 Extensions of Remarks

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA

SPEECH OF
HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it was my distinct honor and privilege to have served in the House of Representatives with Ralph Regula, who passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

In 2007, I became a member of the Committee on Appropriations where Ralph had served for many years. He was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and later as Chairman of the Labor and Health & Human Services Subcommittee. Ralph taught me a lot about how to achieve success in the Committee by working together cooperatively with Republicans and Democrats alike.

Ralph was the Dean of the Ohio Delegation and I often heard him tell the story of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Park was established in 1974 with Ralph’s leadership and his partners John Seiberling and Charles Vanik. I particularly recall his story of how the law was signed. Ralph understood that Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton opposed the Park and was recommending that President Gerald Ford veto the bill. Ralph called former National Republican Committee Chairman Ray Bliss of Akron and asked him to call the President to explain the importance of the Park in Ohio and to point out that the Park could be a political issue in the Presidential campaign. President Ford saw the wisdom in the advice and signed the bill into law.

Ralph was born on December 3, 1924 in Beach City, Ohio. Ralph served in the Navy during World War II and graduated in 1948 from what is now known as the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Originally, a teacher and principal who attended law school at night, Ralph served in the Ohio House and Senate before his election to an open Congressional seat in 1972. Ralph was married to his wife Mary for 66 years, and together they shared three adoring children.

Ralph was an important voice in protecting important education programs including Pell Grants and health care programs including investment in medical research. Ralph helped to establish the Ohio & Erie Canalway, which includes towpaths and historic sites. He also secured funding to help establish the National First Ladies’ Library, which was founded by his wife Mary and located in Canton, Ohio.

Many friends and family members of the Congressman will be gathering to ride the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Cleveland to Zoar this Friday. Ralph’s son Richard Regula will be leading this fitting commemoration in celebration of Congressman Regula’s legacy.

Ralph was always a champion of bipartisanship, oftentimes stating, “Listening to the points of view of others, finding common ground to cooperate and making friends on the ‘other side of the aisle’ helps to achieve ultimate success.”

I extend my deepest condolences to Ralph’s family and friends. He was a true patriot who leaves behind a positive legacy in both Washington and Ohio. He will be deeply missed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF
HON. PETER WELCH
OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, in communities across the country, our infrastructure is failing apart. This fact was highlighted once again when the American Society of Civil Engineers released its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card which gave our nation’s infrastructure a D+ rating. That is not acceptable and we must do better.

One area of particular concern is the state of our nation’s dams. In far too many communities, dams are in danger of breaching. As we recently saw at the Oroville Dam in California, dam breaches can cause catastrophic consequences to the surrounding communities.

Last year, Congress took a positive step to address this issue with the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act. In particular, Section 1177 of the WIIN Act authorized funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to begin working to rehab some of our nation’s oldest, Corps-constructed dams that are classified as “high hazard potential”. As many of you know, the failure of a dam that is classified as high-hazard potential is anticipated to cause loss of life.

While Section 1177 is a positive start, it needs to be funded so the Corps can get to work. My amendment would simply direct the Army Corps to use existing funds within its Construction Account to implement this provision up to its authorized level of $10 million.

Both parties agree we need to improve our infrastructure. This is a modest proposal to address some of the most outdated, hazardous dams in the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED (MRAP) VEHICLE

SPEECH OF
HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following statement on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Steve Chill, on the Marine Corps Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

BLowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower:
The Real MRAP Story
(By Steve Chill)

There is a perception that the Marine Corps was negligent in providing armored vehicle support for the warfighters in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This purported negligence was centered on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle effort, but negligence accusations extended to other equipment. These perceptions about Marine Corps negligence surrounding the MRAP efforts reflect ignorance of the facts. The negligence story was largely fabricated by a whistleblower and drew the interest of the press. The perceptions were also drawn from a DODIG report, the conclusions of which are based on incomplete information, and a Marine Corps that failed to adequately explain the truth with supporting evidence.

The study “Blowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower: The Real MRAP Story” is a refutation of previous works dealing with the aforementioned MRAP accusations. This study explains what occurred and provides the evidence necessary (including hundreds of emails) to disprove the allegations of negligence. The author was in a unique position to observe the events incorrectly described. This study corrects the record about the Marine Corps’ fabricated negligence. It also provides a means to understand the real lessons on support to operations in Iraq.

There are two series of events associated with MRAP: the Marine Corps’ effort providing armored vehicles and the portrayal of this effort.

Providing armored vehicles: The term ‘Hejlik UUNS’ will be used for the Feb 2005 I MEF MRAP Urgent Universal Needs Statement (UUNS). “An UUNS is an immediate request from units that are deployed to or are awaiting imminent deployment to a combat theater. The UUNS is a request for a capability that, if not filled, places the accomplishment of the unit’s mission in jeopardy or unduly increases the risk of casualties” (MARADMIN 045/06). The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) decided to provide MRAP (armored HM2WVs or Humvees) as the material solution covering the Hejlik UUNS. The Executives of the Marine Corps were involved in this decision. The Hejlik UUNS was reduced to an UUNS (Universal Needs Statement—not Urgent), removing it from further executive consideration and from the itinerary of the dozens of flag officer commands that were responsible for it. No Marine Corps command continued pursuing the UUNS. There was an absence of action (due to an absence of demand) between the removal of MRAP from consideration in August of 2005 until May of 2006 when I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in Iraq.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor. Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
submitted a brand new UUNS for 185 armored vehicles. A subsequent submission for 1,000 MRAPs brought the total requirement to 1,185 which the Marine Corps pursued in the DOD budget.

The portrayal: Franz Gayl, a whistleblower, created his first whistleblower brief in March of 2007. It was not MRAP-focused and included material from 31 slides on MRAPs. Gayl publicly released his study in January 2007. The DOD Inspector General (DODIG) also received a similar study (from JASC) on MRAPs. Gayl, despite scant first-hand knowledge about MRAP needs, became the “MRAP whistleblower”. Gayl published his study in March of 2007 coming across as a potential vehicle for 31 slides on MRAPs.

The simple facts concerning the MRAP need (and subsequent MRAP negligence falsehoods) is as follows:

- Marine forces in combat drive the initiation of urgent new capabilities by submitting UUNS. These forces may be regarded as “the customer” driver of the rest of the support system. The customer does not necessarily order, if deployed Marines do not ask, they do not receive.

Over the period of decades before the 2005 Hejlik UUNS, several mid-level Marine Corps executives and the Marine Corps addressed MRAP-type vehicle needs and did not. In May 2005, General Hejlik (JMACG) submitted an UUNS for 1,189 MRAPs. That UUNS was received by most major support commands. The need was immediate and there were significant concerns about material availability and manufacturing ability.

The UUNS was briefed at the Marine Corps Executive Safety Board (ESB-March 05) and the Marine Corps Executive Office Site (EOSS-May 05). Between the two briefs, the entirety of the Marine Corps Executive body was briefed and considered MRAP-type vehicles. This was followed by the Commandant’s March 2005 presentation of the Marine Corps Executive (CMEC) and the Marine Corps Commandant to the Marine Corps Command Group (CMMC). The CMC decided on May 2005 that the 2005 Hejlik UUNS with 1189 UUNS effectively ended the urgent status of the 2005 Hejlik UUNS.

A key point is that I MEF (Fwd) in Iraq was asking for m1114s as a solution for the Hejlik UUNS. M1114 procurement was a decision supported by the MEFs in (or going to) Iraq. The Marine Executive continued to be briefed on the Hejlik UUNS through August 2005. In August, Marine Executives held conferences to save lives and to decide on a MRAP-type vehicle solution for future needs. Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) reflected this reduction in its UUNS tracker and reflected the 2005 Hejlik UUNS as complete. The reduction to a regular UUNS shows that the need was no longer required by the forces in Iraq to prevent undue casualties.

If I MEF (2005-2006 deployment), in Iraq, did not pursue the 2005 Hejlik UUNS or any different request for MRAPs, I MEF (2006-2007 deployment) certainly should not have pursued a deployment neither listed MRAP as a priority nor as a need at all. The forces in combat or going to combat simply were not required to do so.

