

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING GOV. TERRY BRANSTAD ON BECOMING THE LONGEST-SERVING GOVERNOR IN AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the whole House, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Governor Terry Branstad on his 7,642nd day in office. He is now the longest-serving governor in American history. And this day of recognition comes not a moment too soon because his principled leadership is a model for us all.

Over the course of his 21 years in office, he has helped the people of Iowa overcome enormous challenges. He inherited a budget deficit; he now presides over a large surplus. When he came in, the state economy had gone bust; now it is booming. And through good times and bad, he has always stood four-square behind his values.

People say he is good at retail politics, and that is certainly true. But his success is more than a testament to his skill. It is a testament to his devotion. Governor Branstad knows that a true public servant lives among the people. He visits all 99 counties of Iowa every year. He can tell you the ins and outs of everything in Iowa—from soybeans to livestock to insurance. He goes to every small event in every small town because he wants to be there. He listens because he cares.

Asked what he wants his legacy to be, Governor Branstad has said he wants Iowa to be a place where young people want to stay—where there is opportunity for all. I could think of no better goal for every governor in the country.

I also think it is fitting that the long-serving governor whose record he has surpassed was George Clinton, a man who left his state to become vice president. For Governor Branstad, national office would have been a step down. He knows his state. He loves his state. The people of Iowa are grateful for his service. I'm grateful for his friendship. And all of us in the House are grateful for his example.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND MARILYN RYAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill and Marilyn Ryan of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

Bill and Marilyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Laura, Mary,

Jane, Nancy, Anne, and Carol, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Ryan family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on December 11, 2015, the House of Representatives considered the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Regrettably, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast my vote on this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR CLOSE PARTNER TAIWAN

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the positive steps that our close partner and friend Taiwan has taken in the South China Sea.

On December 12, 2015, the Taiwanese government inaugurated a newly constructed lighthouse and renovated wharf on the Taiping Island, which is the largest natural island of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and has been administered by Taiwan since 1946. This infrastructure project will help support free and safe passage of ships through the surrounding waters, further enabling Taiwan to offer humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and provide emergency rescue support to passing vessels.

Like the United States, Taiwan is a firm believer in freedom of navigation rights and has actively worked to promote peace and prosperity throughout the South China Sea region. Earlier this year, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, reiterating their government's longstanding position of shelving disputes and promoting joint resource development in these contested waters.

Over the years, Taiwan has continued to play a responsible and peaceful role in the region and as such, I urge my colleagues to join

me in working with our Taiwanese partners to promote our common interests and uphold international law.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN FRANCIS DITRO

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Master Sergeant John F. Ditro who will retire from the United States Air Force on December 31, 2015. Chief Master Sergeant Ditro has more than 27 years of combined military service in the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, and the New York Air National Guard.

Chief Ditro entered the United States Navy through the delayed enlistment program in May of 1982 and was called up to active duty in July of that year. In January of 1983, he was assigned to the United States Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, working on truck diesel engines and aviation fuel pumps in support of the Aviation Fuels Division.

After a brief stint in the naval reserves, Chief Ditro re-enlisted in the United States Navy in March of 1986. He was stationed aboard the *Caloosahatchee* and in March of 1988, Chief Ditro was released from the United States Navy. Chief Ditro then began working as a civilian accountant at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and in 1994 he joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard as a Combat Communications technician. In August of 1995 Chief Ditro accepted a position with the New York Air National Guard working as a Command and Control Battle Management Operations specialist in the Northeast Air Defense Sector. Chief Ditro was activated on September 11, 2001 after the attack on the World Trade Center.

In June of 2002, Chief Ditro transferred to the 174th Fighter Wing located at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York. Chief Ditro was named the Financial Management Superintendent in 2003; under Chief Ditro's management, the financial services office was named the Financial Services Office of the Year in 2008. In June of 2010, Chief Ditro accepted the challenge to become the first Operations Support Squadron Superintendent leading the charge to assist the Operations Group in all missions as the Chief of Intelligence.

Chief Master Sergeant Ditro's major awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 Devices, Air Force Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Combat Readiness Medal with 2 Devices, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Devices, National Defense Service Medal with

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1 Device, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corp Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity with 5 Devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 3 "M" Devices, New York Recruiting Medal, New York Humane Service to New York State Medal, New York Air National Guard Outstanding Enlisted Leader of the Year Ribbon, and New York Defense of Liberty award.

Chief Ditro has served his country honorably and for that he has my utmost respect. I want to thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and service to his country. I wish Chief Ditro the best and I hope that he enjoys his retirement with his wife Sandy and his two sons, Jason and Joshua.

CONGRATULATING LOCAL
LEADERS IN COCHISE COUNTY

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate local leaders in Cochise County, KE&G construction, and Cemex for their outstanding work on the Palominas Flood Protection and Groundwater Recharge project. This project is the first-ever aquifer protection and recharge effort of its kind implemented at a regional scale, and aims to protect flows of a desert river and its lush streamside habitat while also replenishing the water supplies of local residents. The Palominas project embodies the values of the residents of Cochise County who not only want to ensure protection of our waterways and natural resources, but are looking for solutions to provide more economic opportunity. One-size-fits-all requirements from Washington fail to take into account Arizona's unique landscapes, but the formation of local partnerships allowed the community to come together to create a solution to benefit all, including the citizens, businesses, and native plants and animals.

This project received top state and local honors in Arizona and was recognized internationally for offering a long-term solution to the recurring problem of sheet flow flooding at a local elementary school and the need for aquifer recharge. The project includes a 17 million gallon detention basin that holds storm water runoff, as well as dry wells and infiltration trenches covering 290 acres. These dry wells and infiltration trenches provide additional storage capacity during storms, reduce the loss of water through evaporation, and increase the amount of water recharged into the nearby San Pedro River.

Dennis Donovan, a civil engineer overseeing the project for Cochise County told the Arizona Republic that the project includes the large detention basin with berms to slowly steer the water into a wide channel before spilling over four foot walls that "slow down the storm water to where, to the best it can, it (sinks and) recharges." The water control mechanisms in the basin keep storm water from washing through in a day leaving the basin dry again the next.

The Sierra Vista Herald noted that, "CEMEX's Sierra Vista Plant joined forces

with KE&G Construction to complete the project within a three-month time frame. Working through more than two inches of rainfall, these dynamic teams beat the heaviest rains of the summer monsoon season."

The health of the San Pedro River is important to Fort Huachuca and the vitality of the surrounding community. Projects like these help to protect the future of the San Pedro River and demonstrate the commitment of the Army and the community to preserving their natural environment.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS IN VIRGINIA'S 10TH
DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement personnel who have recently been honored at the 11th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner in my district for their invaluable service and commitment to our communities. I submit the following excerpts from a speech delivered by Mr. Jim Wink, who spoke at this event in the fall. This year's honorees are Officer Dustin Bowers of the Mount Weather Police Department, Officer William McCann of the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center, Deputy Shane Jewell of the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Mackenzie Carter of the Winchester City Sheriff's Office, Deputy Aaron Jeter of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Laura Patten of the Berryville Police Department, Corporal Richie Lewis O'Connor of Winchester Police Department, Trooper Terry Hilliker of the Virginia Department of State Police, and DEA Special Agent Thomas Hickey of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force.

Officer Dustin Bowers has continually displayed the highest degree of competence, esprit de corps, and dedication to the mission at Mount Weather. He routinely goes above and beyond to perform his duties as a police officer, and in doing so, improves the Mount Weather department. Officer Bowers, without hesitation, took on the responsibility of serving as the field training officer for new officers. This year, Officer Bowers was selected to attend the federal law enforcement training center's active shooter instructor course. Since completing the course, Officer Bowers has worked to improve the department's capability to respond to an active shooter incident. He is currently developing an active shooter training program for Mount Weather emergency operation center employees focused on teaching them how to react to shooting incidents in the work place and other public locations. Officer Bowers also, through his own initiative, researched and proposed new equipment that the department purchased, which improved police officer readiness at all levels. Mount Weather Police Department can think of no finer officer more deserving of recognition.

Officer William McCann is the head of the field training officer program, a CPR instructor, training officer, and constant mentor at the detention center in Winchester. He has been nominated and will be the recipient of two life-saving awards. In addition to these two critical incidents, Officer McCann's impact is present on a daily basis. He is one of the most respected and influen-

tial staff members in the detention center which accounts for nearly 200 employees. Officer McCann's wealth of knowledge comes from over 20 years of experience in the Maryland department of corrections where he served as a lieutenant.

Deputy Shane Jewell joined the Clarke County Sheriff's Office in 2009. He is a respected instructor at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, where he teaches defensive tactics. Deputy Jewell supports the mission of this office and is the epitome of a team player. Deputy Jewell's hard work and dedication to the Clarke County community is valuable.

Deputy Mackenzie Carter joined the Winchester City Sheriff's Office only a year ago; however, in a short time, she has displayed her dedication to the office and her team. She exerts a strong ability to assist others and volunteers for extra duties at the sheriff's office. Deputy Carter has the willingness to take on difficult projects and see them to a successful completion, which has repeatedly impressed the sheriff over the past year. Deputy Carter has also shown that she is dedicated to going above and beyond in serving her community. She has participated in and started several community-based fundraising events and community service incentives, such as the CCAP food drive, Evans Home for Children food drive, the Winchester Literacy Foundation summer reading program.

