

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. John Railey for achieving a remarkable milestone in his career. His dedication to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Yard, and his fellow employees has made him a valuable asset to all throughout his 50 years of devoted service.

HONORING COLONEL MOHAMMED
A. "MO" KHAN, JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Mohammed A. "Mo" Khan, Jr., who accepted command of the 341 Operations Group on May 20 in a change of command ceremony.

Colonel Khan is originally from Ronceverte, West Virginia, born November 5, 1966. After graduation from California Lutheran University in 1988, Colonel Khan received his commission through the University of California at Los Angeles Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Over the past twenty years, Mo has been promoted from Second Lieutenant to the rank of Colonel. Upon accepting command of the 341st OG, Colonel Khan stated his three main priorities, which are to do your absolute very best at all times; to take care of each other and your families; and to give freely of yourself, both on and off base. It is because of these values that Mo has advanced so far and received so many decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and National Defense Service Medal with Star Device.

Early in his Air Force career, Colonel Khan served a variety of positions in a missile combat crew, advancing to squadron, group and wing level positions. In 2002, Colonel Khan assumed command of the 564th Missile Squadron where he led over 200 operations. His extensive operations experience led to several positions at the Pentagon in the space operations division, where until March of 2008 he held the title of director of space operations. Most recently, he was chief of the space superiority division before assuming command of the 341st Operations Group.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Mohammed A. "Mo" Khan, Jr.—he is a man that represents the best of West Virginia. I would like to congratulate him for his invaluable service to the Air Force. I know his wife, Lisa, and two children, Mo III and Simeon, are extremely proud.

THANKING KAREN WESS FOR HER
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on August 7, 2009 we rise to thank Mrs. Karen Wess for her seventeen years of distinguished service to the United States House of Rep-

resentatives. Karen has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Karen began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1992 as a Systems Programmer working with the mainframe Customer Information Control System (CICS) transaction services. Her technical expertise in the delivery of mainframe CICS transaction services led to Karen being selected to work on a team tasked with the initiative to combine several disparate e-mail systems into an efficient and sustainable enterprise e-mail system for the House. Karen has been involved with the House e-mail systems since their early inception and has helped to make them the mission-critical service the House relies on today. Karen applied her leadership abilities to help deploy an anti-spam component for the House e-mail service and currently serves as a Senior Systems Engineer in the CAO's HIR Enterprise Technology Systems Branch.

Karen has been one of the primary engineers providing the House's Internet e-mail functionality. She has acted as a technical liaison between the House, other legislative organizations, and government agencies in the field of e-mail connectivity. She has provided consulting services to House customers, internal and external, making the delivery of House e-mail systems the success they are today.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Karen for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROSS THORNTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Mr. Thornton will be recognized on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Ross Thornton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In May 1964, Mr. Thornton moved to Madera, California to become the voice behind the mic at KHOT radio, a local radio station. In 1967, he went to work for CalFarm Insurance, and two years later made a career change into the medical supply business. In 1986, Mr. Thornton moved back into the insurance profession with Foster and Parker Insurance; where he still works today.

Mr. Thornton has had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He was named "Trustee of the Year" in 2001 and "Agent of the Year" in 2003 by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He is as successful in his commitment to the community as he is in his profession. Mr. Thornton is a long time member of the Madera Chamber of Commerce, where he has served on several committees, including the Ambassador Corps and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee. He has been a member of the Madera Sunrise Rotary for twenty-nine years and has

maintained perfect attendance. He is the past-president of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he also served on the board from 1986 through 1996. Mr. Thornton served on the Board of Directors of Madera Community Hospital from 1988 through 1994. He served for nine years with Valley Public Television Board, a seventeen year board member of the Darin Camarena Health Clinics, served as a Trustee of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors at the state level and is past-president of the Fresno area Chapter. He is a current member of the Madera Elks, President of the Board of Directors for Sherman Thomas Charter School and Vice-President of Valley West Christian Center Board of Directors. For twenty-five years, he has served as a Speech Judge for the Madera Scholastic Decathlon. Mr. Thornton was appointed to the Planning Commission for the City of Madera and continues to serve in this civic capacity. For his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Thornton has been honored by being named the 1998–99 Citizen of the Year by the Madera Elks and the Madera Hispanic Chamber's Businessman of the Year in 1998.

Mr. Thornton has three sons and three grandchildren. His mother, Alberta, is ninety-six years old and lives with him and his wife Barbara, who has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being honored as the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Thornton many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MANISTIQUE ELKS
TEMPLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manistique Elks Lodge #632 on the 100th Anniversary of the group's landmark building. The Manistique Elks Temple was built in 1909 and continues to be a source of pride for the community and a unique venue for activities including civic events, receptions and patriotic ceremonies. The building has seen both high times and low times, but throughout its 100 years of existence it has touched nearly every person in the Manistique community in some way or another.