The I.G. process allowed for review by CO I MEF (Fwd) and yet there was still no MRAP demand. This is evidence that I MEF was not pursuing MRAP needs at the time and the portrayal of the MRAP needs was not unique to the time timeframe. The MRAP need during this timeframe was satisfied by the provision of 1189 m1114s.

Approximately nine months after Hejlik UUNS removal from MROC consideration, I MEF (back in Iraq) submitted a new UUNS for 185 more vehicles (July 06). The same request was not MRAP. The number requested was not 1,189 (the number requested in the Hejlik UUNS). Combat developers and support commanders were pushy for new vehicles and not interested in submitting for joint funding. I MEF initially refused to ask for more than 185. There is no logic in Gayl’s or the DODIG’s contention that the number was raised to 1,189. Realistically, that number was not over 185 MRAPs, but also did not want more than 185 MRAPs. The fact is that the Hejlik UUNS was satisfied by the provision of m1114 and was no longer an active urgent request.

Eventually I MEF submitted a second request for 1000 more vehicles (July 06), this time calling them MRAP.

Starting in May 2006 the Marine Corps supported establishment, to include MCCCDA, diligently processed and worked the new request of 1,189 MRAPs officially submitted. Congress was briefed. Marine Corps leadership, up to and including the CMC, advocated for MRAP. Testing of different MRAP-type vehicles had been ongoing since June 2006. Budget issues were worked for MRAP. The program office was created and MRAP became the Marine Corps’ number 1 priority. Congress and DOD leadership were supportive of Marine efforts.

A contract was awarded for 200 vehicles in Feb of 2007 with the intent of fielding capability in 2007. Marine Corps MRAP need was considered to be over 800 with expectations of a higher number required. That expectation was realized as the joint requirement in Feb of 2007 was for 7,900 vehicles. The MRAP program was recommended for “high priority” status. In May 2007 SICDEF Gates finally designated MRAP as the number one priority.

The Marine Corps was accused of negligence, and did not sufficiently battle these accusations to the Marine Corps Gp, and did not do so. Gayl’s study reveals an absence of MRAP need. There was never any “constant demand” and the portrayal of a “constant demand” was a fabrication or outright lie.

The press remains woefully ignorant of the Marine Corps combat development process yet, even today, feels comfortable criticizing portions of it. Gayl’s thousands of errors were not scrutinized by the press. Gayl’s accusations were sensational and received widespread coverage but the press did not believe it necessary to check Gayl’s “facts” before reporting.

August 07: “Blowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower: The Real MRAP Story” serves to contest the previous version of events that disparaged the Corps dealing with MRAP needs from 2005 to late 2006. The reputation of the Corps suffered as a result.

**RECOGNIZING SPRING HILL, FLORIDA**

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

**OF FLORIDA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 27, 2017**

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Spring Hill, Florida.
as the community celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

Spring Hill was founded in 1967 by the Mackle Brothers’ Deltona Development Corporation as a sister city to Deltona. The Spring Hill waterfront, located at Spring Hill Drive and US 19, provides an original entrance to the community. The Mackle Brothers developed a fly and buy program where they would fly potential buyers down to play golf and see the community. The Mackle Brothers marketing strategy brought huge crowds to the community and within three years the majority of the 28,500 available lots were sold.

Today, Spring Hill’s award-winning golf courses and gated communities attract newcomers to the area. Situated near Weeki Wachee Springs and the Gulf of Mexico, Spring Hill has developed itself into the largest community in Hernando County.

I congratulate the people that live and work in Spring Hill. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Spring Hill, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to Florida’s Adventure Coast.

RECOGNIZING BALDWIN FAMILY HEALTH CARE’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Baldwin Family Health Care, a community health center in Baldwin, Michigan, for their 50 years of dedicated service. On Friday, August 11, 2017, they will celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Founded in 1967, Baldwin Family Health Care is a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center that provides quality, integrated, and comprehensive health care services that are accessible to all. At the time, it was the nation’s third community health center and the first of its kind in Michigan.

Committed to providing primary health care to families in the surrounding communities, Baldwin Family Health Care offers one-stop medical shopping opportunities. This includes primary medical care, dental, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, behavioral health, health education, perinatal services, and vision services. They also provide school-based child and adolescent health centers for the Baldwin area.

Baldwin Family Health Care serves the uninsured and underinsured in Lake County. Baldwin Family Health Care is purposely located to care for families in need, especially those in Lake County’s nearby public housing. Baldwin Family Health Care is implementing new health initiatives to further strengthen health services for the poor. It is more than just treatment for illnesses and injuries; there is also an emphasis on education and prevention that promotes wellness to help people lead healthier lives.

Today, they have additional centers in White Cloud, Grant, Cadillac and McBain. In all, Family Health Care serves 30,000 medical patients and nearly 6,000 dental patients.

The efforts and success of Baldwin Family Health Care in providing health education, health care, and community services should be celebrated. Congratulations to Baldwin Family Health Care on your 50th Anniversary, and thank you for your compassion for communities in West Michigan.

HONORING THE SELMA 15U ALL STAR BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Selma 15U All Star baseball team for winning the 2017 Dixie Baseball World Series. It has been 45 years since a team paraded the World Series trophy through the streets of my hometown, Selma, Alabama, but this losing streak finally came to an end on Sunday, July 23, in Independence, Louisiana.

After failing short of winning last year’s title, the team was ready for a taste of redemption. In a hard fought, 8-3 win against Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the Selma 15U All Stars secured their place in history and brought home the gold. An enthusiastic crowd of family and community members was waiting to welcome their hometown champions back to Selma.

The team is comprised of 14 boys: Dione Allen, Alex Colquitt, Tevin Craig, Matthew Davis, Trovonn Davis, Joseph Estes, Xavier Green, Jeremy Lee Jr., Amari Molette, Octavious Palmer, Jacob Peavy, George Turner, Milam Turner, and Richard Allen Waters. They come from a combination of Dallas County High School, Meadowview Christian Academy, Morgan Academy, and Selma High School.

Built on a foundation of diversity, this team showcases what can happen when communities are united in a common cause. Through their hard work and dedication, these boys displayed what it means to be a leader in their communities. Selma is often portrayed as a city lacking in opportunities for civic engagement, but the Selma 15U All Stars is a direct antithesis to this misguided characterization.

The man behind this remarkable group of young men is Head Coach Ricky Waters. I had the great privilege of going to grade school with Ricky in our hometown of Selma. I know that this victory is of special importance to him since he took the field against the same opponent, Hattiesburg, at the Dixie Baseball World Series when he was a player. 38 years ago. Although Ricky’s time at bat ended in a loss, he was able to lead this team of Selma 15U All Stars to victory in 2017.

Ricky, along with Coaches Richard Davis, Jason Felt, created a winning team of boys that everyone in Alabama should be proud of.

As every sports fan knows, behind every great team is an even greater community. A raucous crowd of over 100 cheering fans and the baying of their hometown police and firetrucks welcomed the team of champions home.

It was a bright day for Selma as the city came together to celebrate these young athletic ambassadors and their competitive triumph.

This extraordinary group of young men and their dedicated coaches are a shining example of the pride we feel as a community. I am proud to represent these local heroes, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the 2017 Dixie Base-ball World Series champions, the Selma 15U All Star Baseball Team. Congratulations.

HONORING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

HON. DENNY HECK
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to share my admiration and appreciation for the institution of Fort Lewis, which this year is celebrating 100 years in Washington’s South Sound. In 1917, as the United States was fighting at the peak of World War I, the people of this community came together to show solidarity and sacrifice. Pierce County overwhelm-ingly passed a bond to raise $2 million dollars to purchase and donate over 60,000 acres to the Army in order to found Camp Lewis. Civil- military partnerships like these are a heritage we proudly continue to this very day.

What started as a modest training area has grown to become the premier power projection platform on the West Coast. Camp Lewis became Fort Lewis in 1927 and then Joint Base Lewis McChord in 2010. It became the largest military base in the world, with active duty service members, National Guard, Reservists, and civilians working side by side to ensure our national security.

