

from the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois who is turning 50 years old this week.

Twenty-five years ago, Steve Tufenkjian graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy and has served the people of Illinois in several different ways ever since. In that time, he has served as everything from a K9 officer to a member of the Special Enforcement Team and from Sergeant to his current role where he oversees a team of Troopers as Platoon Commander.

In each of his roles, Mr. Tufenkjian has been recognized by the Illinois State Police for his great work. He has received several awards for his dedication and, as a member of the Special Enforcement Team, he made more than 1,000 reckless driving arrests.

Our state and our nation need more dedicated public servants like Steve Tufenkjian. I wish him and his family—his two sons Zachary and Jacob as well as his wife of 17 years Michelle, who is also a State Police officer—a happy 50th birthday and thank them for their continued public service and efforts to keep our community safe.

TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF CONCORD CITY COUNCILMAN DAVID W. PHILLIPS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David W. Phillips of Concord, North Carolina, for his more than twenty years of service to our community on the Concord City Council.

Dave was first elected to the Concord City Council in 1995 and has served on the Council five consecutive terms. During this time, he served two terms as Mayor Pro-Term. Born and raised in Concord, Dave has a history of service to our community, starting at an early age with his leadership in Boy Scouts. He graduated from Concord High School and continued on to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After graduating, Dave worked for a short time back in Concord at Cannon Mills before starting a long and successful career at Duke Energy.

Over the years, Dave has served his community in many different capacities. He is a member and former President of the Concord Rotary Club, a member of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association, and serves on the Boards of Directors for Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. and Cabarrus County Community Foundation. Additionally, he formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce.

Dave's steady leadership has seen Concord maintain a low tax rate while its population has more than doubled from the 42,000 people who lived in the city when he was first elected in 1995. During a time that saw our area lose thousands of textile and manufacturing jobs while still increasing in population, Dave and the rest of the City Council were instrumental in continuing infrastructure develop-

ment, growing city schools and recruiting new industry to Concord. Because of his hard work and dedication, Concord's future looks brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking David W. Phillips for his esteemed service on the Concord City Council and wishing him well as he opens the next chapter in his storied life.

HONORING KIRK GREGG

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my Congressional district is the home of Corning Incorporated, an American company that has risen over its 164-year history to become one of the most innovative manufacturers in the world.

Today, I rise to take a moment to honor Kirk Gregg, Corning's Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, who is retiring from the company after 22 years of executive leadership. Over his tenure, Kirk has made an enormous contribution to the company's success and to the community's development. I am most grateful to Kirk for his unparalleled commitment to the community. He has had an enormously positive impact on my constituents and my extended family that live in the district.

Kirk joined Corning in 1993 and was named Chief Administrative Officer in 2002. The same year, he was appointed to serve on Corning's Management Committee, a small, very senior group of executives who lead the company. Over the last decade, Kirk has risen up the corporate ladder to become the third highest ranking executive in the company.

As Chief Administrative Officer, Kirk has built the core infrastructure that makes Corning efficient and effective. He has had global responsibility for the corporate staff, including human resources, information technology, supply management, transportation, business services, community relations, government affairs, and aviation. In total, he has managed over \$1B annually in corporate infrastructure, making Corning's staff one of the top performers among its peers in the country's corporate community.

It has been Kirk's work for the community that distinguishes him among corporate leaders and for which I am most grateful. He has played a huge role in meeting the needs of New York's "Southern Tier."

For 17 years, he chaired the Three Rivers Development, attracting tens of millions of dollars of investment to diversify the local community and create jobs. For 15 years, he led the Corning Classic LPGA Tournaments, raising millions of dollars for area hospitals. And statewide, he served for a decade on the Board of Directors for the Business Council of New York State, two years as the Board's chairman. Last, but not least, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of local charities, cultural institutions, and human service organizations.

Every Member of Congress seeks the perspective of people with broad insight into and

who contribute generously to the communities we represent. For me, Kirk is one of those rare people. He understands the people, the community, and the responsibility that corporate leaders have to support their local institutions.

At the same time, he is modest and self-effacing. Kirk is one of those people who works quietly and effectively to make our communities better.

I am very happy to call Kirk Gregg my friend. I know that I speak for the entire Corning, New York community when I thank him for his citizenship and service. We wish him and his wife Penny the very best in a well-deserved retirement. May they enjoy many more happy days entering this new chapter in their lives.

HONORING MAGNUS JOHNSON

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Magnus Johnson for his service to his country and community.

Johnson is a veteran of the United States Army and a former Green Beret, completing consecutive tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson's record of service included work with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDS) and Unexploded Ordnances which garnered him a Bronze Star; moreover, Johnson's service overseas earned him a Combat Medal.

Following Johnson's final tour, he was struck with grief when a close friend and fellow service member committed suicide in 2013. Johnson's personal experience with suicide led him to create "Elder Heart," an organization dedicated to healing. His organization strives to repair the divide between veteran and civilian by encouraging both to engage in projects that enhance the community. Elder Heart's approach led to the creation of public art; a sculpture built by veterans and civilians in Nashville, Indiana which highlights Elder Heart's hands-on approach to a veteran's healing process.

Moreover, Johnson aims to raise awareness of veterans who commit suicide—twenty-two every day—through social media, magazine and newspaper advertisements, and other forms of media. Coined "Mission 22," Johnson hopes to educate the public about the plight of some of our service members. Elder Heart is currently planning to construct a national memorial to bring attention to suicide among America's veterans.

Johnson's work has not kept him from being a loyal husband and father. He hopes his 6-year-old daughter and newborn son will come to know the sacrifice of America's veterans.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Johnson on a number of occasions and can speak without hesitation to his ethical character and his dedication to his brothers-and-sisters in arms. It is a privilege to award him with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.