RECOGNIZING CAROLYN LERNER

HON. ROD BLUM
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Carolyn Lerner for her service as Special Counsel at the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). This is her last week at OSC after six years leading the Office.

OSC has the enormous and important task of policing the executive branch against prohibited personnel practices, including retaliation against whistleblowers. Ms. Lerner began her work at OSC in June 2011, and her impact there has been extremely positive. With her at the helm, OSC increased both the number of complaints it investigated and the number of cases it resolved. The agency has won widespread bipartisan praise for its work, including resolving multiple cases of retaliation against whistleblowers at the Veterans Administration.

As co-chairman of the House Whistleblower Protection Caucus and member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I know how vitally important whistleblowers are to Congressional oversight of the federal government. The brave men and women who have the courage to expose abuse and fraud in their workplaces deserve to be protected, and under Ms. Lerner’s leadership, OSC has done just that.

It has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Lerner since coming to Congress. As her time at OSC comes to an end, I wish each one of them continued success on and off the baseball field. Go Deer!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BORBA FAMILY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borba family’s contribution to the agriculture industry of California and their strong presence in California’s Central Valley for over one hundred years.

The Borba family’s legacy began when Ms. Anna Borba emigrated from the Azores, Portugal to the United States in the late 1800’s. Anna’s son, A.J. Borba, moved to California’s Central Valley in the early 1900’s to begin the family’s agriculture venture, and established a dairy in Riverdale, California. In the 1940’s, A.J. and his sons, Ross, Sr., and Darril, began focusing on a row crop operation with the goal of introducing the Central Valley. In 1958, the brothers officially began Borba Brothers Farms on the west side of Fresno County.

In 1942, Ross, Sr. married Justina “Tina” Urrizola and continued to farm in Riverdale while raising their two sons, Ross, Jr. and Mark, and their daughter, Dwayne. In 1976, Ross, Jr. and Mark acquired the family business after their father and uncle retired. In their retirement, Ross, Sr. and Tina established the Rancho Vista del Rio on San Joaquin River near Fresno. Currently, Rancho Vista del Rio serves as the home and horse ranch of Mark and his wife, Peggy Borba, and is often used as a venue for Fresno County community events.

Today, the fifth generation of Borbas is represented by Mark and Peggy’s son, Derek. Derek and his wife, Jennifer, operate the farming and custom farm management business.

As custom farm operators, they perform machine operations on partnered farms in Westlands Water District. Having survived years of drought, the farming operation encompasses 9,000 acres of almonds, tomatoes, garlic, melons, lettuce, wheat, and Pima cotton on the Valley’s west side.

The Borba family has significantly contributed to the Central Valley’s agriculture industry through philanthropy, financial support, and leadership of organizations including the California Agriculture Leadership Foundation, Sequoia Council Boy Scouts, Valley Teen Ranch, and Ag One. The family has also made a lasting impression on many in their community. The Borba family understands the incredible importance of education, and has continuously supported Riverdale Unified School District, San Joaquin College of Law, and Pacific Legal Foundation. Members of the Borba family have volunteered and provided support to their local health and wellness organizations and support services including Community Medical Center, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children’s Hospital, and the Marjaree Mason Center. In acknowledgment of his and his family’s contributions and accomplishments, Mark Borba was awarded the U.C. Davis 1996 Award of Distinction. Mark was also influential in establishing the Ross Borba, Sr. Scholarship Endowment for agricultural college students. Additionally, Borba Farms, Inc. received the 2007 Baker, Peterson, and Franklin, CPA, LLP, Agricultural Business Award in recognition of its impact on the agricultural industry and Central San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Borba family for their contributions to the Central Valley and their presence in the agriculture industry for over five generations.

RECOGNIZING THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the Vietnam War Memorial in Denver, Colorado. This ceremony, seeks to honor the efforts of all of those who fought in Vietnam and commemorate the 42nd Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.

As a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, I understand the importance that duty and sacrifice for one’s country is not something unique to the United States military. In fact, the Vietnam Memorial in Denver serves as a reminder of those sacrifices made not only by the Americans who fought there, but reminds us here in the U.S. of the hardships endured by the South Vietnamese themselves. Most importantly, the Memorial also serves as a symbol of friendship and shared struggle to defend freedom and liberty, in which the United
States and Republic of Vietnam together sacrificed so much and fought so bravely. This year is the 2nd Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial in Denver, and it truly represents an important and meaningful addition to our community. I am proud to recognize the efforts put forth by these men and women in the defense of democracy in our two countries. The United States of America is stronger and more enriched because of their contributions and for this, I thank them. I would also like to thank True Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese American Community of Colorado and Thinh Nguyen, the Chair of the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Organizing Committee for helping to make this ceremony and special day possible.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH 2017

HON. BRIAN BABIN
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juneteenth. On June 19 (Juneteenth), 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island and issued General Order Number 3 which read, “the people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.” With this action the last American slaves, nearly 250,000 Texans, were freed two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Early Juneteenth celebrations were political rallies to teach freed African Americans about their freedoms, including voting rights. Over the years Juneteenth is celebrated at a wide variety of public events, prayer services, cere- monies, family gatherings, parades, barbecues, rodeos, and sporting events. Modern Juneteenth celebrations encourage self-develop- ment and respect for all cultures.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery. In 1979 Governor William “Bill” Clements, Jr. signed legislation declaring Juneteenth as a state holiday. By 2016 forty-five of the fifty states in the Union have followed suit recognizing Juneteenth as either a state holiday, ceremonial day, or day of observance.