While on patrol one evening, Deputy Aaron Jeter, observed a speeding violator. He made the decision to stop the vehicle for the violation. With the assistance from other deputies; Deputy Jeter was able to recover a large amount of heroin from under the vehicle. The total amount seized from the traffic stop was 261 individual packets of heroin and over \$400.00 in cash. Following this seizure, Deputy Jeter continued his increased effort to combat the local heroin epidemic, which plagues our community. Deputy Jeter's work against the local heroin problem is truly noteworthy. The efforts of deputies, like Aaron Jeter, will help curb the amount of heroin related overdoses and deaths, which our community has recently faced. Deputy Jeter's outstanding work with these cases makes him a worthy and deserving candidate for this year's HSCBA award.

Laura Patten serves the Berryville Police Department as the sole civilian employee in the capacity of administrative assistant. She began working for the department in August of 1989 and is looking forward to her upcoming retirement in 2016. Early in her career she served as a crossing guard making sure the children of the community made their way safely to school and back home. In the office, Laura keeps the flow of communication working between the community and officers in the field. Indeed, she is the face and voice of the department working the front desk and answering the phones. It is often an under-appreciated function that Laura provides to the department. Berryville PD Chief Neal White states he is very thankful that she is getting the credit she truly deserves.

Corporal Richie Lewis of Winchester responded to a violent kidnapping last year that involved a male holding a knife to the throat of a female. Lewis helped to neutralize the situation with the help of his team. Upon seeing the officers the suspect became agitated, so the officers withdrew from the building out of fear the suspect would harm the female. When the suspect shut the hall door Cpl. Lewis reentered the building and snuck up to the landing on the third floor. While Cpl. Lewis was approaching the landing, with gun drawn, the suspect reopened the door. Out of fear of shooting the female Cpl. Lewis transitioned from his pistol to his Taser. When the suspect gave

Cpl. Lewis an opening between the female's body and his own, Cpl. Lewis was able to shoot the suspect with his Taser and incapacitate him, bringing the situation to a quick and effective resolution.

Trooper Hilliker handles all traffic and criminal matters with professionalism and personal pride. He continues to take on the extra responsibility of being an explosive K-9 handler on top of his other duties. Trooper Hilliker's dedication to the department and the citizens it serves is unmatched. 2001–2002 Winchester Police Department, 1997–1999 Muskego Police Department Muskego, WI. Terry Hilliker served as a member of the Winchester and Muskego Police Departments as a patrolman where he was tasked with a multitude of responsibilities and challenges when working in local law enforcement. The experience Terry learned during this time is evident in his current role as a trooper. Terry Hilliker started his service related professions with the United States Marine Corps (1976–1996). He served in various command, staff and administrative billets from the platoon, company, and battalion levels to the regimental, brigade, and division level. Terry retired from the Marine Corps with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

DEA Special Agent Thomas Hickey is a contributing member of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force and assists members of the force with numerous narcotics cases annually. Special Agent Hickey has been and continues to be a major supporting federal entity essential to fighting the current heroin epidemic. Special Agent Hickey has been instrumental in numerous local heroin cases by providing intelligence information, identifying major Baltimore, Maryland heroin suppliers and arresting and prosecuting large scale Baltimore heroin distributors who have plagued our communities. Special Agent Hickey is a dedicated law enforcement professional who believes in the working relationships between state, local and federal law enforcement agencies. He continues to provide an expert element to the drug task force that is necessary in combating the drug epidemics that plague our communities. Special Agent Hickey responds to active drug overdoses and assists agents by providing support and advice. He prefers to be involved in local drug cases from the beginning, and often responds to and assists local agents at all hours of the day and night. In 2014 special Agent Hickey initiated, investigated, and prosecuted fourteen large scale federal heroin investigations all of which were directly related to the Winchester, Frederick and Clarke county communities.

TAIWAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE IN THE TAIPING ISLAND OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere appreciation for the Republic of China (Taiwan) recent leadership and initiative in pursuing long-term peace and stability in the South China Sea.

In December 2015, a U.S. State Department official expressed that all claimants should work to reduce regional tensions.

I encourage all relevant countries to resolve maritime disputes in accordance with international laws and regulations, including the United Nations Charter and UN Convention on

the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). I especially take note of Taiwan's willingness to work with other parties concerned, through consultations conducted on the basis of equality and reciprocity, to jointly ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea, to uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight, and to conserve and develop resources in the region.

Taipei Island is the largest natural and self-sustainable island in Spratly Islands. This island qualifies as an island according to the UNCLOS. Taiwan has set up a hospital in Taipei Island. Over the past decade, this hospital has offered humanitarian assistance to 21 people in 20 cases, including 12 Philippine and Myanmar nationals, which fully demonstrates Taiwan's dedication to humanitarianism.

COMMEMORATING TROY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the city of Troy, Michigan. Troy has always been a community of opportunity.

The township of Troy became a home rule city in 1955 after the introduction of commercial and industrial development led to tremendous growth in the post-World War II period. Since 1955, Troy has witnessed a myriad of changes including the construction of I-75, the explosion of growth on Big Beaver Road, as well as thriving residential neighborhoods.

These achievements have not gone unnoticed. Troy is consistently rated as one of the safest cities in Michigan, best places to raise a family, and most recently, one of the happiest places in America.

None of these things would be possible without the thousands of city residents that strive each day to improve their community and take care of their families. It is to you, the residents of Troy that I say thank you for the privilege of representing you in Congress and congratulations to Troy for sixty prosperous years, with many more to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MARSHALL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TCAL DIVISION II STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, for more than twenty five years, Marshall Christian Academy has been providing Christian based education to students whose families desire them to have a solid foundation in academics and athletics, while developing excellence and Christ-centered character. It is a great honor to recognize the Marshall Christian Academy Guardians on their most recent accomplishment, capturing the Texas Christian Athletic League Division II 6-man Football State Championship title.

Marshall Christian Academy takes pride in working on the A, B, and Cs—attitude, behav-

ior, and conduct, in both academics and athletics. The school website states, "At Marshall Christian Academy, we play Six-Man Football to work in the character of Christ to our young men. God has blessed us with the opportunity to play the great game of football. Six-Man is an effective tool for developing young men in discipleship and training them in the game of life—how to play a game, how to be tough and how to represent Jesus Christ on and off the field."

The team fought and overcame a number of obstacles before claiming the state title, proving once again they are champions in every sense of the word. Their season was riddled with lengthy travel, inclement weather, illnesses, and a devastating car accident which seriously injured two team members and claimed the life of a family member. But through it all, the Guardians relied on the power of prayer to persevere and emerge triumphant, resulting in a season culminating in their first ever state football championship with a 36–28 win over Annapolis Christian Academy.

The Marshall Christian Academy Guardians achieving this landmark accomplishment include David Florence, Stephan Florence, William Hency, Ryan Stokell, Aslan Bell, Andrew Stokell, Dylan Alfred, Hunter Cagle, Dazmond Lewis, Noah Heredia, Caleb Beesinger and Matthew Stokell.

Congratulations should be extended to the dedicated faculty and staff members who so skillfully created the solid foundation of direction and motivation necessary to build a team of champions: Marshall Christian Academy Administrators Raymond Bade, Duane Schultz and Guy Barr III, along with the Guardians' athletic staff comprised of Head Coach Guy Barr III, along with Assistant Coaches Jeff Arrington, Tyrone Robinson and Robert Stokell.

May God continue to bless their efforts so they may one day dedicate their drive and determination to help make this great country even stronger. My most enthusiastic and heartfelt congratulations to the Marshall Christian Academy Guardians, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

REFLECTING ON THE RECOVERY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SINCE TYPHOON SOUDELOR

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on the night of August 2nd and through the early morning of August 3rd this year, Typhoon Soudelor lashed through the Northern Mariana Islands, causing widespread destruction to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, uprooting the lives of the people I represent here in Congress.

Today, I want to reflect on that event, and on the exceptional grace and generosity that have made recovery possible.

The typhoon's impact was especially grave on Saipan, the most populated island in the

Northern Marianas. Soudelor rendered hundreds of families homeless overnight. It also decimated infrastructure—knocking out power and water systems, shutting down the ports, ravaging the college, schools and other public buildings.

Survival is a way of life in our islands. We are accustomed to bracing ourselves through tropical storms and picking ourselves up when skies clear. But the sheer ferocity of Typhoon Soudelor caught us all off-guard. Even the National Weather Service failed to foresee the force of this storm.

That there was no loss of life is testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of our people. And we are grateful to Providence for sparing us.

As long as we live, those of us who experienced Soudelor will not forget the wreckage we saw the morning after. Nor will we forget the hardship that followed, the long hours in line for food and fuel and other necessities, the days of physical suffering and distress, the weeks without power and running water.

Soudelor tested our infrastructure, our government, and our capacity as a community to deal with disaster.

Now, however, four months after the storm, I can report that conditions are greatly improved, since that long and terrifying night in August.

Electricity is restored, and residents have daily water service. Streets have been cleaned in our villages and commercial districts. Students are in school. Businesses have reopened. Workers are employed again. Families are putting their lives back together.

