

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY WINTERS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Beverly Winters for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Beverly is the current Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC). She began pursuing her dream of building a community that provided responsive support to individuals and families after graduating from the University of Denver with a Master's degree in Social Work. At DDRC, Beverly assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves in a variety of roles such as Residential Counselor, Medicaid Waiver Coordinator, Case Manager, Director of Resource Coordination and Assistant Executive Director. During her tenure at DDRC she has developed case management services, established the first Family Support Council and the highly successful DDRC behavior health services program, and shaped the self-determination initiative.

Prior to her work at the DDRC, she was the administrator of a residential care facility and a clinical services coordinator for a mental health clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. Beverly has also been a champion for abuse prevention as a member of various county, state and legislative work groups and councils, including the HCPF Mental Health Advisory Committee, Conflict-Free Case-Management task force, Jefferson County Infant/Toddler Interagency Council, CORE Services Commission, Adult Protection Advisory Committee Jefferson County Child and Youth Leadership Commission, and Jeffco Thrives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Beverly Winters for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST CENTURY  
WILBERFORCE INITIATIVE

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for working towards a world of religious freedom.

On October 1, 2014, Dr. Randel Everett founded the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative. Dr. Everett has a long and distinguished record of service, which includes establishing the John Leland Center for Theological Stud-

ies, serving as the Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and over 40 years of pastoring all over the nation including as my own pastor at First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas.

Under Dr. Everett's leadership, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has experienced remarkable growth and has left a lasting impact through their work. The organization has now grown to two offices: one in the Washington, D.C. area that focuses on the United States' engagement in protecting religious liberties and a second office in Dallas, Texas, which serves as a headquarters that mobilizes and engages with churches to help raise public awareness of people who are facing religious oppression around the world.

Since its conception, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has helped thousands of people worldwide by working alongside policymakers. In 2015, members from the organization traveled to Iraq and met with Christians and Yazidis impacted by the Islamic State. Their report, "Edge of Extinction," helped elevate the awareness regarding the atrocities of religious and ethnic minorities in the Nineveh Plain. Through their efforts, the organization was successful in establishing a Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia within the State Department and in passing H. Con. Res. 75, which officially declared ISIL's persecution and mass murder of Christians, Yezidis, and other groups in Iraq and Syria as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This bill passed the House on March 14, 2016, by a vote of 393-0—a success I was proud to support.

The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has become a leading advocate for religious minorities in other areas, such as northern and central Nigeria. Throughout 2016, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has traveled throughout areas of Nigeria that the UN describes as the world's worst current humanitarian crisis. During these trips, Wilberforce spoke with thousands of pastors and victims throughout the country and listened to their heartbreaking stories. The group's published report "Fractured and Forgotten" has been featured at numerous conferences and has been used to brief Congressional leaders. The group worked extensively with the Nigerian National Assembly to help confirm a new U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria in September of 2016.

In addition to raising awareness, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has trained more than 2,700 religious and government leaders from across the world on the importance of religious freedom, worked to expand religious liberties in Nepal's Constitution, and met with leaders within the Taiwanese government to discuss creating a Religious Freedom Caucus in the Legislative Yuan. These are just some of the many accomplishments the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has been able to accomplish in their efforts to advance religious freedom around the world.

As a nation that was built by those who escaped religious persecution in their homelands, we must not forget that thousands of others across the globe are facing the same persecution as our forefathers. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has given these people a voice and hope that one day they can share the same liberties that we all cherish here in this great nation. I applaud the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for their hard work and pray that God blesses them and continues to provide them with the strength and courage to continue their mission to help save their fellow man.

CONGRATULATING HASTINGS COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL AND MEN'S SOCCER ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Volleyball and Men's Soccer teams from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, on their 2016 national championships.

This is the Bronco Volleyball team's first national title. Despite trailing by two sets in the final match, the Broncos confidently swept their final three sets for the championship. The team ends their season with a record of 33-3. Katie Placke of Grand Island and Logan Druempel of Schuyler were selected as first team All-Americans, with Katie also receiving a CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American and Logan being named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball National Championship MVP. They are joined by first team All-American Jill Bax of Lincoln, who is the 2016 NAIA Libero of the Year. Coach Matt Buttermore was named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year.

The Bronco Men's Soccer team is celebrating their second national title, having first won a championship in 2010. The team finished with a record of 24-0-1 under head coach Aaron Champenoy in his first season at Hastings College. The team's roster includes players from seven states and nine countries. Daniel Whitehall was named the 2016 NAIA Player of the Year and the tournament's Most Valuable Offensive Player, Joe White was the tournament's Most Valuable Player and a second team All-American, and Marc Tautz is a third team All-American.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I commend these talented men and women on their athletic and academic achievements. They certainly have made our state proud, and it's a great day to be a Bronco.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF EDGAR “DOOKY” CHASE

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman SCALISE to honor a true New Orleans legend, Mr. Edgar “Dooky” Chase Jr. Mr. Chase is known in New Orleans not only for the decadent cuisine served at Dooky Chase’s Restaurant, but also for his continued dedication to being a leader in the African-American community. He used food and music to bring people from all walks of life together under one roof. From the age of 16 to the age of 88, Mr. Chase worked tirelessly for the people of New Orleans.

During his teenage years, Mr. Chase was an active member of the Musicians Union and helped increase the pay for local entertainers. He also worked with the Musicians Union to promote the first racially integrated concert performed at the Municipal Auditorium in the historical Tremé neighborhood.

Mr. Chase and his wife Leah, graciously known as the “Queen of Creole Cuisine,” turned his family po-boy restaurant into an eloquent dining experience for the likes of Martin Luther King Sr., Ray Charles, President Barack Obama, and everyday citizens like Rep. SCALISE and I. This restaurant served as a safe place where African-Americans could dine when other establishments did not serve them.

Even in hard times, Mr. Chase’s faith did not waver. After Hurricane Katrina, he and his wife lived in a FEMA trailer across from their restaurant for more than a year until they could reopen their doors in 2007.

Because of Mr. Chase’s relentless dedication and service to the New Orleans community, his legacy will live on through his iconic restaurant, and through his beloved wife.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COM-  
MANDER MICHAEL F. BRINCK ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Commander Michael F. Brinck (USN Ret.), Deputy Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, upon the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of West Point, Iowa, Commander Brinck received a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from St. Ambrose University in 1968. Following his graduation, Commander Brinck entered the Officer Candidate School for the United States Navy. In 1969, he received his Navy wings and reported to Helicopter Attack Light Squadron 3 in the Republic of Vietnam in support of Riverine operations in the Mekong Delta. Fleet assignments include carrier deployments to the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mediterranean, flight instructor, three deployments in support of Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, the Naval War College,

Washington D.C. and assignments at the Navy Command Center at the Pentagon, the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. After two decades and a distinguished career, he retired from the United States Navy in 1988 with the rank of commander.

Commander Brinck began his career on Capitol Hill in 1995 as the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment, and Housing and continued to serve as a Subcommittee Staff Director for the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in the 104th, 105th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

Due to his steadfast commitment to his work and his expertise navigating the plethora of issues facing America’s veterans, Commander Brinck was named the Deputy Staff Director of the full Committee in 2013.

Throughout his tenure on the Committee staff, Commander Brinck faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—Bob Stump, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that his wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America’s servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Commander Brinck was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans’ education and training legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

During my tenure as Chairman, Commander Brinck was instrumental in creating the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program or VRAP which provided job training for in-demand occupations for nearly 100,000 unemployed veterans. He was also a tireless advocate in drafting and pushing legislation that would ensure that returning veterans received in-state tuition when attending public schools, which became a reality with the passage of the Choice Act in 2014.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Commander Brinck has been a dogged advocate for the interests of America’s veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Commander Brinck.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring him for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking him for his unyielding dedication to America’s veterans, and wishing him and his wife, Marla, all of the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN DRAWDY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Ann Drawdy on her tremendous service to the people of Florida. This month, Mrs. Drawdy will retire after serv-

ing more than a quarter century as a constituent service representative. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her service to Floridians and the Central Florida community.

The lives of hundreds of citizens have been changed for the better thanks to Ann’s knowledge and persistence in providing assistance with issues involving state and federal agencies. During her six years of service to the constituents in Florida Congressional Districts eight and ten, Ann assisted and closed over 200 constituent cases. Countless other constituent cases at the state level were the beneficiaries of her assistance during her time of service in the Florida Senate to Senators Dick Langley, Carey Baker and myself.

From asking for information or a status report on a pending case, or requesting clarification, to serving as a direct point of contact to liaisons in federal agencies, Ann was instrumental in our office successfully intervening on a person’s behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape.

It was a personal honor to have Ann Drawdy on my team serving Central Floridians. Her attitude of service and dedication to quietly assisting Floridians navigate state and federal agencies are a testimony to her kindness and humility. Ann’s character, life, and efforts will surely inspire others to follow her example of serving.

I am truly grateful for Ann’s faithful service to our state and her dedication to finding solutions on behalf of Floridians. Our community, our state and our country are better due to her service.

ANDREA BURCH

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Andrea Burch for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Andrea is currently a Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Lutheran Medical Center and has transcended expectations through her work both in the medical field and in leadership. During her nearly 25 years of nursing, Andrea has served in many roles, from certified nursing assistant to a critical care specialty nurse in neurosciences. She has also fulfilled several leadership positions, managing a variety of departments, initiatives, and committees.

Today, Andrea provides strategic direction for nursing professional excellence, quality and safety at Lutheran and serves as an advocate for staff and patients. She believes in collaborative, authentic leadership that helps nurses reach their highest professional potential. Andrea is a registered nurse with a Master’s Degree in Leadership of Healthcare Systems from Regis University, and she is currently pursuing a Distinguished Leader Executive Certificate from the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Burch for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON  
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE  
SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for

14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.—Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of 2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are

the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.  
CONDRON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condron upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condron has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawonda, New York, Mr. Condron completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Mr. Condron worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condron has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condron's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condron has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condron has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condron is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations

including serving as President of the Boy Scouts of America Redwood Empire Council, the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts, and the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Condron is also the Chair-elect of United Way of the Wine Country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Condron has made tremendous, long-lasting contributions to Sonoma State University and to improving opportunities for students in our community. He is a true friend of Sonoma State University and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 591 on final passage of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

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HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the First Church of God in Merced County. Their practice in faith and education has provided love and charity to the people of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley for the last century. The future is looking even brighter for this outstanding center of community faith in the years to come.

The roots of the First Church of God found humble beginnings in 1916, when the Bowen and Houser families moved from Lodi, California to Atwater to begin their fellowship. Their first church services were held in their own homes until they found the opportunity to rent the old Winton Community Hall for larger gatherings, with nothing more than dirt floors and handmade backless benches. By 1924, the church was able to raise their first building with a \$350 credit and payments of \$25 a month. That very building would now fit in the lobby of the First Church of God's current place of worship, which was built in 1961. The First Church of God's Christian Preschool was born in 1964 and has grown into one of the largest places of faith based childcare and in the Atwater-Merced area.

The services provided by the First Church of God and Christian Preschool are as commendable as they are diverse. Sunday school, bible studies, troubled youth outreach, marriage counseling, finance and debt management, and shared missionary services in 87 countries are only a few of the programs offered by the Church and Preschool.

The coming years will prove to be a fruitful time for this place of worship and education. Their undertaking of a \$1.2 million project to

furnish a new learning center, which will potentially double the enrollment of children in their facility over the next two years of operation. While it will certainly be challenging, their fellowship has said, "faith is tested and demonstrated in the midst of challenges God places in front of us. If we had everything we needed to start and/or finish, it wouldn't be faith—it would be fact."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the First Church of God for their remarkable service to the people of Merced County over the last 100 years. Their history illustrates the uncompromising will that individuals with big dreams can exercise when brought together with enough faith in God and community.

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MARY BERG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mary Berg for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

For more than 21 years, Mary Berg has served the Jefferson County community in many different capacities. She is currently the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is passionate about ensuring the safety and well-being of children and their families. Her actions at the local, state and national levels have promoted the expansion of child welfare training programs and systems of care as well as legislation impacting children and families.

Mary received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is also a graduate of the Leadership Jefferson County class of 2008. She has co-authored publications on teamwork and has presented at multiple state and national conferences. Her tireless efforts to enable Jefferson County to serve more vulnerable children and families have improved the community greatly.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Berg for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

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TRIBUTE TO JOEL HANRAHAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa native Joel Hanrahan upon his retirement from Major League Baseball (MLB) after a successful seven-year career, playing for 3 different MLB franchises.

Ever since the second grade, when his teachers or classmates would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Joel knew he wanted to be a baseball player. He became known to Iowans as a star pitcher for the Norwalk High School Warriors, later pitching for the University of Nebraska before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000. After

honing his skills in the minor leagues, he made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals on July 28, 2007. He earned his first win as a pitcher a week later against the St. Louis Cardinals. Despite his love of the game, Joel ultimately had to make the difficult decision to retire in 2016. During his career, he compiled a 22–18 record with a 3.85 earned-run average and 100 saves. He also earned a coveted position in the 2011 and 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star games.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joel for his years of dedication to a game he loves. I am certain that the drive that led him to become an MLB All-Star pitcher will lead to success no matter where his path takes him next. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF THE FALLEN OFFICER COLLIN ROSE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University's Police Department, who was tragically lost in the line of duty. The Wayne State University Police serve a significant portion of the City of Detroit in addition to the university, and Officer Rose performed his duties with distinction. The community will miss his courage and bravery.

Officer Rose established a reputation as a kind and caring individual dedicated to solving issues in his community. Rose was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he excelled as a standout football player in high school. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2010, he began his career in law enforcement as an intern for the Springfield Police Department in southwest Michigan. He then was hired as a cadet in the New Baltimore Police Department, after which he became a police officer at the Village of Richland Police Department. Rose then took a position with the Wayne State University Police, where he had an outstanding record of service and was known for his selflessness and dedication in protecting the city of Detroit and its citizens. Rose also served the community through his involvement with various charitable causes, including the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Rose's death at a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy. Officer Rose embodied the principles of service and duty, and having such a promising young man's life cut short is a tremendous loss for the law enforcement community and the city of Detroit. His sacrifice shows the extraordinary risks that our nation's police face on a daily basis, and my heart goes out to his family during this difficult period. Officer Rose is a true hero, and it is my hope that his family and the community find strength and come together to honor such an amazing life in the aftermath of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary life and

courage of Officer Collin Rose. Rose was a fine young officer who was committed to improving the Detroit community, and we honor his life and work as the community mourns his passing.

### TRUMP PROMOTES STRONG MILITARY

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a World War II Flying Tiger who served in India and China, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful father of four sons who served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I truly appreciated the remarks of President-elect Donald J. Trump in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on December 6, 2016 promoting our military and our military families.

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am here today for one main reason: to say thank you to the people of North Carolina.

You went out and pounded the pavement, organized your fellow citizens, and propelled to victory a grassroots movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I want to give a very special thank you to the incredible military families, service members and Veterans of North Carolina.

Your state's legacy of service is an inspiration to us all. North Carolina has produced many of the finest soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever seen.

Our men and women in uniform represent the very best of us. We must follow their example: working in unison toward a shared goal across every social, racial and economic line. They understand that to accomplish the mission, we must all be pulling in the same direction. And they know that we must leave no man or woman behind.

These patriots have shed their blood to defend our country in distant fields of battle across the Earth. Our debt to them is eternal and everlasting.