Mr. Speaker I rise, with my fellow Texans, to celebrate Juneteenth in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. LAWRENCE REEDUS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and with great respect that I congratulate Mr. Lawrence Reedus on a momentous milestone, his 80th birthday. Lawrence will be celebrating with family and friends on Friday, June 16, 2017, at the Calumet Township Multi-Purpose Center in Gary, Indiana.

Lawrence Wesley Reedus was born on June 5, 1937, in Gary, Indiana, the second oldest of five children. As a young man, he attended Roosevelt High School, where he excelled in his athletic pursuits, lettering in both football and basketball. After graduating in 1956, Lawrence continued his educational pursuits in Indiana at Manchester College. After working various jobs, Reedus found his calling as a career firefighter for the Gary Fire Department, serving the city and its residents for more than twenty years. Known for his leadership and his political interest, Lawrence was determined to obtain a union for his fellow firefighters, so it is no surprise that he would go on to become the first African American president for the Gary Firefighters Association IAFF Local 359. For his unwavering dedication to his colleagues and to the community of Gary, Lawrence Reedus is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Reedus’s greatest source of pride is his amazing family. He has three beloved children and three adoring grandchildren. Lawrence now resides in Memphis, Tennessee, but we are honored by his loyal service to the people of Gary for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Lawrence Reedus on this special day. His outstanding dedication to his community and fellow firefighters is truly admirable. It is my pleasure to join Lawrence’s family and friends in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING MRS. DOLIA GONZALEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, who at the age of 88, received her high school diploma.

Mrs. Gonzalez is the embodiment of hard work and selflessness. After completing the 7th grade, Dolia left school to help her mother raise her five siblings. She then became a full-time mother to her own son, Alfredo Gonzalez, who sacrificed his life for our country in the Vietnam War.

After losing Freddy in the Vietnam War, Mrs. Gonzalez continued to work at the Echo Hotel in Edinburg. Unfortunately, she eventually lost the compensation previously promised to her by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Then after being forced to leave her job at the Echo due to health concerns, she began working at her local H.E.B. in Edinburg, Texas, where she is currently employed.

On Saturday, June 3, Mrs. Gonzalez received an honorary high school diploma from McAllen High School in McAllen, Texas. Alongside Dolia were her niece, Emily Acosta, and the rest of the McAllen High School Class of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Gonzalez and her family. Her perseverance, fortitude, and dedication to her family and community cannot go unnoticed. She has made the South Texas community a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today.

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fort George G. Meade—as it was then known—where Civil War hero Major General George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg halted the Confederacy’s invasion of the Union and turned the tide of the war. Over the course of World War I, more than 400,000 soldiers left from Camp Meade to fight in the war.

During the interwar period, Fort Meade housed the Army Tank School as well as the
Experimental Motorized Forces. During World War II, approximately 3.5 million soldiers trained at Fort Meade, which was also used to house Italian and German prisoners of war.

After WWII, the Fort reverted to peacetime activities. The Fort's importance grew when the Second U.S. Army moved to Fort Meade, and again when the First U.S. Army merged with the Second and moved to Fort Meade. In 1953, the Fort became the first to deploy the Nike I antiaircraft missile system. Later renamed the Nike Ajax, the Nike I was the world’s first surface-to-air missile defense system and was designed to protect the capital region from Soviet bombers.

The Cold War period initiated a shift at the base to a greater intelligence focus. Fort Meade has been vital to the intelligence mission of the United States since the 1950s, when it became the headquarters for the National Security Agency (NSA). The Fort’s mission expanded in 1995 when the Defense Information System moved there. Since that time the School has expanded to include both the Defense Visual Information School and the Defense Photography School. More recently US Cyber Command was moved to Fort Meade. Today, six cyber headquarters are housed at Fort Meade making it the epicenter of our 21st century defense.

The 2005 BRAC ushered in some of the most significant growth in the history of the Fort. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), which provides complete information technology services to the Department of Defense, moved its headquarters to Fort Meade. Also, 6,000 workers relocated there to a nearly 1 million-square-foot headquarters. The Defense Media Activity and Defense Adjudication Activities also relocated to the base, bringing a combined total of over 1,300 positions employees with them. The continued growth of Fort Meade during a time of downsizing and shrinking budgets speaks to its efficacy and its essential mission.

The NSA presence at Fort Meade makes the base one of the most important to the security of our nation. The work done by thousands of Marylanders at the Fort every day is crucial for maintaining day to day IT stability for all those depending on disrupting terrorist networks and plans. In addition to its vital impact on our nation’s intelligence mission, Fort Meade has sent many active duty service members abroad. Collectively, around 2,700 personnel from 42 units were deployed from the base during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

I also want to emphasize the enormous impact Fort George G. Meade has on the economy of our state. Fort Meade employs over 56,000 personnel across 119 agencies and has a supported population of over 145,000, providing a significant boost to the local economy. Fort George G. Meade is the largest employer in Maryland, the fifth-largest employment center in the state, and has the third-largest workforce of any U.S. Army installation.

In the past 100 years, Fort Meade has made a profound impact on Maryland, the United States, and the world. I am confident that legacy will continue over the next 100 years and beyond, and once again congratulate Fort George G. Meade and all who have served there on this momentous anniversary.
Her talent, demeanor, and style will be missed coming into our homes and our minds. We thank Barbara for the contributions and impact she has given us, and we wish her well in her next adventure.