Though there is still much to reconstruct and strengthen to be better prepared and more resilient than before, it is remarkable how far we have come on the road to recovery.

So, today, I want to thank all those who contributed to this successful response to adversity. There are so many individuals and organizations. It is not possible for me to know and name each and every one. Their collective efforts prove how much can be done, when people work together towards a common goal.

First we thank the American people, who gave without hesitation to fellow citizens in need. When all is said and done, American taxpayers will have contributed an estimated 100 million dollars in federal disaster aid to feed those who had no food, shelter those who lost their homes, repair residences and replace lost property, reopen shops and return the economy to life, revive the power and water systems. In doing all this, they gave us the hope that we needed to work our way to recovery.

We thank President Barack Obama and Governor Eloy Inos for their leadership in ensuring the prompt availability of resources to address the state of disaster in the Northern Marianas.

We thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency team, led by Federal Coordinating Officer Stephen De Blasio. FEMA's collaborative spirit set the tone for the response, working with other federal agencies and responders to aid the thousands of typhoon survivors.

We thank our U.S. service members, who mobilized quickly to produce and distribute drinking water, clear debris, clean up fuel spills, and transport critical supplies and equipment.

We thank our Commonwealth emergency management crews, utility workers, police officers and firefighters, healthcare professionals, educators, and other local government employees, who answered the call to serve even as their own families were picking up the pieces of their shattered homes and lives.

We thank our local businesses, shuttered by the storm, who nevertheless rallied together to raise funds for the recovery effort.

We thank the legions of volunteers—of all ages, all religions and races, many survivors themselves—who came forward to share food, water, clothing, shelter, and comfort with their fellow human beings.

And we thank our friends from throughout the Pacific region, and indeed throughout the world, for sending supplies, expertise, and equipment by air and by sea to help us back on our feet.

Today, the marks of Typhoon Soudelor are still to be seen in homes and businesses yet to be repaired, debris yet to be removed. But beneath these physical scars, a new strength is arising.

A new community-based working group known as CARE—the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts—has emerged. The people in CARE—from all walks of life, private and public sector, formal and informal organizations—are committed to rebuilding our island home so that it is stronger and better than before.

With this newborn spirit of hope, cooperation and interdependence I am confident that we will succeed.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH YEAR OF
DESEGREGATION OF THE CITY
OF MEMPHIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th year of desegregation of the City of Memphis Fire Department. On July 11, 1955, twelve African American men were recruited to join the Memphis Fire Department and were assigned to Fire Station No. 8 located at E.H. Crump and Mississippi Boulevards. They were: Robert Crawford; Carl Stotts; Floyd Newsum; Norvell Wallace; George Dumas; John Copper; William Carter; Leon Parsons; Richard Burns; Lawrence Yates; Leroy Johnson; and Murray Pugues. Like many African Americans who worked to break the barriers erected by Jim Crow era laws, there were many challenges to being the first to integrate the fire department, but their love for the city of Memphis and desire to keep citizens safe from harm helped them to overcome the challenges with the highest levels of determination and professionalism.

For many years following integration, racial differences dictated how African American firefighters responded to fires. In his book "Black Fire: Portrait of a Black Memphis Firefighter," Robert Crawford recalled how the twelve men were required to wait outside homes belonging to white residents until after the Captain inspected the home to ensure any woman present was appropriately dressed. When responding to fires at residences belonging to African Americans, the twelve were allowed to

enter and investigate alongside their white colleagues. Crawford also recounted the challenges he and others faced when working with firefighters from other firehouses around the city, obtaining information on fighting fires and in being considered for promotions.

Fire Station No. 8 became well-known for its crews' perseverance, work ethic and bravery in the line of duty. Over time, other fire companies became open to working with the men, which led to the full integration of the Memphis Fire Department. This was, however, not without resistance from some within the department who were opposed to such change, even into the 1980s when some of the twelve men had been promoted to high ranks. By the time of their retirements, they had achieved the ranks of: Robert Crawford—Deputy Director of the Memphis Fire Department; Carl Stotts—Deputy Chief; Floyd Newsum—Division Chief; Norvell Wallace—Assistant Fire Marshal; George Dumas—Battalion Commander; John Copper—Captain; William Carter—Fire Inspector; Leon Parsons—Lieutenant; Richard Burns—Private; and Lawrence Yates—Private. Sixty years later, the Memphis Fire Department remains integrated and three African Americans have held the highest position of Director, including Alvin Benson who now serves as the Chief of the Shelby County Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, these twelve men are a part of Memphis history. They are honored with an exhibit at the Fire Museum of Memphis and they have a place in the hearts of the citizens of Memphis. Now, they will be honored and remembered in the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th year of desegregation of the Memphis Fire Department.

HONORING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEATH OF U.S.
BORDER PATROL AGENT BRIAN
TERRY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Terry and his service to this great country as a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

In 2009, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives began a program known as "Operation Fast and Furious." The program was a maligned attempt to track 2,000 weapons destined for drug cartels.

Five years ago, Border Patrol agents were assaulted by a band of robbers 17 miles inside the U.S. border in Arizona, resulting in the death of Brian Terry on December 15, 2010. Two of the guns found at the scene were linked to Operation Fast and Furious. Together with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY and the Senate Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform attempted to get answers for the Terry family, but this effort has been stonewalled and obstructed by those responsible for the ill-conceived Operation.

Before serving three and a half years with the U.S. Border Patrol, Agent Terry served in the United States Marine Corps and worked as a police officer in Ecorse and Lincoln Park, Michigan, not far from his hometown of Flat

Rock. He was only 40 years old when his life was cut tragically short. Agent Terry is survived by his mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, brother and two sisters.

Some of those involved in Agent Terry's shooting were recently convicted for their terrible crime. However, the Obama Administration continues to actively resist turning over information related to the Congressional investigation into Operation Fast and Furious. We must never give up our fight to ensure the Terry family gets nothing less than full accountability from their government. I have pledged to them before, and do so again today, that I will continue to pursue the truth.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN SCHWEIZER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ryan Schweizer from Dowling Catholic High School for winning the Class 4A Boys Cross Country individual title. Ryan is the son of Mike and Kathy Schweizer.

Ryan has spent his high school career working towards a single goal: winning a coveted state championship. After 4 long years of hard work, Ryan was able to achieve that goal when he crossed the finish line at the 2015 Class 4A Boys Cross Country State Championship. He finished 4 seconds ahead of any other runner.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Ryan demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ryan on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and athletic pursuits.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR GERALD W. GROSS OF WEST EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mayor of the Borough of West Easton, PA, the Honorable Gerald W. Gross, for his 50 years of service as an elected official. His accomplishments were recognized by the West Easton Borough Council on the evening of Monday, December 14.

Mayor Gross first held an official role in West Easton as a member of the Borough Council. It was a position he held for twenty years. In 1986, he was sworn in as the Mayor of West Easton. He has been the mayor for thirty years.

Known to be a patient and giving man, Mayor Gross would take calls from home to hear complaints and questions from Borough residents. He owns a landscaping business and often donates free materials and services to the Borough to maintain parks and recreational areas.

As a dedicated leader, Mayor Gross closely oversaw several large community projects, such as the installment of public sewer lines and the planning and construction of the West Easton municipal building. He also led planning and preparations for the Borough's centennial celebration in 1998, which was ended with a fireworks display.

Mayor Gross has been ardent in his efforts to boost economic development in the Borough. A notable accomplishment was his role in the establishment of a new Northampton County leased DUI Treatment Center in 2012, which generates \$50,000 in impact fees for the Borough's general fund. Additionally, he has worked to make the community and its parks safe and clean in order to promote West Easton as a great place for families.

Mayor Gross is also known to be someone who can bring people together. He believes much can be done when people are willing to compromise, and he stresses the importance of listening to each other and staying focused on the greater good of the community. His good works have served as a role model for his daughter, Kelly Gross, who was first elected to West Easton Borough Council in 1993 and currently serves as Council President.

It is an honor for me to recognize Mayor Gerald Gross for his generous nature and his lifetime of service. With a will to do for others, he has improved his community and inspired the next generation of leaders.

CHINA DISCRIMINATES AGAINST CANADIAN FALUN GONG CONTESTANT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I come here today with yet another example of China's egregious disregard for the most basic of human rights—the right to live freely.

After the Falun Gong's rise in popularity in the 1990s, the Chinese Government perceived this peaceful group as a threat. Over the years, Falun Gong followers in China have been imprisoned, tortured, and killed. In fact, there are more Falun Gong practitioners in prison in China than any other persecuted group.

Last month China hit a new low in its attempt to silence the Falun Gong community. Anastasia Lin is a Falun Gong practitioner who also happens to be Miss World Canada. The Miss World competition is held this year in China but Miss Canada can't go. Why? Because China refused to give her a visa. She was given no explanation why. However, the motive is clear. Beijing does not like how outspoken Ms. Lin has been about China's human rights abuses and religious oppression.

Anastasia Lin moved from China to Canada when she was 13 years old. Yet she has not stopped fighting for the rights of her fellow members of the Falun Gong community. During a congressional hearing in July, Ms. Lin told Members that tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been killed so their organs could be harvested and sold for transplants. Clearly, Beijing's only concern is remaining in power, not the welfare of the Chinese people.

