

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cynthia Wilbanks and her tremendous work on behalf of the University of Michigan and the community at large. She has distinguished herself through her outstanding professional and volunteer efforts.

RICHARD BLANKENSHIP

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Richard Blankenship of Hillsboro, Ohio.

Richard's time here on earth will be remembered by many as serving both his community, and his country. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served his country with dedication.

And that dedication and passion was felt in the Cincinnati and Hillsboro communities, where Richard served in a number of different roles, influencing the lives of many.

From the Cincinnati Bengals, to the Southern State Community College, to East Clinton High School, where he served as both a coach and a teacher. At Finneytown Local Schools, where he taught and held various coaching positions, teaching students important lessons of teamwork and leadership.

When Richard retired from teaching in Finneytown in 2003, he said "I will miss being with students and parents, but it's time to hang up my gym shoes."

Richard, our communities are better for having you here, teaching our children, students, and those around you, and changing their lives for the better.

My thoughts are with the Blankenship family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
F. RING

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man who dedicated his life to serving the 21st District of New York.

Michael Ring was a loving father and a successful business owner, but he was also a man who believed in public service and the importance of participatory government. Michael worked as a broadcast engineer throughout New York's North Country. However, this is only a portion of his immense contribution to the community.

Mr. Ring worked for the betterment of others during his time as an advisor to the Jefferson County Board of Cooperative Education Services as well as through his efforts as Co-Chair of the Watertown Area Emergency Alert System. His guidance and care could be seen in his time as a volunteer teacher, college student mentor and PTA member as well as through his participation in a multitude of groups that advocated for the importance of national security.

I first met Mike when he was a fellow candidate for Congress in 2013. I was immediately struck by Mike's genuine kindness,

generosity, warmth, and dedication to mentoring others. Mike made friends with people from around the globe and advocated on their behalf. He also was a self-published author of wonderful books. I will miss seeing Mike's smile at community events in Jefferson County.

I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Michael Ring, especially his beloved wife Penny. Thank you for sharing him with us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN
ELIGIO "KIKA" DE
LA GARZA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Congressman Eligio "Kika" de la Garza, who passed away this Monday, March 13, 2017.

De la Garza served as the federal representative for the 15th District of Texas from 1965 to 1997. During his Congressional service, he was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture from 1981 to 1994 and Ranking Member of the Committee from 1995 to 1997. De la Garza was a founding member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

At the age of 17, de la Garza joined the United States Navy and served for two years, including the final months of World War II. Upon returning home, he completed his high school education before attending Edinburg Junior College and St. Mary's University in San Antonio. While at St. Mary's, de la Garza was again deployed, this time to the Korean War where he was an artillery officer in the United States Army. He then earned his Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. De la Garza was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1951, at the young age of 24, serving six terms before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, de la Garza endeavored to improve the lives of rural Texans, working to expand and improve federal support for farmers and ranchers. He also stood up for the disenfranchised, supporting landmark civil rights legislation that led to important progress for our society. Born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, de la Garza understood the importance of maintaining strong international relations and was a staunch supporter of the U.S.-Mexico relationship. He was the first Member of Congress to receive Mexico's Order of the Aztec Eagle Award and Israel's Vulcan Center's Lifetime Achievement Award—both awards recognized his efforts to cultivate stronger, more constructive ties between the United States and its allies. As a founding member and chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the first Hispanic to chair a standing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, he is an inspiration for the next generation of Latino leaders.

Mr. Speaker, this week our country lost a statesman, public servant, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, but his legacy will live on. It is a privilege to follow in the footsteps

of Eligio "Kika" de la Garza, who was genuinely committed to empowering rural areas and the Hispanic community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS HOLINESS
THE GYALWANG DRUKPA JIGME
PEMA WANGCHEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa Jigme Pema Wangchen on the occasion of his birthday.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa is the head of the 1,000 year-old Drukpa Lineage of Buddhism, which originates from the Indian Scholar-Saint Naropa, an unbroken ancient lineage that continues to thrive. The Drukpa Lineage has over 30 million followers worldwide and has a profound cultural influence throughout the Himalayan region.

Inspired by a strong belief that all individuals can work for the benefit of their communities, His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa is a world-renowned humanitarian, environmentalist, and champion of gender equality. His good works have been recognized by the United Nations and the Indian Government. The international non-profit Waterkeepers Alliance named His Holiness the Guardian of the Himalayas.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa and his followers provided relief services to tens of thousands in the Himalayas following the devastating 2015 earthquake in Nepal and continues to rebuild the community. Additionally, he supports and organizes clinics which provide access to medical services in remote communities.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa works tirelessly to empower, educate, protect and inspire girls and women in the Himalayas and around the world and has led efforts to ensure that the rights of peoples of all faiths and nationalities are equally respected and protected.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa personally trekked and bicycled thousands of miles across the Himalayas to further the goals of gender equality and of environmental stewardship.

His Holiness supports myriad educational initiatives which seek to improve people's lives through education while simultaneously fostering respect for and knowledge of indigenous cultures. In furtherance of this aim, His Holiness has led efforts to preserve local art and to disseminate globally knowledge about the local cultural heritage.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa has led multiple initiatives to protect the environment in the Himalayas. As part of the One Million Trees project, His Holiness organized in 2012 the largest simultaneous tree planting initiative to support clean air and protect against soil erosion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the spiritual and humanitarian leadership of His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa Jigme Pema Wangchen on the occasion of his birthday.