The soldiers stationed at Camp Lewis fought valiantly in World War I. The Ninety-First Division took part in the Battle of Flan- ders where it captured 2,300 German pris-oners and 400 machine guns, despite facing enormous odds. Incredibly, five members of the Division were awarded the Medal of Honor for their bravery, including First Lieutenant Deming Bronson, a graduate of the University of Washington.

America’s 34th President, Dwight D. Eisen-hower, served at Fort Lewis as Chief of Staff of Third Army Division with the rank of Colonel between 1940 and 1942 before going on to become the Supreme Allied Commander in World War II. In that conflict, Fort Lewis units, including the 41st Infantry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division, deployed to New Guinea, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Central Europe. Their record was astounding; soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division earned 16 Medals of Honor.

From early on, Fort Lewis was a bastion of diversity. In 1943, Fort Lewis was home to the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, with heroic women serving in the motor pools, on sentry duty, and as medical technicians. The military, under President Truman’s Executive Order, helped lead society toward desegregation in the 1940’s and 50’s. When the segregated “South Fort Lewis” and the black soldiers there joined ranks with the rest of the post, both the institution and soldiers became stronger.

The storied history of Joint Base Lewis-McChord has chapters in Korea, Vietnam, Af-ghanistan, and Iraq. The Soldiers and Airmen stationed there have fought for freedom and democracy across the globe and back here at home. The base is now home to the Army 1st Sustainment Command, the Air Force 62nd Air Base Wing, the 7th Infantry Division, the 1st Special Forces Group, the 2nd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and Madigan Army
Medical Center—the Army's second largest medical treatment facility. They lay claim to an inspiring and influential past, only to be surpassed by a great future, full of potential, full of bravery, and full of patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the brave women and men working there an innumerable debt of gratitude. On the 100-year anniversary of its historic founding, I want to say thank you for the past century of protection, hope, and comradery coming out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

HONORING MITCHELL HUSTON FOR HIS 2ND PLACE FINISH AT THE NATIONAL SPEECH DEBATE TOURNAMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mitchell Huston, on his 2nd Place finish at the National Speech and Debate Tournament that took place in Birmingham, Alabama June 17–24, 2017.

Mitchell, who is a junior at Jefferson City High School, performed a piece entitled: “Not a Genuine Black Man,” by Brian Copeland. Mitchell chose this piece because of the important message it instills about the need for our society to be accepting of all races and creeds. Throughout his performance, Mitchell portrayed Brian Copeland’s life story that involved years of criticism about his status in the African American community and eventually how Copeland confronted stigma and successfully overcame it. To make it to the National Tournament, Mitchell took 3rd place in the St. Louis District Tournament and at the National Speech and Debate Tournament, Mitchell placed 2nd in the prose category.

To receive 2nd Place at the competition was a great accomplishment for Mitchell. As this was Mitchell’s first year on the Jefferson City High Debate Team, Mitchell’s coach, Jordan Hart, was especially excited with this accomplishment. While competing during the national competition, Mitchell exhibited humility and as he continued to excel, he gave the glory of his success to God. Besides his participation with the debate team, Mitchell is also a member of the Jefferson City High School football team and participates in several other extracurricular activities.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Mitchell Huston on his 2nd Place finish at the National Speech and Debate Tournament. The commitment he has shown to the Jefferson City High School Debate team is a commendable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DEACON MADDOX FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 9TH DISTRICT AND THE NATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the dedicated service of Colonel Deacon Maddox, commander of Letterkenny Army Depot.

Since his arrival in August of 2015, Colonel Maddox has brought the finest elements of the U.S. Army Warrior Ethos to bear on the task of revitalizing operations at Letterkenny Army Depot. Through his innovative leadership, Colonel Maddox has brought about substantial and lasting changes that have cemented Letterkenny’s place as the premier defense industrial facility in the nation for decades to come.

Throughout his career as an Army officer, Colonel Maddox has exemplified the finest traditions of this nation’s armed forces. His tenure at the helm of Letterkenny has been marked by an unshakeable commitment to the men and women under his command, and his work to improve the efficacy and production at the depot has made this nation safer and more secure.

Let no one make the mistake of underestimating the role of America’s organic industrial base. Our depots and arsenals work tirelessly to put the weapons and equipment in the hands of the warfighter, and the labor being done in Pennsylvania saves lives in lands far from home. That would not be possible without the steadfast guidance of leaders like Colonel Deacon Maddox.

In his time at Letterkenny Army Depot, Colonel Maddox has done more than steer the installation towards greater success—he has also become a welcome part of the Franklin County community.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 9th District, I want to thank Colonel Deacon Maddox for his selfless service, and for working so hard to protect both the American warfighter and the dedicated workforce at Letterkenny Army Depot. Though Colonel Maddox’s time at Letterkenny Army Depot may be over, the impact he has made to improve the installation and the lives of its employees will be felt for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DENVER PRESS CLUB, A NATIONAL TREASURE CELEBRATING ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, one year after Colorado became the 38th state, in 1877 a group of Denver journalists formed the nation’s first press club. Now celebrating its 150th Anniversary, the Denver Press Club is significant to our community and our country in a number of ways.

What started as a means for frontier-town rival reporters to play poker, tap into a barrel of Taos Lightning whiskey and debate the news of the day became a magnet for some of the most famous names in the field, defenders of the First Amendment and strong advocates for the values of journalism that are so critical to our democracy.

In its early years, the club met in various spots, including the “cyclone cellar” of Wolfe Londoner’s grocery store before he was elected mayor of Denver, a term cut short due to a scandal that his journalist friends covered with gusto. He was later elected president of the Colorado State Press Association.

As the club grew, it met in local hotels, among them the prestigious and famous Brown Palace. The club’s own prestige increased as it brought national speakers and performers to Denver, awarded honorary membership to several U.S. presidents, brought the International League of Press Clubs to Denver in 1906 and served an instrumental role in elevating Denver’s profile and meeting the needs of national media when the city hosted the 1908 National Democratic Convention.

A permanent home for the club was built with the help of an architect team that included the designer of the Denver Public Library, Daniels & Fisher department store and Red Rocks Amphitheater. In 1986, this structure was named a Historic Landmark, and the Society for Professional Journalists designated the club a “significant historical place in journalism” in 2008. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places this year.

But the Denver Press Club’s nearly 500 members do a lot more than play games and socialize, though. They work to strengthen and promote journalism while educating the public on matters that reflect the importance of empowered and free media.

Through the years, the membership has included renowned reporters, editors, cartoonists, and authors, several of them Pulitzer Prize winners, who made their mark in the pursuit that has long been the watchword of many journalists: comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.

Among the luminaries on The Denver Press Club’s historic roster was Damon Runyon, for whom the club has named its cornerstone award, given to people whose careers have embodied his style and verve. Recipients have included Molly Ivins, Tim Russert, Jill Abramson, Frank Deford, Katie Couric, Carl Hiassen, Bob Costas and many others.

The club also awards scholarships in Runyon’s name to Colorado’s top journalism students, as well as a separate award in coordination with the University of Colorado Boulder for outstanding crime reporting that’s named for the late Al Nakkula, who was on the police beat for decades. These activities and others serve to raise awareness of what good journalism means to Colorado and the United States. And that cause is more relevant now than ever, amid vast changes to the media landscape in recent years and new, unexpected challenges.

The Denver Press Club has long played its part in shining a light on our city and helping democratic principles thrive. As this sesquicentennial, I am proud and honored to congratulate the club’s members on its legacy, and to wish them all the best in the future.
HAPPY GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO HON. AND MRS. DAN AND MARTHA MICA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an occasion that marks the 50th wedding anniversary of two individuals who not only have committed their lives together in marriage but also in the service of our great nation.