MARKING ONE YEAR SINCE THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one year ago this week, 49 beautiful, innocent lives were stolen from us and countless others were forever changed as a result of the tragedy at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando.

The losses were staggering. The act shocking. And the stories heartbreaking.

It was a tragedy that did not represent the Orlando I know, a vibrant city that prides itself on its love, inclusion and hospitality.

Orlando is not a perfect city, but it is a great city. In the aftermath of this tragedy, our city was tested, but it was never broken.

Everyone in Orlando from courageous police officers and first responders to compassionate medical professionals and complete strangers, came together in our darkest hour. Ordinary citizens did extraordinary things. We proved we were Orlando strong and Orlando united.

That’s why Monday—Orlando United Day—and everything it represents, is so important for Orlando, and our nation.

I stood alongside thousands of people at the Pulse memorial in Orlando on Monday morning.

The memory of that event is still vivid, but the love and unity within our city has never been stronger.

I remember the first time I visited those sacred grounds after that tragic night. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love written onto walls, within picture frames, and in notes tied to flowers. I came across a simple message written in chalk with a heart drawn around it: “Keep Dancing.”

We owe it to the victims and their families to keep dancing, and to do everything within our power to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

That’s why Congress must lead. We must continue to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to protect our communities from these horrific acts.

Hope that things can and will change should drive our efforts. While 49 voices were forever silenced here one year ago, hope, as Harvey Milk once said, hope will never be silent.

We must honor the lives and legacies of the Pulse victims by putting aside that which divides us and rededicating ourselves to treating one another with love and respect.

Today, let’s remember 49 beautiful lives that were lost one year ago. Their names and faces must inspire us to be better people, and a better nation.

May God bless the memories of the Pulse victims and their families, and may we all keep dancing.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashley Garcia Gomez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ashley Garcia Gomez is a student at Arvada K–8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashley Garcia Gomez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashley Garcia Gomez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES AND MADELINE PETRASKE, RESIDENTS OF NISKAYUNA IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HON. PAUL TONKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Wedding Anniversary of James and Madeline Petraske of Niskayuna, New York.

James and Madeline met when James—who was dating a friend of Madeline’s—offered her a ride home from her job at the National Baseball Manufacturing Company in Schenectady, New York.

The couple married two years later on Flag Day, June 14, 1942. In 1944, as World War II raged on around the world, James and Madeline answered the call to serve. James left his job at General Electric to serve our country overseas. Madeline joined the war effort here at home as a nurse aid for the Red Cross.

The two wrote to each other regularly until James returned home on June 25, 1946. James returned to his job at General Electric where he worked until he retired as a Manager of Shop Operations in 1961.

In addition to their service to our country, James and Madeline volunteered with Meals On Wheels throughout their lives, stopping only after Madeline and James had turned 89 and 90, respectively. Madeline, at the age of 97, continues to volunteer for the Disabled American Veterans.

James and Madeline are the proud parents of three children, five grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Each night before they go to sleep, James tells Madeline she is the best thing that ever happened to him.

Congratulations to James and Madeline on their 75th Wedding Anniversary. We thank them for their lifetimes of service to their community and country.

HONORING FAGEN ELEVATOR

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fagen Elevator, a family owned and operated business celebrating its 100th year of operation, in Keota, Iowa.

Fagen Elevator was established in 1917 by Walter L. Fagen. It has been continually owned and managed by members of the Fagen family since its establishment. Today, Fagen Elevators is operated by the fourth generation of Fagens, Larry and David. The Fagen family has accomplished an incredible amount in the 100 years that they have owned and operated the Fagen Elevator business in Keota.

Fagen Elevators has contributed greatly to Keota, and will continue to better the area for many more years to come. Again, I want to offer my congratulations to the Fagen family as they celebrate this exciting milestone and to thank them for their hard work as a pillar of the Keota community.

ASIA MONDRAGON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Asia Mondragon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Asia Mondragon is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Asia Mondragon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Asia Mondragon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM NEW YORK’S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WHO WILL SERVE IN THE MILITARY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and to express my gratitude to the following individuals from New York’s 22nd Congressional District who upon graduation from high school will serve in the military:

ASHLEY GARCIA GOMEZ


TRIBUTE TO SUSAN ALVERIO
HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Susan Alverio of Norwalk, Iowa, for earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Established in 1979 by the United States Congress, the Congressional Award was created to recognize outstanding achievements made by young people who dedicate themselves to public service, physical fitness and personal development. Overall, there are two levels of achievement that must be earned before obtaining the Gold Congressional Award Medal. Before achieving the third and final level, participants must contribute 400 hours to voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development and physical fitness, and a four consecutive night expedition or exploration.

Susan has had great success in all areas of achievement on her journey towards ultimately earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal. She volunteered at the Blank Park Zoo, learned how to read music as well as play the piano and the guitar, and dedicated herself to physical fitness through long-distance running. Overall, Susan said, “I grew as a person while working towards the Gold Congressional Award.”

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Susan for earning this outstanding award. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on this momentous occasion and in wishing her nothing but continued success in all of her endeavors.

ANTHONY MONROY-SANCHEZ
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anthony Monroy-Sanchez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anthony Monroy-Sanchez is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anthony Monroy-Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives. I extend my deepest congratulations to Anthony Monroy-Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

STEVEN BAKOTIC
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Steven Bakotic as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2017.

Steven graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science and he was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 26, 2017. His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Steven’s unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation.

The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

South Mississippi is proud of Steven and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Steven embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with fondness his time at the United States Naval Academy.

