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 Zoor 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.

Mr. WELCH. 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.

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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 could result in catastrophic consequences to the surrounding communities.

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.
submitted a brand new UUNS for 185 armored vehicles. A subsequent submission for 1000 MRAP brought the total requirement to 1,185 which the Marine Corps pursued in the DOD Appropriations Act.

The portrayal: Franz Gayl, a whistleblower, created his first whistleblower brief in March of 2007. It was not MRAP focused and included a description of MRAP. Gayl published his study in January of 2008. The DOD Inspector General (DODIG) to investigate MRAP. Both the study and the DODIG report were flawed.

Senator Biden, in conjunction with Gayl, established the “Marine Corps negligence” story in the mainstream press.

The simple facts concerning the MRAP need to dispel the MRAP negligence falsehoods. A summary of the facts 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” that drives the rest of the support system. If the customer does not want it, it is not deployed. If deployed Marines do not ask, they do not receive.

- Over the period of decades before the 2005 Hejlik UUNS, several mid-level Marines noted the lack of MRAP-type vehicle purchase. Of combat development, the rest of the combat development community did not develop a need for MRAPs. Other Services, the Joint community, the DOD, and other military communities that the Marine Corps Combat Developers could have developed MRAP-type vehicle needs and did not.

- In February of 2006, BGen Hejlik (MEF) 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 Off-Site (EOS–May 05). Between the two briefs, the entirety of the Marine Corps Executive body was briefed and considered MRAP-type vehicles. This is evidenced by the Marine Corps Commanding General (CMC) CMC selected the m114 (armored HMMWVs) with advice from his Executive and with the full knowledge of the HMMWV. The CMC decided over the 2005 Hejlik UUNS with m114s effectively ended the urgent status of the 2005 Hejlik UUNS.

- A key point is that I MEF (Fwd) in Iraq was asking for m114s as a solution for the Hejlik UUNS. M1141 procurement was a decision supported by the MEFs in (or going to) Iraq.

- Marine Executives continued to be briefed on the Hejlik UUNS through August 2005. In August of 2006, Executives and other Marine Corps Commands with MRAP decision responsibilities also ended their considerations. These commands did not simultaneously “lose” or “bury” the request as has been falsely insinuated by Gayl and others.

- The 2005 Hejlik UUNS was downgraded to an UUNS which changed the status of MRAPs away from a critical need by a Commander involved in the process to save lives. The reduction to an UUNS placed MRAP in the regular combat development process with other vehicles where it continued to be considered by Systems Command as a potential vehicle for Iraq. MRAP became the Marine Corps MRAP program in 2006. The Marine Corps Pa
cific (MARPORPAC) 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 demand. An 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) or any subsequent deployment neither listed MRAP as a priority nor as a need at all. The forces in combat or going to combat simply were not requesting for MRAPs.

- I MEF (2005–2006 deployment) was deployed to Iraq during this timeframe. The entire combat development community to include the MEFS, MARFOROIs, Advocates and Executives regarded the Hejlik UUNS as not sufficient. The DODIG would later incorrectly summarize BGen Hejlik’s assertion that the UUNS was reduced as a fabrication.

- A separate Marine Corps I.G. of I MEF (Fwd) that concluded in May of 2006 found no documented need for MRAP. I MEF (Fwd) did nothing to indicate any existing MRAP UUNS during this I.G. once again indicating an absence of demand. I MEF had the opportunity to identify a MRAP need (new or old) or to state that they did not 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 MRAPs during this timeframe. 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 MRAPs during this timeframe.

- The 2005 Hejlik UUNS remediated the MRAP type vehicle needs. The MRAP program was recommended to submit 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 I MEF submitted 1,189 MRAPs, but also did not want more than 185 MRAPs. The fact is that the Hejlik UUNS was satisfied by the provision of m114 and was no longer an active urgent request.

- Eventually I MEF submitted a second request for 1,000 more vehicles (July 2006), this time calling them MRAP.