The Honorable Daniel A. Mica served as a member of this Chamber, in the 96th and the four succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1979 through January 3, 1989) initially representing Florida’s 11th and then subsequently, 14th District. Mr. Mica and his wife, Martha Fry Mica met while students at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, and were married on August 12, 1967 at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Mica’s brother, John L. Mica, also a former member of this Chamber, served as the best man. Mr. Mica’s friends, Richard McBride and John Sargent, served as groomsmen. Mrs. Mica’s friend, Karen McClary Cakoouos, served as the maid of honor. His sister, Mary Alice Fry, served as bridesmaid and her brother, Stephen Fry, served as usher.

As a result of their interest in public service, the newly-married couple began working together on the campaign of Honorable Paul G. Rogers. Mr. Mica later served as Chief of Staff to Mr. Rogers, and succeeded him, serving five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, working tirelessly for Floridians and all Americans. Subsequently, Mr. Mica worked more than two decades in the world of advocacy and association management. Mrs. Mica, while raising four children, received her juris doctorate degree from George Mason University and co-founded a landscape design business. Over the years, they have given generously of their time by serving on the boards of non-profit charitable organizations and as members of their Catholic parish.

Now living in Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Mica continue to serve through their charitable work. They are proud parents and grandparents. The four children and five grandchildren are: Christine Mica, of Alexandria, Virginia; Daniel A. “Andrew” Mica, Jr., his wife Elizabeth “Libby” Davies Mica, and their children Elin and Owen, of Belmont, Massachusetts; Caroline Mica Jolly, husband Frank Mosley Jolly, III, and their children Martha Jeanne, Gentry and Edward, of Alexandria, Virginia; and Paul Anthony Mica, of San Diego, California.

Born in Hannibal, Missouri, Martha Fry Mica is the daughter of Anna Marie Wagner Fry and Gentry Schultz Fry. Martha has six siblings, Susan Fry Lochrie, William Fry, Roger Fry, Stephanie Fry, Mary Alice Fry, and Tracy Fry Rothaus.

Daniel Andrew Mica was born in Binghamton, New York. He is the son of John Mica and Adeline Rose Resciniti Mica. Dan has three siblings, John L. Mica, Adeline “Cookie” Mica Downing, and David R. Mica.

Adored and loved by their family and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Mica demonstrate tremendous generosity and love of country. Therefore, I am pleased to congratulate them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHNNY MARINES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Mr. Johnny Marines.

Mr. Marines is actively involved in the betterment of his community, the Los Angeles region, and in neighborhoods across our great nation.

Mr. Marines has been recognized by countless local leaders in both New York and California for his tremendous support to the community and dedication to assisting those in need.

Mr. Marines, a native of the Lower East Side of New York, has been a great force in the rise of the popular Latin American group, Aventura and more recently, bachata star, Romeo Santos.

Johnny Marines founded JME, a diversified entertainment and media company with ventures in integrating music, film, television and philanthropy.

Johnny has made it his mission to grow the number of opportunities for Latino musical artists to be successful and make an impact on the community that listens to these artists.

Before becoming involved in the music industry, Mr. Marines dedicated his life to protecting and serving New York City residents. He attended John Jay College School of Criminal Justice until he was recruited by the NYPD on August 30, 1968.

In March 1994, Johnny graduated from the New York Police Academy in the top 10 percent of his class. Mr. Marines was promoted to the rank of sergeant in March 2003, retiring with that rank in February 2009.

He has not forgotten his humble roots and the neighborhood that had a profound impact on his upbringing.

Mr. Marines has committed to dedicating his time and resources to give back to his community.

Mr. Marines has worked with elected officials and music groups to provide holiday dinners to needy families, ship food and supplies to struggling families in the Dominican Republic, and visit sick children in hospitals in an effort to lift their spirits.

Mr. Marines has led the way in helping others in California in the City and County of Los Angeles, focusing on assisting Angelinos with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Marines has established himself as a leader and a charitable American utilizing his talents to create unique opportunities for all ages to thrive and impact the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Johnny Marines and applauding his contributions and philanthropic endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 VETERAN COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS
HON. ADAM KINZINGER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2017 Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 16th District of Illinois.

The recipients receiving this commendation represent the best of the brave men and women who serve our country. These veterans answered their country’s call during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. As a veteran myself, it is incredibly humbling to not only represent these heroes in Congress, but also to have the opportunity to honor them for their patriotism and sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

After their military service to our country, these veterans came home to serve their communities. They are civic leaders, active citizens, and many continue to serve their military brothers and sisters through veteran service organizations. Although their mission has changed since returning to civilian life, their leadership and tenacity remains steadfast.

It is truly an honor to recognize the recipients of the 2017 Congressional Veteran Commendation: Sergeant David S. Buenemann of Marseilles, IL; Private First Class William J. Butzen of Ottawa, IL; Captain Thomas M. Craig of Streator, IL; Chief Petty Officer Irving F. DeWald of Coal City, IL; Chief Warrant Officer Four John “Jack” A. Leininger of Marseilles, IL; Master Sergeant Ashley “Dave” C. Davis of Rockford, IL; Sergeant Kelly Frey of Kankakee, IL; Sergeant Steven M. Huettemann of Morris, IL; Staff Sergeant Wm. Walter Lochbaum of Streator, IL; Sergeant Alan D. Love of Morris, IL; Petty Officer Third Class James A. Rissman of Sheridan, IL; Petty Officer Third Class Robert T. Rogers of Morris, IL; Specialist Four Randall E. Rosengren of Ottawa, IL; Sergeant Eric W. Sampson of Morris, IL; and Airman Third Class Timothy K. Stratton of Poplar Grove, IL.

Again, I am truly honored to be able to recognize these distinguished veterans from my district. I thank and acknowledge not only their service and sacrifice but also that of their families and loved ones. The recipients of this commendation serve as the embodiment of both military and civil service, and it is my hope they will inspire the next generation of great American leaders.

HONORING CAPTAIN TODD FLANNERY’S TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY AND HIS HONORABLE RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY
HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Captain Todd Flannery on his retirement from the United States Navy after 28 years of faithful service to our country. An esteemed and respected
member of the U.S. Navy, Captain Flannery most recently served as the Director of the Navy's U.S. House of Representatives Liaison Office. In this capacity, he oversaw and led countless congressional and staff delegations to naval installations throughout the United States and around the world. These trips helped members and their staffs achieve a greater understanding of the issues facing our Navy and its sailors from all over the world.

CAPT Flannery’s distinguished career began at the United States Naval Academy where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science. He would later go on to earn his “wings of gold” and qualify as a Naval Aviator in 1990. CAPT Flannery accumulated 2,770 flight hours in the SH–3H, SH–60F, HH–60H, MH–60S, and the MH–53E. He commanded the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment, Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron FIFTEEN, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron FIFTEEN, and Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic.

On shore duty, CAPT Flannery completed high-profile jobs within the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff office, Flag Aide to the Director of Air Warfare, and as a community detailer at the Navy’s Personnel Command.

CAPT Flannery’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (with individual action), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards including one Combat Distinguishing Device), Army Commendation Medal and other personal, campaign, and service ribbons.

As CAPT Flannery embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Navy. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH FOR HIS PIONEERING LEGAL CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Damon J. Keith for his outstanding legal career. For the past fifty years, Judge Keith has served the United States with distinction as a member of the federal judiciary.

Judge Keith began his career on the bench in 1967, when he was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. During his time with the Eastern District, Judge Keith distinguished himself as an ardent defender of the Constitution, proving since his confirmation. Throughout his career, Judge Keith’s decisions have played a critical role in shaping the legal landscape. He helped end the Bush administration’s practice of conducting post-9/11 deportation hearings in secret and create a more just and equal society by helping to desegregate public schools and combat systemic racism. He has also inspired a new generation of legal scholars who share his commitment to justice and the principles of the Constitution.

Judge Keith has received widespread acclaim for his service in the federal judiciary and his civil rights record. In 1997, he was the recipient of the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest honor available to a federal judge. He has also received the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP for outstanding achievement, as well as over 40 honorary degrees from institutes of higher education. Judge Keith was known for his commitment to equality for all during his time in public service, and his decisions continue to play a major role in shaping the nation’s legal discourse.