Last week, on the 65th annual International Human Rights Day, I gave another speech demanding Beijing put a stop to this atrocious practice of harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience. It is high time China ends its illegal subjugation of Falun Gong practitioners. Justice must be served.

Unfortunately, Anastasia Lin is an innocent victim of the Chinese Government's attempts to persecute the Falun Gong. It just goes to show how obsessed the Chinese Government is about persecuting the Falun Gong. Beijing is now censoring beauty pageants. But the courageous men and women of the Falun Gong community will not be silenced by Beijing's abuse—beauty pageant or no beauty pageant.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH LAMPE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Ruth Lampe, who at the age of 102 has received her honorary high school diploma from Winterset High School.

Back in Ruth's younger years it wasn't uncommon for students to drop out of school and go work to help support their family. She did so after her freshman year at Winterset High School. Ruth would have graduated with the class of 1931. Today, Ruth volunteers her time two days a week at the senior center in Winterset where she helps serve meals to those who need it the most. A friend of Ruth's, and another regular at the senior center, worked with the school district for months to attain her honorary diploma.

Mr. Speaker, applaud and congratulate Ruth for receiving her high school diploma after so many years and thank her for staying active in her community. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth and wishing her nothing but the best.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today while I rise in support of H.R. 158 the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015, I must also note my reservations about some of the provisions in this bill.

President Obama in an address to the American people from the Oval Office specifically asked Congress to pass legislation to address any weaknesses within our visa waiver program (VWP) and for a "stronger screening for travelers to the U.S. without a visa to check if they have travelled to warzones."

After the terror attacks in Paris, France and San Bernardino, California we must ensure

that a law created to encourage travel and cultural exchange is not exploited by those who would do us harm. We must scrutinize and strengthen our VWP and many of the provisions in this bill do just that. I support the provisions in this bill that encourage our allies to share biometric data, improve data sharing on criminal and security concerns and stronger vetting systems. This bi-partisan effort is a significant improvement over H.R. 4038, a bill which did nothing but target innocent refugees and exploited xenophobic and unsubstantiated fears.

While I support the overall thrust of this bill, I do have some reservations. I am concerned that there are not exceptions for journalists, ministers or aid workers who provide vital services to a needy population. The exclusion for law enforcement or military personnel should be extended to include people who visit Syria, Sudan, or Iraq for completely innocent and humanitarian reasons. We should continue to scrutinize the VWF so that we do not unnecessarily target innocent travelers.

I hope our colleagues in the Senate take these reservations into account when they consider this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, I inadvertently voted "aye" on Roll Call 657. I intended to vote "nay". This amendment was offered by Mr. TONKO of New York.

RECOGNIZING TIM GORDON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Tim Gordon for his service to our country in the United States Army. I believe that America's brave men and women in uniform are the nation's greatest assets. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost support and aid for their service.

Mr. Gordon was in the Army from June 1966 through April 1972. During this time, he fought in Vietnam from February 1969 through February 1970, no soldiers were lost under his command. Ultimately, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Tim Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Tim Gordon for his accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MICHAEL
POCHE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Michael Poche of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Poche and his wife Stephanie will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of Defense to serve as an officer in the Louisiana National Guard.

Army Congressional Liaison officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. Prior to serving as a Congressional Liaison, Mike served as a Military Congressional Fellow. During that year he also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Mike first joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1996 and subsequently earned his commission through the University of Louisiana at Monroe ROTC in 2004. During his 19-year Army career, Mike has served in numerous tactical leadership and staff assignments as an Armor and Cavalry Officer. As a platoon leader and troop commander, Mike commanded troops in Iraq over three separate combat tours totaling 35 months.

His great work has not gone unnoticed. During Major Poche's distinguished service to this nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: three Bronze Star Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and four Army Achievement Medals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Poche, his wife Stephanie, and their three children: Kaley, Mari Katherine, and Evan. I wish them the best as they continue to serve our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their remarkable careers.

IN HONOR OF DAVIDSON COUNTY
MANAGER ROBERT HYATT'S
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. Robert Hyatt, Davidson County Manager. Mr. Hyatt has been a tireless advocate for the people of Davidson County, and has fully earned the admiration and gratitude of his fellow North Carolinians.

Mr. Hyatt served as Davidson County Manager for over 16 years after being appointed to the position on May 24, 1999. Prior to his appointment as Davidson County Manager, Mr. Hyatt served as Assistant County Manager of Brunswick County, North Carolina, from 1995

to 1999; Town Manager for the Town of Clayton, North Carolina, from 1988 to 1995; and Town Manager for the Town of Wallace, North Carolina, from 1983 to 1988. This is an impressive record of service for any public servant, and is certainly worthy of the recognition and praise Mr. Hyatt has received during the later years of his service as Davidson County Manager.

Recently, Mr. Hyatt was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest award the Governor of North Carolina can bestow, on December 8, 2015. The Order was created in 1963, and has been presented to honor persons who have a proven record of service to the State of North Carolina. In addition to this prestigious honor, Mr. Hyatt received the "Service to Agriculture and Extension Award" from the Davidson County Cooperative Extension for his efforts in support of the local agricultural industry and for his representation in 2015 on the North Carolina State University Visioning Team. Mr. Hyatt was also recognized for his thirty years of service from the International City/County Management Association on September 25, 2013.

In addition to his service as Davidson County Manager, Mr. Hyatt has been an exemplary civil servant through his contributions to a number of other organizations. He has served on the North Carolina City/County Managers Association's Membership Support and Program Committees, and served a three-year term as a member of the executive board for the Boy Scouts for the Uwharrie District of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Davidson County Manager Robert Hyatt for his esteemed service to the state of North Carolina and wishing Robert, his wife Teresa, and their two sons, Will and Thom, well as they enter an exciting new chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY AND KAREN
WAHLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rodney and Karen Wahle of Carson, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 6, 1965, at the Malvern Methodist Church in Malvern, Iowa.

Rodney and Karen's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, James and Jennifer, and their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Wahles that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Ford Health System on their 100th anniversary. Originating from Detroit General Hospital, namesake Henry Ford became the sole investor in 1914 and coupled his entrepreneurial spirit with medical innovation.

Admitting its first patient in 1915, Henry Ford Hospital was so successful in meeting the needs of a city in the midst of a population boom that by 1917 it had already expanded to its current size. In its early days, the hospital revolutionized wait times, reducing them to 30 minutes for a patient to be seen, and opened the nation's first ward for treating chemical dependency. It developed new techniques in the fields of surgery and physical therapy. The excellent quality of care at Henry Ford Hospital would even later inspire works of art from visionaries like Diego Rivera. Beyond the positive impact Henry Ford Hospital has had on Michigan, it has also rendered invaluable service to our country by serving as an army hospital during World War II and caring for our soldiers upon their return.

Henry Ford Health System and its partners have pioneered a broad range of medical knowledge, from bone research to kidney transplants to treatment of high blood pressure to robotic surgery. While innovation may be the driving force behind the success of the Henry Ford Health System, they have never lost focus of the top priority: people. In 2008, they launched the No Harm campaign which, over the course of the next three years, reduced surgical complications, decreased length of stay, and trimmed medical costs by 10 million dollars. Their good stewardship is felt by over 89,000 patients a year in the five-county area, a number that is very impressive for a hospital system that started with 48 beds. Henry Ford Health System's commitment to and investment in the Detroit metropolitan communities are immeasurable. In 2011, Henry Ford Health System was one of only 4 recipients to receive a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, America's highest honor for innovation and performance excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 23,000 employees of Henry Ford Health System and congratulating them on their 100th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

REGARDING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2015, which I introduced earlier today with my colleagues JERROLD NADLER and DANA ROHRBACHER.

This bipartisan legislation ensures that certain members of the National Guard and Reserves who fall on hard economic times after their service will continue to obtain bankruptcy relief without having to fill out the substantial paperwork required by the so-called "means test" under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

This bill simply extends the existing "means test" exception, which will expire at the end of the year if Congress fails to act.

Under the means test, a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case is presumed to be an abuse of the bankruptcy process if it appears that the debtor has income in excess of certain thresholds. The National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008 created an exception to the means test's presumption of abuse for members of the National Guard and Reserves who, after September 11, 2001, served on active duty or in a homeland defense activity for at least 90 days. The exception remains available for 540 days after the servicemember leaves the military.

The National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2015 would simply extend the exception until December 2019.

This bill is a meaningful way for our Nation to recognize the tremendous sacrifice made by National Guard and Reserve members who have served on active duty or homeland defense since September 11, 2001 and may be suffering financial hardship.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

ACKNOWLEDGING TED BEATTIE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a dear friend and an exceptional leader, Mr. Ted Beattie, as he retires as President and CEO of Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. Ted has very many notable achievements during his tenure at Shedd, from the \$45 million Wild Reef exhibit that features one of the largest and most diverse shark exhibits in North America; the renovation of the aquarium's popular Abbott Oceanarium marine mammal pavilion; and housing of eight amazing beluga whales.

I have had been pleased that Ted opened the doors of Shedd to several of Chicago's school groups to learn more about marine based sciences and get an in depth look into the vast exhibits to encourage our children to engage in science and biology based careers.

