

investment of \$750,000 to the property at 77th and Wadsworth Boulevard created improvements to the façade and interiors including opening an interior walkway to all tenants. I commend Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage on their mission is to provide shoppers with an affordable, healthy lifestyle as well as empower them to take control of their own wellbeing.

Premium Panels Inc. is recognized as the "Outstanding Small Business" for their \$3.1 million capital investment in a building in the Arvada Tech Center allowing the company to remain in Arvada and double their workforce. Premium Panels provides high quality metal roofing panels for commercial and residential roofing.

Wanco Inc. is recognized with the "Outstanding Large Business Award" for their \$8.6 million expansion of a 95,000 square foot building which resulted in the retention of the existing facility and 200 new jobs. Wanco was established in 1984 and is the leading manufacturer of highway safety and traffic control products.

Community First Foundation is recognized with the "Community Partnership Award" for their \$1 million grant to Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Health Sciences building in Arvada. This investment in the RRCC will improve the quality of education for students and create positive change within the community. Community First Foundation is a grant making public charity dedicated to identifying and solving broad community problems. Gene and Dee Milstein are recognized with the "Lloyd J King Entrepreneurial Spirit Award".

Gene and Dee are the founders and owners of Applewood Seed Company which has been in business for more than 50 years. Applewood Seed Company is a premier commercial and wholesale supplier of wildflower, garden flower, native grass and herb seed. I commend them on their commitment to innovation, their community and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize each of the Arvada Economic Development Association award recipients for their professionalism, investment in the community, and their dedication to making Arvada a thriving world class city.

IN RECOGNITION OF SER METRO-DETROIT FOR THEIR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SER Metro-Detroit, a nonprofit organization that offers workforce training and skills development to the greater Detroit community. SER promotes self-sufficiency and upward mobility through its literacy, education and employment initiatives, and has played a key role in creating the vibrant metropolitan Detroit workforce that exists today.

SER Metro-Detroit was founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization to provide skills training and placement services for employers in the private sector. Since its establishment, the organization has expanded its offerings to include youth outreach and education programs, as well as further developing its workforce

placement program. Today, SER Metro-Detroit offers targeted programs for adults and youth to train program participants and place them into private sector employment. The programs include apprenticeship placements for qualified individuals, as well as financial and employment coaching that better prepares trainees for entry into the workforce.

SER has provided southeast Michigan residents with the skills and training they need to succeed in the global workforce. Additionally, it has created a pool of skilled workers that possess the training expertise that is in demand in the workplace. As a result, well-paying skilled manufacturing and skilled trade jobs are returning to Michigan, and the region has benefited from this economic revitalization. SER Metro-Detroit's comprehensive offering of education, training and employment opportunities has proven successful in helping to alleviate the economic difficulties that many families in southeast Michigan faced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing SER Metro-Detroit for its workforce development initiatives. It has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Metro Detroit residents and been a catalyst for the economic rejuvenation of the region.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ELIJAH KING, JR., U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Elijah King, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired, who served his country in the Army for 30 years and continues to serve his fellow soldiers and his community following his retirement. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

A native son of Tuskegee, Alabama, CSM King enlisted in the U.S. Army in August of 1977. Along with serving in Korea and Germany, he is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2007 as Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. During his service in the U.S. Army, CSM King was a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Legion of Merit and three Bronze Star Medals for his service in combat.

This brave soldier is also a committed citizen. Following his military career, he continued to support the military and community through positions in various services such as the Co-Chairman of the Fort Hood Retired Council and the Chairman of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Killeen Branch NAACP, Board of Directors KISD Communities in Schools, and Military Child Education Coalition. CSM King's work has improved the quality of life in central Texas in immeasurable ways.

CSM King's motto is "Old Soldiers never die and I refuse to fade away." As evidenced from the respect and admiration that his fellow sol-

diers and colleagues have for him, along with lasting effect on the community he loves, CSM Elijah King stands true to his word and will never fade away. I'm grateful that heroes like him call central Texas home.

UNITED IN BLUE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the incredible sacrifices that our law enforcement officers have made in order to protect us and keep our communities safe. Although acts of heroism are displayed every day by the proud men and women in blue across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it is the extraordinary sacrifices of officers in our sister state of Louisiana that I am compelled to highlight today.

On July 17th, 2016, Corporal Montrell Jackson and Officer Matthew Gerald with the Baton Rouge Police Department and Deputy Brad Garafola with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Parish Office were shot and killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sergeant Bruce Simmons and Corporals Chad Montgomery and Nicholas Tullier were also injured in the same shooting. These men were not just protectors; they were fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons. We are in awe of their courage, and we are indebted to them for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed a frightening trend in this country. I have never seen this level of disrespect and injustice towards our law enforcement on such a large scale. Even though these anti-police sentiments are only harbored by a small, unappreciative, and sometimes hateful minority, we must speak louder in defense of those who protect us.

Ultimately, if we do not unite as a nation by showing unwavering and unequivocal respect for proud institutions like our police, then we are inviting further unconscionable acts. We must work harder than ever, in the memory of these officers, to assure that we make America safe again. Despite this tragedy, there is still ample reason for hope. In this time of grief, in the wake of these heinous acts, law enforcement agencies across the country have banded together with the Baton Rouge community in order to show their support for the families and friends of these officers.

Later this week, Mississippi Gulf Coast law enforcement agencies are partnering with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Blue Team to host a special charity event titled "United in Blue" for the fallen and wounded officers from Baton Rouge. All proceeds will rightfully go to support the families and wounded officers.

Above all else, on behalf of your brothers and sisters in South Mississippi, I would like to thank every man and woman in law enforcement in South Louisiana. And I would like to thank all law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders for their service to our country. Our nation stands proudly behind you.