

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ADAM HACKFORT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Adam Hackfort, a member of the 2016 Iowa Boys 2A State Golf Tournament Championship Team.

Adam, and his teammates at Panorama High School, persevered through a tough season. With steady and consistent play at the state tournament, these students showed the state of Iowa that they were worthy of a state championship two years in a row.

Mr. Speaker, Adam's determination, hard work, commitment and team work is what contributed to the stellar success of his team. His willingness to give it his best effort is what will be valuable later in life and I am honored to represent Adam in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Adam Hackfort and his team for competing and winning this rigorous competition. We all share in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL SAMUEL D. GRABLE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Director of the Air Force Office of Budget and Appropriation Liaison, Colonel Samuel Grable.

Colonel Grable is retiring after a long and impressive career in the Air Force. Here in Congress, we are especially grateful for his work in communicating the Air Force message in a clear and concise manner.

He played a critical role during the budget roll-out process in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, setting the highest standards for clarity and honesty. His personal approach and respect for others helped rebuild credibility between the Air Force and the Congress.

Colonel Grable is a native of Seattle, Washington, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

During his career he has served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. He deployed as the Chief of Plans to Multi-National Corps in Baghdad and as Mission Support Group Commander at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operations Iraqi, and Enduring, Freedom.

Colonel Grable became the director of the Air Force Office of Budget and Appropriation

Liaison in July 2012. He became the principal strategist and advisor to both the Secretary, and Chief of Staff, of the Air Force and a critical conduit between their offices and Congress. Under Colonel Grable's leadership, his office was able to shape programs critical to the future of our national defense such as the KC-46 Tanker and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The Congressional Appropriations Committees and our country owe Colonel Grable a debt of gratitude for his tireless work.

HONORING GARY BERBLINGER

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Berblinger as he retires after 46 years in publishing. Gary began his career in Belleville, Illinois in 1973 and continued to work in journalism in St. Louis and in Bradenton, Florida. Since 2006, he has worked in Park Hills, Missouri, first as business manager and since 2008, as publisher of the Daily Journal, Farmington Press, and Democrat News.

Gary has distinguished himself in the communities he serves as a member of the St. Francois County Rotary Club, Greater Farmington Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Francois County Community Partnership. He and his wife Mary have been members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Farmington.

Mary says of her husband's retirement, "I'm looking forward to having him home. He's worked 50 years of his life. He has always loved his job. His work has been his hobby, too. Now is our time to travel and go see the kids and grandkids."

In celebration of his dedication to publishing, his community involvement, and his citizenship, it is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Gary Berblinger of Farmington, Missouri before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH E. RYAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Joseph E. Ryan, a man who served his country, city and community in times of need. A leader on the field of battle so many times and in so many ways, Joe Ryan lived a life full of triumph and tragedy that is testament to his indomitable spirit and determination to make a difference in this world.

The first born in a family of ten, Joe Ryan graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Insti-

tute in 1961, where he was class president and an all-Catholic and all-Western New York football player. He went on to earn his degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University, while also capturing all-Ivy League honors as a center and linebacker on the football team.

Mr. Ryan served in the Navy from 1965 to 1969, in which he spent 17 months in Vietnam as a diving team commander. He earned the Bronze Star for his actions and rose to the rank of lieutenant before returning home from service.

Upon his return, Mr. Ryan's involvement and influence in the community began and grew for more than forty years. An engineering consultant in 1971, the late Mayor Frank Sedita tapped this rebel with a cause to serve as the executive director of the Citizens Advisory Committee, where he energetically directed the Community Development Block Grant program and fostered the growth of local nonprofit neighborhood groups.

In 1982, he helped found the local Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and served as its first president. A horrific bicycle accident in 1985 would leave Mr. Ryan paralyzed but his efforts to assist others in need could never be contained as even from his hospital bed he finalized arrangements for his self-created Best of the Turtles race to raise scholarship money for the children of local Vietnam veterans.

In 1998, City of Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello appointed him as Community Development Commissioner. Mr. Ryan remained in that position for more than four years leading the creation of the Department of Strategic Planning and a focused effort to engage residents in planning initiatives to revitalize neighborhoods.

With staunch determination to be an advocate for others, Joe Ryan volunteered countless hours to the community and those in need. He served on the national board of directors of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans, which advocated for veterans on health care issues. He took part in the Paralyzed Veterans America Wheelchair Games in 1987, helping raise money for the Erie County Medical Center spinal cord injury unit.

He served as a chairman of the Board of Managers for Erie County Medical Center in the 1990's and was President of the Friends of the Night People. Mr. Ryan had also been on the board of directors of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, and a board member of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, the Buffalo Area Council of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, and the Cornell University Presidential Council.

Mr. Ryan was justifiably recognized many times for his life's work in public service. He received the D'Youville College Community Service Award, and was named Buffalo News Citizen of the Year in 1986. He was given the Clarkson Center's Courage to Come Back Award for devoting his talents to providing customized housing that allow people with disabilities to live independently.

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