Further, I have been told that Ted is an amazing golfer and as a high school golfer, played with Renee Powell against Legendary Boxer Joe Louis and Althea Gibson. While Ted has called Chicago home for many years, he is undoubtedly an extremely passionate and dedicated Ohio State graduate and fan (a rival of our Flagship University of Illinois).

Ted is an active member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), and serves on several boards including the American Association of Museums, the Arts Club board of directors and is a member of the Chicago Club, the Commercial Club of Chicago, Economic Club of Chicago, the Onwentsia Country Club and the Plantation Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

I am hopeful that Ted continues his services to the greater arts community and his Alma

Mata, the Ohio State University. I am certain that he will continue to enjoy the game of golf that he loves and will inspire those involved in marine sciences for many years to come. Transition to retirement can be fun, enjoyable and relaxing, so to Ted . . .

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS AND BRENDA MEIER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Curtis and Brenda Meier of Clarinda, Iowa, for receiving the Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award. The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor award is named for Gary Wergin, a long-time WHO Radio farm broadcaster who helped establish the award.

The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award is made possible by the financial support of the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. The award recognizes farmers who contribute their time and talents to their community, including caring for the environment and being good neighbors.

Curtis and Brenda are active in their community and their church. Curtis is a commissioner with the Page County Soil and Water Conservation District and serves on the County Fair Board. The Meiers run their local diversified farm with a number of their family members, including their son, daughter, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Curtis and Brenda for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication can be a benefit to a whole community I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Curtis and Brenda for their accomplishments and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

RESTORATION TUESDAY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Restoration Tuesday, and the need to restore federal voter protections for vulnerable communities. Every Tuesday that Congress is in session shall be known as Restoration Tuesday, and I invite each of you to share constituent testimonials about modern-day barriers to voting.

I am a proud daughter of Selma, Alabama where 50 years ago the brave Foot Soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement dared to challenge an unjust system that prohibited people of color from voting in the South.

Unfortunately, Alabama has not yet fully learned the lessons of its painful past. We have witnessed a renewed assault on our sacred right to vote in the wake of Shelby County versus Holder. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision, Alabama implemented

one of the most restrictive photo ID laws in the nation. Under this pernicious voter ID law, only a handful of photo IDs can be used at polling places.

When the State of Alabama started requiring a photo ID to vote, officials claimed it would reduce voter fraud. The reality is that voter fraud is rare—but the end results are that more than 250,000 Alabamians without a photo ID have been disenfranchised. Many of the disenfranchised are African-Americans, low-income individuals, senior citizens, and the disabled.

This past October, Alabama lawmakers decided to make this bad law even worse by reducing services at 34 DMVs across the state. Driver's licenses are the most popular form of ID used at the polls—and 8 out of the 10 counties in Alabama that are impacted have the highest percentage of black registered voters in the state. How is this not discriminatory?

I fully support the federal lawsuit filed by the Greater Birmingham Ministries and the Alabama NAACP, challenging the photo ID law in our state. I have repeatedly argued that Alabama's photo ID law is a renewed assault on voting rights.

I also applaud the U.S. Department of Transportation's decision to investigate the reduction of services at the 34 DMVs in question for a possible violation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Alabama cannot balance its budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, nor infringe upon the civil rights of minorities by limiting access to the most popular form of identification used to vote.

Voting is at the heart of our democracy. It's our most fundamental right—and duty—as Americans. I am a proud Alabamian, so it disappoints me that for every two steps Alabama takes forward, we take one step back.

Voting should be made easier—not harder—so that no voices are excluded and that every citizen can cast their vote without any unnecessary or unwarranted barriers.

Alabama recently reached a settlement with the Department of Justice to settle claims that the state did not fully comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. An investigation by the Department of Justice found that Alabama had largely failed to provide opportunities for Alabamians to register to vote when they applied for or renewed a driver's license.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed a number of attempts—not just in Alabama—but across the country to restrict the vote. I stand before you today to urge Congress to restore the vote. Representatives LINDA SÁNCHEZ, JUDY CHU and I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act in June to stop the renewed assault on voting rights, and to restore preclearance for states like Alabama where new barriers to voting threaten to silence the most vulnerable voices in our electorate.

We cannot take for granted the battles endured by those who came before us, nor can we neglect our own responsibilities to ensure liberty and justice. The struggle continues, and each of us must do our part to further the cause of human and civil rights for all Americans.

We must restore the voices of the excluded—Congress must act today to restore the vote.

IMPACT OF THE ARTS ON STUDENTS AT SAVOY ELEMENTARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the remarkable impact of art on the educational performance of the students at Savoy Elementary, a public school in my district.

Savoy Elementary Anacostia, located here in the nation's capital, is one of eight pilot schools of Turnaround Arts, a signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Turnaround Arts has had clear, life-changing impacts on the students of Savoy—attendance is up, discipline referrals are down, and the school has made double-digit gains in math and reading scores.

The Savoy Players are a performing group at Savoy Elementary. Led by Carol Foster, a legendary arts leader in the national capital region, this group has been hugely successful. To be part of this group, students must exhibit maturity, grit, excellent attendance, and good grades. The professionalism, spirit, and magnetism of this group has catapulted them into the limelight.

In addition to countless performances for their school community, they have had four performances at the White House, performed with Brian McKnight at the Warner Theater, and brought down the house at the Kennedy Center. But, most importantly, singing, dancing and performing has brought them the joy, meaning, and purpose that every child should experience.

Mr. Speaker, in this holiday season, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the clear benefit exposure to the arts has made for the children of Savoy Elementary, and hope that the new education legislation will bring similar opportunities to kids across the country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AVONTE'S LAW ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Avonte's Law Act of 2015, which was inspired by the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Avonte Oquendo of Queens, New York. Avonte was an autistic child who wandered away from his school. His lifeless body was not found for more than a month. "Wandering" is very common in children with autism and other disabilities, and sometimes children who wander are non-verbal or cannot communicate well with others, leading to dangerous interactions with strangers or even law enforcement.

This bill authorizes a new grant program within the United States Department of Justice to provide local law enforcement agencies with the resources to procure response tools and increase education and training for first responders, schools, and families with the goal of preventing situations like Avonte's from happening again.

The bill also requires the Attorney General to establish standards and best practices for the administration of any type of voluntary "tracking" system used by law enforcement agencies that are awarded these funds. Tracking devices are one of the many ways we can help prevent another tragic situation like Avonte's.

Mr. Speaker, by taking a holistic approach to this issue, we can help children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) live safe and happy lives all around the country.

TRIBUTE TO THE NODAWAY VALLEY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Nodaway Valley High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 1A State Cross Country Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Nathan Venteicher, Shane Breheny, Heath Downing, Brayten Funke, Dallas Kraeger, Skyler Rawlings, and Brycen Wallace;

Head Coach: Darrell Burmeister; and Assistant Coaches: Dave Swanson, Phyllis Eshelman, and Alyse Dreher.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

LEGISLATION ALLOWING COMBAT VETERANS AN EXTENDED TIME TO FILE FOR REFUND

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will allow members of our military services to file their taxes long after they were due in order to provide an adequate window to claim refunds or credits that may have been owed.

It has come to my attention that some members of our armed forces, in their haste to rejoin civilian life, can occasionally let fall by the wayside tax returns—particularly those that may actually have a refund. While tax liability can follow a taxpayer forever—plus interest and penalties—taxpayers only have a couple years in which to claim a credit or a refund.

This legislation widens the opportunity for a veteran to look back, realize a missed opportunity, and remedy the situation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this solution.

TRIBUTE TO TIM SESSOMS

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Tim Sessoms has served his community for more than thirty years.

His life is an example of a rare instinctive trait that actually puts others first. I have personally witnessed the vast amount of people who regularly reach out to Mr. Sessoms for guidance or help.

From the senior adult in the elderly care center to the child in need, Tim Sessoms finds a way to solve the problem or meet the need.

His work as Mayor of Summerfield was another way that Mr. Sessoms chose to give back to his town. His vision and his ability to execute has moved Summerfield to a better place for years to come.

Our community owes the Honorable Sessoms a debt of gratitude. His friends and neighbors know that he walks the walk with integrity and grace. We all owe him a "thank you" for a lifetime of putting his fellow man first.

AIKEN NAMED MAIN STREET
COMMUNITY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, Aiken was named a Main Street Community—one of only two communities to receive this honor from Main Street South Carolina. The Main Street Community designation provides Aiken with a comprehensive training and assistance to revitalize their downtown through a three year boot-camp program. Aiken joins Orangeburg as the second community in South Carolina's Second Congressional District to receive the Main Street Community designation.

After a competitive application process, the city of Aiken was recognized for their work in promoting historic and economic development downtown. In the next few years, they will work with Main Street South Carolina to identify the goals of its community and to provide residents, business owners, and local leaders with key resources to enhance the local economic development.

I am grateful to Mayor Rick Osbon, former Mayor Fred Cavanaugh, City Manager John Klimm, and the entire Aiken City Council for receiving this great honor. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this will bring to Aiken.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL
LITTLEJOHN**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Samuel Littlejohn's 50th anniversary as a spiritual leader and Pastor of Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Reverend Littlejohn was born in Tyler, Texas, to a Baptist minister and a family dedicated to the church. As a young child, his mother, father, and grandfather all instilled an abiding love for and sustaining commitment to his religion. He was baptized at the age of seven at the Greater Hopwell Missionary Baptist Church in Tyler, where he remained a member until he moved to Fort Worth to pursue seminary studies.

