

lives, proven through the quick thinking that saved Marie Boyer's life. She has truly proven to be a role model and the true essence of a model citizen.

CONGRATULATING THE LATINA
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN SAN
ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Latina Leadership Institute (LLI) in San Antonio, Texas, for the good work they are doing in San Antonio to train, educate, and encourage the next generation of Hispanic women who aspire to public office.

LLI's mission is to increase the number and influence of Hispanic Women in elected and appointed office positions in the United States. This is a noble and worthwhile mission and I am proud that this organization is located in my hometown of San Antonio.

The LLI program is highly personalized to each woman's individual goals and endeavors. Program participants are encouraged to get outside their comfort zones and build key leadership skills and experiences that will equip them for public office in the future. It is an excellent model for other cities around the country to emulate as they seek to elevate young women into political leadership roles.

The local governments of San Antonio and Texas, as well as the federal government, will benefit from the aspiring leaders being trained and encouraged by the Latina Leadership Institute.

NDAAs SUPPORTS GOLD STAR
WIDOWS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee and a conferee for the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act, I am grateful for the continued support of Gold Star Widows included in the FY2018 NDAA. The bill includes a permanent extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance under the Survivor Benefit Plan. The more than 60,000 Americans whose spouses died either on active duty or during retirement will continue to receive \$310 per month plus a Cost of Living Allowance indefinitely. My predecessor, the late Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Floyd Spence, championed this kind of relief for our military families, and I have continued that fight because our military personnel risk their lives to defend our nation and they should be able to trust that the benefits they designate for their spouses and families will always be there.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Monday, November 13. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 623, 624, and 625.

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF DIS-
TINGUISHED SERVICE—KEITH S.
PARKER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Keith S. Parker—public servant, fierce education advocate, public servant, and community leader, after 36 years of service.

Keith began his career with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1981 and has held numerous positions since that time including Senior Consultant in the Staff Affirmative Action Officer, Staff Affirmative Action Officer, and Executive Officer in the Administrative Services division. He has held the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor, Government & Community Relations since 1998 and has devoted his career to advocating for important issues for UCLA. Keith is the true embodiment of a public servant.

During his impressive career that spans over three-and-a-half decades, he has worked on many important issues affecting students and faculty, including building relationships with community leaders, organizations, and elected officials at the local, state and federal government throughout the Greater Los Angeles area, integrating community service projects into advocacy activities, and UC systemwide Advocacy Days in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Prior to his service with UCLA, Keith worked at the Minnesota Department of Education in the area of staff development and as an Instructor in the Afro-America Studies Department at the University of Minnesota. Keith has truly been a champion for UCLA and has devoted his life to helping others and the greater Los Angeles community.

UCLA has been extremely fortunate to benefit from his experience, leadership and kindness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Keith's 36 years of distinguished service to the University of California, Los Angeles and wish him peace, happiness, and joy in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 646, No. 647, No. 648, and No. 649. Had I been present to

vote on Roll Call No. 646, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 647, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 648, I would have voted NO; and had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 649, I would have voted YEA.

BICENTENNIAL OF PERRY
COUNTY, OHIO

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the bicentennial of Perry County, Ohio. Since German settlers first made their way to Southeastern Ohio from Pennsylvania, Perry County has exemplified many of our nation's core values.

From its foundation, Perry County has preserved our proud tradition of military service, its first residents choosing to name the area for Oliver H. Perry, a hero of the War of 1812. Today, there are over 2,700 veterans living in Perry County, all of whom have made tremendous sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

For the past 200 years, the overwhelming characteristic of the people of Perry County is the compassion they hold for one another and their determination to do what is right and just. In the 19th century, residents worked diligently in support of the Underground Railroad. Today, the people of Perry County refuse to have their communities destroyed by the opioid epidemic, and are uniting to support their neighbors and find paths to healthy, productive lives.

Much like the kindness of its citizens, the natural beauty of Perry County is unparalleled. From the picturesque landmark of Buckeye Lake, to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, there is a steep appreciation for the scenic landscape of the County, as described in Clement L. Martzoff's poem, "The Beauty of Our Hills."

There is beauty in these hills of ours for him
with eyes to see;
There is beauty smiling at us from the meadows
broad and free;
There is beauty in the woodlands; there is
beauty 'long the brooks;
There's beauty in the violet light as it
gleams through leafy nooks.
And a beauty out of heaven over all the land-
scape rills
When the sun shines down upon these Perry
county hills.

Today, Perry County remains a beautiful place to work, live, and raise a family. I am grateful for the leadership of the County Commissioners, James O'Brien, Ben Carpenter, and Dave Freriks, and all of the neighbors and friends who have maintained Perry County's beauty and history.

I am honored to represent this county, where community, faith, and freedom are celebrated not just in recognition of the 200th anniversary of its founding, but each and every day.