Visitors to the Temple step onto a sweeping front porch and through grand pillars to enter the building. Once inside they look up to the ornate ceiling of stamped tin, richly painted with gold filigree and accented in burgundy and hunter green. They walk across hardwood floors that are a testament to the timber industry that has helped sustain the city of Manistique throughout the years. The sun shines through newly restored windows to create a bright atmosphere. It is a place that echoes the natural beauty found throughout Manistique and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

While so many buildings from the beginning of the 20th century have been destroyed or replaced, the Elks Temple continues to stand

proudly in the center of downtown. Throughout the years the Temple has undergone significant renovations. Its first renovation was in 1927 when new lighting fixtures and a new kitchen were added. In 1939 two new bowling alleys were installed. The bowling alleys were updated again in 1962, 1981, and in 2002. The Temple suffered a serious fire in 2005, only three years after extensive renovations were completed. Once again members were determined to restore the building to greatness.

Each time the Temple has been faced with adversity, members of Lodge #632 have banded together to invest in and restore the beauty and functionality of this local gem. The Temple is a symbol of the perseverance and spirit of the residents of Manistique. Whether hosting an annual graduation party, traditional fish and steak dinners, or community functions such as the local Chamber of Commerce banquet, the Manistique Elks Temple is a place that brings members of the community together and strengthens local ties.

Madam Speaker, members of Elks Lodge #632 have shown continued support for the city of Manistique and its residents. Their willingness to open the Manistique Elks Temple for community use and their years of dedication to maintaining and improving this historic building is a testament to the organization's long tradition of community pride. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Elks Lodge #632 on the Centennial of the Elks Temple as well as thanking members for their active involvement in preserving this Manistique landmark.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. H. DOUGLAS LEE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, on August 25th, Florida lost one of its great leaders in education with the passing of recently retired Stetson University President H. Douglas Lee.

Not only was Dr. Lee recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to Stetson, he was also well known for his contributions to community, state and nation. It was an honor and privilege to know Doug and his wife of 44 years, Margaret, and to call them wonderful friends.

In his 22 years as President, Doug worked on countless projects to enhance the educational opportunities at Stetson. Most recently, I had the privilege to work with Doug in the renovation of Sage Hall.

In 2007, Doug came to me and shared his vision for renovating Stetson's Sage Hall to strengthen the science curriculum at the University. Through private fundraising, federal support and an enormous amount of dedication, Doug saw this project through to completion. The Sage Hall project, a 20,000 square foot addition with new science equipment, was completed and rededicated earlier this year, and will remain a testament to Doug's commitment to quality education.

To Doug's wife Margaret; his son Gregory Lee and wife Lara; daughter Elizabeth Lee

Williamson and husband Heath; grandsons Parker Lee, Grayson Lee and Ayers Williamson; granddaughters Maggie Williamson and Piper Williamson; father, Dr. Howard Lee; brother David Lee and wife Ethel and their children and grandchildren; sister-in-law Sarah Easley Drummond and her children and grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Charles Easley III and wife Claudia and their children; we extend our deepest condolences.

Doug truly made an indelible mark on education in Florida and the United States. In our community, he always stressed integrity, compassion and public service, and through that principled dedication he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Dr. H. Douglas Lee's contributions to higher education and a life commitment to making Stetson University the great institution it is today.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST CHURCH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Christ Church, of Nashville, Tennessee, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary on Sunday, September 13.

From humble beginnings in 1950, Pastor L.H. Hardwick has led, nurtured, and grown this fine congregation into one of Nashville's leading churches. With over 3500 members, Christ Church impacts the entire Middle Tennessee region through its wide array of community involvement. One small example is the church's activity center, which includes fitness facilities and an indoor playground. Rather than restricting access to the church's members, the activity center is open to both friends and neighbors to utilize.

I am awed by the personal commitment Pastor Hardwick has demonstrated through his service to Christ Church. When one considers the many changes that have occurred in our country over the past sixty years, Pastor Hardwick's continuous service is real inspiration.

Please join me in honoring 60 years of Christ Church's past, and celebrating the next 60 years of Christ Church's future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES C. VAN ANTWERP, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

James Callanan Van Antwerp Jr. was a remarkable businessman, active citizen and committed U.S. Naval officer. He will be remembered as a man devoted to his family, his Catholic faith, his country and his community.

After graduating from Murphy High School in 1940, Jim attended the U.S. Naval Acad-

emy and served in the Pacific, Far East, Atlantic and Mediterranean. He became an instructor at Auburn University's Naval ROTC Unit and then served as commander of the Naval Reserve base in Mobile.

Jim worked as an independent insurance agent before he began running the family business, Van Antwerp Realty Corp., in the 1950s. He was active in the Mobile business community, serving as a member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and as the president of both the Mobile Real Estate Association and the Mobile Association of Independent Insurance Agents.

Jim also played an active role in city government. He served as director of the executive committee of Downtown Mobile Unlimited and of the Mobile City Planning Commission. He was also the former chairman of the First Congressional District Committee and the Mobile Republican Executive Committee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated and generous community leader and a dear friend to many. Mr. James Van Antwerp will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Margaret; his children, James Callahan Van Antwerp III, Elizabeth Van Antwerp Reasonover, and John David Van Antwerp; his brother, Daniel Janse Van Antwerp; and his seven grandchildren—as well as his many friends and colleagues.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW TRAVIS TERRELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Terrell of Liberty, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Terrell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ROBERT T. CONNOR

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, congratulate and celebrate the life of former Staten Island Borough President Robert T. Connor, Sr.

For over fifty years, Robert Connor served his country and his community through the military and our civic institutions. From the