I would like to send Steven my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. JUNE MARIE ROBERSON FOR HER WORK IN THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY
HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Ms. June Marie Roberson. Ms. Roberson was accomplished and well-known for her work in the local Baptist community.

Ms. Roberson moved to Ypsilanti at a young age and became known for her work and activism in the community. She began her career as a dietitian with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and then moved to the City of Michigan Hospital. She then took a new position as an assembler at Ford Motor Company. She was also active with several Baptist churches in the area throughout her life. Ms. June was a member of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church, where she served as the congregation’s Baptist Youth Fellowship and was a member of the church choir. She eventually moved to Second Baptist Church when her husband was named as the church’s Deacon, where she continued her work with children by teaching Sunday School. She then moved to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where she championed several initiatives, including serving as Director of the Children’s Mission and President of the Mission Department.

Ms. Roberson was a kind and dedicated member of the Ypsilanti community who was committed to helping others and working on behalf of the community’s children. She was strongly supportive of the children in the Baptist congregations in which she was a member, and was well-regarded in the community for her involvement with the church. She also attended the National Baptists Congress of Christian Education and National Baptist Convention, and her involvement with these religious forums underscores her commitment to the well-being of others. As a committed mother of three children, Ms. Roberson was active in their lives and supportive of her grandchildren. Her kindness, commitment to the community, and support of those in need will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. June Marie Roberson. Ms. Roberson was a pillar of the Ypsilanti community whose life had a tremendous impact.

AVERY NOEL
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Avery Noel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Avery Noel is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Avery Noel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Avery Noel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.
Thank Norma Menchaca of Stafford, TX, for her outstanding contributions as a teacher the past 38 years.

Norma began her teaching career with the Stafford Municipal School District as a kindergarten teacher in 1983. After graduating from the University of Texas-Pan American, she worked for the Brownsville Independent School District, but moved to Houston after her husband became a Houston Firefighter. Norma loves the small town atmosphere of the school district and looks forward to high school graduation ceremonies so she can see her former students graduate. Today she's the longest serving teacher in the school district and said her retirement will be bittersweet. She will be missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Norma again for her time teaching our children. She has been an important and influential member of our community shaping the minds of generations of students. We wish her a happy retirement.

AUGUSTA MAE PENN
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Augusta Mae Penn for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Augusta Mae Penn is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities. The dedication demonstrated by Augusta Mae Penn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Augusta Mae Penn for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

U.S.S. "HOBSON"
HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's been over 66 years since the sinking of the USS Hobson. However, for those involved, that fateful day feels like it was just yesterday. The Hobson was a Destroyer as well as a minesweeping ship that survived multiple battles during World War II, including the invasion of Normandy and the assault on Okinawa. Yet, it was not an enemy ship or plane that took the Hobson down, but a U.S. aircraft carrier. Late in the night of April 26, 1952, the Hobson was participating in a naval exercise with the carriers Wasp and Rodman. The USS Wasp, in preparation for airplanes to land on its deck, turned into the wind. In order to avoid the Wasp's new position, the Hobson needed to maneuver out of its path. Instead of slowing down and passing behind the Wasp, the Hobson cut across the Wasp's bow. This proved to be a fatal mistake.

The Wasp struck the Hobson in its middle. The impact caused the Hobson to split in two. Within four minutes, the ship had sunk to the bottom of the ocean, taking 176 crew members with it. Most of the crew was asleep at the time of the accident, thus having no chance at surviving the crash. Fortunately, sixty-one crew members were able to be rescued from the sea by the Wasp and the Rodman.

The sinking of the USS Hobson and its crew members was a terrible tragedy for our country. The crew members who lost their lives that night will forever be remembered for their bravery and dedication. We must do our best to keep our heroes safe, both in and out of war.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. WILLIE SPAN
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Willie Span of Tamarac, Florida. Willie was a constituent of mine, who tragically passed away on October 2, 2014, after being struck by a vehicle while on his way to the William “Bill” Kling VA Clinic in Sunrise, Florida.

Since this heartbreaking accident, Willie became a symbol for pedestrian safety and for veterans in our community. Veterans had advocated long and hard for a crosswalk and traffic light to the Bill Kling Clinic, yet they were told that there were not enough pedestrians crossing the street to warrant the changes. In the time since the accident, Willie’s wife, Doris Span, has continued to push for a safer way for veterans to cross the street from the bus stop to get to the clinic.

The bus stop has been temporarily removed and replaced with paratransit service for veterans, and we are all anticipating a lasting solution to avoid future tragedies. We must do everything we can to create safe places for pedestrians through the placements of crosswalks and lights. Too often, this does not happen until a terrible accident occurs.

Mr. Speaker, Willie Span was a veteran of the war in Vietnam, having served as a private in the United States Army, 8th Infantry Division. He and his wife had been married for eight years before purchasing their first home together, something that had always been his dream.

On Monday, June 19, 2017, Willie’s family, friends, and representatives of the U.S. Army, the Miami VA Healthcare System, the William “Bill” Kling Veterans Clinic, the Broward County Veterans Coalition, and Broward County Transit will gather at the location of the accident to honor his memory and place a memorial plaque. He is remembered as a soft-spoken and honorable man, beloved by his family and friends. I am very pleased to honor his life and legacy.
Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud April Pyron for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. April Pyron is a student at Arvada K–8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by April Pyron is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to April Pyron for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS FOR HIS SERVICE AS MICHIGAN’S DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Thomas for his distinguished service on behalf of the State of Michigan. As the state’s Director of Elections for the past 36 years, Mr. Thomas has served Michigan voters well through his rigorous oversight of the state’s electoral processes.