- Starting in May 2006 the Marine Corps supported establishment, to include MCCDC, diligently processed and worked the new request. A Committee of Casualties was convened. Congress was briefed. Marine Corps leadership, up to and including the CMC, advocated for MRAP. Testing of different MRAP-type vehicles occurred in late 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 capabilities immediately and reducing 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 7,000 vehicles. The MRAP program was recommended for “high priority” status. In May 2007 SECDEF Gates finally designated MRAP as the number one DOD priority.

- The Marine Corps was accused of negligence, and did not sufficiently battle these to the Marine Corps CMC and yet did not do so. The simple facts concerning the MRAP story in the mainstream press.

- In May 2009 Gayl testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the Whistleblower Protection Act. Gayl’s study was quoted for his own job performance . . . or his critique is fatally flawed (the latter is actually the case).

- The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps asked for a DODIG to look into the accusations in Gayl’s study. The MRAP DODIG occurred over two years after the events it was investigating. Marines had rotated out of their billets and emails were deleted. The DODIG failed to uncover key evidence contradicting Gayl’s claims. While the DODIG failed to validate Gayl’s claims, it did not fully disprove his study. They were not as thorough as they should have been.

- The “blowing the whistle” continued and on 14 May 2009 Gayl testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the Whistleblower Protection Act. Gayl’s study was quoted for the record. Both the testimony and the study were flawed.

- In addition to the outright rejections, there were a series of documents proving that I MEF did not desire or pursue MRAPs beyond the provision of the m114s. Despite having ample opportunity to manifest any sort of new MRAP requirement (or dissatisfaction with the m114) in several documents, the deployed forces and their parent commands did not once do so. This absence of requests is reflected in mandated reports. They all show an absence of any unprovided need from the Hejlik UUNS. MRAPs had been pursued in the past. Gayl did not identify an MRAP need reflect one thing: the absence of MRAP need. There was never any “constant demand” and the portrayal of that 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 on MRAP was did not believe it necessary to check Gayl’s “facts” before reporting.

- August 2008 “Blowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower: The Real MRAP Story” serves to contest the previous versions of events that disparaged the Corps dealing with MRAP needs from 2006 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

July 27, 2017
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 waterfall, located at Spring Hill Drive and US 19, marks the 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 platted lots were sold.

Today, Spring Hill’s award-winning golf courses and gated communities attract new-comers 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 8,000 dental patients.

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 falling short of winning last year’s title, the team was ready for a taste of redemption. In a hard-fought three-game series 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 15 boys: Dione Allen, Alex Colquitt, Tevin Craig, Matthew Davis, Tovronn Davis, Joseph Estes, Xavier Green, Jeremy Lee Jr., Amaron Molette, Octavious Palmer, Jacob Peavy, George Turner, Milam Tatum, and Richard Allen Waters. They were coached by Billy Bonds, head coach Jason Felts, 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 rabid crowd of over 100 cheering fans and the Selma Police Department greeted the heroes when they arrived. The Selma 15U All Stars won the 2017 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, Jake and Jason Felts, created a winning team of boys that everyone in Alabama should be proud of.

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 communities became stronger.

The storied history of Joint Base Lewis-McChord has chapters in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, 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 1 Command, 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

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 overwhelms-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 and cooperation 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 Ninetieth Division-First Division took part in the Battle of Flan-ders where it captured 2,300 German prisoners 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 1941 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.

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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 insurmountable 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 comradeship 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 a 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. From his engagement with local officials to his collaboration with Team Letterkenny, Colonel Maddox has been a valued member of the 9th District. It has been an honor to work with him, and his presence will be missed in Franklin County.

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 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 Londero’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.

Of course, of course the building includes a card room, home to one of the oldest card games in Denver.

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 democracy thrive. As the newspaper of record for the state’s centennial, 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

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR. OF VIRGINIA
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 groomsman. Mrs. Mica’s friend, Karen McClary Cakouros, served as the maid of honor. The couple’s 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, Stephen 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.