In 1951, Reverend Littlejohn moved to Fort Worth and joined Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church. He served as the Superintendent of the Sunday school, participated in the Senior Choir, and acted as the President of the #2 Usher Department.

Reverend Littlejohn continued his seminary education by earning a missionary degree from Southwest Theological Seminary and Bishop College. In November 1960, Reverend Littlejohn was ordained and gave his first sermon in front of Pilgrim Valley church.

He served the Pilgrim Valley community until 1965, when he was called to pastor Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church, where he has served for the last 50 years.

Along with his work in his church communities, Reverend Littlejohn has continued to be an active and vocal participant in the community. Pastor Littlejohn has worked with the Community Action Agency (CAA), was an organizing member of the first Ministers and Police Taskforce and served as a member of Parent, Preacher, and Principal organization which worked with Fort Worth Independent School District to encourage children to stay in school.

Most notably, Pastor Littlejohn was the driving force behind the Stop Six Community Health Center. Reverend Littlejohn was a founding member of the Stop Six Community Corporation and much of the success of the organization can be attributed to the Reverend. His work greatly impacted the DFW community and is now used as a model in other cities.

Earlier this year, the Black Pastors, Clergy and Ministerial Group Association of Texas, Inc. presented Pastor Littlejohn with the "Living Legend Award" and recognized him as one of the honorable senior pastors in Fort Worth.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD AND
MARYANN BRYAN**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Leonard and Maryann Bryan of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on

the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Leonard and Maryann's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Steven, Traci, and Cari, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Bryans that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF SOUTHLAKE'S SENIOR ACTIV-
ITY CENTER**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the City of Southlake's grand opening of the Southlake Senior Activity Center.

The history of the Southlake senior center began in 1998, when Mayor Gail Eubanks, Southlake's first mayor, donated the original facility to the city to serve as the activity and social center for the growing senior community in Southlake. Since the opening of the original senior center, the population of Southlake has nearly doubled in size. To accommodate the needs of this growing community, plans were developed and approved for the construction of a new community recreation center. On September 27, 2014, the City of Southlake broke ground for the construction of the new, state of the art, recreation and senior center known as The Marq.

The Marq contains over 20,000 square feet of multipurpose space which includes a senior lounge, senior wellness room, game room, banquet hall, and amphitheater. In it, the new Southlake Senior Activity Center will serve the community by providing programs and services to Southlake area seniors, enhancing their lives and fostering a sense of community among the city's residents.

I am extremely appreciative of the City of Southlake and the Southlake Senior Activity Center for continuing to address the needs of the community by enhancing the quality of their infrastructure and the lives of its seniors. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Southlake and the Southlake Senior Activity Center on the grand opening of their new facility.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ASSOCIA-
TION FOR TALENT DEVELOP-
MENT**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Association for Talent Development (ATD) as the largest association dedicated to the training and talent development

profession, recognizing them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held December 7th through the 11th, 2015.

ATD's members come from more than 120 countries and work in public and private organizations in every industry sector. ATD supports talent development professionals who gather locally in volunteer-led U.S. chapters and international member networks, and with international strategic partners.

Established in 1943, ATD is a leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 7th through December 11th, 2015, as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

HONORING PATRICK McCORMICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

Whether through his service through the U.S. Air Force, New Cumberland Army Depot, or his leadership roles as Director of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution's Current Operations and Logistics Operations, his tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he worked with to be the best.

Through numerous promotions and awards Patrick has left an enduring legacy of service. In particular, by earning the Department of Defense (DOD) Distinguished Civilian Service award, the highest award available for career DOD civilian employees, he demonstrated an exceptional devotion to duty. Through hard work and leadership Patrick's record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens is truly outstanding.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CALIFORNIA CITY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the in-

corporation of California City, a residential nexus for mining, aerospace and desert tourism in Eastern Kern County.

California City began with a dream worthy of its namesake: the foundation of a suburban metropolis to rival Los Angeles. Sociologist and developer Nat Mendelsohn found in the wide spaces of Kern's High Desert the chance to build a completely planned community from scratch, free of parochial interests. He bought 80,000 acres of desert in 1958, carved out a gigantic Central Park featuring a 20 acre lake, and by 1965 had arranged for the incorporation of a massive, 203 square mile township. Overnight, California City became the third largest city in the state.

For generations before Nat Mendelsohn ever gazed upon the High Desert, mule teams carted the bounty of stranded mines to the railheads at Mojave. This traffic expanded in the 20th century, as neighboring Boron grew to produce half the world's supply of borax. Meanwhile, huddled around ancient dry lakes just a dozen miles from town, America's premier jet aircraft test center—Edwards Air Force Base—began to expand into a permanent institution, with hundreds of employees needing homes and services. Even tourism brought jobs to California City, as the surging popularity of dirt bikes and off-roading drew thrill-seekers through town on their way to the wonders of the interior: Jawbone, Death Valley, Red Rock Canyon, and the Trona Pinnacles. California City grew by leaps and bounds, fed by the steady currents of desert commerce.

Today, as the city celebrates its Jubilee, we have a chance to draw lessons from its history. California City would never have existed without the vision and drive of one entrepreneur, willing to bet everything on a dream. In Kern County—as in America—we are dependent both on the enterprising spirit of our people, and on the power of our communities to persevere when they are united. I am proud today to congratulate the people of California City on this 50th anniversary, and look forward to California City's next 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE AND
CATHERINE ROSS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate George and Catherine Ross of Essex, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

George and Catherine's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Ross family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Number 692, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call Number 692, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY
HOLMES ON THE OCCASION OF
THE UNVEILING OF THE LARRY
HOLMES STATUE IN EASTON,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Holmes, who reigned as World Boxing Council Heavyweight Champion from 1978 to 1983, and who will be honored with the installment of a bronze statue depicting the Champ about to strike a punch. His accomplishments not only made the City of Easton known nationally, they also inspired others to strive to be their best, to be a champ.

The statue unveiling held on Sunday, December 13 commenced with a Championship Parade that began on 3rd Street in front of the new Easton City Hall and continued onto the Drive named in the Champ's honor and down to the statue's location in Scott Park on the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers.

"The Easton Assassin" grew up in the projects. At the age of 13, he dropped out of school to support his family. At the age of 19, he started boxing and pursued a legendary career. His left jab is rated among the best in boxing history. An impressive 44 of his 69 wins were from knockouts. Holmes was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2008.

Larry Holmes is not just a champ for his boxing; he is a champ for his service to the community. After retiring from boxing, Holmes became a businessman and invested in his hometown. He is noted to have employed more than 200 people through his various business holdings at one time including Larry Holmes Enterprises, a real estate and property management company; two restaurants; a training facility; and an office complex. Over the years, he has been a role model for young fighters, and he has supported various charities and youth groups throughout the Lehigh Valley, in particular the Easton Area Community Center (EACC), which used to be known as St. Anthony's Youth Center—the place where he first learned to box. Later, and thanks to Holmes, the EACC's annual fundraiser became well-known as an event attended by boxing champions. Holmes can often be seen at community events and performing with his band.

It is an honor for me to recognize Larry Holmes. He has been a good son to Easton. Through this statue, visitors for generations will see the heart of a legend.

HONORING SONYA GISH OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

Through her work with the Information Technology Department at New Cumberland Army Depot, and her leadership role as Deputy Director, and later Director, of Distribution Policy and Processing at Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution, her tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom she worked with to be the best.

Her colleagues describe Sonya as the consummate role model and a truly indispensable asset to DLA Distribution. Her numerous promotions and awards exemplify an outstanding record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens. Through work ethic and character, Sonya has truly left an enduring legacy of service.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

COLONEL MICHAEL P. DIETZ

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished career and military service of Colonel Michael P. Dietz. An Alaskan native, Michael enlisted in the United States Army in Providence, Rhode Island in 1979. As an Enlisted Soldier, Michael served in Europe, Korea and Central America eventually achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1989, he was given a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corp. During the First Gulf War, he served with the Third Mobile Armored Corp as a Senior Intelligence Analyst.

Throughout the 1990s Colonel (COL) Dietz served in a series of positions of increasing responsibility in the area of military intelligence to include, operations officer of an Anti-Terrorist Response Team and culminating with the Deputy Command of the 6th Civil Support Team, an Anti-Terrorist Team specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction. During this time, COL Dietz had operational control of response elements to the events of 9/11 and the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster over East Texas.

In 2003, COL Dietz commanded mobile collection teams for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in Iraq. He later commanded the entire DIA effort in Afghanistan in 2004. Both positions required work with Allied Nations.

In 2008-2009, COL Dietz commanded the 636th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Texas National Guard. This is the number one rated MI Battalion in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

COL Dietz, in his 36 years of service, has served combat tours with 101st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division as a Battalion Commander, 3rd Army, 3rd Special Forces Group, United States Army Special Operations Command, 5th Special Forces Group, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the 636th MI Battalion.