Mr. Thomas began his career in 1974 managing campus student voting regulations at U.S. House of Representatives and later moved to the Federal Election Commission, where he worked with candidates to ensure compliance with federal election laws. As a result of his performance, Mr. Thomas was appointed to be Michigan’s Director of Elections in 1981 by Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin.

As Director of Elections, Mr. Thomas has overseen 1,600 clerks in counties, townships and cities across the state to run Michigan elections and work to staff and train workers. Throughout his time as director, Mr. Thomas has earned a reputation as an effective administrator who impartially handled Michigan’s elections. He is also well-regarded among his peers, having served as president of the National Association of State Election Directors, a national forum that shares best practices on running accurate and transparent elections in 2013.

Mr. Thomas has been a model Director of Elections who has served the State of Michigan with distinction. Under his leadership, Michigan has successfully leveraged advances in technology to improve the functioning of our state’s electoral processes. In addition, Mr. Thomas is well-known for his nonpartisan handling of elections and thorough knowledge of procedure and election law. He also served on President Obama’s Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which enabled him to utilize his decades of knowledge to improve the election experience for America’s voters. He has been an outstanding leader during his career in election administration, and I wish him well as he retires after an extraordinary career serving Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Christopher Thomas for his 36 years of public service as Michigan’s Director of Elections and his leadership in the nation for ensuring fair elections throughout the country. Mr. Thomas has helped ensure the integrity and accessibility of Michigan’s elections.

PITTSBURGH Penguins STANLEY CUP VICTORY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I’m very excited to say congratulations, once again, to the Pittsburgh Penguins on winning the 2017 Stanley Cup.

For those of you who don’t know, the Penguins also won the Stanley Cup last year—making them back-to-back champions. That hasn’t been done since the late 1990s and since the salary cap was put in place. It was truly a historic achievement, and the City of Pittsburgh could not be more excited. This is the 5th Stanley Cup for the Penguins franchise.

Over the course of the season—and particularly the playoffs—the Penguins showed the grit, resiliency, and determination that is emblematic of the City of Pittsburgh. They battled through injury after injury, tough games, hostile arenas, changing rosters—you name it, they faced it. And yet they came out on top every time.

Throughout the course of the playoffs, they beat the Columbus Blue Jackets in the first round, winning handily in a 4–1 series. Next, they came here to D.C. and faced the No. 1-seed Washington Capitals. Well, for the ninth time in 10 playoff matchups, the Pens defeated the Capitals in a brutal 7-game series that also (temporarily) knocked out our Captain, Sidney Crosby. But the thing about Pittsburgh—and the Pens—is that a knock-out punch just won’t keep us down for long. They moved right along and trucked through the Ottawa Senators 4–2 to make it back to the Stanley Cup Finals for the second year in a row.

Now, I would like to congratulate the Nashville Predators on a magical run through the playoffs and a hard-fought final series. But ultimately, it wasn’t enough to overcome the Penguins’ skill, experience, hustle, and determination.

In a riveting Game 6, neither team had scored a goal and the end of regulation was quickly approaching. With only 95 seconds left on the clock, Patric Hornqvist managed to use the Predator’s goalie himself to get the puck in the net. Left with few options, the Preds had to pull their goalie which allowed the Penguins to get an empty-net goal with seconds remaining. It was the perfect end to a historic season.

I would particularly like to congratulate Sidney Crosby on winning his second back-to-back Conn Smythe Trophy, one of only three players ever to do so. The last player to win back-to-back? The Pens very own Mario Lemieux.

The City of Pittsburgh is welcoming home another championship trophy, and for that I would like to once again thank and congratulate the 2017 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins. Welcome back to Pittsburgh, Lord Stanley.

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the team from Red Rocks Community College on becoming a finalist for a third year in a row in the National Science Foundation’s Community College Innovation Challenge. This program serves as an innovative way for community college students to partner with local industries to create pioneering STEM-focused solutions for real-world issues. The Community College Innovation Challenge is an important example of encouraging STEM education and research for our nation’s students and future leaders. I congratulate all of the competition’s participants for their work on a variety of important projects.

The Red Rocks team tackled the important issue of practical cyber workforce training. By creating a cyber-lab learning environment, students can expand real-world skills in practical work situations in a safer and more controlled environment. This project demonstrates how we can enhance classroom learning by allowing students to apply their skills in real-world situations and be better prepared for the skills and tasks necessary in the workforce.

I congratulate the Red Rocks Team of Bill Cherrington, Isaac Kerley, Joseph Murdock, Bruno Salvatico and John Sanchez for their success. I applaud this group for their dedication to this important project and their leadership and commitment to STEM education blazing a path for our country’s future leaders and innovators. I am proud of the work Red Rocks Community College does every day and I look forward to seeing what the school and these students accomplish in the years to come.

HONORING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Karrington Evans, John Paul Post of Altus, Randall Parker Ross of Hot Springs, Katie Welch of Peary, Briston Yarbrough of Danville. These star students from the Fourth District of Arkansas will have the honor of attending the service academies this Fall.
Briston will attend the Air Force Academy; Parker will attend West Point; John Paul and Katie will attend the Naval Academy; and Karrington will attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Arkansas has a history of academy alumni. These include General Douglas MacArthur, a three-star Allied Commander in the Pacific during World War II, and Brigadier General William O. Darby, leader of what would later become the Army Rangers. Their example is one of courage and excellence under any circumstances. With this rich tradition before them and through their own accomplishments, there’s no doubt these students will do their very best—bringer honor to themselves, their families, and their state.

