

Praised as a key tactical success for the Allies in the fight against Nazi Germany, Operation Varsity dropped Allied troops behind enemy lines to secure the Rhine River in Wesel, Germany. As a paratrooper with the 464th Field Artillery Battalion of the 17th Airborne Division, George was tasked with carrying the barrel of a cannon weighing more than 200 pounds through enemy fire to deliver ammunition to Allied troops. Completing his mission with courage, George was honorably discharged from service in February 1946.

After serving his country, George started his own construction company in Ashford, Connecticut in 1948. Like many great American success stories, George began his business from humble beginnings; assembling small buildings, chicken coops and barns for local farmers. Sixty-five years later, Zlotnick Construction Incorporated remains a respected organization in Mansfield, Connecticut and has won contracts with key multinational firms. George and his wife Zenia have also remained an unwavering part of the business and Orthodox Church communities of Connecticut.

As George prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday on March 9, 2014, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this great American veteran and businessman and thanking him for his contribution to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY AND
JEANNE PRITZKER

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to two philanthropists of exceptional dedication and character—Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker. The Pritzkers have been committed to improving the lives of foster youth through the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.

For more than a decade the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation has been making investments to strengthen important institutions that help the residents of Los Angeles. The foundation's grants have helped improve medical care, higher education, the environment, the arts and the foster care system in our city. These investments enrich our communities now, and for future generations.

In 2012, Jeanne Pritzker started the non-profit Foster Care Counts after being inspired by two teenagers they took into their own home, while raising her own children. Foster Care Counts has brought thousands of foster kids and families to their own home to celebrate family with their successful, Foster Mother's Day event.

The Pritzkers recently gave a \$3 million gift to UCLA to create an endowment that covers tutoring, mental health services, summer housing, unforeseen school expenses and other costs for UCLA students who were or are in foster care. They have long been contributors to UCLA's Guardian Scholars program, which provides support to former and current foster-care youth who are students at UCLA. This generous donation is helping ensure the continued success of this vulnerable population.

Today we honor the Pritzkers, for fighting for those who sometimes do not have a voice, and making their lives a little better

CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to address the issue of climate change.

Global warming means that the planet on average is getting warmer. The evidence here is indisputable.

Global warming is also causing freak weather events that just aren't normal. These include hurricanes, typhoons and droughts. They also include the brutal cold fronts that are sweeping the country.

Some climate deniers have used this as an opportunity to assert that the overwhelming science behind global warming is wrong. The irony in this assertion is that while the U.S. has extreme unusually cold temperatures, current temperatures in the Arctic are above average.

NOAA recently confirmed that 2013 was the fourth warmest year on record. All 13 years of the 21st century rank among the 15 warmest since records began 134 years ago. On average, spring weather arrives ten days earlier than it used to in the Northern Hemisphere. While many states in the Midwest and Northeast have exceptionally cold temperatures, Alaska is experiencing unusually warm weather and California is going through a record-breaking drought. Average daily highs in Alaska are 11 degrees greater than the historical average for January.

These unusual weather events are doing real economic harm and are hurting American families. Congress needs to tackle this problem of man-made climate change head on and not just bury our heads in the snow.

HONORING MONICA DOMINGUEZ

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Monica Dominguez, the lead counselor at Dr. Sue Shook Elementary School in Horizon City, Texas. Ms. Dominguez is in Washington D.C. to be honored as an American School Counselor Association (ASCA) 2014 School Counselor of the Year finalist.

Ms. Dominguez has led Shook Elementary's efforts to close the gap in services for low-income students through a counseling program that supports students' academic, social and emotional development. By reaching out to students beyond the confines of the school day, Ms. Dominguez has earned respect from fellow educators, parents, and most importantly, her students. In addition, Ms. Dominguez has developed effective relationships with local agencies to support the overall well-being of diverse students and families in El Paso County.