RECOGNIZING MS. LISA COHEN

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ms. Lisa Cohen, Executive Director of the Washington Global Health Alliance, in light of her retirement. During a CODEL to the Middle East I visited Afghanistan as a freshman in Congress and visited an abandoned school meant for female students. Yet unfortunately, it was not used for very long due to rule of law that girls are not allowed to be educated. Since then, I made it a mission to serve as a Co-Chair on the Global Health and Poverty Caucus and fought for the opportunity that girls can and should be educated. And I could not have done this without the extremely important and valuable partnership of Ms. Cohen. From day one, Ms. Cohen has never said no in helping me fight for human rights around the world, and in fact, she has taught and encouraged me to take on other global issues that we must stand for today. Ms. Cohen has been such a wonderful force in the global community, and not just in the Seattle area, but around the country, as she has been diligently working to form an alliance in the Atlanta region too. With more alliances for global health, we can someday have a world where polio no longer exists and every woman can give a healthy birth to a child in a fully-functioning hospital. I will truly miss working with Ms. Lisa Cohen of the Washington Global Health Alliance, but am delighted to know that we shall remain friends. I thank Ms. Cohen for everything that she has done to make this world a better place for every single person.

PEARLAND BASKETBALL COACH
WINS 700TH GAME**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pearland High School's Steve Buckelew for winning his 700th game as a boys' basketball coach.

Steve's 700th game was won as he coached the Pearland High School Oilers to an 83-48 home victory over Brazoswood High School. Steve has been a basketball coach for the last 32 years, with his last 21 years as Pearland's head coach. He spent time coaching basketball teams in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, with five years as an assistant coach at Louisiana Tech. When asked how many more wins are left in him, he said "I don't know, but I'd like to get about six or seven more this year."

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Steve Buckelew of Pearland for winning his 700th game as a boys' basketball coach. We are extremely proud to have him coaching our athletes to victory each year. Keep up the good work.

IN MEMORY OF BARRY JOLLETT

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Barry Jollett, of Punta Gorda, Florida, who tragically passed away on March 1.

When Barry and his wife, Mary, moved to Florida 15 years ago, they immersed themselves in our local community. For the past four years, Barry took on the challenge of serving as the Chairman of the Charlotte County Republicans, as well as the Vice Chair for the Republican Executive Committee. Under his leadership, the Charlotte County Republicans continued to spread their message throughout our community and the entire county is better because of it.

Barry was no stranger to leadership roles when he moved to Florida. Before starting his lifelong career with Verizon, he served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He also served as a Commodore for the PGI Seafarers, and his dedication to our country was evident even after he left our military. We are all eternally grateful for his service and leadership.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Barry many times during my tenure in office and I believe that his memory will be preserved in the legacy he left behind. Barry was a strong leader, a loyal patriot and hard worker. But more importantly, he was a friendly neighbor, loving husband and caring father. His memory will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for all of Charlotte County when I say that Barry Jollett will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary and their family during this time.

IN HONOR OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of The Brick Presbyterian Church, one of the nation's oldest and most venerable religious institutions. The Brick Church has been in continuous operation since 1767, with the exception of a few years during the Revolutionary War, and has a rich history of serving the community as a spiritual home. Pastoral leaders of The Brick Church have had a profound impact on the nation as spiritual leaders, brilliant composers of sacred music and compassionate advocates for the poor, the downtrodden and refugees.

The Brick Church began as an expansion of the First Presbyterian Church at Wall Street, whose growing congregation could no longer be accommodated. Its first building was on Beekman Street on a site now occupied by Pace University's downtown campus. The first

pastor was Reverend John Rodgers who would close the street in front of the church during services to eliminate noise. Dr. Rodgers also corresponded with George Washington, was the first moderator of the General Assembly and served as chaplain to the New York State Legislature.

During the Revolutionary War, the British commandeered the church for use first as a hospital and later as a brig. By 1858, after surviving two wars, three epidemics and three fires, the church followed its congregation uptown to Fifth Avenue at 37th Street. Nearly a century later, in response to further migration north, the church moved in 1940 to its present location at 91st Street and Park Avenue.

The church's other pastors were Gardiner Spring (1810 through 1873), James Ormsbee Murphy (1865 through 1875), Llewellyn Bevan (1877 through 1882), Henry Van Dyke (1883 through 1900), Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1900 through 1901), William Rogers Richards (1902 through 1910), William Pierson Merrill (1911 through 1938), Paul Austin Wolfe (1938 through 1964), D. Reginald Thomas (1965 through 1970), James Seth Stewart (1972 through 1974), and Herbert B. Anderson (1978 through 2001). Rev. Van Dyke became ambassador to the Netherlands under President Woodrow Wilson and organized efforts to serve the tens of thousands of refugees flooding the country at the onset of World War I.

The Brick Church is currently led by the remarkable Reverend Michael L. Lindvall who was installed on October 27, 2002 as only its 13th installed pastor. Rev. Lindvall has made education a center of his ministry at the church, recognizing that parishioners may have less exposure to the Bible, theology or the history and governance of the church than they once did. Accordingly, educational programs such as the Children's Sunday Church School, youth programs, and adult education are critically important to The Brick Church.

Over the centuries, Brick Church has assisted in educating poor children, supported immigrant congregations and settlement houses, and worked to improve the neighborhood. Before the Civil War, leaders of the congregation were outspoken abolitionists who condemned slavery and corruption. Members of the Brick Church have supported the Deacon Ministries and Grants program that helps over 22,000 people annually. Members also volunteer for a wide variety of community-based organizations that tutor young people, help homebound seniors, serve the homeless and help the formerly incarcerated make a fresh start.

A number of The Brick Church's clergy have made significant contributions to sacred music, including Revs. Van Dyke, Babcock, Merrill and Wolfe. In addition, Clarence Dickinson provided outstanding musical leadership along with Helen Dickinson, who founded the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Today, Keith S. Tóth, a graduate of the Oberlin and Juilliard Schools of Music, carries on the church's fine tradition of musical excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring The Brick Church for providing a spiritual home to New Yorkers for 250 years.