COL Dietz is currently a member of the Warrior Transition Unit at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. This unit specializes in repairing wounded warriors. COL Dietz is in the process of being treated for numerous injuries that he sustained while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has been married for 31 years to Elly Del Prado Dietz and his daughter, Sharon is a 1st Lieutenant currently serving at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas and his son, Aidan is a 2nd Lieutenant serving as an Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader in the 143rd INF BN (ABN).

COL Dietz's 36 years of distinguished service reflects great credit upon himself, the Texas Army National Guard, the United States Army and the United States of America. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOWLING
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Dowling Catholic High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 4A State Cross Country Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team: Runners: Matthew Carmody, John Clingan, Jack Fink, Matt Fraizer, Skyler Riesberg, Jack Turner, and Ryan Schweizer; Head Coach: Timothy Ives; and Assistant Coaches: Duncan McLean, Gerard Amadeo, Ann Flood, and Kevin Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NAVY CHAPLAIN
CORPS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 240th anniversary of the Navy Chaplain Corps. For 240 years, Navy chaplains have served with honor, courage, and selflessness, ensuring that our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are able to practice and grow in their faith, regardless of where they serve.

Our Navy chaplains are an invaluable pillar of their military communities. The role of a chaplain is inherently religious. As the makeup of our service members has expanded, the chaplaincy has expanded with it to include representatives reflecting the many faith traditions of our troops, including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist. When religious leaders become military chaplains, they pledge to equally serve all members of the armed forces, regardless of religious belief. Chaplains faithfully carry out this sacred duty each and every day.

While military chaplains are noncombatants and do not carry weapons, they still serve in harm's way. Sixteen Navy chaplains have given their lives providing religious and spiritual support for our men and women at war. Two Navy chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their sacrificial ministry to their Sailors and Marines. Lieutenant Commander Joseph T. O'Callahan braved a fiery inferno to administer last rites and direct damage control operations aboard the stricken USS *Franklin* in 1945. Lieutenant Vincent R. Capodanno repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in Vietnam while administering last rites to dead and dying Marines, refusing treatment of his own wounds and directing corpsmen to his wounded comrades, before being killed while coming to the aid of another. Six naval ships have been named after chaplains with one, the destroyer USS *Laboon*, still in service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the brave and honorable service of Navy chaplains over the last 240 years.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
JOYCE I. MARTRATT ON
50 YEARS OF CIVILIAN SERVICE
WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Joyce I. Martratt on her 50 years of civilian service with the United States Air Force. Joyce has served in numerous capacities with the Air Force on Guam, and she has dedicated much of her professional life to furthering its mission and providing critical support to our Airmen.

Joyce was born to Jesus San Nicolas and Rosario Castro Camacho of Hagatna on August 28, 1939. She is the eldest of five children and endured the atrocities of war during the occupation of Guam during World War II. As a survivor of the war, she and her family relocated to the village of Mongmong, where they settled and began to rebuild their lives and homes. In 1955, Joyce was adopted by her Aunt Maria and Uncle Peling Castro in order for her to further her education as they moved to Washington, D.C. before resettling in San Francisco in 1956. She attended Oakland Community College while working for the Gallop Poll. She then moved back to Guam to attend the University of Guam. While at the University of Guam, she met her late-husband Herbert Sablan Leddy, and together they started a family. In 1984, Herbert passed away and Joyce later remarried Charlie Martratt.

Joyce began working at the Andersen Air Force Base in 1965. She was first hired for a temporary job at the Civilian Personnel Office as a clerk typist. She went on to work as a secretary and clerk-stenographer and continued to progress professionally. She served in several capacities, including work for the commander of the 43d Combat Support Group, Vice Commander of HQ Eighth Air Force, command of the 3rd Air Division, and the 43rd Bombardment Wing (Hvy) (SAC), the 633d Air Base Wing (PACAF), and the 13th Air Force (PACAF). Joyce worked with the 13th Air Force until the headquarters moved to Hickam in 2005. After the move, Joyce transferred to the 36th Air Base Wing Commander, where she is currently employed.

During her 50 years of service, Joyce was privileged to be involved in many historic events and assisted and coordinated the visits of distinguished guests to the island. She supported efforts after the fall of Saigon during the Vietnam War when the people of Guam and the U.S. Air Force provided humanitarian aid to over 111,000 Vietnamese refugees who were temporarily housed on Guam during Operation New Life. She has also supported numerous U.S. Air Force missions, including the evacuation of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his family from the Philippines in 1986, and care for 6,600 Kurdish refugees who were brought to Guam as part of Joint Task Force Operation Pacific Haven in 1996. For several years, Joyce wrote a column about the local culture for the AAFB newspaper called "Ask Joyce."

Joyce has been a hallmark of Andersen Air Force Base and our community in Guam. She has always been a dedicated worker who puts her whole heart into what she does. Joyce is a true professional and her knowledge and background has helped the constant rotation of Commanders better understand the challenges and opportunities at Andersen Air Force Base. Her institutional knowledge is so critical to the entire team at Andersen Air Force Base. Additionally, Joyce is heavily involved in her parish of San Isidro as the director of faith formation and as a catechist. She serves in the community whenever called upon and is dedicated to her family.

I join the United States Air Force and the people of Guam in thanking Joyce I. Martratt for her 50 years of service to our nation, our island, and our Airmen in the U.S. Air Force. She represents the very best of our civilian workforce and is symbolic of the great patriotism that exists on Guam. I commend her for her outstanding career and tireless work in all that she has accomplished. Thank you (Si Yu'os Ma'ase), Joyce.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JOSEPH TYSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA CITY COUNCIL

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kinston, North Carolina City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem, The Honorable Joseph Tyson who is retiring from public serv-

ice after 17 years. The City of Kinston, located in my congressional district, has been fortunate to have a remarkable leader in Mr. Joseph Tyson. Through his words and actions as a City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem, he has demonstrated time and time again that he is one of our state's finest and most effective leaders.

Mr. Tyson spent his formative years in my district in Beaufort, North Carolina until 1964 when he left to attend North Carolina A&T University in Winston-Salem. It was there that he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He would spend more than two decades in uniform as an infantry and chemical officer. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

When Hurricane Floyd devastated much of eastern North Carolina in 1999, Mr. Tyson played a pivotal role in guiding the city through myriad issues resulting from the effects of the historic storm. From having to replace a wastewater treatment plant, to navigating the relocation of a large number of the city's residents, Mr. Tyson worked with other leaders to resolve problems for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Tyson has always looked for ways to give back, even after dedicating so much of himself to his city and his country. Following his retirement from the Army in 1993, Mr. Tyson began working as the senior Army instructor for the JROTC program at Kingston High School. He taught cadets important leadership skills and equipped them with the tools they needed to succeed. He motivated and encouraged those under his command to be the best version of themselves.

Mr. Tyson has been a strong and steady leader for his community and has succeeded in making Kinston a better place for current and future generations. He has earned the respect and trust of his fellow councilmen, and has the admiration of a grateful community, whom he has diligently served.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize this man of conviction, principle, and exceptional character as he retires after nearly two decades on the Kinston City Council. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing The Honorable Joseph Tyson the best of luck as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

HUNGARY AND THE REFUGEE
CRISIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before the Paris attacks, pundits sitting in far-flung capitals of the world were throwing lobs at Hungary for turning a blind eye to the plight of Syrian refugees. Now that we know that one of the attackers posed as a refugee to get into Europe and then stayed in a refugee camp as he made his way from Greece to Paris, I'd like to do something I know the pundits won't do: go back to an old story to make sure they got it right.

First, the outside world's opinions of what Hungary should or should not do are wholly irrelevant. Hungary is a sovereign country that ultimately will make its own political decisions based on its interests and concerns on a

case-by-case basis. Whether Hungary lets in refugees from a conflict that it had absolutely nothing to do with is a purely Hungarian question. Just like we wouldn't want Canada telling us what to do, nor does Hungary want countries like Germany telling it what to do.

The fact of the matter is that the refugee issue is complex. There are two sides to the morality argument. Yes, there is a moral argument to helping those fleeing war, but let's not forget about the moral argument for a government keeping its promise to its citizens that it will protect them. Refugees pose serious economic and security concerns to the countries of Europe. Modest estimates suggest that Germany, who has touted a welcoming posture towards the refugees, will find itself spending as much as 10 billion euros in 2015 to accommodate these newcomers. If Hungary were to spend even half of that amount, it would cost the country upwards of 7% of its annual budget.

While Germany may be financially capable of weathering the financial storm precipitated by the influx of refugees, Hungary's economy may not. Despite notable improvements in recent years in both trade and investment, Hungary's unemployment rate sits now at 10.5%. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development notes that, although Hungary successfully exited from recession in early 2013, the recovery of its economy is modest at best. The OECD notes Hungary must "maintain fiscal discipline," underscoring Budapest's need to invest in its own people and economy—not spend billions accommodating others.

Putting the economic factors aside, it is quite obvious that taking in Syrian refugees comes with a whole host of security concerns. ISIS has openly boasted in recent months that it is sending operatives to Europe under the guise of refugees, intending to fulfill the terrorist organization's threat to stage attacks in the West. European and American intelligence officials report that ISIS has set up a wing that specializes in launching terrorist attacks abroad, providing guidance, training and funding for attacks that kill the most civilians possible. Earlier this month British media outlets reported that the Tunisian leader of an al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group was smuggled into Europe posing as a refugee in October before being arrested and deported to Tunisia. Unfortunately, we have seen the bloody aftermath of the attacks on Paris, which were carried out in part by an ISIS terrorist who entered Europe as an asylum seeker.

