

world. I encourage them to join me in recognizing the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 159, 160, and 161. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on roll call numbers 159, 160 and nay on roll call vote 161.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BARNS
AT HAMILTON STATION VINE-
YARDS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commend my constituents, Andrew and Maryann Fialdini, and their winery, the Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, on receiving the Governor's Cup in the 2017 Governor's Cup Wine Competition. This win not only speaks to the hard work, entrepreneurship and expertise of Andrew and Maryann, but also the growing and transforming Loudoun County wine industry.

Since opening 8 years ago, their hard work has certainly come to fruition. Andrew, Maryann, and the vineyard's Wine Maker, Michael Shaps, have worked diligently to produce local, yet authentic-tasting, French-style wines on their eleven acre vineyard located in Hamilton, Virginia. And this year, two of their wines, the 2014 Meritage and 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, were named gold medalists in the Governor's Cup Wine Competition.

The judges of this year's competition reviewed 494 bottles from 102 different wineries, and only 23 bottles were named gold medalists. Impressively of those 23 bottles, Andrew and Maryann's 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon was named the best wine and awarded the Governor's Cup—a recognition that a Loudoun winery has never before received in the 37 years of this stringent and prestigious competition.

Risk-taking small businesses have always been the life blood of the Loudoun County economy and our national economy and entrepreneurial families like the Fialdini's have been leaders in fostering strong, local economies that will continue to thrive and grow for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Andrew and Maryann Fialdini and Michael Shaps for their successful small business and their special awards at the 2017 Governor's Cup Wine Competition. I also wish them and their family the best in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
CHARLES HUNNICUTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Hunnicutt for his outstanding work and to congratulate him on his retirement after 45 years of dedicated public service.

Charles began his career with the United States Air Force, honorably serving his country from June 1972 to June 1976. He was then hired to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Criminal Investigations and Collections Officer from 1976 to 1987.

In 1988, Charles joined the Fresno County Department of Social Services and remained there until 2005. That same year, he was offered the position as Fresno County Veterans Service Officer. In 2010, Charles was asked to also serve as the Madera County Veterans Service Officer. Charles has remained with both counties and has served Fresno County Veterans and Madera County Veterans with great passion and honor.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud Charles Hunnicutt for his many years of tireless work on behalf of veterans and our community. His ongoing dedication to public service is extremely commendable.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to veterans and our community, Charles has been a true champion for my constituents where he serves on my 16th District Veterans Advisory Board and has assisted my staff with service academy nominations. In my office, a majority of our constituent casework involves assisting veterans. These are sensitive cases that can sometimes take a great deal of time to resolve. Charles is someone that my staff and I can always count on to work together on behalf of veterans.

I have personally worked with Charles for over 13 years in my capacity as a Member of Congress and I can proudly call him my friend. In his capacity as Veterans Service Officer, Charles is always available to discuss cases and work together on issues of concern. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Charles Hunnicutt and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week commemorates Brain Awareness Week, which presents an important opportunity to educate lawmakers, students, and the broader public about brain science, and its many impacts and benefits. This is critical when you consider that brain disorders and diseases affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans—from Alzheimer's to ALS to mental illness.

Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders are among the leading causes of disability in the United States and around the

world—greater than heart disease and cancer put together. As society ages, this number will increase exponentially as will the cost to the healthcare system and to the economy. Yet, the underlying causes of most neurological diseases remain unknown.

Neuroscience is the next great frontier. Research and work being done in this field needs to be front and center in both the private world and Congress.

The bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus' mission is to build awareness of the intrinsic role brain research plays in understanding ourselves and our society. As the Co-Founder and Co-Chair, I am committed to working on these important issues and hope my colleagues will join our efforts as members of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus.

MR. JOSEPH ROBERGE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Philip Roberge. Immediately following his graduation from High School in 1942, Joseph enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a Navigator on a B-17 bomber with the 398th Bomb Group located at Nuthampstead Air Base in England.

Joseph flew 35 missions over Europe, including being part of air support at Omaha Beach on D-Day. Throughout his time in service, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, European Theater of Operations Ribbon, two Bronze Stars, and Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Joseph for his selfless actions taken to protect his homeland. It is important we honor these types of individuals as best we can and I hope that many will follow in his footsteps and give back to our country as graciously as he did. People like him are a rare breed and they help make not only our country, but our world a much safer and better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays caused by Winter Storm Stella, I was unable to attend votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, and YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

TRAVELING WALL THAT HEALS IN
MENA, ARKANSAS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening ceremonies of the Traveling Wall That Heals in Mena, Arkansas.