

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, my wife Vicki and I extend our deepest appreciation of Colonel Thompson for his many years of dedicated service. There is no question that the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefitted greatly from Colonel Thompson's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight, and we wish him and his wife, Pam, the very best.

SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sanford High School men's basketball team and their coach, Rhett Larsen. Sanford's Indians claimed their sixth Class 2A state basketball title, with their previous titles coming in 1950, 1951, 1978, 1996, and 2006.

Sanford finished the season with a remarkable 26–1 record, capping it off with a championship win over Akron, 55–51 at the Colorado State University-Pueblo Massari Arena. The team made 17 free throws in the fourth quarter, making nine free throws in the final two minutes to clinch the victory.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sanford's basketball team and their extraordinary coach. Under Coach Laresn's expert guidance, I have no doubt that Sanford will win many more state titles. I look forward to this group of young men's future successes on and off the basketball court.

HONORING PETER WIRS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Wirs, a friend and a neighbor, who will soon become the first diabetic and oldest individual to step into an international freestyle wrestling mat at this year's USA Wrestling's National Open, taking place in Las Vegas on April 17. Peter Wirs currently serves as the 59th Republican Ward Leader in Philadelphia.

But despite what Peter has accomplished, diabetes continues to be an epidemic. One in 12 Americans has diabetes, and an additional one in 3 Americans is at risk for developing the disease. Every 17 seconds, another individual is diagnosed with diabetes. Shockingly, this disease kills more Americans every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. The American Diabetes Association's latest research estimates the total costs of diagnosed diabetes have risen to \$245 billion in 2012 from \$174 billion in 2007, when the cost was last examined, representing a 41 percent over a five-year period. Diabetes costs severely impact American productivity, let alone billions in healthcare costs.

Pete Wirs could have given up ten years ago. When I first met Pete Wirs he weighed 250 lbs. Today, he weighs 180 lbs. He exercises at 5:30 in the morning every day, fol-

lowed by drills and wrestling holds and moves practice every night after work at the Pennsylvania Wrestling Club headquarters, located in my District.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know whether Leader Wirs will win or lose his first match. But no matter what the final score ends up being, Pete Wirs will have scored a moral victory by simply stepping onto the mat, by getting his diabetes under control, and by proving to all of us that physical fitness is not a diet or a fad, but a life-long commitment to healthy eating, continuous exercise, and sports activity.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Wirs remains an inspiration to all diabetics and indeed to all of us who should be exercising and participating in sports and recreation. I join my colleague, Congressman JIM JORDAN, in congratulating Leader Wirs, and all of his fellow team members, coaches and boosters in what is sure to be a sports event for the history books.

IN MEMORY OF BERNADINO CRUZ, JR., AND HIS PASSION FOR EDUCATION, MUSIC, AND THE SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Bernadino Cruz, Jr., an educator, a musician and a community activist in Southwest Detroit.

As an educator, Mr. Cruz shared his love of music and the learning process with his students as a music teacher at Burt Elementary and then at Cesar Chavez Academy. In each instance, he took his love of music and focused that passion into connecting his students with the importance of their education. At Burt Elementary, Mr. Cruz not only directly tied the music department programming into the school's curriculum, but also took the initiative to expand the array of programming available to students by establishing a concert choir. At Cesar Chavez, Mr. Cruz continued his track record of dedication to his students by establishing an instrumental music program and a touring bilingual concert choir. As an honor and testament to the remarkable impact Mr. Cruz made on the students at Cesar Chavez, the new media center at its high school will be dedicated to him.

After more than six years as a teacher, Mr. Cruz stepped into a new educational role as Assistant Principal at the Hope of Detroit Academy. In this position, he continued his commitment to engage his students in the educational process. His responsibilities included overseeing the entire school curriculum, management of day-to-day operations and management of student body behavior.

Furthermore, Mr. Cruz's passion for learning did not stop with his students—it is a value that he practiced in his own life as he continued to seek more knowledge in the field of education. Following his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Wayne State University, Mr. Cruz went on to receive additional certifications in education and education administration from Wayne State and Marygrove College in Detroit. With each new skill he developed, Mr. Cruz furthered his mission to empower his students with a quality education.

As a musician, Mr. Cruz shared his passion for music with the Southwest Detroit community in many ways. In addition to his role as a music teacher in the field of education, Mr. Cruz served as a music teacher at the Most Holy Redeemer Church and used his musical talents to support many causes focused on strengthening the Southwest Detroit community. Working together with his brother Mauro, Mr. Cruz also sought to build bridges of cultural understanding by taking traditional Latin music and incorporating new rhythms and styles that helped youth better connect to both their identity and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, leaders, educators and artists, like Mr. Bernadino Cruz, Jr., are so important to ensuring the success of the communities we represent. Mr. Cruz showed a passion and dedication for education, music and the Southwest Detroit community that have inspired so many to make a difference in their community. I join the Southwest Detroit community, and all whose lives have been influenced by Mr. Cruz and his enthusiasm, in the sadness that is felt for his loss. However, I know that his family can take comfort in the incredible difference he has made in the lives of so many people, and the inspiration his legacy will continue to instill in future generations.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LEONARD WASSERMAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Leonard J. Wasserman of Oregon, Ohio, who passed from this life on Monday, March 10, 2014. Len Wasserman was an indefatigable and socially minded leader on many fronts, dedicating his life to the service of his country and his local community.

After graduating from Olney High School in 1944, Len served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. Following his service, he returned to Oregon, Ohio, to work as an engineer for Pure-Union oil, then as a chief engineer for Little Sisters of the Poor. In addition to his work as an engineer, he also enjoyed farming and continued pursuing this passion until his retirement in 2000.