I wish them well in their service careers and success in whatever they pursue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE ACCESS, RESEARCH EXPANSION AND RESPECT STATES (CAREERS) ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act, also known as the CARERS Act. This bipartisan, bicameral bill would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, allow states to import Cannabidiol to treat patients with seizures, give the Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to patients and improve opportunities for research on marijuana.

The consensus on medical marijuana is already overwhelming and continues to build. According to a Quinnipiac University poll, 93 percent of Americans believe people should be allowed to use medically prescribed marijuana. 93 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

In November, North Dakota, Montana, Florida and Arkansas joined a growing majority of states that have legalized medical marijuana. Twenty-nine states plus the District of Columbia have approved medical marijuana.

Even CNN’s Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who was once skeptical of medical marijuana, has publicly endorsed it.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 93 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures.

Her family tried desperately to treat her with Cannabidiol—also known as “Charlotte’s Web” or “CBD” for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe's doctors.

Chloe died without receiving CBD. This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

I want to thank my colleague Don Young of Alaska for his partnership on this bill as well as Senators Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Al Franken and Lisa Murkowski for their leadership on this legislation. I urge both the House and Senate to pass this bill.

ANNASELIA SAMORA
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Annaselia Samora for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Annaselia Samora is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Annaselia Samora is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and development work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Annaselia Samora for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MISSOURI CITY TEACHER PARTICIPATES IN PBS PROGRAM

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Krissy Venosdale of Missouri City, TX, for being selected as a participant in the 2017 PBS Digital Innovators Program. Krissy, who serves as the Kinkaid School’s lower school innovation coordinator, was recognized for developing the “Launch Pad” at her school. The “Launch Pad” is a space for students to expand their horizons in both a creative and technological fashion, using a blend of bright colors and high-tech tools to help students practice out-of-the-box methods. Out of the 52 participants selected, Krissy is the only educator from TX to participate in the PBS Digital Innovators Program. As part of this program, Krissy will have access to ongoing professional development, share her ideas on PBS LearningMedia resources and attend the 2017 PBS Digital Summit this summer.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Krissy Venosdale for being selected as a participant in the 2017 PBS Digital Innovators Program.

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Boynton first came to Maryland and encountered the majesty waters of the Chesapeake Bay, something which would become the focus of his scientific studies for the remainder of his career, in 1969 as a summer student at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) in Solomons, Maryland. Following the receipt of his Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Florida, Dr. Boynton returned to CBL in 1975 as a young professor. At that time his research focused on the decline of submerged aquatic vegetation. He recognized that these declines were related to increases in nutrients flowing into the Chesapeake that caused an over-abundance of single-celled algae, which reduced the clarity of the water and ultimately led to deeper portions of the Bay becoming devoid of oxygen. Dr. Boynton was part of a team of CBL researchers, including Chris D’Elia, Jim Sanderson, and Don Heinle, that redefined our understanding of nutrient dynamics and how they bring about eutrophication—or the overabundance of plant life at the expense of animal life in bodies of water.

A long-standing relationship, forged on the softball diamond, between CBL researchers and the local community led to a close working partnership and deep personal friendship between Dr. Boynton and then-State Senator Bernie Fowler, who remains a close friend of mine. It was Senator Fowler who led efforts in federal court toforce regional jurisdictions to adhere to the Clean Water Act. Former Senator Fowler credits Dr. Boynton with deepening his own understanding of the ecology of the Bay and the Patuxent River, allowing him to become an effective advocate and well-respected citizen-scientist, bringing attention to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

On June 11, I joined former Senator Fowler for his annual “wade-in” to check the clarity of the Patuxent River and learned of Dr. Boynton’s upcoming retirement.

In addition to an internationally respected research career, Dr. Boynton has been a highly effective educator, teaching generations of
graduate students, CBL Director Thomas Miller credits Dr. Boynton's success to his contagious enthusiasm for his work. He called him “a gifted, passionate, and supportive educator” and “an amazing teacher and advisor.” Director Miller further noted that his “largest and most long lasting impact will be the generation of young minds that he has touched and impacted over his career.”

Dr. Boynton is a two-time recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation. He received its Odum Award for lifetime achievement (with UMUCES colleague W. M. Kemp), and served as its President. In 2015, Dr. Boynton was named Admiral of the Chesapeake for his work toward greater understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and its restoration by then-Governor Martin O’Malley. In the following year, he received the Mathias Medal from the Maryland Sea Grant College, the Virginia Sea Grant, and the Chesapeake Research Consortium—the highest regional recognition in environmental sciences. This year Dr. Boynton was awarded the Ruth Patrick Award from the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.

Dr. Boynton’s legacy spans areas beyond academia. He has worked closely with Maryland/DC Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and served as a member of the Calvert County Planning and Zoning Committee for many years. He and his wife Mary-Ellen also host a shelter for Calvert County’s homeless each spring.

I join Dr. Boynton’s colleagues at CBL and with members of the community in Maryland’s Fifth District to congratulate him on his impactful and distinguished career. I thank him for his service to our state, to our country, and all those who live by and rely on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

ANGELINA SALAZAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelina Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Angelina Salazar is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelina Salazar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angelina Salazar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

FLAG DAY WEAVES THE NATION TOGETHER

HON. RANDY HULTGREN
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the 101 years after President Wilson proclaimed June 14th Flag Day, forever weaving together two Illinois families.