We salute their sacrifice, and we salute the flag they fought to protect.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It is a milestone that marks the ultimate sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. It is a reminder, too, of the valiant efforts of America's fighting men and women who have liberated millions from tyranny and oppression.

Now, today, our brave men and women are the first line of defense against Radical Islamic Terrorism—an ideology of death that slaughters innocent men, women and children.

In every generation, a new threat to freedom arises. And just as we defeated the threats we faced in generations past, so too will we defeat the forces of terrorism. We will prevail.

We stand here today just miles from Fort Bragg, the home of heroes.

Our Special Forces at Fort Bragg have been the tip of the spear in fighting terrorism. The motto of our Army Special Forces is 'to free the oppressed' and that is exactly what they have been doing.

At this very moment, soldiers from Fort Bragg are deployed in 90 countries.

Based in Fort Bragg is the 82nd Airborne Division—also known as The All-American Division.

We stand in awe of their achievements.

Not far from here sits forty-five percent of the entire United States Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune.

12,000 citizen-soldiers fill the ranks of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard. The National Guard rushed to the scene to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those recovering in its wake.

The military families in North Carolina are a national treasure, and it will be the duty of my Administration to ensure that we protect those who protect us.

That brings me to the second reason I am here today: to discuss our Action Plan To Make America Great Again—beginning with the rebuilding of our military and taking care of our Vets.

Here are the priorities that will guide our Military and Veterans Policy:

—All men and women in uniform will have the supplies, support, equipment, training, services, medical care, and resources they need to get the job done.

—The best care in the world for our Veterans, both at public VA facilities, as well as the right to see a private doctor.

—And finally, a commitment to only engage the use of military forces when it is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

From now on, it's going to be: America First.

We will stop racing to topple foreign regimes. Instead, our focus must be on defeating terrorism and destroying ISIS.

Any nation that shares these goals will be our partner in this mission.

We want to strengthen old friendships and seek out new friendships. Rather than a rigid dogma, we are guided by the lessons of history and a desire to promote stability: this destructive cycle of intervention and chaos must come to an end.

We seek harmony and goodwill among the nations of the world—and we believe that respect for mutual sovereignty helps form the basis of trust and understanding.

We build up our military not as an act of aggression, but as an act of prevention. We pursue and build up arms not in order to seek conflict, but in order to avoid conflict.

In short, we seek Peace Through Strength.

That is why, in my first budget report to Congress, I am going to ask for the elimination of the defense sequester.

We will show the world that America is going to be strong again.

But in order to succeed with our defense policy, we must find the right person to lead our Defense Department.

That is why I am proud to formally announce today my intention to nominate General James "Mad Dog" Mattis as the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Jim is a Marine Corps four-star general, the former Commander of U.S. Central Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. He led an assault battalion in Operation Desert Storm, led the Forces that went after the Taliban, and commanded the First Marine Division in Iraq.

He is one of the most effective generals and extraordinary leaders of our time, who has committed his life to his love for our country. General Mattis is the living embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis,' always faithful, and the American people are fortunate that a man of his character and integrity will now be the civilian leader atop the Department of Defense. Under his leadership, we will rebuild our military and alliances, destroy terrorists, face our enemies head on, and make America safe again . . .'

### HONORING 2017 SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state as they begin preparations to celebrate 2017 Somali Independence Day week next summer in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Annual commemoration of Somali Independence Day is the culmination of Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, which drew together more than 30,000 participants last July. Somali Week has grown into the Minnesota Somali communities' largest community event of the year and is one of the largest gatherings of the Somali Diaspora.

Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, this week-long festival unites people from around the world and around the state to share in cultural, entertainment and athletic events. The most notable of these activities include a multicultural soccer tournament known as 'The Cup of Nations,' hosted by Concordia University in Saint Paul and a family-friendly street festival on Somali Independence Day.

'Promoting Diversity through Unity and Inclusion' is the 2017 Somali Week theme established by organizers. Kajoog, a local Somali non-profit organization is leading efforts with other community partners to plan exhibitions, performances, and wide ranging panel discussions, aimed at uplifting the strengths of inclusivity. Kajoog Executive Director Daud Muhammad has forged strong collaborations with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Somali Museum of Minnesota, among many others to plan this vibrant festival.

In addition to organizing Somali Week, Kajoog has earned recognition by local, state and federal officials, as well as law enforcement for their effective job-training and positive youth programs, and efforts to combat extremism throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our nation. Please join me in paying tribute to community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and every day work to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

### RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Schools.

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award was designed to "recognize excellence

in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.”

The annual recipients include one representative from each of the nineteen metropolitan public school systems, a representative from the Washington metropolitan area private schools and a representative from the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools.

The winner selected from the Prince William Public School Division will also be named the Prince William County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 Prince William County nominees for The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Edward Abram, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Rebecca Anderson, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Amy Aylor, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Michael Ciampaglione, Bristow Run Elementary School.

Phyllis Cooke, Sudley Elementary School.

Andrew Cossaboon, Leesylvania Elementary School.

Sherril Croghan, Pattie Elementary School.

Adam Dove, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Carmen Hankerson, Neabsco Elementary School.

Toni Anne Harris, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Lisa Jacobsmeyer, Henderson Elementary School.

Elizabeth Johnson, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Stacy Ross, King Elementary School.

Roberta Wallingford, Ashland Elementary School.

Timothy Wilson, Williams Elementary School.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Christina Barcalow, Graham Park Middle School.

#### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Erin Anderson, Pennington Traditional School.

Stacie Bonat, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Dail, New Directions Alternative Education Center.

Stephen Dittmer, Battlefield High School.

Nancy Dow, Independent Hill School.

Carrie Gahagan, Osbourn Park High School.

Megan Hostutler, Patriot High School.

Lorri Jones, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Kieffer, Osbourn Park High School.

Ann Lightfoot, Potomac High School.

Stephanie Nash, Stonewall Jackson High School.

Juan Sampedro, Hylton High School.

Karen Shaver, Gar-Field High School.

Lauren Wilson, Hylton High School.

Alison Young, Forest Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the 2016 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award in Prince William County and in thanking them for their dedication to our children. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William

County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

#### RETIREMENT OF BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORTESE

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bell County Commissioner Richard Cortese. His extraordinary commitment to community service over nearly a quarter century reflects the best values of Central Texas.

A native son of Little River-Academy, a growing community in the heart of Central Texas, Richard has led a life devoted to causes bigger than him. Upon completion of his U.S. Air Force career, he returned home to build a ranch while continuing to dedicate himself to his community. In 1992, he was elected to county commissioner and later was active in the Texas Farm Bureau.

Even outside of his professional career, Richard has dedicated himself to his community. He has been active in the Young Farmers of Texas Association and even served as president of the Little River-Academy Lions Club. He has been a member and has acted as president or chairman of various associations and committees that worked to make Texas a great place to live. He has even been involved with the development of the consolidated 911 dispatch center in Bell County as well as the planning and construction of additional courts and jail facilities for Bell County.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Richard Cortese's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING JUAN R. LOPEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his tireless work as my District Director.

Starting in 2004, Juan R. Lopez began his career working as a Constituent Advocate in the United States Senate. In 2008, I was elected to serve Florida's Eighth Congressional District for the 111th Congress. I asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 111th Congress, Juan was instrumental to managing staff, casework, and assisting thousands of constituents. His work on behalf of veterans was outstanding.

When I returned to Congress in the 113th Congress, this time representing Florida's Ninth Congressional District, I once again asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 113th Con-

gress, Juan continued to excel at assisting my constituents and worked his way up to Deputy District Director, and in the 114th Congress, District Director.

As District Director, Juan was instrumental in assisting thousands of Floridians. In Juan's spare time, he ran for and won Chairman of the Orange County Florida, Democratic Executive Committee. Under his leadership, he helped guide the Orange County Democratic Party to wins in almost every local, state, and Congressional race in Orange County.

In recognition of all those in Florida that Juan has helped, I am honored to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 140TH RECRUIT CLASS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 47 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed eight weeks of EMT training and twenty weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Recently, members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal last year.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 140th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction.

It is my great honor to enter the names of the 140th Recruit Class into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Roberto C. Acha Melgar, Adam A. Boyd, Jr., Quincy D. Branch, Casey P. Braswell, Timothy G. Breslin, Jr., James M. Brittenham, Rachael A. Callison, Jesus E. Castro, Michael J. Coppersmith, James C.

Cox, Erica L. Cruikshank, Joshua A. Eimers, Preston R. Elder III, Caroline A. Evey, Daniel P. Fitzhenry, Joseph E. Gallo III, Rodne W. Getgen, Garrett A. Green, Taylor, A. Grigg, Bryan M. Haring, Brian C. Harris, Grant M. Higginbotham, Robert E. Hunt, Matthew G. Ifert, Michael C. Johnson, Brian A. Krause, Mark C. Langmead, Burke W. M. Latimer, Jacob T. Maund, Justen A. Moreland, Ali S. Najjar, Jacqueline C. Norris, Shonay L. Owens, Gracie J. Pak, Bo Lam P. Park, Harold I. Parra Romero, Roberto Rodriguez, Jr., Jordan P. Scheutzow, Ian M. Sebastian, Shaun M. Serich, Joseph M. Shipman, Marcus E. Tines, Thomas M. Tippett, Zachary J. Webb, Joel W. Whitney, Robert W. Wine III, Cristina-Michael M. Wittlinger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFESAVING  
EFFORTS OF JON PUTNAM AND  
LARHONDA BRYSON

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam of Concord, North Carolina. Their quick decision making and immediate action saved the life of a man who collapsed while working out at the West Cabarrus YMCA located in Concord. Their selfless actions embody the principles of the YMCA and we are extremely fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

On June 22, 2016, a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA was running on a treadmill when he suddenly collapsed. Both LaRhonda and Jon instinctively reacted to assist the man. Upon initial examination they discovered the man was not breathing and his pulse had stopped. At this moment, Jon began CPR while LaRhonda applied an automated external defibrillator. Shortly after they delivered a jolt from the device the man's pulse returned and he began breathing again. LaRhonda and Jon remained by the man's side caring for him until paramedics arrived and he was taken to the hospital.

It brings me great pride whenever I can share stories like this that showcase the character of individuals in our community. The rapid response of both LaRhonda and Jon is an embodiment of the selfless attitude and commitment to serving others that we should all strive toward.

The West Cabarrus YMCA is part of the Cannon Memorial YMCA network. Since its founding in 1908, the Cannon Memorial YMCA has a rich history of serving the people of Cabarrus County and has become a staple of the community. Having served as a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand the quality and commitment to excellence of its employees. Their commitment to the values driven and faith-based approach of the YMCA has made

their community a better place as it continues to serve the people in our community. Again, I am extremely proud of all of those at West Cabarrus YMCA and especially LaRhonda and Jon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the actions of LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam for their lifesaving efforts and wishing them well as they continue to serve our community.

TRIBUTE TO HANK BOHLING

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hank Bohling of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected to receive the 2016 Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award. Hank is the son of Lynn and Elaine Bohling.

The Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award is presented to an individual who is dedicated to community service and positively impacting their fellow citizens. The award is named in honor of Aaron Eilert, who was known throughout his community for giving back and graciously dedicating his time to others. Hank has been involved in the Holidays for Heroes program for the last seven years through the American Red Cross, collecting over 14,000 holiday cards, and distributing them across the globe. He is also active in a number of leadership projects throughout his community, including the local 4-H Club.

Mr. Speaker, Hank has made his state and his community very proud. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING ELIZABETH AND HOWARD GREEN, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two extraordinary parents, Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green of Winchester, Virginia. Due to their unwavering dedication to children in need, I nominated the Greens as Congressional Angels in Adoption this year.

The loving generosity of Howard and Elizabeth has formed a family of 12 children, seven of them adopted, who are now between the ages of 15 and 22, and five biological children, between 16 and 24 years of age. Their adopted children all came from difficult circumstances, yet they worked tirelessly to provide them a warm and loving home. Their first adopted child came from China when she was 15 months old; shortly thereafter they adopted six children from Ethiopia, four siblings ages 11, 9, 6 and 3, followed by two brothers, 6

and 7 years old. They identified at-risk children and took it upon themselves to change their lives for the better.

After having been raised by the Greens in a loving home with strong spiritual guidance, all 12 children are extraordinary. For instance, the oldest three adopted children are thriving in college at Virginia Tech, James Madison University and Hillsdale College; while their biological children have either graduated or are currently in college. Meanwhile, their five youngest children are still in high school. While the years have surely been filled with joyous moments, it has not always been easy. With all their children, the Greens have provided the necessary accommodations for all of them to succeed.

The story of the inspirational generosity on the part of Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green has been celebrated for many years in the Shenandoah Valley and is recognized nationally, including by my colleague, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS of Washington, whose husband was a Naval Academy classmate of Howard Green. I am honored to count among my constituents, Elizabeth and Howard Green, whose faith in a loving God has inspired them to become such amazingly generous and loving adoptive parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green. The Greens are stellar examples of the generosity of Americans, who have a long tradition of opening their hearts and their homes in adopting children from all over the world.

ANNE BURKHOLDER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Anne Burkholder for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Anne Burkholder has served the Jefferson County community for more than 50 years. Her passion for education began in Seattle as the daughter of two university educators. While in high school, she had the opportunity to visit 15 countries, spawning an international awareness and deepening her appreciation of the freedoms afforded by U.S. citizenship. After completing her degree at CU Boulder, Anne settled into Jefferson County with her husband, Steve.

Anne has improved the community as a teacher, tutor, sponsor and leader, and she currently serves on the boards of the Jeffco Schools Foundation and the American Association of University Women, Lakewood Branch. Five years ago, Anne co-founded the Parent-Child Home Program Jeffco, which just successfully completed its three-year pilot program.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anne Burkholder for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING J.P. JOHANSON, LENNOX KOHN AND JOHN THOMAS, V

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and John Thomas, V for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these three and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All three of our interns have made plans to pursue careers in public service. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and John Thomas, V for their service this autumn.

HONORING THE JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, rise today to honor the John Muir Land Trust, which earned Land Trust Accreditation status from the Land Trust Alliance in August 2016. The John Muir Land Trust is one of only 350 land trusts nationwide to receive this prestigious commendation.

The John Muir Land Trust began in 1989 as the Martinez Regional Land Trust in Contra Costa County, California. The Trust initially protected 150 acres of land in the Alhambra Valley, but its success soon attracted more supporters. Over the succeeding years, the renamed John Muir Land Trust grew to incorporate 13 properties throughout Contra Costa County and now protects 2,500 acres of multi-use land.

To demonstrate its ongoing commitment to future conservation, the John Muir Land Trust applied for formal accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. For a decade, the Land Trust Alliance has provided accreditation to land trusts that demonstrate success in supporting the public interest and that meet high conservation standards. The John Muir Land Trust's recent accreditation is a testament to its tremendous accomplishments and importance within our Contra Costa community.

The Trust's work ensures that people throughout our community have access to trails for walking, hiking and cycling while also preserving agricultural lands. The John Muir Land Trust protects air and water quality and preserves habitats for endangered animal and plant species. Recently, the Trust expanded its community engagement by creating the

POINTing to Success program to support STEM education for middle and high school students, enhancing students' education through exposure to natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the John Muir Land Trust conserves vital parts of our community's natural resources and provides residents with magnificent open spaces and an enhanced quality of life. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the John Muir Land Trust here today.