Before joining the staff at Shook Elementary, Ms. Dominguez served as the grants counselor for Project HOPE (Heightened Opportunities for Promoting Excellence) at H. D. Hilley Elementary School, which serves many

students and families who experienced the negative impacts of violence in Mexico. Many of these families moved to El Paso to escape violence and the new students were in need of emotional and academic support. Ms. Dominguez set up Hilley's first data-driven, comprehensive school counseling program, where she maintained a low student-to-counselor ratio; decreased disciplinary referrals; increased attendance rates; and helped students and teachers succeed on state assessments.

Horizon City and the entire El Paso community continue to benefit from the positive impacts that Ms. Dominguez has on her students in her third year as a counselor at Shook Elementary. Her leadership skills and comprehensive vision shape the lives of her students and their families. I join the ASCA and the El Paso community in honoring Ms. Dominguez for her dedication to serving students and for the inspiring example she has set for school counselors across the country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,263,279,883,739.66. We've added \$6,636,402,834,826.58 to our debt in 5 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JUDGE FRANK CREEDE,
JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, Alongside my colleague DAVID VALADAO, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Frank Creede, Jr., who recently passed away.

Frank Creede distinguished himself at an early age. During World War II, he joined the army at the age of eighteen and served in a heavy machine-gun squad in Europe, where he was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. Surviving a forced march and a railroad ride in a boxcar from Belgium to Germany, he was liberated from his POW camp in April 1945 and was later awarded the Purple Heart.

Upon his return to the United States, Frank began his long, eminent legal career. After practicing law for more than two decades and becoming a founding partner of the law firm now called Creede, Dawson, Gillaspay and Ninnis, he was appointed as a Fresno County judge by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1973. He heard more than 200 jury trials and adjudicated many high-profile cases during his outstanding tenure on the bench, which included service as presiding judge of the Superior Court and several other courts. Judge Creede retired in 1998 after being re-elected to the

Superior Court four times. Among his many awards and commendations, the Fresno County Law Library was renamed in his honor.

In retirement Judge Creede remained active as a visiting judge. He also participated in a remarkably wide array of charitable organizations and civic groups including some dedicated to preventing animal cruelty, which was a particular passion of his.

Known for his sense of humor, work ethic, and compassion, Judge Creede was a wonderful asset to the Fresno community. For decades he served his country and his community with distinction. He leaves behind an enduring legacy that his family should look upon with the deepest sense of pride.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, January 27, I missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted: “yes”—rollcall vote 24—H.R. 2166—Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act; “yes”—rollcall vote 25—H.R. 3008—To provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes.

HONORING GARY BIXHORN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Gary D. Bixhorn on his retirement after 35 years of educational leadership and service. As Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Gary oversaw New York State’s largest BOCES, serving more than 50 school districts across an area of 1,000 square miles. Under his guidance, Eastern Suffolk BOCES became a leader in exploring cost-saving opportunities for school districts, and Gary became one of the region’s top advocates for Long Island schools.

Gary did an outstanding job during exceptionally challenging economic times for education, testifying frequently before commissions and forums where he shared his vast knowledge and understanding of school finance. He was a key spokesperson in the fight to urge New York State lawmakers to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment, a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of aid to school districts, and he fought New York’s first property tax cap, one of the most stringent in the nation. Newsday called him, “the region’s leading analyst of financial trends in education.”

Gary understood the unique qualities of Long Island’s schools and was a master at forming coalitions to advocate for their most pressing needs and to find creative solutions to save money and provide services. As national economic conditions declined, he advocated for shared services as a means of reducing costs, arguing that BOCES was well

positioned to provide these shared services. He embraced and promoted the idea of cost sharing as an alternative to school district consolidation, and he championed the concept known as “functional consolidation,” or the pooling of resources to provide such services as business management, food service, software purchases and transportation.

