

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 FALL-  
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SER-  
GEANT 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 fine 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 disappeared for days at a time 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, Wanonia Janise; five children, Antoine Azeheart, Mary Gardner, De'Andra Jones, Xavier 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 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 innovation, research and high-quality patient care.

In 1961, Edison Mayor Anthony Yelencsics 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 hospitals, receiving 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, cutting-edge innovation, and industry-leading quality of care.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF JUDGE FRED A. STINE

**HON. THOMAS MASSIE**

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 AVDHOOOT 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 Shiv Yog Cosmic Medicine and Shiv Yog Cosmic Farming, 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.

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 outmoded partisan approaches to governing.

Andrew joined the New Dem staff as the Policy & Member Services Aide 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 Democrat 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 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 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.

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 collaboratively 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.