THE RETIREMENT OF PIETRO PARRAVANO FROM THE BOARD OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Pietro Parravano as he retires after 21 years of distinguished service on the board of the San Mateo County Harbor District. Pietro is as much an institution at the district as the docks, hoists and loading ramps that make the facility such a community treasure. His thoughtful guidance during his time on the board assured the public of good stewardship and a perspective based upon hands-on experience.

Pietro was first appointed to the harbor district board in 1995 and won re-election every four years thereafter. It is easy to see why he has earned the confidence of the public.

Pietro commercially fished the Anne B. out of Pillar Point Harbor for many years and remains a fixture at the Half Moon Bay farmers market. He knows the sea, the fishing industry, and the long-term needs of both. He is also sensitive to other public needs, such as the need for recreation and visitor-serving facilities at the two ports.

Pietro, originally from Princeton, New Jersey, moved to the West Coast in 1966 when his father spent a sabbatical at Stanford University. He began his career as a teacher but dedicated most of his life to commercial fishing and environmental advocacy. He served as President of the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association from 1988 to 1995. In 1997, he was one of two U.S. delegates to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers in New Delhi. From 1992 to 2004 he was a member of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2005, Pietro started the San Mateo County Food Alliance. He currently serves on the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, the Institute for Fisheries Resources, and the Culinary Institute of America/Singapore which brings students from Singapore to the Bay Area to learn about sustainable food sources.

His community service is legendary in Half Moon Bay and beyond. In 1996, Pietro was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for his Community Service, and in 1999, he was recognized as an Environment Leader when he was president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2008, Pietro was the fisheries representative at the opening of Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. In 2013, he was awarded the Margi Grant Heart of Hospitality by the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In sum, he is the "go-to" person in San Mateo County for sustainable food and good fishing policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pietro Parravano for two decades of public service and a lifetime of dedication to our oceans and sustainable fisheries. While Pietro is retiring from the Harbor District Commission, his contributions will continue to shape life on the coast and I have no doubt that he will remain active and an important voice in our community.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. DEPUTY MARSHAL PATRICK CAROTHERS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a great loss that my home state of Georgia experienced on Friday, November 18th.

On that day, United States Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers was killed in the line of duty while attempting to serve a warrant on a dangerous fugitive in Long County, Georgia.

At Marshal Carothers' memorial service, his son Paul remembered him, saying, "The day he went to heaven, he showed great heroism. But I believe he is a hero because of his character—because of who he chose to be every day."

I had the honor of meeting this man who, as a U.S. Marshal, protected our families and friends for 26 years. His legacy encourages us to reflect each day on who we choose to be.

I remain grateful for individuals like Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers who selflessly serve, and, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we keep his wife and five children in our prayers in the coming days.

EDINA GIRLS' SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving team for winning the Minnesota state title.

The Hornets' victory was a complete team effort as competitors from every grade level contributed to the win. Edina took the lead over their rivals after the third event and never looked back. Senior Rachel Wittmer led the way in swimming by winning the 50 freestyle for the fourth year in a row, and setting a new state record in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with her teammates. In the diving competition, freshman Megan Phillip defeated the defending state champion on her final dive to claim the title.

Excelling in swimming and diving takes incredible dedication, and their championship is a testament to that continued discipline. These athletes pushed themselves every day to shave hundredths of a second off their personal best or repeated dive after dive until it was perfect. When adding in schoolwork, family obligations, and other commitments, it is remarkable these student-athletes accomplish all that they do.



Mr. Speaker, once again, congratulations to the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVES CHARLES B. RANGEL AND CORRINE BROWN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the legacies of two of my esteemed colleagues, CHARLES B. RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN. At the close of this Congress, Representative RANGEL and Representative BROWN will be concluding a combined sixty-nine years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am truly appreciative and honored to have worked with these two dedicated and respected individuals. Today, I want to especially recognize their work for the Veterans Braintrust Forum, founded by Congressman RANGEL in 1988. The Veterans Braintrust Forum serves as a virtual advisory group for the Congressional Black Caucus on veteran's issues. This year's forum focused on the VA's Commission on Care report. I am so thankful for the unwavering commitment that these two Members of Congress have for our nation's military, veterans, and African Americans, and I am proud to call them my friends.

Representative RANGEL began his work in Congress forty-six years ago, and I am proud to have been able to work beside him. A Korean War veteran, he entered public service fighting for civil rights and military veterans. In 1965, he participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery and in 1971 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the first time.

During his tenure in Congress, Representative RANGEL provided decades of leadership on veteran's issues by increasing educational and health benefits for the Vietnam Era and Desert Storm veterans, securing the creation of the Harlem Veterans Outreach Center, and implementing tax protection for members of our Armed Forces and veterans. He also was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, an organization dedicated to advancing the global African American community.

Representative RANGEL is not the only one transitioning from the House at the end of this term. Over two decades ago Representative CORRINE BROWN and I began serving together in Congress. She has been an effective advocate for our nations' veterans. Her leadership on the House Veterans Affairs Committee has helped to ensure that veterans have the resources they need to live healthy and productive lives. She also spent her time supporting the concerns of women veterans and fighting to end homelessness among veterans. Through her efforts, the first African American Marines, the Montford Point Marines, also were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Representatives CHARLES RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN, as they enter this next chapter in both of their lives. The U.S.

House of Representatives will surely not be the same without their leadership.

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH MONASTRA DAVIS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, on November 24, 2016, the Midlands of South Carolina lost a beloved business leader and civic volunteer with the death of Judy Davis. As Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, she achieved extraordinary professional success. The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—Judith Monastra Davis, 57, of Columbia, South Carolina passed away unexpectedly on November 24, 2016 at Palmetto Health Richland following an extended illness. She was born on January 13, 1959 in Mansfield, Ohio to Basil Herman Monastra and Carmella Greer Monastra of Lexington, Ohio, who survive. She also is survived by her husband of thirty years, Gerald L. (Jerry) Davis, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina. In addition, she is survived by a brother, James Monastra and aunt, Carol Greer, both of Lexington, Ohio.

Judy earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Ohio Northern University, graduating summa cum laude in 1981. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The Ohio State University in 1984, where she also was recognized as the Moot Court Distinguished Oralist.

She began her corporate law career and met her husband at Lincoln National Corporation in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1984. They were married on March 15, 1986 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne where they have maintained their parish membership.

At Lincoln National, Judy worked in various legal, strategic planning, and domestic and international mergers and acquisitions positions over 10 years. She helped that company to develop and receive one of the first U.S. patents in the insurance industry for the use of artificial intelligence in the underwriting of life reinsurance and she led the spinoff of a subsidiary health insurance company in a billion-dollar public offering. Recruited to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina in 1995 as Vice President and General Counsel, her intellect, expertise, broad and deep experience, and emotional intelligence made her a valuable member of the corporation's senior leadership team. In 2007, she was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer where she served as the senior officer responsible for five of the corporation's subsidiaries including Companion Life Insurance Company, Companion Captive Insurance, Companion Property & Casualty Insurance Company, and UCI Medical Affiliates, as well as having three corporate divisions reporting to her—Law, Government Affairs and Corporate Marketing Communications. She also served as the corporation's Secretary.

Judy lived a full and engaging life as a champion for her community, leaving an indelible imprint. She served on the boards of directors and in leadership positions for many nonprofit, civic and educational entities, lending her gracious and genuine leadership style and skills to each organization.

In 2006, she was pressed into replacement service as chairman for the United Way of the Midlands campaign and helped to raise \$9.5 million. She worked tirelessly and shared her passion for connecting people and ideas with the United Way of the Midlands, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Trinity Housing Corporation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Columbia College and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, as well as many other organizations.

Judy was especially known and appreciated throughout the state as a mentor, cheerleader and champion to countless people from all walks of life for whom she served as an inspiration and role model. She always valued kindness and often would wake up early in the morning and ask her husband, "Who can I help today?" She believed that if you put yourself out there and convince others to join in, meaningful differences can be made with only modest efforts to improve people's lives. For colleagues and friends alike, Judy took it as a personal responsibility and challenge to find ways to lift people up and to help them to realize their untapped potential. She did this because it was an important part of who she was. It was never a job requirement.

A recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her professional and philanthropic efforts, in 2010, the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands recognized her as a Woman of Distinction. In 2011, Insurance Networking News (INN) named her one of six nationally recognized Women in Insurance Leadership winners. In 2014, Judy received the prestigious Humanitarian of the Year award from the United Way of the Midlands.

Her family wishes to express its deep and heartfelt thanks to the caring and loving staff at South Carolina Oncology Associates in Columbia, as well as to the other health professionals who contributed to her care over the past year.

At Judy's request, the family will hold a brief reception for her friends and colleagues on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new United Way of the Midlands Center at 1818 Blanding Street in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. A private, family interment service will be held later in Mansfield, Ohio. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the United Way of the Midlands Legacy Fund, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Columbia College South Carolina, and The Northern Fund at Ohio Northern University.

JESS WIEDERHOLT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Jess Wiederholt for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Jess Wiederholt has used her medical knowledge and selfless heart to not only to make a difference in Jefferson County, but on a global scale as she strives to improve the

well-being of HIV-positive women and children in Africa. Mother of seven—four of which were adopted from East Africa—Jess entered the pediatric health care world as a therapist, helping patients in Illinois and Kentucky for 10 years.

Today, Jess pursues her passion for collaborating with other mothers to help them dream, grow and unleash their full potential through her personal health and wellness business, Isagenix, which assists parents and families in Jefferson County in finding solutions for weight loss, healthy aging, energy, performance and additional income opportunities. In addition to her passion for empowering families and promoting healthy lifestyles, Jess takes her family to Ethiopia and Uganda each year to give business grants to single mothers who are HIV-positive. Through this act of servitude, Jess demonstrates her belief that every woman deserves to be empowered to live out her life with hope, dignity and confidence—regardless of surroundings or circumstance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jess Wiederholt for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

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TRIBUTE TO EVAN BURNHAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evan Burnham, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Evan is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Evan is known for being a naturally good test taker, and went into the ACT examination well-prepared. He has not yet decided what will be his field of study but his interests are chemistry and environmental science. With the work ethic he has displayed on his ACT examination, I am confident he will excel no matter what route he decides to take.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Evan for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Evan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 599 on final passage of H.R. 6392, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and two of its remarkable leaders.

For over 50 years FEA has served as the voice of Fairfax County educators. Throughout its history FEA has upheld its mission of service to educators while demanding the highest standards of education for the children of Fairfax County.

FEA leadership is largely responsible for setting the goals of the organization and focusing resources necessary to achieve those goals. Kimberly Adams, who has served as President of the FEA since 2013, has embraced the mission of the FEA and worked to expand community outreach programs to garner support for and understanding of the contributions of public education to the prosperity and quality of life for Fairfax County residents. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a fierce advocate for funding our school system as well as providing support to our educators.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand firsthand that the success of our local communities is tied directly to the quality of our school system. I have been proud to partner with the FEA on many occasions to ensure that Fairfax County public schools remain among the best in the country.

I have often said that public service is a noble profession and this is especially true when it comes to the issue of education. I commend Kimberly for her advocacy and thank her for lending her voice for these last three years as FEA President. Although she may be returning to her "former life" as a librarian, I have no doubt that she will continue to stay engaged in the important issues facing our community, our educators, and our children.

Succeeding Kimberly in the role of President of the FEA is Kevin Hickerson. I congratulate him on his election and wish him great success going forward. Kimberly's shoes will certainly be difficult to fill, but I have no doubt that Kevin will continue the progress that has been made by the FEA during the last 50 years.

It is possible to tell a great deal about the health of a community by the level of civic engagement that is exhibited by its residents. If the spirited conversations held throughout our community on education are any indication, then Fairfax County remains a picture of civic health. The efforts of Kimberly Adams, Kevin Hickerson, and the FEA are a large part of that, and I trust that they and the FEA as a whole will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and our students succeed for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kimberly Adams and Kevin Hickerson as well as all of the members of the FEA for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
WORK OF ROBERT I. THOMAS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the significant leadership of a selfless motivator and inspirational man, Robert Thomas. Robert Thomas touched countless lives in his storied career within the Dallas Independent School District as a teacher, coach and administrator. Though he is now passed, his attention to people will survive him.

Mr. Thomas is a real Dallasite and a native of one of the finest neighborhoods in south Dallas—Oak Cliff, or more specifically, "The Bottom." He attended Lincoln High School where he played football and ran track. After high school, Mr. Thomas went on to Wiley College for one year, before leaving to serve his country in the United States Army for two years. After his service, he returned to Wiley College, where he won two national championships in 1956 and 1957, and was named an All-American.

After his storied athletic career, he was determined to dedicate his passion for sports to the generation younger than he. In 1958, he became a physical education instructor at George Carver Elementary School, yet he would truly start his coaching career at Lincoln High School as a football and track coach in 1962. Robert would go on to enjoy a storied career in coaching and athletic administration work that included a staggering win record, city championships, two district championships and one co-championship.

In reward for his hard work, Robert was appointed to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for the Dallas Independent School District in 1982. He served in this position until 1993, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Athletics in 1993. He held this position until he retired in 2000.

Robert Thomas brought success in athletics to Dallas throughout his entire career. But more important than any of that, he touched the lives of so many young people, showing them that hard work can give them what they deserve, in a world with more resources than he ever enjoyed. He was never bitter, and always loving. He will be sorely missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Faye Thomas, parents, Hester and Lindon Thomas, sister Dorothy Thomas Mayes. He is survived by his three sons, Kenneth, Gregory and Ricky Thomas; brothers, L.T. Thomas, Wilson Thomas and Bernard Thomas; three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as by several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and the children and adults that loved him so in Dallas.

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CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF A.J.  
"TIM" RODENBERG

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Sheriff A.J.

"Tim" Rodenberg on a distinguished career serving the residents of Clermont County and southern Ohio.

With over 25 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership as the sheriff and assistant prosecuting attorney, Tim's involvement and acumen has been invaluable in helping make Clermont County a safe place to live and work.

A great American committed to service, Tim served on active duty as an officer with the U.S. Marines, during which he was appointed to the Commanding General's Honor List for outstanding academic and leadership performance.

Originally elected sheriff in 1997, Tim has effectively guided the Clermont County Sheriff's office into the 21st Century. He has been involved in everything from the Senior Visitation Program, a program that pairs deputies with senior citizens in the community, to the Summer Junior Police Academy, an introduction into police and emergency service work for middle and high school students. Tim has worked tirelessly to improve Clermont County over the years, devoted to the big picture and listening to the people he serves without expectation.

Tim also serves as a state certified police and corrections academy instructor and has taught criminal justice and legal courses at four Greater Cincinnati colleges and universities.

As he prepares to retire, I commend him for his hard work and leadership to make southern Ohio a better place. Our community is lucky to have someone so committed to service.

Thank you Tim, and God bless you.

RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327  
AMERICANISM AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 in Springfield, Virginia and the winners of its annual Americanism Awards. As combat veterans, members of this post understand the importance of patriotism and public service, and they have continued their legacy of service right here in our community.

Through programs like Adopt-a-Unit, clothing drives, America's Promise—Alliance for Youth, the March of Dimes, volunteering with local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops, and many others, nearly two million VFW members worldwide continue to contribute to their fellow veterans as well others in our community.

Each year VFW Post 7327 recognizes the winners of the Patriot's Pen, in which students from grades 6–8 are encouraged to examine our nation's history as well as their own experiences in modern American society. The VFW also recognizes the winners of the Voice of Democracy contest. Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy provides students from grades 9–12 the opportunity to voice their opinions on democratic ideas and principles through spoken essays.