His work has impacted countless lives, and I wish him well as he retires after an extraordinary and impactful career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Damon J. Keith for his groundbreaking legal career. He has provided exceptional service to our country throughout his career as a federal judge.

TRIBUTE TO ZANE HENKKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zane Henkke of Winterset, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 National Federation of Independent Business Young Entrepreneur Award.

Zane is the founder and owner of Inspired Finds, an interior design company that focuses on designing and creating accents using vintage and antique items. He understands the important role that small businesses and entrepreneurs like him play in the United States economy. The innovation and determination Zane has displayed is a true testament to his entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Zane in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today for receiving this esteemed designation. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on receiving this award, and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING MR. DOUGLAS HARBOUR

HON. KEN BUCK
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Douglas Harbour for his accomplishments. Mr. Harbour created the Tri-State 9/11 Tribute Foundation in 2012 to honor our nation’s First Responders and Military personnel both living and deceased. Since its founding, a memorial project has been initiated and the annual Tri-State 9/11 Tribute event is held each fall to recognize exemplary public servants. Mr. Harbour is the organization’s sitting President and donates his time to ensure these men and women receive the utmost admiration and gratitude for their service. It is the heroic bravery and incredible sacrifices made by America’s First Responders and men and women in uniform that have helped secure the freedoms we as Americans hold dear.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our First Responders and military men and women. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes and gratitude to Mr. Harbour for his creation of the Tri-State 9/11 Tribute Foundation to honor America’s great service men and women.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Harbour for his accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN CLEMENT BUDD

HON. TED BUDD
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former aviator, war hero, and Huey helicopter pilot in Vietnam, John Clement Budd. He was my Uncle Jack. I remember his stories of service and sacrifice in the tapestry lines of that struggle. I am unbelievably proud that my uncle was there, on the front lines of that struggle.

Jack was also an exceptional mind and tactician—the tactical doctrine he and his fellows developed in the skies over Vietnam was used in the Armed Forces until the 2003 invasion of Iraq. So Jack left a lasting imprint on the way we fight wars.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans were not even born when the Berlin Wall came down, and Eastern Europe was freed from the cold grip of international Communism. Even more were not alive to witness the crucible that Vietnam was for our country. I am unbelievably proud that my uncle was there, on the front lines of that struggle.

His courage there is among the millions of stories of service and sacrifice in the tapestry
of our victory over an evil ideology. His sacri-
fice, and his legacy to our country will not be
forgotten. I know his five children and nineteen
grandchildren are as proud of him as I am.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER STAN RISEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
recognize Chief Executive Officer Stan Risen,
who just announced his retirement from Stanislaus County.

Stan has been instrumental in leading Stanislaus County towards greater public ac-
countability, re-engaging an organization-wide focus on the County’s vision and core values. Stanislaus County develops public programs that improve the lives of its residents through coordinated prevention efforts, which function across multiple sectors. These programs, how-
ever, would not have been made possible without Stan’s unwavering commitment to the community.

Stan Risen started his career as a youth pastor before entering governmental service. He began his career in Stanislaus County in 1987 when he became an appraiser in the Assessor’s Office. In 1999, he joined the Chief Executive Office as a project manager for the development of an Information Technology Strategic Plan. In 2005, Stan became an As-
sistant Executive Officer, and a few years later, was appointed to Chief Executive Officer.

Outside of the office, Stan enjoys many ac-
tivities that include riding dirt bikes, performing home construction projects, and playing the guitar. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Bob Jones University and was formerly a Planning Commissioner and City Councilman for the City of Ceres. He lives a faith-based lifestyle as an active member of Crosspoint Community Church in Modesto. Furthermore, Stan and his wife, Cheryl, are celebrating 38 years of marriage. Together, they have four children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to Stanislaus County by Chief Executive Officer Stan Risen as we wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. JAMES KENYON ON HIS SELECTION TO THE NAFCU BOARD

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James (Jim) Kenyon on his re-
cent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Kenyon has been President and CEO of Whitefish Credit Union in Montana since 2009 and has over 25 years of credit union experi-
ence. Whitefish Credit Union is the largest credit union in Montana. Chartered in 1934, it has over $1.4 billion in assets and 58,000 members. It is also a state-chartered credit union, which is significant, because Mr. Kenyon becomes the first state-chartered credit union executive to serve on the NAFCU Board, as the association just opened full membership to state-chartered credit unions last year.

Mr. Kenyon has lived in Montana most of his life and is a graduate of the University of Montana with a Bachelor of Science in Busi-
ness Management. Being a Montanan, he is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fishing, hiking and mountain biking.

Mr. Kenyon is also a strong advocate for community service, having served on the board of the Whitefish Community Foundation and as Co-Chairman for the North Valley Food Bank Fundraising Committee.

I wish Mr. Kenyon the best of luck in his new role on the NAFCU Board and look for-
ward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratu-
lating Jim Kenyon on this achievement.

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Johnny Roosevelt Polk who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on July 23, 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SFC Polk died from wounds he sus-
tained when his vehicle was struck by an anti-
tank grenade on July 23 in Kirkuk, Iraq.

SFC Polk was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. This was the third deployment of his 17-years spent in service.

According to the Associated Press, SFC Polk, a Gulfport native, was described as a fire leader who knew how to bring out the best in others.

SFC Polk attended Harrison Central High School where he was a member of the football team. He joined the U.S. Army in 1992.

“He was keen as well as humble,” said Ser-
geant (SGT) Thomas Lathrop, who served with SFC Polk. “He had a swagger about him that separated him from the rest and an insur-
mountable vivacity that could never be igno-
red.”

First Lieutenant (1LT) Jaciel Guerrero, who also served with SFC Polk, admired his lead-
ership abilities. “Whenever anyone needed guidance, he was there,” said 1LT Guerrero.

SFC Polk’s son, Xavier Jones, said his dad was a loving father, a volunteer firefighter, and one who would find time for fishing. “He dis-
appeared for days and go fishing,” Xavier said. “He would come home with fish and put them in a tank, a regular fish tank.”

SFC Polk was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star medals.

According to the Memorial Network Partner Provider, a memorial service was held on Au-
gust 15, 2009, at the Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church. SFC Polk was laid to rest at the Biloxi National Cemetery.

SFC Polk is survived by his wife, Wanonia Janise; five children, Antoine Azheheart, Mary Gardner, De’Andra Jones, Zavier Jones, Alvin Jones; and siblings, Walter Polk, Artha Polk, and Mary Polk.

SFC Polk paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy. His devotion to our na-
tion will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 410, 411, 412, and 413.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE JFK MEDICAL CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend heartfelt congratulations to the JFK Medical Center in Edison, New Jersey, as it celebrates 50 years of industry-leading inno-
avation, research and high-quality patient care.

In 1961, Edison Mayor Anthony Yelenics launched an effort to establish a hospital that would provide residents of Edison, Metuchen, and Woodbridge with high quality, accessible care—as well as good, local jobs.

A year later, more than 200 women joined together to form the JFK Auxiliary, which was charged with aiding fundraising for the project through activities like luncheons, fashion shows, and card parties. Within six years, the $5.6 million needed for the project was raised through large gifts from local businesses, civic and social organizations, and tireless efforts by the JFK Auxiliary and other township resi-
dents soliciting donations door-to-door. Nota-
ably, Edison Township ensured the project’s success by pledging $100,000 and donating the 37-acre property where the hospital re-
sides today.

JFK Medical Center opened its doors to the community on August 7, 1967 with 206 beds and 450 dedicated employees, including com-
passionate nurses, technicians, and adminis-
trators. From the beginning, JFK established itself as an industry innovation leader, using new computerization for patient records, pri-
ivate and semi-private rooms, a meditation room, and visitor rooms on every floor.

Over the next 50 years, JFK Medical Center evolved into one of Central New Jersey’s most trusted hospitals, receiving nationwide recogni-
tion for its innovation, world-renowned re-
search, and industry-leading quality of care.