The Hungarian Government does not think all of the refugees are terrorists. But the grave security concerns should not be written off for the sake of humanitarianism. Hungary has a humanitarian obligation to its own people too. Hungary has called on the European Union to set up the necessary institutions and orderly processes to handle this massive influx of people into the bloc. Hungary and its neighboring eastern and central European countries should not be expected to bear the burden of this sea of refugees. More than anything, these countries should not be judged for making decisions based on their own interests. That is simply their right.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE URBANDALE
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS
COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Urbandale High School Girls Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 4A State Cross Country Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Mickey Cole, Carly Klavins, Neanagit Malow, Casey Middleswart, Julia Noah, Avery Peterson, and Elyse Prescott;
Head Coach: Dan Davis
Assistant Coach: Carla Madson.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015 I was absent from the House of Representatives due to a mass shooting terrorist attack in my district. I was also absent on December 3rd and 8th through 11th. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on roll call votes 656 through 693. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 656, on Agreeing to the Upton of Michigan Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 657, on Agreeing to the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 658, on Agreeing to the Gene Green of Texas Amendment No. 14 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 659, on Agreeing to the Beyer of Virginia Amendment No. 17 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 660, on Agreeing to the Schakowsky of Illinois Amendment No. 19 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 661, on Agreeing to the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 22 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 662, on Agreeing to the Castor of Florida Amendment No. 23 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 663, on Agreeing to the Polis of Colorado Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 664, on Agreeing to the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 25 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 665, on Agreeing to the Conference

Report for S. 1177, to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 666, on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 546, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 667, on Agreeing to H. Res. 546, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 668, on Agreeing to the Cramer of North Dakota Amendment No. 26 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 669, on Agreeing to the Rouzer of North Carolina Amendment No. 30 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 670, on Agreeing to the Pallone of New Jersey Amendment No. 37 to H.R. 8.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 671, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 672, on Passage of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 673, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 22, To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 674, on the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 675, on the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 676, on the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 677, on the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 678, on the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 679, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 158, the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 680, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3842, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers Reform and Improvement Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 681, on Consideration of H. Res. 556, Providing for consideration of H.R. 2130, Red River Private Property Protection Act.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 682, on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 556, Providing for consideration of H.R. 2130, Red River Private Property Protection Act.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 683, On Agreeing to H. Res. 556, Providing for consideration of H.R. 2130, Red River Private Property Protection Act.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 684, on Agreeing to the Cole of Oklahoma Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2130.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 685, on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 686, on Passage of H.R. 2130, the Red River Private Property Protection Act.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 687, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3578, the DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 688, on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 689, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations or "FRIENDS" Act.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 690, on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 560, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250, Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 691, on Agreeing to H. Res. 560, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250, Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call Vote number 692, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Conference Report for H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote number 693, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

HONORING MAMIE VEST

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks in honor of the life of Mamie Vest of Floyd and Roanoke, Virginia. Mamie was born on August 9, 1938, and was the youngest child of Deputy Sheriff William Lewis Phillips and Cordova Quesenberry Phillips.

Though a native of Floyd County, Mamie's career in art was launched by an internship in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Delmar Studios photography business. She returned to Roanoke, where she went on to enjoy her career in advertising, design, and public relations. She also married the love of her life, Earl Stewart Vest.

Mamie worked as a graphic artist for Roanoke Engraving, became director of art services at Brand Edmonds Advertising, and—by the age of 28—founded her own independent business, Mamie Vest Associates. Additionally, Mamie also served as a legislative aide in both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, as well as a long-time advisor to Representative GOODLATTE.

Between the 1970s and 1990s, Mamie created and directed advertising for over 80 local, state, and federal Republican campaigns. She was a talented and fierce trailblazer and, in recognition of her work in advertising, Mamie won the American Advertising Federation's Silver Medal Award in 1982.

In addition to being politically active, Mamie was an active member of our community. She was an active member of the Roanoke City Sign Ordinance Committee, served as Chairman of the Roanoke City Arts Commission, and served as the Roanoke Valley Coordinator for the Virginia Bicentennial Commission. Mamie also was appointed by Governor Linwood Holton to the Consumer Credit Study Commission, by Governor John Dalton to the Advisory Committee on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion, and by Governor George Allen to the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Regrettably, Mamie passed away on November 17, 2015. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, her granddaughter Sedona Marguerite Hanks, as well as her sister and brother-in-law, George and Ruth Heafner of Greensboro, N.C., Helen Mabry of Cherryville, N.C.; sister-in-law, Barbara Vest of Maryland. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

Mamie Vest was dedicated to her work and her family. She had a tremendous impact on our community and, though she will be greatly missed by many, she will long be remembered. We are both honored to have called her a friend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mamie's family and loved ones. May God give them comfort and peace.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF DWAYNE AND CAROL CHEST-
NUT

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the golden wedding anniversary of Dwayne and Carol Chestnut, two dear friends, respected community leaders, generous philanthropists, and loyal Democrats. They have three children, Kay, Michelle, and Mark, and two grandchildren, Darrel and Danielle Jobe.

Carol and Dwayne met as teenagers in high school when, coming out of class, he held the door open for her. Carol responded, "It is good to know that there are still gentlemen and scholars left." Dwayne was smitten and holds the door for Carol still today.

When Carol and Dwayne were courting in Texas in the early fifties, their favorite song was "Too Young" by Nat King Cole. Its words were prophetic: "This love will last though years may go." The joy they find in each other spills over into the numerous lives, including

my own, which they have touched over the fifty years they have been together.

Congratulations. Here's to many more good times and sweet memories to come.

ANGELO CANDELORI: A LIFETIME
OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV-
ICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and deep appreciation for the leadership and commitment of one of New Jersey's most dedicated public servants, Colonel Angelo Candelori.

For over 30 years, Colonel Candelori has volunteered countless hours and offered exceptional guidance and insights as a member of the Fourth Congressional District's Service Academy Nominations Board—a task he has taken most seriously and accomplished with great success. Year after year, Colonel Candelori has "sweat the details," tediously poring over the applications of prospective Service Academy nominees. With great scrutiny and wisdom he has interviewed every young man and woman, recommending only those whom he felt were most deserving of my congressional nomination.

I have benefitted greatly from Colonel Candelori's expertise, discernment, dedication, and desire that our armed services receive the best and brightest possible officer applicants. And so, too, has the United States military.

Having served for 32 years in the United States Marine Corps and the reserves—a tenure that overlapped with his time on our Service Academy Board—Colonel Candelori relied on his instinctive knowledge and judgement, as well as years of military training, to help identify young applicants best suited to become America's next generation of military leaders. With honor, integrity, courage and dedication, Colonel Candelori easily embodies the Marine Corps motto "Semper Paratus"—proving to be "always faithful" to the United States of America, his fellow Marines, and all members of our armed forces.

If you knew Colonel Candelori personally, you would know that his dedication to his community and his commitment to public service is evident beyond his military career. For many years Colonel Candelori was a member of the Hamilton Township Planning Board and the Hamilton Township Development Review Advisory Board. His positive impact in many local and state volunteer and/or civic organizations resulted in his designation as a Point of Light by President George H. W. Bush. Colonel Candelori was also named a recipient of the U.S. Secretary of Energy's Community Service Award and the Enrico Fermi Federation Achievement Award.

Recognition of Colonel Candelori's leadership quality is international as he was knighted with the title of Cavaliere in the Order of Solidarity by the government of Italy. He served as president of the Societa Cavaliere d'Italia and is a past trustee of the Italian-American National Hall of Fame and a past president of the Enrico Fermi Federation.

Mr. Speaker, to say that Colonel Angelo Candelori is a patriot and a gentleman would be an understatement. He is a remarkable, dedicated family man and community leader who has truly advanced the common good.

This year, as he steps down from his more than three decades of assisting in the vetting of future uniformed military officers, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Colonel Angelo Candelori for his dedicated service to the citizens of New Jersey and to the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF GOVERNOR TERRY
BRANSTAD

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, who yesterday became the longest serving governor in the history of the United States, surpassing former Vice President George Clinton from New York.

Governor Branstad has now served 7,642 days as governor. I salute and congratulate him on his dedication to the state of Iowa and his passion for public service.

Born and raised on a farm in Northern Iowa, Governor Branstad's life has been dedicated to the advancement of the state of Iowa. After a tenure in the United States Army, he served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives and was subsequently elected as the Lieutenant Governor.

In 1982, at the age of 35, he was elected as the youngest governor in Iowa history. After his first four terms in office, Governor Branstad refocused his boundless energy on continuing to serve the state as the President of Des Moines University. He returned as governor in 2010 and is currently serving his sixth term.

During his administration, Iowa has seen record low unemployment rates, as well as an admirable budget surplus. His endless energy and strong work ethic inspires all of us who serve in elected office to constantly strive to improve our performance on behalf of all Iowans.

Thank you, Governor Branstad, for all that you have done for the great state of Iowa and your nearly twenty-one years of service.