VFW Post 7327 also recognizes Teachers of the Year, members of the local police and fire departments, and local businesses who have supported the military and veterans.

On behalf of the 11th District of Virginia, I commend the members and auxiliary of VFW Post 7327 for their ongoing service to our country and community, and I congratulate the following honorees on their awards:

PATRIOT'S PEN

1st Place—Melanie M. Jimenez.

2nd Place—Ella S. Harrison.

3rd Place—Grace F. Lemley.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

1st Place—Abigail E. Mills.

2nd Place—Cynthia L. Johns.

3rd Place—Diana L. Haemer.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Elementary—Donna Ruggles.

Middle School—Beauregard Patrick Fay.

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Master Police Officer James "JT" Frey.

Emergency Medical Technician Susan Yu.

Advanced Life Support Medical Technician Victor Popovich.

COMMUNITY AMERICANISM AWARDS

Kenneth Morrissette, Jr., Interstate International.

Matt Rose, The Forge Brew Works.

Bruce Donato, K&A First Aid and Safety.

John Blake, K&A First Aid and Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking VFW Post 7327 for its continued efforts on behalf of our community and in congratulating the honorees of the 2016 Americanism Awards.

TRIBUTE TO CAYDEN CODEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cayden Codel, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Cayden is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Cayden was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Knowledge Bowl, Mock Trial, Moody's Mega Math Challenge Team, swim team, National Honor Society's student tutoring committee, Valley High School show choir, Iowa Opus Honor Choir, Iowa All-State Orchestra, summer junior counselor at the Science Center of Iowa and the Plymouth Congregational Church Youth Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cayden for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF STRONGER TIES  
WITH TAIWAN

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President-Elect Trump on his phone call with the President of Taiwan last week.

Taiwan has long been a friend of America, a beacon of democracy in a complicated region. A phone call is not complicated.

I was fortunate enough to travel to Taiwan earlier this year and meet President Tsai. She is a balanced and judicious leader who is well aware of her nation's realities and promotes peace and prosperity with her neighbors. I would be honored if I could return the courtesy and extend some Texas hospitality to the President during her trip to South America in January and pledge to work with the new Administration to re-establish official diplomatic relations in Taiwan.

Our nation's reality is that Taiwan is our friend and we should nurture and value that relationship. Over \$67 billion dollars in trade flows between our countries and 148 sister cities connect us at a local level. A phone call doesn't change that.

RECOGNIZING LIZY PRICE AS AN  
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lizy Price for her tireless work as Director of Constituent Services.

During her time as a staffer in my office, Lizy managed our staff, casework, and the processing of over 3,000 constituent requests for assistance. Her commitment to improving the lives of constituents in my district resulted in the release of over a million dollars in benefit payments.

Lizy's dedication led to many families in our district securing much-needed answers and resolutions as they waited to be reunited with their loved ones. Whether they were parents adopting children from a foreign country or constituents with spouses, parents, or siblings hoping to immigrate to the United States, they were all aided through Lizy's tireless efforts.

Her work on behalf of veterans was also invaluable to many who felt they were being ignored in their hour of need. Veterans seeking immediate appointments at VA Medical Centers, veterans whose claims were among the many in the VA backlog, and veterans seeking aid and attendance benefits, were all grateful to not only have received help in obtaining answers, but grateful for her showing them the respect and attention they rightfully deserve for their service to our country.

Lizy's parents, Jorge and Martha, immigrated to New York City from Honduras. Together they raised four daughters, Lizy, Peggy, Esther and Patricia in The Bronx. Lizy attended the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the oldest continuously operating Catholic college preparatory high school in New York State. She has been a resident of Central

Florida since 2004 and is the proud mother of Alexander. Her grandson Elijah is the apple of her eye.

I am honored to recognize Lizy Price for her service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

MICHELLE POOLET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Michelle Poollet for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Michelle is the Co-Founder and President of Mount Vernon Data Systems LLC which focuses on database administration, OLTP engine performance tuning, database architecture and data modeling. She has created and delivered courseware on all facets of database systems for academic environments and corporate training facilities. Michelle has been part of IT and database management systems since 1965, on computers ranging from mainframes to PCs and beyond. She pioneered the computer programming world in the Master of Computer Information Systems program at the University of Denver and as a Zachman-Certified Enterprise Architect.

Michelle has been teaching and training since 1989 as adjunct faculty at the University of Denver and as a technical trainer with ProTech and UCI/AmeriTeach. She is the author of 13 books, almost 200 database articles, and innumerable white papers and blog posts on database design and programming. Michelle's technological endeavors make it easier and quicker for businesses to progress in the modern age of communication.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Poollet for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN MEMORY OF CATHY  
BLACKBURN NOVINGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are mourning the recent passing of Cathy Blackburn Novinger who achieved the highest levels of business, civic, and philanthropic success. Her affection for the citizens of South Carolina is evident from the following obituary published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 29, 2016:

CHERAW.—Cathy Blackburn Novinger passed away November 27, 2016 at her home in Cheraw, SC after a heroic battle with ovarian cancer. She was the CEO of Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and President and CEO of Novinger QTR, Inc.

Born April 7th, 1949 in Portsmouth, Ohio, she was the daughter of Leona Collingsworth Blackburn and the late Donald Everett Blackburn. She is survived by her mother;

her husband of 48 years, Robert L. Novinger; her son, Dr. Travis Novinger and daughter in law, Laurie Novinger; grandchildren, Taylor Novinger and Abbey Novinger; sister, Donna Blackburn Jumper and brother in law, Henry Jumper; niece, Cristie Russell; nephew, Tyler Russell (Sarah); great niece, Emma Grace Russell; and brother in law Dean Novinger (Lisa).

Cathy received her Business Administration Degree from Southeastern Business College and was a graduate of the Edison Electric Institute's Electric Utility Executive Management Program. She moved to her adopted city of Columbia, SC in 1968 where she went to work for SCANA Corporation as a file clerk and rose to Vice President at the early age of 32, retiring as Senior Vice President in 1999. Her career as a Senior Officer and Senior Public Policy Maker for SCANA included roles in economic development, communications, labor relations, governmental affairs, strategic planning, human resources and public relations. After retiring from SCANA, she was chosen to lead the state's new agribusiness association, Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and under her leadership for 16 years, the Council became a unified voice for South Carolina's largest industry of agriculture and forestry. It was also at this time she formed her consulting company, Novinger QTR, Inc.

After her diagnosis of ovarian cancer and seeing the need to educate women about this deadly disease, Cathy founded an ovarian cancer organization, today known as the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, which brings awareness to the symptoms and the importance of early detection. She served as the organization's Board chair since 2006. She began the Coalition's signature event, the Ovarian Cancer Butterfly Release which is held every September at the State House to honor and remember those affected by ovarian cancer. She became a symbol of inspiration and hope to women who were battling this disease.

An advocate for improving the quality of life in her community, Cathy earned a lifetime of achievements and honors including: the University of South Carolina Honorary Doctorate Degree of Public Service, 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, 2010 Ag Advocate of the Year, 2010 West Metro Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award, 2006 Ambassador of the Year, 1999 Order of the Palmetto, SC Historical Foundation Society Businesswoman of the Year, SC Schools Public Relations Association Outstanding Leader in Education, Ohio Council of Colleges Outstanding Private Career Graduate, SC Business & Professional Women's Career Woman of the Year, Columbia Metropolitan Magazine's Five Women of the Decade and Midlands Top 25 Influential Leaders. During her professional career, Cathy served on numerous Boards and Commissions including: Midlands Business Leadership Group, Advocates for Agriculture, SC Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, SC Office of Rural Health Board, SC State University Board of Trustees, USC School of Medicine Partnership Board, SC State Board for Technical & Comprehensive Education (past chair), Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (past chair), Lexington Medical Center Foundation Board, SC Civil Justice Coalition (past chair), SC Department of Commerce Executive Committee, Midlands Housing Alliance (past chair), The River Alliance Executive Committee, USC Dean's Council-College of Hospitality, SC Research Authority Board of Trustees (past chair) and Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties (past chair). On the national level, she served on the White House Council on Rural America as chair, Southern States Energy Board Utility Advisory Council, the U.S. Business

& Industry Council Board of Trustees and the Junior Achievement National Liaison.

Cathy lived her life devoted to her God, her family and her community. As much as she loved her work, she loved her family even more. Her legacy will live on in the paths she has blazed, the many lives she has impacted and her profound sense of service to others. We will miss her goodness and grace. The family would like to thank Dr. Greg Konduras, Lexington Family Practice; the staff at SC Oncology Associates, especially Dr. Terry Smith and Dr. William Merritt and nurses, Kathy Chavis and Mary Leitch; Ultra Med Plus, Cheryl Evans; Gentiva and the staff at Embrace Hospice, especially Jamie Perkins, Cathy's Administrative Assistant, NRS Sandy Boozer and the Eleventh floor, Palmetto Health Richland.

Funeral service will be held Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 2003 Charleston Highway, Cayce. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia. A visitation will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, 602 Meeting Street, Suite B, West Columbia, SC 29169.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 2nd Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Our Global Community" and will celebrate the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents were born in another country, more than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our different cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include the names of the following 2016 Annual Dinner honorees.

Walter Tejada, Former Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Tejada is well known for his extensive knowledge and experience on the issues of cultural outreach and public service. He has served in numerous leadership roles including as Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors and with the National Council of La Raza. Prior to his election to the Board, Mr. Tejada served in various positions with the League of United Latin American Citizens, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, the American Salvadoran Association of Virginia and the Virginia Latino Leaders Council, where he currently serves as President. He has received several awards for his work, including the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Award from the Center for Non-Profit Advancement

and the Legacy Award from the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Grace Community Clinic. Grace Community Clinic was opened in October 2013 by Dr. Tong S. Park and other leaders from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, which I am proud to represent. The clinic provides free medical services to 40–50 people each month. More than 40 volunteers support the Clinic, including five doctors as well as nurses, receptionists, and translators. In addition to primary care consultations, the Clinic offers limited referrals for free dental care to a nearby dentist, and free radiology and lab work through donations from INOVA and Fairfax Radiology. The clinic also makes referrals to specialists who provide low-cost care on an as needed basis.

Ibrahim Choudhary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth of Northern Virginia. The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, “love for all, hatred for none”, is a vision that it seeks to fulfill through peaceful dialogue and public service. Mr. Choudhary and the members of his youth group have focused their efforts on correcting misunderstandings and misconceptions about Muslim youth by serving their local communities through various projects, from food drives for the poor to handing out flyers with messages of peace. Local Ahmadiyya Muslim youths have also volunteered regularly with the Capital Area Food Bank to help hand out food to those in need in the DC Metro area.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region’s cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING MS. CAROL  
GIOVANATTO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonoma, California City Manager Carol Giovanatto upon retirement from an impressive career in local government that has spanned 41 years.

A native of Cloverdale, California Ms. Giovanatto graduated from Cloverdale High School and attended classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition to her work with the City of Sonoma, Ms. Giovanatto has brought her strong leadership skills to many committees and boards on which she serves.

During her tenure as City Manager, Carol was instrumental in addressing important city issues and preventing conflicts. Ms. Giovanatto negotiated a contract to preserve the historic Sebastiani Theater, formed a joint powers agreement for the Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District and proposed a sales tax measure to protect continued city services. A dedicated public servant, Ms. Giovanatto strengthened the economic development partnership with the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, created a grant funding program for non-profits, completed a new mobile home ordinance and raised the funds needed for the proposed community pool.

Ms. Giovanatto will be recognized long after her retirement for her foresight in identifying 22 measures for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and establishing the City of Sonoma as the first Evergreen City in Sonoma County. Ms. Giovanatto was a founding board member and past President of the Cloverdale Youth and Family Services Partnership, a member of the Leadership of Sonoma Valley Class of 2008, and a board member of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Giovanatto has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the people of the City of Sonoma. She is known for her unflinching kindness, loyalty and commitment to high ethical standards. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING DAVID FLORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn’t acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn’t let them down.

David’s positive impacts on the counties he’s served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County’s bond rating went from “low investment grade” to AAA, the highest rating available. He’s established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David’s commitment to excellence doesn’t stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he’s deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores’ work and contributions to his community. I’m sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

280TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 280th anniversary of the Union Fire Company. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736, the Union Fire Company was Philadelphia’s first volunteer fire company.

Dr. Franklin established the Union Fire Company as the very first fire suppression unit which universally responded when summoned. This overcame the issues surrounding prior firefighting clubs that existed in Boston, which also paid for fire wards or watchmen as early as 1711. The difference between Franklin’s Union Fire Company and the other clubs in Boston and New York was that Franklin saw the advantage of protecting all the homes and businesses of the community, not just those who had joined the club. Franklin formed the Union Fire company from roughly 30 volunteers from what is today the Old City section of Philadelphia. Their equipment included leather buckets, with strong bags and baskets (for packing and transporting goods), which were to be brought to every fire. All homeowners were required to have these leather fire-fighting buckets in their houses. Recognizing the efficacy of Dr. Franklin’s model, similar volunteer fire companies began to spring up throughout Philadelphia.

In the late 1860’s, Philadelphia city officials spoke of transforming Franklin’s volunteer service into a professional fire department to meet the demands of the ever-growing city. Finally, on December 29, 1870, Philadelphia city council enacted an ordinance to professionalize the fire service into a singular department. The Philadelphia Fire Department, administered by seven Commissioners chosen by the City Council, officially entered into service on March 15, 1871.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Congress to pause and reflect on the unquestionable courage of all firefighters throughout America, be they volunteer or professional. As we are indebted to the many thousands of America’s firefighters who died in the line of duty, I ask that the list of the 289 Philadelphia firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty be recorded with the year, rank, and company to which they served:

1994, Acey, Vincent, Firefighter, Rescue 01; 1960, Adgie, William, Lieutenant, Engine 54; 1962, Ahlers, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 71; 2003, Allen, James, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1964, Anderson, Albert, J, Fireman, Ladder 9; 1918, Anderson, John, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1975, Andrews, John, Firefighter, Engine 49; 1933, Arnold, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 44; 1921, Atkinson, George, Captain, Engine 36; 1965, Balkie, Alfred, Firefighter, Engine 61; 1954, Bando, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1892, Barnes, William, Hoseman, Engine 12; 1884, Barr, Phillip, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1961, Berg, Rolla, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1908, Berry, William Dick, Foreman, Truck 04; 1910, Bertolet, Harry, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1910, Bihlmire, William, Ladderman, Truck 01.

1961, Bordier, Raymond, Firefighter, Engine 06; 1905, Boyle, Aloysius, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1975, Brenek, Carroll, Firefighter, Engine 57; 1978, Brightcliffe, John, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1982, Brown, Stanley,

Firefighter, Engine 09; 1879, Burke, Francis, Ladderman, Truck B; 1960, Bushfield, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1969, Caldwell, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 35; 1975, Campa, Ralph, Firefighter, Ladder 19; 1875, Carlin, Francis, Ladderman, Truck A; 1910, Carroll, John, F., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1999, Casano, Eric, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1933, Cavanaugh, George, Ladderman, Truck 24; 2004, Champion, Tracy, Firefighter, Engine 54; 1899, Chance, William, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1991, Chappell, James A., Firefighter, Engine 11; 1884, Clayton, James, Foreman, Engine 18; 1900, Cocker, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 14; 1910, Collins, John, Ladderman, Truck 04; 1925, Connison, Walter R., Ladderman, Truck 12.