The day created to recognize the national importance of that star spangled banner followed a years-long campaign by Batavia teacher Dr. Bernard Cigrand.

Our flag’s woven seams connect more than stitches of red, white and blue, however.

On that fateful 1916 day, the daughter of the “Father of Flag Day” happened to share a seventh-grade classroom with a young Marion Mooney.

53 years later, Marion Mooney Aldrin’s intrepid son planted the first American flag—or any flag, for that matter—on the surface of the Moon.

Pioneering the reaches of space and armed with the American symbol of national identity, Buzz Aldrin lived up to his mother’s maiden name, and honored the legacy of the Cigrand family.

One Illinois city, two families and our entire nation have been woven together by Flag Day.

May the red, white and blue forever be a beautiful reminder of the great spirit of our nation.

HONORING DR. ALICE CHEN FOR HER ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. RAUL RUZI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary contributions Dr. Alice Chen has made to the health and well-being of all Americans as Executive Director of Doctors for America. Throughout her career, she has been an exemplary physician, taking on her medical vocation with a sense of duty and strength of character that is needed to accomplish such a noble calling.

As a medical student at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, Dr. Chen volunteered for the American Red Cross and provided assistance to the director of the largest service center after September 11, 2001. Dr. Chen also shared her passion for medicine as the co-director of Big Buddies, a mentorship program that connected Cornell medical students with underserved youth.

Dr. Chen earned her M.D. in 2005 and completed her internal medicine residency at UCLA in 2008. She then joined the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA as an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor, and became the co-director of the Resident Elective in Malawi, Africa for the UCLA Department of Medicine and Program in Global Health. In 2009, she joined Doctors for America, a coalition of physicians and medical students who have joined together to advocate for the improvement of our health care system. Her dedication and advocacy efforts for health reform led her to become the Executive Director from 2011 to 2017. Since then, Dr. Chen has strived to address gun violence prevention as a public health issue, advocate for affordable health coverage and prescription drugs, protect women’s reproductive rights, and battle against racial disparities in access to health care.

Today, I am elated to honor her stellar achievements, and I am honored to call her my friend. She is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Dr. Alice Chen. On behalf of California’s 36th Congressional District, it is with deepest respect that I commend her for a remarkable career dedicated to health advocacy. I wish her and her husband Vivek all my best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) TERRANCE DELAN LEE, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Terrance Delan Lee Sr. who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on June 11, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Lee was killed when his armored personnel carrier was hit by an improvised explosive device in Owsesat Village, Iraq. Staff Sergeant (SSG) Larry Richard Arnold Sr. was also killed.

SGT Lee was assigned to the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, Lucedale, Mississippi. The 150th is part of the 155th Brigade Combat Team which is known as “Dixie Thunder.” SGT Lee joined the Mississippi Army National Guard in 2003.

According to the Associated Press, 250 people gathered for SGT Lee’s funeral at First Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend James E. Powell of Solomon Temple AME Zion Church in Moss Point was the pastor. In the eulogy, Rev. Powell quoted Psalm 23 which describes God as a shepherd and man as the flock. Rev. Powell said that SGT Lee understood what that meant and that he knew Jesus Christ was his personal savior.

SGT Lee is survived by his parents, Dedrick and Dinah Lee; siblings, LaDarrius Lee and Demetrie Jones; and children, Terrence Junior, Ra’Mone, and Marchelle Elyse Lee. SGT Lee’s sacrifice for our freedoms will always be remembered.

AZUIRIELL SCHICKER
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Auzriell Schicker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.
Auzriell Schicker is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities. The dedication demonstrated by Auzriell Schicker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be achieved with hard work and perseverance. It is essential for students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Auzriell Schicker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING RODERICK OLSON

HON. JIMMY PANETTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor a man who served California’s Central Coast and the United States as a Marine and a public servant. Roderick Olson, a proud veteran of the Vietnam War from Santa Cruz, California passed away but left a legacy in place for LGBT Californians and service members.

Roderick Olson arrived in Santa Cruz in 1997 after serving in Vietnam. During his time in Santa Cruz, he dedicated his time to serving the community, especially his brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ community. He joined the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz AIDS project, focused on a community-based response towards reducing the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Roderick also served as a coordinator at the Santa Cruz Diversity Center, a member of the Pride Committee, the Program Committee and the Executive Committee. Further, he focused his time on protecting individuals from domestic violence and founded the 60 Plus program to support LGBT seniors.

Additionally, he established the first gay veterans group in the Santa Cruz region dedicated to supporting LGBT service members. Roderick redirected his life towards assisting LGBT veterans prior to the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, helping future LGBT service members serve openly.

Mr. Olson passed late last year and will be interred with military honors this week at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. However, his life and dedication to the Central Coast will not be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Roderick Olson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Miss Rice of New York. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2017, I inadvertently voted Nay on Roll Call No. 307 (On Passage of S. 1094, the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017). My intention was to vote Yea.

KATY POLICE OFFICER NAMED MISS TEXAS

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shannon Dresser of Katy for winning the Miss Texas 2017 title. Shannon has been competing in pageants since she was 12 years-old, and has competed in 15 overall. Miss Texas, Shannon has partnered with the Teen and Police Services Academy, to help with their mentoring program to reduce the social gap between police officers and at risk youth. This organization is important to Shannon as she is a police officer for the Katy Independent School District. Being a fourth generation police officer, Shannon continues to take steps to help and motivate people.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Shannon Dresser for being named Miss Texas. Her work to encourage and motivate kids, while keeping our community safe is an inspiration. Great work.