Gary’s vision for BOCES went well beyond its traditional role to provide regional educational services such as special education and career and technical education. He saw BOCES as a vehicle for helping school districts join together to meet their collective needs. He once said, “BOCES doesn’t exist in a vacuum. It exists as the collective will of our component school districts and our stakeholders in the region.” He demonstrated the kind of strategic, regional thinking that could provide effective solutions. Gary also served as president of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, SCSSA, and then as chair of its Legislative Committee. He was well versed in the particular needs and characteristics of the region’s school districts and saw it as his responsibility to communicate those needs to legislators in Albany and Washington, particularly in pushing for fair distribution of state aid.

I was proud to stand with him and others last June for the unveiling of Long Island’s first P-TECH program, a cutting-edge educational partnership with Longwood School District to train Long Island students for high skill technology jobs. Gary also served as a member of my Education Advisory Board and was always looked to for his ability to synthesize information and analyze educational data.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to work with Gary Bixhorn. He embodies the spirit of the BOCES mission to enable school districts to operate more efficiently by working together. His ability to see the broad picture while analyzing the small details made him a valuable educational resource for our region and a widely-respected leader. On behalf of New York’s first congressional district, I would like to thank him for his lasting impact on education and wish him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING ALCALDESA SUZANNE BRANGHAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzanne Brangham, who has been named the City of Sonoma’s 2014 Alcaldesa, or Honorary Mayor. The title “Alcalde,” or “Alcaldessa” when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for “Mayor.” While the Alcalde was the primary civil authority during the Spanish colonial period in California, in modern times, it is an honorary title bestowed upon invaluable members of the community.

Ms. Brangham has lived in Sonoma for 25 years, where she has given back to her community as both a businesswoman and philanthropist. She has founded a number of businesses in Sonoma, including the Ramekins Culinary School, the MacArthur Place Hotel & Spa, and the General’s Daughter restaurant, which is located in a Victorian home built by

the daughters of Mariano G. Vallejo, the Commander General of California and founder of the City of Sonoma. In addition to revitalizing Sonoma through her business ventures, she authored the bestselling book *Housewise*, which earned her national interviews and appearances on the Today Show, Good Morning America, and Oprah.

Ms. Brangham is as equally dedicated to her philanthropic efforts as she is to her business ventures. Her efforts include promoting local arts—she has worked with the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, the Sebastiani Theatre Alliance, and the Sonoma International Film Festival—and helping the young people of Sonoma Valley through organizations such as Teen Safe Ride, the Mentoring Alliance, and the Sonoma Valley Boys & Girls Clubs. She has also served with the Sonoma Valley Hospital Coalition, the Sonoma Valley Fund, the Lyon Ranch Animal Rescue and Therapy Center as well as Pets Lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, Suzanne Brangham is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today as Sonoma’s Alcaldesa for 2014.

HONORING AUBURN UNIVERSITY FULLBACK JAY PROSCH

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who is representing our community in South Alabama in the Senior Bowl, Jay Prosch. Jay is a fullback at Auburn University, having originally attended UMS Wright in Mobile, AL, before playing college football at Auburn.

Jay is an exceptionally talented young individual. While serving as Team Captain his senior year at UMS Wright, he received the Joe Bullard, Jr. Award, given to the player who displays exemplary leadership and love of the game of football.

In addition, Jay was awarded the Most Valuable Linebacker Award, Mobile Optimist Club Offensive Back of the Year Award, and State of Alabama 4A Lineman of the Year Award. That year, his senior year, he recorded 199 tackles, 114 solo stops, 16 of which were for a loss, five pass interruptions, and one sack. He also rushed five times for 16 yards and one touchdown as a fullback.

Jay has become a standout at Auburn and previously during his time at the University of Illinois as a standout in strength training. He clean lifted more than 400 pounds while weighing just 250. He was also recorded at 4.72 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

CBS Sports named him a “Freak,” as well as Gil Brandt listing him as one of the country’s Top 100 Seniors this year.

We are all so proud of Jay and his accomplishments on the field of play. He has excelled as a player, a leader, and an individual, and is regarded as a leader by his teammates and coaches. South Alabama is proud to claim him as one of our own, and we wish him luck as he takes the field in the Senior Bowl.