1900, Cook, John, Hoseman, Engine 21; 2009, Cospelich, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 08; 1913, Costello, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1907, Cox, John J., Asst. Foreman, Truck 04; 2014, Craig, Joyce, Firefighter, Engine 64; 1898, Craven, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1955, Crawford, Robert, Firefighter, Engine 26; 1985, Cronin, David, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1950, Crupp, John J., Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1901, Davis, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1910, DeHaven, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1896, Dever, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 20; 1999, Devine, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1874, Devitt, George, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1894, Dickel, George, Ladderman, Truck C; 1942, Doman, Francis J., Hoseman, Engine 59; 1954, Donahue, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 01; 1888, Donnelly, Felix, Hoseman, Engine 08; 1980, Donovan, William, Batt. Aide, Battalion 07; 1920, Dorff, Millford St., Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

1933, Douglas, Charles, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1918, Doyle, James, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1954, Doyle, James, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1895, Doyle, Michael, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1927, Duane, Thomas A., Lieutenant, Engine 05; 1899, Duffy, Hugh, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1943, Dugan, Joseph, Fireman, Fireboat 2; 1880, Dungan, George, Ladderman, Truck B; 1908, Dunlap, Samuel, Engineer, BC; 1967, Dusenberry, Wlm., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1910, Edelman, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1909, Ellinger, Alfred, Foreman, Engine 11; 1944, Ennis, James, Ladderman, Truck 14; 1910, Entwistle, Thomas, Asst. Foreman, Engine 21; 1881, Exley, Oliver, Ladderman, Truck E; 1975, Fagan, John R., Batt. Aide, Battalion 03; 1913, Fahey, Joseph A., Hoseman, Engine 32; 1901, Fells, James A., Foreman, Engine 49; 1922, Fisher, Albert, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1975, Fisher, Robert J., Firefighter, Engine 33.

1916, Fitzgerald, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1949, Ford, James, Captain, Engine 26; 1891, Forsythe, James, Driver, Engine 11; 1933, France, George, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1916, Fredericks, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1938, Friedenberger, W., Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1886, Friel, Edward D., Firefighter, Engine 27; 1982, Gallagher, Kenneth, Firefighter, Ladder 21; 1929, Gallop, William, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1955, Garrett, Leonard, Firefighter, Engine 44; 1894, Geissel, George, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1886, Gibson, John, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1922, Gilloway, Thomas J., Ladderman, Truck 02; 2013, Goodwin, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 53; 1934, Gordon, Frederick, Ladderman, Truck 11; 1937, Gormley, John B., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1906, Gray, James B., Ladderman, Truck 09; 1919, Green, John J., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1952, Guenther, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1952, Hacker, Allen, Firefighter, Ladder 08.

1875, Hanley, James C., Ladderman, Truck D; 1887, Harbauer, George, Ladderman, Truck D; 1894, Hart, Joseph W., Hoseman, Fireboat; 2004, Harvy, Derrick, Lieutenant, Engine 72; 1940, Hassell, Thomas, Firefighter, Boat 2; 1897, Heller, William, Engineer, Engine 01; 1986, Henz, Harry, Firefighter, Engine 33; 1902, Hetzell, Charles, Ladderman, Truck 02;

1900, Hicks, John, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1877, Hill, John, Ladderman, Truck C; 1964, Hiller, Carl, Firefighter, Engine 08; 1915, Hillman, John R. Jr., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1991, Holcombe, David P., Captain, Engine 11; 1954, Holtzman, Charles, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1872, Humphreys, David, Engineer, BC; 1997, Hynes, James, Firefighter, Engine 63; 1976, Iannacone, Richard, Firefighter, Ladder 34; 1975, Iaquina, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 55; 1919, Innes, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1958, Jackson, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 22.

1915, James William F., Batt. Chief, Battalion 6; 1886, Johnson, John, Ladderman, Truck B; 1926, Jones, Charles G., Hoseman, Engine 34; 1926, Jones, John C., Captain, Engine 50; 1954, Junod, Bernard, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1910, Kalberer, John, Foreman, Engine 23; 1933, Kasper, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1905, Kelly, James, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1919, Kelly, Thomas, Lieutenant, Engine 21; 1961, Kennedy, Robert, Lieutenant, Photo Lab.; 1909, Keyser, Robert C., Foreman, Engine 20; 1888, Killen, Robert, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1913, King, Frank L., Hoseman, Engine 23; 1877, King, Patrick E., Driver, Engine 22; 1966, Klemmer, Albert, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1895, Klinberger, C., Hoseman, Engine 02.

1954, Kline, Thomas, Deputy Chief, Division 2; 1900, Knouff, Edward, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1984, Konrad, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 25; 1962, Krewson, Lynford, Batt. Aide, Battalion 11; 1949, Krol, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1919, LaGrand, Harry, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1939, Lawson, James J., Hoseman, Engine 19; 1933, LeHart, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1901, Lehman, George, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1938, Limaka, John, Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1974, Long, Walter, Batt. Chief, Battalion 06; 1892, Lowery, Francis M., Ladderman, Truck D; 1973, MacDonald, Warren, Firefighter, Lad. 20 [Eng. 65]; 1898, Magee, James, Hoseman, Engine; 1954, Magrann, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 3; 1973, Malley, Robert F., Firefighter, Engine 24; 1904, Malloy, William, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1928, Mangarano, Silvio, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1942, Martin, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 12.

1904, Mason, Edwin, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Matchinsky, George, Ladderman, Truck 07; 1969, McAlister, John, Firefighter, Engine 13; 1991, McAllister, Phyllis, Firefighter, Engine 11; 1876, McClintock, Hugh, Engineer, BC; 1911, McClister, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 52; 1928, McConaghy, George, Batt. Chief, Battalion 1; 1910, McConnell, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1889, McCuen, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1901, McCullen, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1997, McElveen, Terry, Lieutenant, Engine 63; 1894, McFarland, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1930, McGee, Daniel C., Hoseman, Engine 49; 1915, McGowan, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1896, McGranaghan, Hugh, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, McIntyre, Hugh, Firefighter, Engine 56; 1965, McIntyre, Joseph, Firefighter, Boat 3; 1963, McKernan, John, Firefighter, Ladder 14; 1976, McSloy, Bernard, Firefighter, Ladder 28; 1918, Merges, Charles C., Lieutenant, Engine 45.

1953, Meskill, James, Captain, Battalion 4; 1925, Metzger, Charles H., Hoseman, Engine 25; 1925, Minnick, John R., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1940, Monaghan, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1873, Mooney, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1912, Moore, James, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1919, Moorehead, Robert, Lieutenant, Engine; 1913, Moritz, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1954, Mortimer, Louis, Captain, Battalion 9; 1955, Mumbauer, Arthur, Firefighter, Engine 17; 1926, Murdock, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 34; 1960, Murphy, David J., Firefighter, Ladder 24; 1998, Murphy, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 01; 1937, Murray, George J., Hoseman, Engine 20; 1891, Murray, John, Asst. Foreman, Truck F; 1922, Murray, Patrick A., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1933, Mur-

ray, Peter, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1940, Murtha, James, A. Hoseman, Engine 30; 2012, Neary, Robert, Lieutenant, Ladder 10; 1954, News, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 6.

1942, O'Brien, William, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1874, O'Neill, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Park, Samuel A., Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, Parker, Roger, Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1946, Parsons, George R., Ladderman, Truck 08; 1910, Pass, Thomas M., Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1922, Paxson, Edward T., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1894, Peck, John, Foreman, Engine 39; 1903, Pflueger, Albert, Hoseman, Fireboat Stuart; 1971, Pietrak, Constantine, Captain, Engine 35; 1928, Piper, Henry, Batt. Chief, Battalion 9; 1918, Pollick, James, Hoseman, Chemical 1; 1975, Pouliot, James, Lieutenant, Engine 20; 1907, Presco, Stephen, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1879, Raymond, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 07; 1994, Redmond, John J., Firefighter, Ladder 11; 1930, Rein, Paul, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1920, Rishall, Ward A., Driver, Fire Hdqtrs.; 1905, Robinson, William J., Hoseman, Engine 28; 1918, Roller, Samuel G., Hoseman, Chemical 1.

1947, Rothfuss, Jacob, Hoseman, Engine 38; 1970, Rotondo, Vincent, Batt. Chief, Battalion 13; 2004, Rubio, Rey, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1895, Ryder, Joseph F., Hoseman, Engine 18; 1946, Saraullo, Vincent, Hoseman, Engine 46; 1898, Schimmel, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1939, Schultz, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 09; 1924, Schulze, George, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1951, Schwartz, Charles, Lieutenant, Ladder 23; 1920, Schwartzkopf, Edw., Batt. Chief, Engine 26; 1955, Senderling, George, Firefighter, Rescue 04; 1963, Senior, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 20; 1895, Sergeant, William, Foreman, Engine 32; 1902, Seveall, William, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1945, Shane, William, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1899, Shea, James, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1932, Sheppard, Curtis C., Hoseman, Boat 3; 1920, Sherman, Ambrose, Hoseman, Engine 53; 1889, Showers, George, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1941, Silbert, Joseph W., Captain, Engine 03.

1937, Slinkard, Oscar, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1977, Smedley, Edward T., Firefighter, Lad. 28 [Eng. 58]; 1909, Smith, Eugene, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1890, Snyder, Charles, Foreman, Engine 16; 1900, Sowney, James, Foreman, Engine 48; 1953, Spencer, William, Captain, Engine 19; 1878, Spisky, Wm., Foreman, Engine 2; 1914, St. Ledger, George, Lieutenant, Engine 25; 1896, Stagart, William, Engineer, District 03; 1961, Steger, William, Lieutenant, Engine 31; 1899, Steinkle, George, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1919, Stevenson, Albert, Batt. Chief, Battalion; 1976, Steward, David, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1951, Stewart, Charles, Lieutenant, Engine 50; 1948, Stewart, Howard A., Batt. Chief, Battalion 11; 1918, Stewart, James D., Captain, Truck 06; 1910, Stewart, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1965, Stewart, Thomas F., Firefighter, Rescue 12; 1943, Struble, David, Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1907, Sullivan, John J., Hoseman, Engine 11.

2012, Sweeney, Daniel, Firefighter, Ladder 10; 1926, Sykes, John J., Hoseman, Engine 50; 2004, Taylor, John, Captain, Engine 28; 1893, Taylor, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 14; 1941, Thumm, William, Hoseman, Engine 58; 1912, Titus, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 19; 1913, Tobin, Michael J., Captain, Engine 24; 1909, Toner, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 18; 1954, Tygh, James F., Firefighter, Engine 29; 1904, Vaughan, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 28; 1949, Vegenberg, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1942, Vernon, John, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1954, Vivian, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1961, Walsh, Walter T., Firefighter, Engine 02; 1969, Wannop, Thomas, Firefighter, Eng. 73 [Lad. 13]; 1976, Welsh, Aloysius, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1973, Welsh, John, Firefighter, Ladder 05; 1955, Wendt, Charles, Captain, Engine 55; 1912, Wentz, George, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1965, Weres, John F., Firefighter, Ladder 07.

1919, Wiest, George S., Jr., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1975, Wiley, Joseph R., Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1920, Wilfrin, Harry, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1949, Wilkinson, Ray, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1884, Williams, Henry, Hoseman, Engine 27; 1907, Wilson, Charles E., Foreman, Engine 11; 1945, Wilson, Howard, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1954, Wilson, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1918, Wirth, Harry, Lieutenant, Engine 41; 1910, Wittig, Gustave, Foreman, Engine 15; 1942, Wolf, Frank W., Hoseman, Engine 33; 1872, Wolf, George W., Ladderman, Truck A; 1944, Woodruff, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 30; 1880, Woolston, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1991, Yale, Stephen D., Firefighter, Ladder 29; 1951, Young, Frank J., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1919, Zorr, Charles, Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

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HONORING RONDO PLAZA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize residents of the historic Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota as the community comes together to seek hope and healing. Earlier this fall, it was an honor to join community leaders to break ground on a Rondo Commemorative Plaza as a first step toward reconciliation for this neighborhood that was torn apart during the construction of the National Interstate Highway System in the 1960s. Like so many predominately black urban neighborhoods around the nation, cultural, social, and political trauma stemming from this civic wound still scars our community today.

Old Rondo was Saint Paul's largest and most prominent African American community centered around a once thriving street called Rondo Avenue. From the 1900 to the early 1960's African Americans migrated from the south to seek good jobs and Saint Paul's rich and vibrant quality of life. Generations created and invested in businesses, schools, civic organizations and families.

When plans were made for a National Interstate Highway System, people of color, those of limited means or political representation were not at the table. Designs for Interstate 94 landed squarely on Rondo. Over the cries and protest of its residents, bulldozers were brought in, and Rondo Avenue and the homes and businesses nearby were razed. This tight-knit community was devastated. During the decades since the freeway was built, longtime residents have worked hard to rebuild a community lost. Thanks to them today the spirit of Rondo's neighbors still burns bright.

Immutable leaders like Marvin "Roger" Anderson, Floyd Smaller, Nathaniel Khaliq, Debbie Montgomery and countless others have brought tireless dedication and commitment to restoring the Rondo spirit and community. They've begun successful local festivals like Rondo Days and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival which bring community together in new ways to celebrate and chart a new future.

While, nothing can be done to undo the injustice that was done to the Rondo community more than four decades ago, that doesn't mean nothing should be done to help our residents remember our history so that we don't repeat it again. Anderson and other Rondo leaders are planning the Rondo Commemora-

tive Plaza as a tangible place to acknowledge and confront the dark chapter in Saint Paul's relationship with its African American community. It will be a place to remember the vibrant Rondo neighborhood, and continue moving forward into the 21st century—with all voices at the table.

This plaza will be a beautiful community gathering spot to learn about Rondo through written and oral presentations, music and art. It will serve as a social gathering place for all generations, for visitors to appreciate and remember the history of Rondo and the strength of residents that lives on.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the strong will and unassailable pride of the Rondo community as they build the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. We look forward to the grand opening of this special place and the big step in healing and reconciliation of the past.

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TRIBUTE TO ARJUN GANGA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arjun Ganga, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Arjun is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl, tennis team, the Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, student government, National Council on Youth Leadership, and the Silver Cord Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Arjun for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill is not perfect, but it makes important progress on key health and addiction treatments that will help people in Maryland and across the country.

Maryland's drug poisoning death rate is higher than the national average, with both urban and rural areas facing the scourge of opioid addiction and death. This bill will provide \$1 billion in funding to states for new pro-

grams to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. It also takes critical steps to improve our nation's mental health system by reauthorizing several grant programs aimed at crisis response, behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care, and diversion from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

Additionally, the 21st Century Cures Act aims to improve the discovery, development, and delivery of medical treatments. It creates incentives for new scientists to begin their career in research, requires more input from patients, and modernizes clinical trials—all of which will help advance treatments for rare diseases such as childhood cancer.

The bill allocates over \$6 billion in new investments to implement vital health priorities such as the President's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative that will help us to better understand the human brain and could lead to cures to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Additionally, the funding will go towards the President's Precision Medicine and the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot Initiatives by dedicating \$4.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The inclusion of \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will help make its approval process more efficient and accelerate treatments to patients. Maryland is proud to be home to so many federal agencies that are leading the fight to improve the health of all Americans, and I will keep fighting to provide the resources they need in this effort.