HONORING COLONEL ABRAHAM S. CONN

HON. CARLOS CURBELO
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Abraham S. Conn on his retirement. COL Abraham S. Conn was commissioned through the ROTC at Canisius College located in Buffalo, NY, in May 1987, where he first entered the United States Army.

COL Conn is a graduate of State University of New York at Buffalo State College and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. COL Conn also holds a Masters in Strategic Studies and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Class of 2010, located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

COL Conn was originally branched as a Military Intelligence Officer. He has attended the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, the Quartermaster Officer Advance Course, the Air Defense Officer Transition Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the Pre-Command Courses.

COL Conn has either Commanded or held duty positions at the Platoon, Company, Battalion, Brigade, Division, Corps, and Joint-Staff levels. COL Conn has completed three, 1-year deployments to Afghanistan, of Operations Enduring Freedom.

Some of COL Conn’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal 2nd Award, the Meritorious Service 2nd Award Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal 2nd Award, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal 5th Award, the National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Overseas Service ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon 3rd Award, the NATO Medal for Service in Afghanistan 2nd Award, the Florida Cross, the Florida State Distinguished Service Medal, the Florida State Commendation Medal, the Florida State Active Duty Ribbon, the New York Long and Faithful Service Medal, the New York State Counter-Drug Service Medal and the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal.

COL Conn is also the recipient of the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Florida Governors Meritorious Unit 3rd Award.

COL Conn recently completed Command of the 930th Digital Liaison Team in Homestead, located in Florida’s 26th Congressional District. COL Conn is currently assigned to JIATF-S as a Reserve Officer, in the Policy and Plans Directorate. COL Conn is also currently employed in his civilian capacity, as a Special Agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration, in Key West, Florida—also located in the 26th District. COL Conn resides with his wife Mindy in Key West, Florida. They have two children, Emily and Joshua.

It is an honor for me to recognize a man who has served our country with such distinction.

U.S. ARMY 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY
DIVISION

HON. ROGER W. MARSHALL
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 soldiers with the Army’s 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division are headed home to Fort Riley this month after a nine-month deployment in South Korea.

Also, known as the “Devil” brigade, these soldiers have been stationed in South Korea since October of last year. During their deployment, these American soldiers have trained closely with their South Korean partners, deterring North Korean hostility and providing security in the Korean peninsula. Their service is invaluable.

These Soldiers and families sacrifice greatly during deployment. As the “Devil” brigade begins their journey back to Fort Riley, may I be the first to thank them for their service and say, “welcome home.”

HONORING DR. VIVEK MURTHY
FOR HIS INVALUABLE WORK
AND DEDICATION AS THE 19TH
U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

HON. RAUL RUIZ
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding service and accomplishments of Dr. Vivek Murthy, who served as Surgeon General from 2014 to 2017. His dedication to protecting the public health of our nation is an inspiration for us all. The lives of millions of Americans across the country are better because of his public service. Throughout
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) LARRY RICHARD ARNOLD, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to rise today in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Larry Richard Arnold, Sr. who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on June 11, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Arnold was killed when his armored personnel carrier was hit by an improvised explosive device in Owasat Village, Iraq. Sergeant (SGT) Terrance D. Lee, Sr. was also killed.

SSG Arnold was assigned to the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, Lucedale, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press article, 200 people packed a Baptist church where the funeral service was held. Reverend Donnie Boutwell, pastor of Lee’s Chapel No. 1 Baptist Church in Carriere, spoke about SSG Arnold’s service.

“This is not a final respect for this man,” Rev. Boutwell said. “For every time a young child stands in the schoolroom and covers his heart and pledges allegiance to the flag, we continue to show our respect for him. Every time we stand at a ballgame and ‘The Star Spangled Banner’ is played, we continue to show our respect for Larry and all the other soldiers.”

Mississippi Army National Guard Brigadier General (BG) Ben Gaston also offered his thoughts during the funeral service.

“He could have easily walked away and said, ‘I’ve done that. I’ve done my time,’” said BG Gaston. “Larry didn’t do that. He was a mature NCO the younger soldiers looked up to.”

During the service, BG Gaston presented SSG Arnold’s family with the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Mississippi Medal of Valor. SSG Arnold is buried at Mill Creek Cemetery in Pearl River County.

SSG Arnold is survived by his mother, Betty Mackey; his wife, Melinda; sons; Larry, Robert, and Howard Arnold; siblings Garry Arnold, Peggy Alford, Beverly Hicks, Janet Brandes, Joann Arnold, and Debbie Arnold; and grandchildren Anthony and Heather Arnold.

SSG Arnold died while fighting to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

SUGAR LAND NURSE NAMED TOP 10 NURSE

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chung-Win (Joy) Fey of Houston, TX, for being named one of the Houston Chronicle’s “Top 10 Nurses” of 2017. Joy, a nurse at Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, spends time with her patients and their families listening to their concerns, offering them a shoulder to cry on and praying with them. Her colleagues have described her as often going out of her way to provide comfort for those she’s caring for. In 2016, Joy won Houston Methodist System’s Quality and Patient Safety Everyday Award, and was nominated for this award by three people. After 37 years of being a nurse, it’s clear that Joy is an extraordinary, compassionate, enthusiastic and caring individual.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Joy for being named one of the Houston Chronicle’s “Top 10 Nurses” of 2017. We’re proud to have such an exemplarily nurse caring for patients in TX-22.