JFK’s emergency department, the largest in the state, has been awarded the Outstanding Private EMS Agency Award by the New Jer-
sey Department of Health. The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute has been named a “Top Hospital” by U.S. News & World Re-
port—an award bestowed upon only 148 hos-
pitals out of nearly 4,800 across the country.

July 27, 2017
In 2016, JFK's oncology program was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the American College of Surgeons.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District and the state of New Jersey, I recognize JFK Medical Center and its dedicated staff for 50 years of exemplary service, innovation, and industry-leading quality of care.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRED A. STINE

HON. THOMAS MASSEI
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of Judge Fred A. Stine, the Chief Circuit Court Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Campbell County, Kentucky.

Judge Stine graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1973, and received his J.D. from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 1978. He then worked in private practice for two years, until his appointment as the Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. He served as an AUSA until October of 2004, when he was appointed to the Circuit Court.

Judge Stine has honorably served the Commonwealth as Circuit Court Judge since 2005. His many awards and recognitions include a Distinguished Service Recognition from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a “Special Recognition for Victims’ Rights” from the U.S. Department of Justice, the “U.S. Department of Justice Commendation” from the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, a “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the National Black Law Students Association at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, and an award for “Outstanding Contributions to KY Law-Related Education” from the Kentucky Court of Justice.

Throughout his career, and despite his busy case docket, Judge Stine selflessly gave of his time to serve his community. For example, he served as a volunteer judge for the Northern Kentucky Teen Court, and for the Newport Central Catholic, Highlands High School, and Dixie Heights High School mock trial teams. He was also an active member of the Kentucky Bar Association and the Alumni Association Board of Governors of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

Judge Stine is a true public servant who has served his state and nation well. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and all the citizens of the Fourth District, I am honored to wish Judge Stine the very best on his retirement. From all of us, we thank him.

RECOGNIZING AVDHROOT BABA SHIVANDJI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avdhoot Baba Shivandji, a man who has dedicated his life to enriching the lives of others through sacred ancient Indian healing rituals. Also known as Babaji, he has deeply inspired many through his deep belief that each person comes into this world with vast potential. Through the innovative ancient integrative process of Shiy Yog Cosmic Mediation, individual’s learn how to access their vast spiritual potential to create their own destinies. He has shared this knowledge through media and live conferences to millions of citizens from both our country and the world. In addition to educating others on his Indian healing practices, Shivandji teaches English on Indian television. Avdhoot Baba Shivandji is truly a selfless person, always looking to help others, and for that I commend him.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW CONNERY’S SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Andrew Connery for his many contributions to the New Democrat Coalition. Next month, Andrew will be leaving the New Democrat Coalition to attend law school.

The New Democrat Coalition, which I have the honor to Chair, is made up of 61 forward-thinking Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives who are committed to pro-economic growth, pro-innovation, and fiscally responsible policies. New Democrats are a solutions-oriented coalition seeking to bridge the gap between left and right by challenging outdated partisan approaches to governing.

Andrew joined the New Democracy as the Policy & Membership Services Associate in February 2015. Prior to joining the New Democracy staff, Andrew was a legislative assistant for former New Democrat Coalition Member Rep. Joe Garcia of Florida. In recognition for his hard work, he was promoted to Senior Policy Advisor in January 2016 and Policy Director in June 2017.

Originally serving former New Democrat Coalition Chair Ron Kind, Andrew has been a trusted advisor to me and many Members of the Coalition. Over his tenure, the New Democrat Coalition has been active on many issues of national importance that have benefited directly from Andrew’s policy knowledge and expertise. These include working on the development of the American Prosperity Agenda, building support for President Obama’s trade agenda, developing a tough and smart national security agenda, advocating for a bipartisan deal on tax reform and infrastructure, helping craft a path forward on fixing the Affordable Care Act, and working on several other policy issues through the New Democrat Coalition’s task forces. Andrew also served as a key advisor for New Democracy Members and their staffs working with them to develop individual policy priorities, counseling on floor votes, and advising on other matters.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the New Democrat Coalition, I thank Andrew.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. KENNETH JOHNSTON

HON. BILLY LONG
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenneth Johnston for his years of service in the United States Army.

Mr. Johnston, a native of southwest Missouri, was born in 1925. He was only 19 years-old when he began his service in the military. His dedication led him to become a highly-decorated soldier over the years due to his bravery and selfless commitment to defending the lives of others.

Mr. Johnston fought bravely in the Battle of the Bulge and on various other fronts. In addition to this, Mr. Johnston was the second man to go through the gates of Dachau as allied forces liberated the Jewish people from the brutality of the Nazi camp. His gallantry led him to be awarded the Bronze Star for his service. In addition to this he earned a variety of other medals and served in three different countries in Europe.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Johnston’s service to the U.S. military over the years and his astonishing achievements. On behalf of Missouri’s 7th Congressional District, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Johnston on his many years of service.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONNIE GATHERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ronnie Gathers who recently announced his intention to retire as Director of Prince Georges County (Maryland) Parks and Recreation Department after thirty years of outstanding service.

A native of my hometown of Sumter County, South Carolina, Ronnie Gathers graduated from my alma mater South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Recreation. In addition to serving as Director with great distinction, he also developed and provided oversight of Prince Georges County Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Mr. Ronnie Gathers has provided tremendous leadership in direct operations for fourteen divisions comprised of Park Police, Park Planning, Capital Development, Management Services, Special Projects, Information Technology, Northern, Central and Southern Area Recreational Services and Maintenance, Special Needs Programs, Arts, Cultural Heritage, Natural and Historical Resource Management, Sports Management and Trades Maintenance Division. He has worked closely with communities and elected officials to establish policy, provide public safety, acquire land, plan programs, develop facilities, amenities and deliver quality services.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gathers has done our shared home town and alma mater proud, and I ask that you and my colleagues join me in wishing him Godspeed on the occasion of his retirement.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during roll call votes No. 416 through No. 425 due to my spouse’s health situation in California. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the Perry Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Takano Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Castor Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Norcross Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Garamendi Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Esty Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Garamendi Amendment.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during roll call votes No. 416 through No. 425 due to my spouse’s health situation in California. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the Perry Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Takano Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Castor Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Norcross Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Garamendi Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Esty Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Garamendi Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Pingree Amendment. I would have also voted “yea” on the Jackson Lee Amendment.

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Daugherty on his retirement as President of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce and to thank him for his 14 years of serving northern Indiana Hoosiers.

As Chamber president, David was committed to fostering opportunities that advanced our growing workforce, supported existing businesses, attracted new ones, and united our community under a common vision for a brighter future. I am grateful for the outstanding leadership and insight David brought to the Chamber. In tackling important issues like redevelopment, our community saw David’s keen ability to build valuable relationships among community members and strong partnerships with education and government leaders.

David’s work at the Chamber was guided by the values of integrity, respect, collaboration, and the belief that thriving businesses build stronger communities. A forward thinker, David has consistently led efforts that aim to improve the quality of life for Hoosiers, their families, and our local businesses. In doing so he encouraged greater inclusion and empowerment through the Chamber’s efforts to work “Together, Growing Goshen.”

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana’s 2nd District I want to thank David for all he has done to make Goshen a wonderful place to live and work. His impact on the community is sure to last far into the future, and I have no doubt the Chamber will continue to honor David’s legacy by working to strengthen our business community and welcome growth and innovation.

IN HONOR OF CHERYL NIMMO
HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Cheryl Nimmo, CRNA, DNP, MSHSA. Ms. Nimmo will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). It is an incredible honor that Ms. Nimmo was elected as the 2016-2017 president of this prestigious national organization.

As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) for nearly 38 years, Ms. Nimmo has contributed greatly to the healthcare community in Rhode Island and nationwide. Ms. Nimmo is currently assistant professor and assistant program director for the nurse anesthesia program at the University of New England, in Portland, Maine. Hospitals in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Missouri have all benefited from Ms. Nimmo’s work as both staff and chief CRNA. In addition to serving as an airway skills and pediatric anesthesia instructor, locum tenens CRNA, and clinical preceptor, she has provided expertise in office-based orthopedics and coronary care.