Admired 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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Johnny Marines.

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS 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, 1983.

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 Angelenos 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 eight veterans 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 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. Buenemeyer 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 Randal 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, where he has served 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 in the federal judiciary. 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 honoring 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 HEHNKE

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 Hehnke 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.

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 the war—they were captivating. Growing up, I remember me and my brother putting on his old helmet and pretending we were flying. Later we didn’t have to pretend. My oldest brother and I became civilian pilots, and my middle brother flew for the Army and the Air Force. The Budd family are fliers, Mr. Speaker, and my uncle was part of starting that proud tradition.

In 1965, he flew over the infamous la Drang Valley in Vietnam, known as the “Valley of Death,” where he medevaced soldiers wounded by enemy fire. He pulled an A-6 Avenger pilot out of the line of fire at la Drang, after three other helicopters had been shot down in the attempt. He used to say that it was the only time he had ever been kissed by a colonel.

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 crucial 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 sacrifice, 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 accountability, 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, however, 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 Assistant Executive Officer, and a few years later, was appointed to Chief Executive Officer.

Outside of the office, Stan enjoys many activities 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 recent 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 experience. 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 Business 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 forward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Jim Kenyon on this achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) JOHN- NY ROOSEVELT POLK

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 25, 2009, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SFC Polk died from wounds he sustained 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 Sergeant (SGT) Thomas Lathrop, who served with SFC Polk. “He had a swagger about him that separated him from the rest and an insurmountable vivacity that could never be ignored.”

First Lieutenant (1LT) Jaciel Guerrero, who also served with SFC Polk, admired his leadership 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 disappearance 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 August 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, Wanonina Janisse; five children, Antoine Azeheart, 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 nation 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 ANNIVERSARY 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 innovation, research and high-quality patient care.

In 1961, Edison Mayor Anthony Yelenwics 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 residents soliciting donations door-to-door. Notably, Edison Township ensured the project’s success by pledging $100,000 and donating the 37-acre property where the hospital resides today.

JFK Medical Center opened its doors to the community on August 7, 1967 with 206 beds and 450 dedicated employees, including compassionate nurses, technicians, and administrators. From the beginning, JFK established itself as an industry innovation leader, using new computerization for patient records, private 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, research-rich and industry-leading hospitals, recognized nationwide recognition for its innovation, world-renowned research, 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 Jersey Department of Health. The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute has been named a “Top Hospital” by U.S. News & World Report—an award bestowed upon only 148 hospitals out of nearly 4,800 across the country.
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 to patients, families, and the community.

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 "Life-time 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.

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 Shivi Yog Cosmic Medication Residential Center, individuals 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.

Mr. HINES. 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 solution-oriented coalition seeking to bridge the gap between left and right by challenging outmoded partisan approaches to governing.

Andrew joined the New Dem staff as the Policy & Member Services Intern in February 2015. Prior to joining the New Dem 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 Demo Coalition has been active on many issues of national importance that have benefitted 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 bipartisanship 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 Dem 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.
CONGRATULATING DAVID DAUGHERTY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS GOSHEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT

HON. JACQUE 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.

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 Larenia, 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
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.

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 in the Ann Arbor area, 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 the city at large. The State Street Art Fair’s rigorous screening process for prospective exhibitions by a jury of artistic professionals, 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 State Street Art Fair one of 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 PARDOING THEMSELVES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 27, 2017

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 414 and 415.

HONORING MOZELLE REYNOLDS DOBYN
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 Dobyns, 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 Chairman 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 able 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 until she was 96, and mowed her own lawn. She drove until she was 96, and mowed her own lawn until she was 98.

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HONORING MOZELLE REYNOLDS DOBYN
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Thursday, July 27, 2017

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

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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 2008. 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 to 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.

Mr. TED 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.

Mr. Cheung lived in Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, and the United States for many years. He was fluent in Taiwanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and English.

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.