroom, these students show tremendous dedication and potential.

Strengthening our communities requires building new ladders of opportunity so that all Americans can succeed and thrive. This begins with providing every child, regardless of zip code, access to a high quality, affordable education, and continues by ensuring all families can afford to send their sons and daughters to college.

When our nation's talented young people pursue their passions and follow their dreams, they accomplish far more than personal growth. They serve as role models in their communities and their achievements inspire and motivate other young people to equally strive and achieve.

These students truly are Champions of Change. I wish them the very best of luck in their academic studies and in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JERRY THORNE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2020*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Jerry Thorne, on the occasion of his retirement from service to the City of Pleasanton, California, one of the largest cities in my congressional district.

Jerry has made public service a way of life. After completing commitments to the United States Army and the Army National Guard Officer Corps, he left the military holding the rank of captain. He then transitioned into the tech world with a decades-long career in global operations management, facilities design, and environmental engineering for some of the most recognizable names in Silicon Valley. During that time, Jerry settled in Pleasanton, where he has made his home for over 40 years.

His service to the city began in 1995 when Jerry became Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He chaired that commission for ten years before making his first successful run for the Pleasanton City Council. After three terms on the council from 2005 to 2012, he decided to take the reins and run for mayor. He won that race and Jerry dutifully served as mayor of the City of Pleasanton for four two-year terms.

During Jerry's tenure, Pleasanton went through a remarkable period of growth. It is now home to numerous start-up and established technology and biotechnology companies, enabling employees to work near where they want to live. He also helped oversee the