Furthermore, the package includes legislation I authored—Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act. It will create a neurological disease surveillance program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which would provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding factors of neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

While the bill includes important bipartisan provisions, I am concerned that this bill includes far less funding than what was included in the Cures package considered by the House last year. Additionally, Congressional Republicans refused to allow for the funding in this bill to be mandatory. Instead, Congress will have to vote annually to make the funding available as part of the appropriations process—the American people must hold us accountable to deliver on this promise. Finally, I still have concerns with some provisions that might impact patient safety, but I understand that FDA worked with Congress on the provisions that relate to their agency to provide feedback—much of which was incorporated. I look forward to continuing to work with the FDA through implementation to safeguard patients.

As a country, we must work together to combat drug addiction and prioritize medical research. The Cures Act moves this effort forward, but we are far from finished.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 600 on final passage of S. 294, the National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 Washington Post Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Manage effectively.
2. Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
3. Foster cooperation between the school and the community.
4. Maintain a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff.
5. Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.
6. Encourage team spirit.
7. Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.
8. Continue to play an active role in the classroom.
9. Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the Year Award.

Neil Beech—Osborn Park High School.  
Andrew Jacks—Ashland Elementary School.  
Michael Lint—New Dominion Alternative Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING COLLEEN AND RICHARD DAVIS, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce you and my colleagues to Colleen and Richard Davis, constituents of mine from the Shenandoah Valley in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia who have provided extraordinary support for mothers in crisis and their children.

I nominated Colleen and Richard Davis for the Angels in Adoption program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute this year because, even with three children of their

own, including one special needs adopted child, Colleen and Richard Davis opened their home to two infants in need.

Colleen had been dedicating her time and energy to residents of the New Eve Maternity Home in Winchester, Virginia, a home for pregnant women in need. At the New Eve home, Colleen met a young woman with twin newborn boys who was having difficulty caring for her babies. Colleen and Richard generously offered to take the twins into their home and care for them until the mother was able to provide a stable home.

For more than two years now, Colleen and Richard Davis have welcomed these two children into their family and have raised them as their own. These acts of extraordinary generosity are inspired by a sense of loving compassion for their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, stories of unsung heroes like Colleen and Richard Davis are taking place throughout our nation and I ask that we remember with gratitude these “Angels in Adoption” who are making a significant difference in our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colleen and Richard Davis, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose R. Rodriguez for his tireless work as Director of Operations and Grants Coordinator.

I first met Jose when he began an internship in my office in 2013 and from the beginning he stood out as an exceptional worker. After only a few weeks, he was hired as Constituent Services Representative where he helped many of my constituents and their families with housing, immigration, and veterans issues. He was part of the team of case-workers that helped recover and save over \$500,000 for residents of Florida’s Ninth Congressional District.

After a few months on the job, he proved to be a valuable asset, capable of handling multiple roles with great knowledge and skill. For this reason he was promoted to Director of Operations, where he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing the administrative operations of my district offices. He also served in a dual role as Grants Coordinator and helped many local municipalities and non-profit organizations seek federal funding. Jose was able to help bring over \$7 million dollars in federal funds for various local organizations, including money for education and first responders.

As further proof of his tenacity, Jose was able to complete his law degree while working fulltime and raising two beautiful children, Josue and Deborah.

As Jose’s tenure in my office comes to an end, I want to recognize his service to my office and the community, and I wish all the best to him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLEN PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON THE DATE OF ITS PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary Fundraiser. The Allen Park Historical Museum has served as an important venue for the metro Detroit community to educate individuals about the background of historically significant events that have shaped our country.

Located in a farmhouse built in 1888, the Allen Park Historical Museum has provided Allen Park and the surrounding communities with a free and accessible forum to learn about the history of the city and pivotal events in American history. The Museum displays police and firefighter memorabilia as well as military artifacts and cultural objects like furniture and toys that showcase life from different eras. In addition to regular exhibits, the Allen Park Historical Museum also periodically sponsors fundraisers to engage with the community while providing resources for the museum. These additional events allow historians and other experts to further explore our nation’s heritage in different contexts.

The Allen Park Historical Museum not only serves as a venue for residents of Allen Park and surrounding areas, but also provides important resources that help educate southeast Michigan about historically significant events. The underwriting of experiences like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day underscore the community’s commitment to ensuring that critical milestones in American history are placed in the proper context. It is heartening to see the Allen Park community play a leading role in promoting American history, and I am confident that the museum will continue to host engaging and relevant exhibits that educate and entertain individuals of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Day fundraiser. The museum provides cultural enrichment through its documentation of historical events through its exhibits.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DERMODY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Dermody, Principal of Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) Association.

Jim has been an outspoken advocate for ITAG programs at Lewis Central Middle School, recognizing that success requires participation from the whole school, not just special ITAG instructors. He utilizes partnerships



with each teacher in the middle school to ensure they have the resources and training to promote and encourage ITAG students. It is an honor to represent educators like Jim, who take the extra steps to ensure student success. ITAG's 44th Annual Conference officials noted that Jim Dermody believes "learning isn't about books, worksheets, and presentations. It's about using learning to improve the world."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jim for being named the ITAG Administrator of the Year and for shaping our future generations into bright, young leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

NORMA ANDERSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Norma Anderson for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Norma Anderson, former Colorado State Senator and Jefferson County resident since 1950, served as a legislator for nearly 19 years helping to improve the education system, transportation planning, criminal justice reform and healthcare policy. Norma has served her community in many capacities including on numerous boards and committees.

Norma was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1986 where she prioritized the needs of her community through her support of the School Finance Act of 1994 and the Third Grade Literacy Act of 1996. She sponsored other education legislation including the College Opportunity Fund and accountability for K-12 schools. Norma also helped establish the Colorado Department of Transportation's 20-year transportation plan, sponsored Lifetime Parole and Probation for Sex Offenders, and assisted in the restructuring of the Departments of Social Services and Institutions saving Colorado ten million dollars. From 1997 to 1998, she served as the House Majority Leader, and in 2003 she served as the Senate Majority Leader, making her the first woman in Colorado history to serve in this role in both houses. Norma always kept her commitment to Jefferson County and was instrumental in promoting progress in Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Norma Anderson for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO NORANNE DOWNS,  
P.E.

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize and honor Ms.

Noranne Downs, P.E. as she marks 25 years of service with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

After eleven years of public works experience with the City of Daytona Beach and in the private sector, Ms. Downs was hired by FDOT in September of 1991 as a project manager. Her talent and ability were recognized, and in October of 2006, Ms. Downs was named District Five Secretary.

Soon after her joining FDOT 25 years ago, I was honored to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Florida's Seventh Congressional District and assigned, at my request, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. While we worked together prior to this, our shared focus of maintaining Central Florida's infrastructure and preparing our region for the future cemented our bond and our friendship.

For over two decades, Noranne and I worked on the many transportation projects important to our community. Together we helped bring our region into the 21st Century and laid a solid foundation for Central Florida's infrastructure to thrive in the future. In addition to working to meet the Transportation requirements of one of America's fastest growing regions, I am extremely proud of our work together on projects such as SunRail which brought fixed commuter rail service to the region, the I-4 Ultimate and Beyond the Ultimate projects which will increase capacity and reimagine the main interstate roadway serving our area and updating our roadways and traffic management systems with the latest technologies to most effectively and efficiently manage traffic flows. Noranne played an integral role in these projects and so many more.

It is with much appreciation and admiration that I recognize my friend and a great public servant, Noranne Downs at this milestone in her career. It is also with regret that Noranne will be retiring from her position at FDOT in January 2017. Her pivotal work has truly left an indelible mark on Central Florida and our State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Noranne Downs for her 25 years of service to our community and at FDOT, and in wishing her the best as she turns the page of her remarkable career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEGGY  
KIRK BELL

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Margaret Anne "Peggy" Kirk Bell who passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bell family as they mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman.

A native of Findlay, Ohio, Mrs. Bell dedicated her life to sharing the joys of golf with those around her. At the age of seventeen, she picked up the sport that would transform her life and define her legacy. Mrs. Bell would go on to establish what has been described as "one of the best amateur records ever compiled" before becoming a charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association

(LPGA) and competing for several years professionally.

Best known as a teacher of the game, Mrs. Bell's reach expanded around the world as she shared her passion with golfers of all ages and abilities. Her achievements include being named LPGA Teacher of the Year, Golf Digest's "One of the Six Best Women Teachers in the World," and winning the first ever LPGA Senior Championship. Her lifetime of dedication and love for golf was recognized several times including when she received the Bob Jones Award in 1990, which is the United States Golf Association's highest award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

In 1953, the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself to Mrs. Bell and her husband, Warren "Bullet" Bell, when they purchased Pine Needles Golf Course in Southern Pines, North Carolina. From there the couple transformed the golf course to what is today one of the premier golfing destinations in the world. Mrs. Bell quickly became a staple at the resort, taking a hands-on approach to its management and personally investing her time and effort in the lives of its staff and visitors. On any given day at the course you could expect a challenging round of golf and the warmest of welcomes from a smiling Mrs. Bell. Her focus was always to serve others and make certain that everyone was having fun.

Compassionate, kind, and loving, Mrs. Bell's impact resonated through the entire sport of golf. She served as both a pioneer of the game and teacher for future generations. To say that she will be missed would be a gross understatement. While we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman, there is no doubt that her legacy will continue to be celebrated for generations to come. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Bell family, especially her children, Bonnie, Peggy Ann, and my dear friend, Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mrs. Peggy Kirk Bell.

REMEMBERING TERRY BELCOE

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terry Belcoe, who passed away on Friday, September 23, 2016, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Belcoe was born in Mount Vernon, Washington on April 19, 1956, and spent most of his life in Bellingham, Washington. After completing his Associates degree at Whatcom Community College, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Administration and Accounting, and later his Master's in Business Administration at Western Washington University.

Throughout his career, Mr. Belcoe was known for forging partnerships to improve the community. He served as the Board Chair of the United Way of Whatcom, Skagit County Community Action Agency, United Way of Skagit County and the Oversight Committee for Leadership Skagit program. His advocacy extended to acting as a guest speaker and mentor to students at WWU and volunteering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Whatcom County.

In line with his passion for fighting for children in need of nutrition and housing, Mr. Belcoe actively engaged with legislators and communities to support low-income families. Recently, he celebrated 15 years as the President and CEO of North Coast Credit Union in Whatcom and Skagit counties and in October of 2016, he was selected as the Washington Credit Union Advocate of the Year, but unfortunately he passed away less than three weeks before the honor could be presented.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Belcoe was a dedicated public servant and I would like to honor him for his many contributions to our community and our state. My thoughts are with his partner Karen, his daughters and his sister. Terry will be greatly missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 1st and 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted:

On Roll Call Vote 594, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 595, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 596, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 597, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 598, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call Vote 599, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 600, I would have voted No.

#### HONORING ERICA STRIEBEL

### HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my Chief of Staff, Erica Striebel, for her service and commitment to the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, and to our country.

For the last 15 years, Erica has been one of my closest advisers. She was a sounding board for me on legislative issues as Congress fought through many difficult challenges facing our country. Erica has been my chief strategist during my time on the House Appropriations Committee and my right hand for my work on the Defense Subcommittee.

The late management consultant Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Fortunately for me, my staff, and the people I have had the privilege to represent, Erica is both an excellent manager and an inspiring leader. She has a special talent for seeing around corners to identify the next challenges and leading others to solutions.

Erica's devotion to the servicemen and women who protect our nation at home and around the globe sets an example for all to follow. Erica Striebel is a patriot. She values those who serve today and respects the veterans of yesteryear. Her knowledge was acquired through her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Security Policy from The George Washington University and her Mas-

ter's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. She shares my strong belief that national security is our country's number one priority. Erica fights on the policy front to ensure our military can effectively defend the United States of America. An integral portion of her work—traveling to military bases to meet with commanders—is a vital part of how Erica makes sure that she is prepared to fight for what is needed to keep our military the best trained and best equipped in the world. Military leaders in Northeast Florida at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport remind me often that their confidence in Erica is unique. Her command of the missions and the intricacies of military assets is well respected. She is the staffer who makes things happen. Also, in a spirit of teamwork, Erica unselfishly shares her expertise with other Capitol Hill staffers. She fully appreciates that all Members of Congress need to work together to support our military.

Erica is diligent in ensuring that the contributions of our veterans are recognized, and they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. With her support, more than 2,400 veterans in the 4th Congressional District have attended ceremonies and received my Veterans' Special Recognition Certificate. She also played a key role in ensuring all the necessary steps were accomplished to locate the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Florida's First Coast.

I have no doubt that Erica will bring the same drive and determination she has shown in my office to the next chapter in her professional career. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in thanking Erica Striebel for her leadership and for her commitment to public service and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

God bless and Godspeed.

#### TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL MINTZER

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gabriel Mintzer, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Gabriel is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl and Knowledge Bowl teams, Central Academy mathematics team, and treasurer of Valley High School's National Honors Society chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gabriel for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gabriel and in wishing him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 68th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than 6 decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression/prevention and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment; provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership; and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. Last year alone, the Burke VFD provided more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time as well as an additional 2,159 hours of supplemental staffing.

I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as officers or as members of the board of directors.

Board of Directors—President Patrick Owens, Vice President John Powers, Secretary Tonya McCreary, Treasurer Ian Dickinson, Larry Bockneck, Rich Guarrasi, Becky Dobbs.

Officers—Chief Thomas Warnock, Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey, Deputy Chief John Hudak, Captain Melissa Ashby, Captain Keith O'Connor, Lieutenant Emily Fincher, Lieutenant Kevin Grottle, Sergeant Jennifer Babic, Sergeant Peter Hamilton, Sergeant Shaun Kurry, Sergeant James Reyes, Team Leader Paul Stracke, Team Leader/Chaplain Harry Chelpon.

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year—Lindsay Fox and Blaine Reis

Firefighter of the Year—Ian Dickinson  
EMS Provider of the Year—Caitlin Curran  
Officer of the Year—Shaun Kurry, James Reyes

Administrative Member of the Year—Charlene Murphy  
Career Member of the Year—FireMedic Anthony Tran

Team Award—BVFDR Bingo Team (Tina Godfrey, Matt Bryant, Charlene Murphy)

Chief's Award—E414 Procurement Team (John Hudak, Larry Bockneck, Peter Hamilton, Mike Istvan, George Hahn, Sam Sandeen, Robin Clement)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 68 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

H.R. 34, THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill which aims to authorize and promote biomedical research, mental health, opioid abuse assistance, and advance medical future research, but falls woefully short.

Unfortunately, this bill is a missed opportunity for Congress to take meaningful action to address skyrocketing drug prices. It also falls far short of the funding that is needed to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to address the growing opioid abuse epidemic. I also believe that this bill puts the goals of pharmaceutical and medical device companies ahead of the needs of individuals.

As a Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee and as an ardent supporter of biomedical research and public health funding, I was disappointed in the inadequate funding levels in this bill. Last year, this bill included \$10 billion in mandatory funding for the NIH. Unfortunately, the revised version that passed the House Floor last week included only \$3.8 billion for the NIH, and it is not mandatory spending.

And to make matters worse, this bill strips \$3.5 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which provides critical investments to improve health outcomes through prevention activities like screenings and public health workforce training. We should be increasing support for public health programs, not robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Additionally, I am concerned that this legislation loosens Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for approving pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While we do need to ensure that new, lifesaving treatments are available to consumers, we cannot do so at the expense of safety and efficacy. We need to make the FDA's standards stronger—not weaker.

