

Abingdon Ruritan Club located in Gloucester County, Virginia. The club was chartered on October 8, 1956 by only 29 members who came together to support fellowship, goodwill, and community service. After 60 years, the Abingdon Club has become the third largest of all Ruritan Clubs in the country.

Throughout the Abingdon Club's 60 years, it has stayed committed to its founding principles of contributing to the public good. The Club has shown its support of the veterans of the First District by delivering care packages to VA Hospitals. Club members have also dedicated time to protecting our environment and natural resources. They participate regularly in the Gloucester County Clean UP and plant Sea Grass to help preserve our Virginia coastline.

Moreover, the Abingdon Club has donated its time and membership to helping the children of Gloucester by giving gifts at Christmas time, supplying stuffed Rudy Bears to the Sheriff's Department for children in vulnerable situations, and offering college scholarships.

The Abingdon Ruritan Club has made our community in the First District of Virginia a better place. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating them on 60 years of service and wish them many more to come.

RETIREMENT OF MR. HOWARD L. DONALDSON FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on his "third and final" federal service retirement. Mr. Howard L. Donaldson achieved an impressive career serving our nation in both military and civilian capacities for almost 44 years. His superb military service began as an ROTC Army Artillery Officer in 1969, and continued following a break to earn a Juris Doctor degree (with Honors) from Golden Gate University, becoming barred in California. Mr. Donaldson returned to duty as an Air Force Staff Judge Advocate, serving in three Air Force wings, 16th Air Force, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Air Force and United States Special Operations Commands. He was a noted civil law instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General School, and a barred U.S. Supreme Court lawyer. Mr. Donaldson garnered several awards, including two "Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year" command citations. As 16th Air Force Staff Judge Advocate Mr. Donaldson helped enforce the Dayton Peace Accords in the former Yugoslavian Republic air conflicts.

After 28 years of active duty service, Colonel Donaldson postponed his retirement to take a final assignment as the HQ US Special Operations Command Staff Judge Advocate. He served until a mandatory retirement date, retiring the "first" time only to be recalled to active duty. His "second" military retirement occurred in June 2003, with nearly 31 years of military commissioned service to the nation. In June 2003 Mr. Donaldson then embarked on civilian service as counsel to NORAD/USNORTHCOM. He received the Armed Forces Civilian Service medal for his participation in the support of the Global War on Ter-

rorism. He also provided invaluable legal advice to the commander during hurricane KATRINA, the Haiti earthquake, Russian Long-Range Aviation threat responses, North Korean missile launches, pandemic preparation, CONUS Natural Disaster coordination, and countless USNORTHCOM National Special Security Events.

Howard and his supportive wife Sally have traveled the world and sacrificed in and out of uniform while serving our country. I salute this modern American patriot who has provided over four decades of federal contribution. God-speed Howard and Sally in your "final" government retirement.

HONORING NATHAN JACOB

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Jacob. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Nathan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan erected and installed two poles with directional signage for the Fountain Bluff Sports Complex in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Jacob for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING REX KAUP'S SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rex Kaup on receiving the Kiwanis Club of Altoona's Distinguished Citizen Award.

The award is given by the Altoona Kiwanis Club each year to recognize the recipient's outstanding service and longstanding commitment to the community. Mr. Kaup is a partner of Young, Oakes, Brown & Company P.C. in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where he has had an impactful involvement with various business and community organizations. He has also served on the Penn State Altoona Alumni Society Board of Directors and has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Altoona for 30 years, never missing an opportunity to be of assistance to his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Rex is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and Pennsylvania sets him apart as an outstanding individual and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Rex for this achievement and wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE U.S.-REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Georgia is a trusted friend and partner of the United States. I firmly support Georgia's sovereignty, security and prosperity, and I wish to congratulate Georgians on the remarkable democratic and economic progress they have achieved in 25 years of independence since the fall of the Soviet Union.

I would particularly like to call attention to the United States' unwavering security partnership with Georgia, whose armed forces participate in international missions worldwide, including the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan where Georgia is contributing more personnel than any other non-NATO member. I know the United States deeply appreciates Georgia's contributions to these missions and honors its sacrifices. Our important security relationship with Georgia continues to grow through ongoing regional efforts like the European Readiness Initiative and expanded bilateral cooperation. And our two countries are working closely to boost our mutual security, build Georgia's resilience and self-defense capabilities and create a safer region and world. In this context, I remain deeply concerned about Russia's continued occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and believe Russia must fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement. The United States is steadfast in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and remains committed to helping Georgia achieve its goal of NATO and European Union membership and full integration into European institutions.

Georgia is preparing for parliamentary elections in October, an important test of the country's civic institutions and democratic practices. Georgia's continued democratic maturation depends on free and fair elections in a pluralistic media environment. And it is critical for Georgia to sustain progress in enacting its reform agenda, particularly in the justice sector, which will both further strengthen our bilateral partnership and prove to Georgians that their government is working for them. Progress has not come without difficulty, but the commitment of the Georgian people has made Georgia a true standout in a difficult region and an important partner of the United States.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Georgia on reaching this significant milestone and recognize the importance of our continued close partnership.