Ms. Nimmo has also modeled lifelong commitments to her professional education and development. She was awarded her nursing diploma from Newport Hospital School of Nursing, in Newport, R.I.; her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo.; her certificate in nurse anesthesia from St. John’s School of Anesthesia at Missouri State University in Springfield; her Master’s Degree in Health Service Administration from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI.; and her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Northeastern University, in Boston.

During her AANA Presidency, Ms. Nimmo has been a prominent advocate for patients and for the practice of nurse anesthesia. In addition to her service as AANA President, Ms. Nimmo has long been an active member of her state and national professional associations. She has served in multiple capacities on various committees, boards of directors, and the AANA Foundation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Nimmo today on a job well done. Her service to the AANA and her patients and her commitment to high quality healthcare nationwide are commendable, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her notable career and outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) TAUREAN TRAVANTI HARRIS
HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Taurean Travanti Harris who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 2, 2007, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Harris died of wounds he received from an improvised explosive de-

vice in Kala Gush, Afghanistan. SGT Harris was assigned to the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, GA.

SGT Harris, a Liberty native, attended Amite County High School. He served as a Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) cadet throughout high school. He graduated with honors in 2003. SGT Harris followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Frederick Wagner, and joined the U.S. Army.

SGT Harris’ mother, Yolanda Wagner, said that her son was loved by all who knew him. “Taurean truly was a beautiful person,” Mrs. Wagner said. “He was the man every girl wanted to marry. Everybody loved him. He strived for excellence. He always wanted to better himself.”

Mrs. Wagner said SGT Harris’ memorial service, held at the Jerusalem Baptist Church, was unforgettable.

“I was so emotional,” Mrs. Wagner said. “It was an honor to see so many people come out to honor him and support us. It was amazing.”

According to the Associated Press, hundreds of family, friends, and military personnel came to the funeral. Mrs. Wagner says over 100 members of The Patriot Guard led the procession.

During the service, Brigadier General (BG) Jeffrey Foley commended SGT Harris for his positive attitude. “He was able to bring joy to whatever we would do,” BG Foley said. “No matter what the task.”

For his service, SGT Harris earned the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and a Good Conduct medal.

Mrs. Wagner says SGT Harris was honored for his service during a ceremony held on the tenth anniversary of his death. A portion of Highway 48, close to the Jerusalem Community where he grew up, was named in his honor by Mississippi Department of Transportation Commissioner Mike Tagert.

SGT Harris is survived by his daughter, Tiana Marie Harris; his daughter’s mother, Joanie Poleder; his parents, Cecil Harris and Yolanda Wagner; his four brothers, Justin Davis, William Harris, Christian Harris, and Okoye Harris; and his sisters, Tara Cockerham and Bianca Sesson.

HONORING ROTAPLAST INTERNATIONAL
HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rotaplast International’s 25th Anniversary of enabling children across the world with cleft lips and palates to receive life-changing surgery.

Founded in 1992 as part of the Rotary Club of San Francisco by its members Dr. Angelo Capozzi and Peter Langania, Rotaplast has since sponsored over 200 missions that have helped over 18,000 children worldwide. From the fast mission to La Serena in northern Chile, Rotaplast has been saving smiles and changing lives in 26 countries, including Chile, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico, the Philippines, India, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

Rotaplast is able to do this tremendous work because of the thousands of medical
professionals and Rotarians who volunteer countless hours of their time to this worthy endeavor. Multi-disciplinary teams of medical professionals travel around the world to provide free training to care for the children, in addition to the free reconstructive surgery. These volunteers help foster Rotaplast’s mission of building the future among people from different countries, languages, cultures, and ways of life, and the education Rotaplast provides its patients and their families will help improve lives long after Rotaplast leaves.

Thanks to the support of Rotary International and Rotary Clubs and Districts around the world who have participated in this program, Rotaplast International’s work in my district and around the world has been exemplary. It is therefore fitting to honor and thank Rotaplast for 25 years of success in changing children’s lives and adhering to Rotary International’s motto of “doing good in the world.” I offer them my sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE STREET ART FAIR’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and artists of the Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair. For 50 years, the Art Fair has showcased work from thousands of artists around the country and helped establish Ann Arbor as a center of art and culture.

Originally established in 1967, the State Street Art Fair hosts approximately 300 artists and their works each summer in Ann Arbor for four days by the campus of the University of Michigan. As one of the four independently juried art fairs that operate concurrently each summer as the Ann Arbor Art Fair, the State Street Art Fair is a key part of the city’s cultural scene and has helped establish the city as a nexus for artistic excellence. The State Street Art Fair and other Ann Arbor art fairs collectively attract around 400,000 visitors each year and serve as an exhibition of award-winning artists as well as its high standards for entry, have resulted in a renowned art fair that helps draw outstanding artists and visitors to the Ann Arbor area.

The work of the organizers and participants have helped make the State Street Art Fair one of the nation’s premier showcases of artistic talent. The fair continues to attract outstanding artists and visitors from around the country. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the organizers and participants of the State Street Art Fair on the 50th Anniversary of its establishment. The fair continues to attract outstanding artists and visitors from around the country.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE STREET ART FAIR’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. DAVIES of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for my colleagues across the aisle—what can we do with 1.6 billion dollars?

How many highways and roads could we fix?

How many Americans could we train for good paying jobs, for that amount of money? And didn’t the President promise that Americans wouldn’t have to pay for a wall?

Now in one big bill that’s out of regular order we are being asked to waste 1.6 billion dollars on a wall that would be ineffective and offensive to our neighbors?

In my district, we know that our border is our strength, not our weakness.

San Diego and Tijuana are two regions, but we are one community.

We have worked for years to create an efficient border that allows thousands of people to safely cross into our country every day; spending money in our stores, paying taxes that support our infrastructure, and bringing economic stability to our region.

We cannot allow fear and uncertainty to isolate us from the rest of the world, and building a wall along our expansive southern border would do just that.

RECOGNIZING BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. JEFF DENHAM
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Byron-Bethany Irrigation District for receiving the 2017 Excellence in Water Leaders Award.

Byron-Bethany Irrigation District serves crucial farming communities in California’s Central Valley including the city of Tracy, which is located in my district. The water they distribute allows their customers to cultivate successful farmland that both promotes a successful farming community.

This award is in recognition of BBID’s bold actions in defending the water rights of the farming community in their area of serv- ice. In the face of the California drought, the State Water Resources Control Board issued curtailment orders for the local community that would drastically affect the crucial farmland that BBID serves. The District General Manager, Rick Gilmore, and the district’s seven member Board of Directors launched an effective legal effort to protect the water rights of local farming communities. They argued that the state’s analysis of available water was inaccurate. The state’s dismissal of the case against BBID in 2016 was a victory for small farming districts, and cemented the water rights that serve as a foundation for BBID’s community.

The Excellence in Water Leaders Award is presented annually by the Association of California Water Agencies to an individual or group that has made a visible contribution to California water. ACWA is a statewide association of public agencies and their members are responsible for about 90% of water delivered in California. ACWA’s recognition of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District’s impact on the water rights for small farming communities is an immense honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District for receiving this impressive award and for their exuberance and dedication to our local farming communities within California’s Central Valley.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN PRESIDENTS FROM PAR- DONING THEMSELVES

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I accompanied President Donald J. Trump to his speech at the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree and thus missed votes Monday night.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 408, and YEA on Roll Call No. 409.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN PRESIDENTS FROM PAR- DONING THEMSELVES

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I joined as an original cosponsor of the Constitutional Amendment of Al. Green of Texas. That Amendment states that a President may not pardon himself or herself for violations of United States law.

I believe that the Amendment is likely unnecessary. I believe that the Supreme Court, in construing the existing Constitution, would reach the conclusion that the President’s power to pardon does not include the power to pardon the President.

However it is always useful to provide a clarification of a meaning of a statute, or even a Constitutional provision, whenever any doubt its meaning or construction.