Lastly, despite outcry from constituents and despite months of hearings and press conferences on the issue of rising prescription drug prices, H.R. 34 did not include any provisions to make drugs more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have a shared obligation to ensure that ALL Americans have access to equitable, high-quality and affordable healthcare. While this bill does include a few good provisions, like positive steps to address mental health reform, it ultimately puts industry and profits over patients, and I therefore cannot support it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SIMAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service, dedication, and brilliance of our good friend and distinguished Portuguese American, White House Political Director David Simas. After eight years guiding the policy of the Obama Administration it is both fitting and appropriate to honor his service to the United States of America where he helped craft policy that improves the lives of countless Americans.

A self-proclaimed "Kid from Taunton, Massachusetts," Mr. Simas is the son of Portuguese immigrants, Antonio and Deolinda Simas. Although his parents did not attain more than an elementary school education, Mr. Simas ever excelled under their parentage. His father taught him the impact political policy has on everyday lives and his mother instilled in him the importance of family and the support they lend in times of need.

From his upbringing in Taunton, Mr. Simas went on to attend Stonehill College and later Boston College Law School. Returning home after graduation, he started a law practice and launched a political career of his own running for and winning a seat on the school board. Lending his talents to the local Portuguese community, Mr. Simas defended those in need and led successful political movements on behalf his friends and neighbors.

Later, as an advisor to the mayor of Taunton Mr. Simas helped devise a strategy to bring down the city's health care costs, working with the public sector unions to reach an agreement that saved the city money while ensuring access to good health care. Mr. Simas became well known in Massachusetts policy circles, and in 2006, he joined the office of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff.

It was not long after the 2008 election of President Barack Obama that Governor Patrick connected the two, officially introducing Mr. Simas to the President and starting a run of eight years of service to the President and our country.

Calm, unflappable, clinical, and humble are just a few of the words used to describe Mr. Simas. He has taken his knowledge and political acumen and applied them to the service of the American people. He dedicated himself to pass health care reform, bringing coverage to millions who previously were left out of the American health care system.

Mr. Simas has always thought about how the decisions he makes and the issues he fights for impact everyday people. From his childhood in Taunton's Portuguese Village to the West Wing of the White House he has always been an advocate for the disadvantaged and underrepresented. I wish him, his wife Shauna, and daughters Rowan and Payton the best of luck in the years to come. In whatever endeavor he finds himself next, I know he will continue to ask himself the same question President Obama asked of him: "Are you doing something every day to help people?"

I am confident he will.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of

Representatives to recognize the service of Mr. David Simas and his many contributions to the wellbeing of the American people.

HONORING MS. LINDA SEIFERT

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Seifert upon her retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Seifert has represented the Second District on the board since 2008 and served as the Chair of the Board from 2012 through 2014.

Ms. Seifert has been a longtime leader in our state's legal community. She earned her bachelor's degree from the California State University, Fullerton and then went on to complete her law degree at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Ms. Seifert led a tremendously successful law career and became the first female partner at the McNamara Law Firm in Walnut Creek, before she went on to serve as General Counsel for the California Dental Association.

Since her election as Supervisor in 2008, Ms. Seifert has been a champion for Solano County's citizens and our community's future. She has worked to preserve the agricultural heritage and resources of our community and to create more park space and recreational services. For instance, Ms. Seifert successfully pushed to dedicate open space in Rockville Hills and secured \$13 million to permanently protect the land for future generations.

Education and responsive social services have also been Ms. Seifert's priorities as supervisor. To protect victims of domestic violence, she secured the site for the Family Justice Center in Fairfield. She believes that investing in members of our community improves both their well-being and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Linda Seifert has been a champion of our community for the past eight years. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 592 on final passage of H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GUOWEI QI

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Guowei Qi, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score

on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Guowei is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Guowei was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Science Bowl, Valley High School honors program, concertmaster of the Valley High School Chamber Orchestra, volunteering at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and organizing "Blank Tales," a non-profit publication by Valley High School students to raise awareness of homelessness in the Des Moines area.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Guowei for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 1965 INTEGRATION  
OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA'S  
WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor six individuals—Myrtle Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King—for courageously integrating Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama during September of 1965. We applaud these six individuals for their noble act to recognize the historic precedence they established and to acknowledge the exceptional bravery they displayed.

The mid-20th century was an extraordinarily turbulent time for Alabama, especially Birmingham. The city and surrounding area had become a crucible for civil rights activity and peaceful protests that were often met with inconceivable hostility. Segregation and discrimination both had a strong grip on Birmingham society, which affected all aspects of life for African Americans. Despite the enactments of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments nearly a century beforehand, Birmingham's black citizens had yet to fully experience the promises that these constitutional changes intended to engender. Thankfully, the Supreme Court's unanimous decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 overturned the long-standing decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had emboldened and reinforced the ferociousness of "separate but equal."

While these successive legislative modifications and landmark cases created a platform for diversity in theory, racial inclusiveness was still confronted with horrific opposition in actuality. It would take solemn individuals animated with daring spirits to truly produce the social changes needed to foster an integrated and equal United States of America. Today, we honor these six outstanding individuals who are exemplary of the heroism herein described.

The integration of Woodlawn High School by these stellar young people was not an oc-

currence of happenstance. It was not the decision of adults or older citizens who had completed school many years earlier. Instead, it was a strategic act by six underclassmen eager to learn. By boldly encountering aggression and animosity, they knew it was a sacrifice necessary to create a better city, state, and nation.

Disciplined with the tools of non-violence and aided with the support of their caregivers and community, these six champions of equality and freedom that we praise today stood against injustice to impact future generations. Armed with nothing more than a consciousness of integrity and dignity, these six young people chose to walk in the line of danger and take a stand for human equality.

In the spirit of grace and appreciation, we salute Myrtle Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King for their act of valor. Let their testimony and story of triumph continue to be a lesson to us all as we stand on their shoulders to combat oppression. Most importantly, let us not be remiss in our effort to shine light on exemplars that have moved mountains for us to walk through and paved paths for us to walk on. The routes we travel are easier because of you.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MERSON

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I, together with Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN of California, would like to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Merson for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and the House Judiciary Committee in particular. For the past 15 months, Gary has served as the chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee.

A native of Lewiston, Maine, Gary's passionate dedication to the advancement of immigration law and policy is reflected in his distinguished 18-year legal career spanning private practice, non-profit advocacy, and government service. Gary will return as the Acting Director of the Office of the Ombudsman at United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he has served since 2005.

Gary previously served as counsel to the Immigration Subcommittee from February 2012 through December 2012 during which he played an important role in advancing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Prior to joining the Ombudsman's Office, Gary was Government Affairs Counsel with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy from 1999 to 2005, and prior to that an Advocacy Associate with the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 1998 to 1999. Gary is a graduate of Tulane Law School and Vanderbilt University.

Gary's wide-ranging expertise on immigration law and policy and his longstanding leadership in the area of employment-based immigration have greatly benefitted both sides of the aisle during the 114th Congress and this Committee in particular. Gary was exceptionally instrumental in the efforts of 225 Congressional Democrats (186 in the House and 39 in

the Senate) to file an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*, a case considering whether certain aspects of President Obama's executive actions on immigration will be allowed to move forward. Gary also led committee efforts on a variety of immigration issues in the areas of refugees, immigration enforcement, high-skilled immigration, the EB-5 program, the H2-A/H2-B programs and executive authority.

Although Gary entered the chief counsel role during a time of transition, he was able to handle committee matters with ease and grace. His rhetorical skills and natural political inclinations made the transition seamless. Gary's professionalism, dedication to committee business and pleasant demeanor earned him the universal respect of members and his colleagues. Gary is easily approachable and able to provide a witty remark even during difficult moments. While his guidance and leadership on immigration law and policy will be sorely missed, we are pleased that he will continue to serve immigrants and the American people through his work at the Ombudsman's Office.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Gary's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN TAYLOR AS  
AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV-  
ANT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of my Deputy Director of Constituent Services, Mr. Justin Taylor, for his tireless dedication to the residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Throughout his tenure with my district office, Justin has proven himself to be a vital part of our team. As a caseworker, he has collaborated with management to improve our case-work system so that my constituents could better receive meaningful, timely responses to their requests for assistance.

Although Justin is not a native of Central Florida, his commitment to serving our diverse community is apparent. Since joining my office in 2014, he has made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals. Some highlights of his work include assisting veterans in obtaining critical financial benefits, as well as helping to secure medical care for the sick and elderly. Furthermore, as an advocate for LGBT rights in Florida and across the country, Justin played an important role in assisting family members of the deceased following the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

As the 114th Congress comes to an end, so too will Justin's tenure in my office. I wish him all the best in the next stage of his career in public service.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
PEARL HARBOR

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, our nation was attacked. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the day that will live in infamy of the surprise attack.

Today is a time to honor the courage and sacrifice of those two thousand service members that lost their lives in this devastating attack. President Franklin Roosevelt stated that "no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory."

As the son of a World War II Flying Tiger of the U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, who served in India and China, I am inspired by the service from this time. They are stories of how the American people met this unspeakable tragedy head on with remarkable determination. I believe that it is this same strength that has carried our great nation through trials since World War II and will be a firm foundation for our future, learning the importance of peace through strength.

As a grateful 31-year veteran and the father of four sons who have all served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I believe in the power of our armed forces and the righteous might they demonstrate in the face of conflicts around the world promoting peace through strength while liberating dozens of countries.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War of Terrorism. September 11th was the Pearl Harbor of our era with a surprise attack to destroy our civilization.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE'S SHOESHINE IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize George Manias of Peoria, Illinois on the 70th anniversary of his Peoria business, George's Shoeshine and Hatters World Headquarters, a fixture in the Peoria community since George began his shoeshine business 70 years ago.

As a small child, George moved from America to Crete, a Greek isle, before World War II. George, his family, and their community worked tirelessly to fight off Nazi invasions, often having to shoot Nazi paratroopers before they could land on the island. Despite their gallant efforts, however, the Nazis did eventually invade the island. George's father, a U.S. citizen, was imprisoned numerous times throughout Nazi occupation during World War II. During this difficult time, young George went four years without a pair of shoes.

In 1946, as a teenager, George returned to Peoria, Illinois, where he would become an integral member of our community. He started

his shoeshine business with one seat, charging 25 cents a shine. A model of the American entrepreneur, George steadily grew his business, making it the national landmark it is today.

During his 70 years of business in Peoria, countless public figures have walked through George's doors in hopes of meeting this industrious man and having the opportunity to place a signed photo in his place of business. Over the past 70 years, George has met various public figures, including four U.S. Presidents, numerous U.S. Vice Presidents, Governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, White House Chiefs of Staff; Mayors, world champion athletes, CEOs, and local leaders.

George's Shoeshine business is known throughout Central Illinois for the personal service, craftsmanship, and incredible attention to detail he puts into every shoe he shines. I am honored to share the same hometown as George, where a humble man can achieve the American dream through dedication, commitment, and hard work. I extend my sincere congratulations to George Manias on a successful 70 years and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on in downtown Peoria.

PAMELA NISLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Nissler for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela has been working to support and advance education in Colorado for more than 45 years. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL). Prior to that role, she has served as the Library Manager, Substitute Librarian, Director of Community Services, and Director of Library Programs. Pam's seven years at the JCPL have elevated the institution to new levels in terms of historical importance and educational value in the community.

Pam is a member of both the American and Public Library Associations, as well as a past president of the Colorado Library Association. Pam's involvement in Jefferson County expands outside of the library as a member of the West Chamber Board of Directors and the Child and Youth Leadership Commission of Jefferson County. She has also served on community leadership associations throughout Douglas County and Highlands Ranch. Pam has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Library Science.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Nissler for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DAWN DICKERSON FOR RECEIVING THE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY'S SIGMA MU MU CHAPTER

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Dawn Dickerson of Broadlands, Virginia, for being named the Educator of the Year by the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Ms. Dickerson is the Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High School located in Ashburn. This award was granted to Ms. Dickerson for her work to improve inclusion and acceptance within the student body at Rock Ridge High School.

Ms. Dickerson has been instrumental in organizing special events to help her students become introduced to new topics as our country's next generation of leaders. One such instance of her devotion was when she put together a visit from Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland to speak with students during Black History Month last year. Ms. Dickerson was also a key component in the Loudoun International Youth Leadership Summit. This Summit enables students to engage in discussion with, and learn from, a number of international delegations who attended the event.

Ms. Dickerson's role as Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High places her in a position where she can have a positive impact on the lives of countless young minds. This recognition from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity comes as a result of her dedication to the students of Loudoun County, and it is a reflection of the wonderful and civic-minded citizens we have throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Dawn Dickerson from Rock Ridge High School for receiving this Educator of the Year Award from the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Alcohol Service Action Program (ASAP) on the occasion of the 25th Annual Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Awards. This year's awards are being jointly sponsored with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

ASAP is a criminal justice program which uses community and state services to reduce the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. It identifies and provides appropriate services to offenders convicted of driving under the influence or other substance abuse-related charges as referred

by the local courts. The goal of ASAP is to improve transportation safety by decreasing the incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and thereby reducing the number of alcohol or other drug-related crash-es.

According to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, in 2014 nearly 36 percent of all traffic fatalities in the Commonwealth were alcohol-related. Tragically, more than 40 percent of those killed in alcohol related deaths were ages 21–35. While alcohol-related traffic deaths in Virginia have been on the decline, we are still averaging a crash nearly every hour as a result of drunk driving. Sadly, national statistics reflect an 8 percent increase in alcohol related traffic deaths in the first 6 months of 2015 when compared to 2014. We can only hope that, thanks to the work of organizations like ASAP and MADD, that trend begins to reverse.

Every year, ASAP honors those in the law-enforcement community who have been instrumental in fighting impaired driving. I am pleased to include the names of this year's recipients.

City of Alexandria: Officer Anthony LaRusso.

Arlington County: Officer Brett Kooharian.

Fairfax County: APO Donald Brodie, PFC James Burleson, PFC Hyun Chang, Ms. Annette Dodson, Officer Harrison R. Gamble, OFC Sameer A. Kahn, APO William Ridge-way, APO Richard Zhu.

City of Fairfax: Officer Bryan P. Nelson.

City of Falls Church: Officer Kevin Hedden, PFC Dimitri Issaev.

George Mason University: Sergeant Michael F. Lighthiser, MPO Edward T. Gannon.

Town of Herndon: PFC Eliezer A. Cabo, PFC Charles W. Findley.

City of Leesburg: Officer Bradley Schultz.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Ruben Cardenas, Deputy Glenn P. Keough.

City of Manassas Park: Officer Christopher Koglin.

Prince William County: Officer Simon Chu, Officer Christopher LaFarree, Officer Jeremy Schenck, Officer Brett Tillett.

Town of Purcellville: Officer Kristopher Fraley, Corporal Clark McDaniel.

United States Park Police: Sergeant Jonathan Daniels, Officer Pentti Gillespie, Officer Christopher Gogarty, Officer Greg Harper, Officer David Lamond, Officer Lisa Marie Weisbaum, Officer Charles Whiteman, Sergeant Adam Zielinski.

Town of Vienna: Officer Ara Post, Officer Brad Reedy.

Virginia State Police, Division Seven: Trooper Nicholas Casey, Trooper Diego A. Espinosa, Trooper Lorenzo Goode, Trooper Kevin Fleenor, Trooper Adam Hassan, Trooper Andre D. Jones, Trooper Tomasz Karbowski, Trooper Zachary Koon, Trooper Wesley Paul, Trooper Michael Walton, Trooper John Yacek.