In the city of Oregon, he has made an immeasurable impact through his active role in the community. He served the city in various capacities, ranging from Councilman, Mayor, member of T.M.O.C.O.G, and past chairman of the Safety Commission and the Oregon Growth Commission. Len also remained politically active throughout his life, through his involvement in the Oregon Democratic Club. He served as past president and was a lifetime member 45+ years precinct committeeman. He was also a life member of the St. Ignatius Church, serving the church in a variety of roles. Len was a member and past president of the Holy Name Society, church lector, Eucharistic minister, member and past president of St. Vincent DePaul Society, church councilman, usher, and past president of the church credit union. In addition to his involvement with the church, Len was also a member of the Christ Dunberger American Legion Post 537, where he served as chaplain and member of the color guard, V.F.W. 9816, life member of O.C.A.W. 346, Old News Boys, Eagles

2562, Swiss Club, G.A.F. Society, and the G.B.U.

Len Wasserman leaves to cherish his life and legacy his loving wife Wilma Wasserman, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family and friends. May we join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional man.

PINE RIVER LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of the Pine River Library District in Bayfield, Colorado. For their continued excellence and service to their community, the Pine River Library District has been selected as the Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal for 2014.

The Board of Directors and entire staff have contributed to the development of a truly world-class facility that provides a diverse array of services to the Bayfield community. Pine River not only offers traditional library services, but provides patrons with laptops, GPS devices, and e-readers to check out and use. Their dedication to the community also extends to education, offering teen and youth programs, free film and documentary screenings, and community classes on a regular basis.

The library is committed to creatively engaging the public through hands-on understanding of sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly research through their Living Library program. Everyone can come to the library and learn about sustainable foods in the community garden, explore a geodesic greenhouse, or take advantage of the upcoming tool lending program that will allow patrons to start their own garden at home. It is clear that Pine River is more than a library; it is a hub for knowledge and education that offers valuable resources to the Bayfield community every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the passion for knowledge that the Pine River Library District represents and to congratulate them on their selection for this prestigious award. With their unique and comprehensive approach to learning, I am confident that they will continue to serve as an example to libraries worldwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and missed the following votes:

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this motion.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments

Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

H.R. 1228—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building," as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (Rep. BISHOP (UT)—Natural Resources). Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this rule.

An amendment, offered by Ms. TSONGAS, numbered 3 printed in House Report 113—385 to preserve the ability of the President to declare as national monuments those that provide for the "protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history," regardless of their size. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING KEITH CARSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Carson for his extraordinary career in public service. Mr. Carson is currently a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for District 5, where he has served his constituents with dedication.

A proud Berkeley native, Mr. Carson graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor of arts in social sciences. He went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from California State University, Hayward. Mr. Carson served as an aide for Congressman Ronald V. Dellums for 14 years before holding public office.

During his tenure on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Carson has promoted and continues to promote many beneficial programs for youth in Alameda County. Among these, Mr. Carson initiated the Family Journeys/Youth Ancestry Project in partnership with McClymonds High School, Berkeley Technical High School, Beyond Emancipation, the African American Genealogical Society and the staff at the Family History Center at the Mormon Temple. The Ancestry project is a semester long research project with the aim to spark conversations between youth, their parents, and other family members. Furthermore, Mr. Carson spearheaded a pilot youth bus pass program in 2001, providing AC Transit passes for all students in grades 6 through 12 who qualified for free and reduced lunch in the county.

Mr. Carson has also been at the forefront of the fight to improve health services in Alameda County. One example, Alameda County's Place Matters is an initiative designed to improve the health of communities by addressing the social conditions that lead to poor health. In addition, he pushed for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services to develop an African American Utilization Study to determine which behavioral health care services in Alameda County African Americans utilize in an effort to better serve the population.

Mr. Carson is keenly committed to community leadership, serving as chairman of several Alameda County committees and organizations. He currently sits on the Board for the Alameda County East Bay Economic Development Alliance, one of the largest business organizations serving the East Bay Area. Mr. Carson is also the Chairman of the Alameda County Budget Work Group and is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Moreover, he represents the Alameda Board of Supervisors in State and national organizations, including the Board of Directors for the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Carson has been praised for his commitment and contributions to the community. He has worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of the community he serves through public service and raising awareness on critical social issues.

It is a privilege to call Keith one of my closest personal friends. We have traveled to Cuba, Africa, and Asia together and have shared many unique experiences in learning about the world and our responsibilities as global citizens. As our beloved, the late Supervisor John George instructed us—think locally, act globally. Keith's life is the epitome of that wisdom. As a longtime friend, Keith not only supports my work as an elected official, but constantly checks in with me to remind me of the importance of work-life balance, whether it's taking time to rest, exercise, eat properly, and spend time with my family. He cares deeply about my personal well being given the 24/7 nature of my work and for that, my family and I are deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Keith Carson, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you continued success as you serve the residents of the East Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNM UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work and impressive accomplishments of the Undergraduate Mock Trial Team at the University of New Mexico. This determined group of students recently competed in a regional tournament in California, where their performance earned them a trip to the opening round of the national competition. Following a strong second place finish in that round, the team has qualified to move to the next round taking place later this month in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to their success in the regional tournament and the opening round competition, the team has traveled around the West, placing first in a competition in Colorado Springs, and giving impressive performances in competitions in Texas and California. While their success in mock trial competitions is a source of pride, it is their initiative and leadership as a self-coached group that is so impressive.

While many of the teams it competes against have a faculty or professional attorney