I doubt that the amendment could be adopted and ratified with sufficient speed to prevent the current President from pardoning himself. I believe the adoption of the amendment could still be useful in providing a clarification should this issue arise in future presidencies.
HONORING MOZELLE REYNOLDS DOBYS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life of Mozelle Reynolds Dobys, who passed away on June 29, 2017, at the age of 102. Mozelle and her late husband Garner were always wonderful people, and they were always giving people. Mozelle loved Republican politics, but she loved her God more.

Mozelle was born in a Roanoke County farmhouse in 1915, in a farmhouse without electricity or running water. In an early sign of her tenacity, Mozelle proved wrong the doctors that had told her parents she would not live more than a few days. She attended Andrew Lewis High School in Salem and contributed to the war effort in World War II as a worker at Radford Arsenal. She then worked at Burlington Hosier Mill until it closed in 1963.

Mozelle put her faith first. It guided how she lived and how she cared for others. She attended Ft. Lewis Christian Church in her early years, spent 65 years at Melrose Christian Church, and in 2014 returned to Ft. Lewis. While at Melrose, she served as the first female Elder, as Elder Emeritus, and as Chairperson of the Board. She taught Sunday School for decades and worked along with Garner as a counselor for Christian Endeavor, a non-denominational youth group. Generations of young people benefited from her guidance.

Mozelle was not expected to live long at birth, but she kept going until near the end of her life. Even at 95 years of age, she still bought groceries for a neighbor. She drove until she was 96, and mowed her own lawn until she was 98.

Mozelle lived her life well, and many are better for it. I will miss this good woman, but as her many “children” from her Sunday school classes and youth groups will tell you, she always knew her Lord, Jesus Christ.

HONORING CERES FIRE CHIEF BRYAN NICHOLES

HON. JEFF DENHAM
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ceres Fire Chief Bryan Nicholes, who just announced his retirement after 45 years in the fire service industry; 32 of which were spent with the Ceres Fire Department.

In 1972, Bryan began his lifelong career as an explorer scout with the Burbank-Paradise fire district. In 1984, he moved to Ceres, California to take on the only paid firefighter position within the department during this time. Chief Nicholes then returned to Burbank-Paradise as Fire Chief in 1987. After two years, he came back to Ceres as Fire Marshall. Chief Nicholes has combined his professional experience with years of higher education in the fire industry. He obtained his Associate of Science degree in Electronics Technology and Fire Science from Modesto Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Saint Mary’s College, as well as many other State and Federal certifications.

Community has always been a priority for Bryan and his wife, Becki. He has been involved in the Ceres Rotary Club, Ceres Lions Club, and was instrumental in coordinating the “Love Ceres” event for six years. Additionally, he and his family have chosen a life of faith serving God and attending New Life Christian Church. In 2011, Bryan was ordained as a minister and has traveled on multiple mission trips to spread the word of God. They also volunteer to host a small group of married couples and Bryan leads a Men’s Fellowship Group. They have one son, Colby, and Bryan is looking forward to spending more time with his family after retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire service in the City of Ceres by Chief Bryan Nicholes and hereby wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILLY MANES

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life and legacy of a paroled away last week, far too soon, at the age of 45. He is survived by his husband, Anthony, and an entire community that admired him. With Billy’s passing, Orlando lost an icon, and our nation lost a committed, passionate, and fierce advocate for equality.

In Billy’s short time with us, he made an indelible impact on our city and our country. He was a prominent Orlando journalist and commentator, and the power of his words moved and amused central Florida. Billy broke barriers, becoming the first openly gay mayoral candidate in Orlando’s history. After the tragic loss of his partner in 2012, Billy bravely told his story to the world, putting a human face on the pressing need for equal rights for same-sex couples.

Last year, when our Orlando family was reeling from the Pulse nightclub shooting, Billy gave voice to our city’s grief. He relentlessly focused on the 49 beautiful lives we lost that night. Like them, Billy will never be forgotten. If you ever had the privilege and the pleasure of meeting Billy, you couldn’t escape his energy, his passion, and his endearing sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical this hallowed chamber carry on the work that Billy so valiantly championed. Though we have so much progress to celebrate, too many of the inequities that Billy’s work spotlighted remain. May his memory inspire us to redouble our commitment to equality.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN VASSALL, M.D.

HON. ADAM SMITH
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. John Vassall II for his exemplary work in our community. For over thirty years, Dr. Vassall has made the greater Puget Sound Region a healthier and more equitable place.

Dr. Vassall has made many valuable contributions to Washington state’s medical community. In 1978, he received his medical degree from the University of Washington. He then completed two competitive residency programs at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University Affiliated Hospitals. After his residencies, Dr. Vassall returned to the Puget Sound region in 1983, when he accepted an offer at Swedish Medical Center, where he has remained for 34 years. As Chief Medical Officer, he has been a key player on an outstanding medical team. In 2006, the Washington chapter of the American College of Physicians named Dr. Vassall the Internist of the Year.

Dr. Vassall’s contributions to our community have not been limited to his professional work at the hospital. For 15 years, Dr. Vassall served as the vice-speaker and speaker of the House of Delegates for the Washington State Medical Association. He is a trustee at Seattle University and for the American Hospital Association, as well as a board member at the Washington State Hospital Association and the Washington State Medical Association. Through these roles, Dr. Vassall has shaped the future of medicine and has advanced quality care in Washington State. His long record of advocacy earned him the Alumni Service Award from his alma mater in 2006.

Dr. Vassall’s contributions to Washington’s health care industry cannot be overstated. It is because of physicians like Dr. Vassall that the Greater Puget Sound Region is now a global center for health care innovation and education. Again, I would like to thank Dr. Vassall for his contributions to Washington’s 9th District, and I look forward to working with him in the future as we work for a healthier world.

ROLL CALL 410, 411, 412, 413

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 25, 2017, I missed four recorded votes on the House floor due to family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 410, YEA on Roll Call 411, YEA on Roll Call 412, and YEA on Roll Call 413.
A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to reauthorize the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

While this bill will reauthorize the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Commission, and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, I will focus my remarks on the need for a commission that covers parts of my district—the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission encompasses most of the counties of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and parts of my district in Georgia.

This area is home to millions of rural and impoverished Americans still reeling from decades of job displacement and a lack of investment.

Families in Georgia and all across the South need the help of this Congress as well as the Trump Administration to break out of the unacceptable cycle of poverty and unemployment.

Although the Commission was first authorized by Congress in 2008, a federal co-chair has never been appointed and thus, has not yet had a chance to make a difference. In addition to the introduction of this legislation, I will be calling on President Trump to appoint a federal co-chair so that the full potential of this program can be realized to put the Southeast Crescent region on the road to recovery.

Working with the states and localities, the Commission can assist in leveraging public, private, and philanthropic resources to improve the overall economy and infrastructure of the region to encourage private investment and promote growth in distressed areas. We have seen the success achieved through targeted investments by other regional economic development agencies, it is now time for the Southeast Crescent region have the same opportunity.

The Commission can help develop the community’s economic competitiveness and leverage private investment to help improve infrastructure and public transportation, so that workers aren’t stuck in endless gridlock and can get to and from work seamlessly. It can help provide job skills training and entrepreneurial development, ensuring that the jobs that are available can be filled by competent workers.

We have an historic opportunity to help create good jobs and develop an historically disadvantaged region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure and finally giving a region that has suffered from historic disadvantages the chance to thrive and succeed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LENNIE STEVEN CHEUNG

HON. TED LIEU
OF CALIFORNIA
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lennie Steven Cheung—a devoted husband, loving father, wonderful grandfather, and great-grandfather—who passed away on July 16, 2017. He was 93 years old. Mr. Cheung was also a scholar, a visionary, an inventor, and engineer. He was a man of many talents and interests. He was a great scholar and had the nickname “the living encyclopedia” from his friends and family. He was a great mentor and advisor to his friends and family. During his free time, he enjoyed reading, listening to music, attending magic shows, and watching detective and action movies. He also had a green thumb, and enjoyed gardening and golfing.

Mr. Cheung was loved and respected by all and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Helen Cheung, five children (Roger, Simon, Shen-Long, Alice, and Josephine), ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.