Town of Warrenton: Sergeant Arthur Leeper, Officer Matthew McGuirk.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 award recipients, and thank each of the men and women listed above for their service to our community. Their efforts are selfless acts of heroism that save innocent lives and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this extraordinary group of law enforcement professionals.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR—75 YEARS LATER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sun was lazily rising on the horizon over the islands of Hawaii. It was around breakfast time on a stunning Sunday morning. It was quiet, peaceful, calm. People felt secure. There was a small tropical breeze as the American flag was being raised on a nearby flagpole. On December 7, 1941, America was at peace and unprepared for war.

Suddenly, large formations of aircraft swarmed the blue Hawaii sky. The rising sun was darkened by hundreds of Japanese planes as they strafed and bombed Pearl Harbor. The Japanese unleashed a fury of deadly, devastating bombs and torpedoes on the small island. The first attack of the Second World War on American soil was underway. It was 75 years ago today when Luke Trahin, a 22-year-old sailor from Beaumont, in southeast Texas and his fellow sailors, soldiers, and marines saw war unleashed upon America.

Until that moment World War two was a far-off conflict. America watched silently, abstaining from the violence. But the days of innocence were over. America was under attack.

The Japanese had caught America by surprise and took advantage of an unprepared nation. And after the smoke cleared on that morning of madness, 98 Navy planes and 64 Army aircraft were destroyed. Luke's unit, Patrol Wing One, lost all but three of its 36 aircraft. 2,471 Americans, servicemen, and civilians were killed by this unwarranted invasion of terror from the skies.

The pride of the United States Navy, the battleships—*West Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Maryland, Nevada,* and *Arizona*—were trapped in the harbor. They made easy targets for the Japanese pilots. The sailors onboard these battle wagons fought with the courage of entire legions of warriors when they were attacked by a skillful, fanatical, and tyrannical enemy. All of these fierce U.S. Navy battleships were sunk or damaged. Their guns, Mr. Speaker, are now silent.

The hull of the USS *Arizona* became the sacred graveyard in the peaceful Pacific for more than 1,177 American sailors and marines. Luke Trahin and his Navy buddies in Patrol Wing One quickly got organized, prepared, and waited for two days for the expected land invasion of the Japanese. It never came. But America was at war.

World War II had long been raging before America officially entered into the conflict. Spreading from the Pacific to Europe all the way to Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The Japanese, then the Nazis; seemed undefeatable. But even the Japanese were concerned about the spirit of America. The Japanese commander of the Pearl Harbor invasion remarked that what Japan had done was wake a sleeping giant. Millions served in uniform overseas; millions served on the home front; all sacrificed for the cause of America. The nation woke from a somber sleep of neutrality and, with our allies, defeated the tyrants that would rule over the world. That was a time when Americans put aside all differences

and united to defend freedom in our Nation. When the war was won, over 400,000 Americans had given their lives for this nation.

Until September 11th, this was the deadliest attack on U.S. soil. "December 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy," were words spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that became forever embedded in the minds of patriots across our land, igniting and launching a nation into the fiery trenches of battle throughout the world.

Those of that Greatest Generation proved that when the peace of this nation is threatened, our people will stand up and fight back, bringing the thunder of God upon our enemies. Defending freedom and liberty was the battle cry of the sailors and soldiers that died 75 years ago at Pearl Harbor. We must continue to remember December 7th, 1941 and the Americans who stood tall and kept the flame of America glowing brightly.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE RICKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Bruce Ricker, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ricker graduated from Mount Ayr Community Schools in 1975, where he played on two state tournament basketball teams in 1973 and 1975. He earned his degrees from the University of Iowa and the Iowa College of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. After interning and practicing medicine in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ricker returned to Mount Ayr in 1997. He practices medicine at the Mount Ayr Medical Clinic and serves as the Medical Examiner for Ringgold County, Medical Director for HCI Hospice Care Services, as well as for Clearview Home and Mount Ayr Health Care Center. In 2003, Dr. Ricker was named Physician of the Year by the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association and was presented the Spirit of Hospice Award by the Iowa Hospice Association.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ricker's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Ricker for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING GARY ELLIS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Gary Ellis. Mr. Ellis is retiring from medical technology leader Medtronic this month after 27 years of service, including 11 years as the company's chief financial officer.

Mr. Ellis's leadership and vision dramatically contributed to Medtronic's financial well-being

and the well-being of thousands of Medtronic employees. During his tenure with the company, Medtronic's revenue increased from \$837 million in 1989 to \$28.8 billion in 2016, a 34 times increase. Importantly, he helped oversee the growth of the company from approximately 7,000 employees in 1989 to more than 88,000 employees today. Mr. Ellis is known for his sound advice, mentorship and positive outlook, and has provided honest and insightful counsel to the Medtronic Board of Directors, the chief executive officer, his peers and his team.

Importantly, as part of Medtronic's Mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for people around the world, the company's impact on people's lives grew exponentially during Mr. Ellis's leadership. In 2005, when Mr. Ellis became chief financial officer, the company proudly improved the life of someone every 6 seconds. Today, as a result of strong leadership, growth and innovation, Medtronic technology improves the lives of two people every single second, or more than 65 million people per year.

In addition, Mr. Ellis has demonstrated his commitment and passion for community through philanthropic activities and Board service, including service as Chairman of the American Heart Association Board in 2007 through 2008, as well as dedicated service on the boards of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Science Museum of Minnesota. He has also played an active leadership role and contributed many years of Board service to his local church.

Prior to joining Medtronic in 1989, Mr. Ellis was a senior audit manager for Price Waterhouse, where, in addition to several other responsibilities, he managed the Medtronic audit for nearly 10 years. He worked with several large corporate organizations, as well as providing audit services to numerous non-profit organizations.

Mr. Ellis grew up on a farm in Sac City, Iowa, and originally aspired to be a math teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1978 from the University of South Dakota. Above all, Mr. Ellis is a family man, who cherishes spending time at the lake with his wife, Sue, their two children, and five grandchildren. Though his leadership will be sincerely missed, I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for everything he has done within the business community and within the Twin Cities community.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 593 on final passage of H.R. 6393, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

#### ROUGH RIDGE AND ROCK MOUNTAIN FOREST FIRES

### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires that have recently impacted Northeast Georgia.

Over the past few months, my district has experienced a severe drought that at one point led to a rainfall deficit of more than a foot and especially affected thousands of farmers in Northeast Georgia.

This October, I had the opportunity to learn more about the drought's repercussions from the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black, and about 40 local farmers who have struggled with the historic drought.

Unfortunately, the effects of the drought went beyond affecting our farmers, and, as wildfires continued to burn in Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain, I was deeply concerned.

In fact, the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have each affected over 20,000 acres of land in Northeast Georgia.

Today, I am grateful to report that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been 95 percent contained. I would like to thank the firefighters, police, emergency management and medical teams, and many others who have worked long hours at demanding jobs to ensure the security and safety of the public during this uncertain time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward, in the near future, to sharing the good news that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been completely contained.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF PACTV

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of PACTV's 20th anniversary. PACTV is a non-profit public access television station that operates six channels whose content is available to over 35,000 households in Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This community-based television station, first established in 1996 by the cable committee and selectmen in Plymouth, was founded with the idea that community television programming could be vastly improved. Over the past 20 years, PACTV has flourished and benefitted the communities it serves. PACTV has provided a state-of-the-art community multimedia facility and encourages citizens to participate in the democratic process by providing access to local government coverage and programming. Further, PACTV provides video production classes, has meeting spaces and an art gallery open to the public and helps local non-profits and community service providers to organize and promote events.

Over the years, PACTV has accumulated a highly qualified staff that is constantly working with the community and a dedicated board of directors from both industry and non-profit organizations to bring greater quality program-

ming to the Commonwealth. To this day, PACTV continues in the fine tradition of community access television providing a first amendment forum undiluted by commercial considerations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor PACTV on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing PACTV continued success in providing high quality television programming.

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#### HONORING DEBORAH HUNT

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Deborah Hunt. With her retirement approaching, she will soon close out over twenty years of incredible service to her community and begin the next chapter of her life.

Deborah has fulfilled her duties with dedication and innovation. Her commitment to public service started in 1994 when she served as Justice of the Peace in Williamson County. Through the years, she continued to serve her community through various public positions, including her appointment to the Board of Tax Professional Examiners by Former Governor George Bush and later appointed Chair of the Board by Former Governor Rick Perry.

Deborah is well known throughout the state for paving the way to modernize her department. She led the implementation of on-line payments and simplification of tax collections. Her office has served as a test site for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to pilot upgrades and new systems. Deborah's leadership in this arena has made a real difference in the lives of Texans.

Deborah's commitment to service and the highest standard of excellence has not gone unnoticed. Recognized by her colleagues for her devotion and hard work, she has achieved a long list of accolades, including Person of the Year as well as the Earl Luna Award, and the Marilyn Albert Achievement, the highest honor recognized by the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

Deborah Hunt's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. There's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her. I heartily salute her work and wish her the best of luck in all her new endeavors.

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#### 12TH ANNUAL OHIO STATEWIDE TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Rosa Parks, "the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement."

On December 1st, we marked the 61st anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery City Bus.

Her defiance sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our Nation's public transportation system.

Rosa Parks, though small in stature, embodies the enormous impact one person can make.

In recognition, 50 years later in 2005, as a member of the Ohio General Assembly, I spearheaded a bill to designate December 1st Rosa Parks Day, making Ohio the first State in the Nation to do so.

This year marks the 12th annual tribute to Rosa Parks and I look forward to joining all Ohioans in celebration tomorrow on December 8th.

In that spirit, today and every day, let us be inspired by Rosa Parks and never forget that one person can ignite change.

RECOGNIZING MS. DEEDEE  
CHOWDHURY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury on her selection as a recipient of the KinderCare Education Legacy Award.

KinderCare Education is the largest private early childhood education provider in the US, and plays a critical role in preparing young children for school. KinderCare Education serves 150,000 children in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 23 percent of their children are infants and toddlers. For over 40 years, KinderCare Learning Centers have been a place where every child can learn, explore, and discover in a safe and nurturing environment in more than 1,400 community-based centers. KinderCare leads the nation in accredited centers and is passionate about providing children a sense of discovery while preparing them for success in school and beyond.

Every year, KinderCare recognizes a select few teachers by naming them recipients of its Legacy Awards. This year, one of the honorees is my constituent: Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury. Ms. Chowdhury is an educator at the Silverbrook KinderCare Learning Center located in Lorton, Virginia. As a result of winning this prestigious award, Ms. Chowdhury will receive a \$10,000.00 prize and will also travel to the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference.

Ms. Chowdhury is dedicated to educating the youngest members of our society. Early education has been proven to directly impact future academic performance as well as economic opportunities for children who have enrolled in Pre-K programs. Through her commitment and efforts, she is helping to ensure the future success of not only her students but of our community. As a parent and former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand that how the success of our communities is largely dependent upon the quality of our local schools, and that the quality of our schools is inextricably linked to the professionalism and expertise of their teachers.

I have always considered public service to be one of the most noble of professions and the services provided by our educators are no exception. I commend Ms. Chowdhury for her

service to our children and the Northern Virginia community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on receiving a 2016 Legacy Award and wishing her great success in all future endeavors.

PAMELA GOFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Goff for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela Goff has been President and CEO of PG Construction Services, Inc. for more than 21 years. She is known for her strong community engagement, willingness to jump right in, and her ability to plan and execute major projects. Pam obtained her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from CU Denver and completed her graduate course work in Management Accounting. She has maintained a CPA license for more than 30 years and also holds a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) certification.

Pam currently serves on the Board of Directors and on the Finance Committee for LocalWorks in Wheat Ridge, and has been involved in numerous other committees to support small businesses and the larger community. Pam was one of the founding members of the Wheat Ridge Business Association (formerly Enterprise Wheat Ridge) and served as the past president for four years. Pam has been recognized as a recipient of the 'CPAs Who Make a Difference' Award and has served as the Grande Parade Marshall for the Annual Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Goff for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF  
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE  
CHIEF STEPHAN M. HUDSON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Prince William County Police Chief Stephan M. Hudson and to congratulate him on his retirement following 34-years of dedicated service to county residents.

Founded on July 1, 1970, the Prince William County Police Department serves as the primary form of law enforcement for the county and the towns of Dumfries, Occoquan, Haymarket, and Quantico. At the time of its founding, the Department had a staff of 52, which included police officers, commanders, dispatchers, and secretaries, and an operating budget of \$750,000. Today, the Department has grown to more than 845 individuals with

an FY16 annual operating budget of \$96.6 million. Over his three-year tenure as the head of the department, Chief Hudson has increased the number of sworn officers and increased the budget by over \$20 million to better serve the growing community.

In 2013, Stephan M. Hudson was sworn in as the third police chief of the Prince William County Police Department. Since his installation, Chief Hudson has stressed the importance of creating a diverse police force reflective of Prince William County's minority-majority makeup. Police Chief Hudson has also made increased police contact and transparency with Prince William County residents one of his top priorities. In his short tenure, Chief Hudson has done just that. The Police Department has achieved a 93 percent satisfaction rate in the community and has made significant strides to increase diversity in the police force, including in leadership positions. In the past three years, the department has promoted its first ethnic minority and first female assistant chiefs. As a strong advocate for police accountability, Chief Hudson successfully lobbied the Board of County Supervisors to equip 500 of the department's officers with body cameras. Later this year, the Prince William County Police Department will become the largest municipality with officers to don the device and utilize the technology in the Commonwealth. To preserve the quality of police services, the Department continues to work on three capital improvement programs: the Central District Station, the Animal Control Facility, and the Public Safety Training Center Rifle Range.

Chief Hudson is not only admired by the police department's rank and file but by county residents for his strong personal ties to the community. While his childhood was spent in Boston, Massachusetts, Hudson graduated from Gar-Field High School and has resided in the county ever since. As a proud resident of Prince William County for the past 40 years, Chief Hudson and his family are actively engaged in the community. His wife Roxana is the current principal at Belmont Elementary School. Together, Chief Hudson and his wife have two children and three grandchildren who were all born and raised in Prince William County. Devoted to his faith, Chief Hudson and his family worship at McLean Bible Church where they travel twice a year to participate in mission trips to rural Kenyan villages.

Over the span of his career with the Prince William County Police Department, Chief Hudson has displayed the true meaning of civil service through his commitment to the rule of law while maintaining professionalism and diligence in serving the community. His values have endured the test of time and shaped the present culture of our Police Department. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 34-year career of Chief Stephan M. Hudson with the Prince William County Police Department and in thanking him for his tireless service to our community. As a fearless leader, Chief Hudson rose quickly through the ranks with the Department. I have full confidence he will do the same in all future endeavors. I wish Chief Stephan M. Hudson and his family continued happiness and success in all future ventures.



TRIBUTE TO MICHELL RICKER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michell Ricker of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Michell, a 1975 graduate of Mount Ayr Community Schools, is a licensed social worker. Upon her return to Mount Ayr after college, she was employed by Ringgold County Public Health and served as a well-known community leader and advocate. She is an avid volunteer, holding a number of positions on community and state boards, including South Central Iowa Community Fund, Ringgold County Teen

Center, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa chapter of International Cooperating Ministries. In 2014 she was also awarded a Governors Volunteer Award for her outstanding commitment to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Michell's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.