

the community will no doubt bring new vigor to the area's economy.

As a devoted husband and family man, Mayor Bach knows the kind of values and ideals that are required to lead in a responsible and conservative manner. I wish the Mayor success in his new job. I know that Colorado Springs could not ask for a better mayor at this critical time.

RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN'S FORTY-THREE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Mike Mullen who is retiring as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after more than 43 years of distinguished service to his country.

A proud graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 1968, his rise in the Navy started at sea, when Ensign Mullen deployed to the western Pacific and participated in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam aboard USS *Collett*. Over the course of his career at sea he subsequently served on six other warships, including command of three of those vessels. Admiral Mullen also commanded the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group and U.S. Second Fleet.

In July of 2005, Admiral Mullen was sworn in as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations, serving as the top uniformed leader and representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his tenure, he oversaw the service's efforts to man, train, and equip our Navy to fulfill its traditional missions at sea. Additionally, he conceived and championed the Navy's contributions to the fight on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations in support of our country's effort to combat violent extremism.

After successfully completing his tour as Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mullen assumed duties as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2007. Since assuming duties as Chairman, he has, in concert with our Nation's leadership, overseen multiple, sustained joint military operations that disrupted terrorist networks, provided humanitarian assistance at home and abroad, and improved the security and stability in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While continuing to lead our men and women in uniform around the world, Admiral Mullen has been the catalyst for a nationwide dialogue to advance awareness and support for our warriors, veterans, and their families. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans who have given so much will indeed be enduring, lasting far beyond his days in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country and to wish him the best in his retirement. May God bless Mike and Deborah, and their family, for all they have given and continue to give our country. The United States Navy and our military will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MASTER SERGEANT RICHARD FRANCIS MURPHY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Master Sergeant, Richard Francis Murphy.

Richard was born in Providence Rhode Island on May 10, 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the age of 19 and continued to show his dedication to our country for years to come. He served in both World War II and the Korean War before retiring as a Master Sergeant.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Richard went to work for the Electric and Water Department for the City of Santa Clara. He volunteered in his community, serving on many civic and veterans organizations including the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County and the Air Force Sergeants Association. Richard was easily recognizable in San Jose, as he helped organize our Veterans Day parade and the Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery.

On August 21st of this year, Richard passed away in his home in San Jose at the age of 94. Richard and his wife Kay had been married for 69 years. In that time they saw the birth of five children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Richard was not only a dear friend of mine, but he was a friend to the entire veteran community in San Jose. He was proud of his service and grateful to others who served. I wish to honor the life of this American hero and memorialize our gratefulness for his dedication to his community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Bradley, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award from Humanities Texas.

After graduating from the University of Dallas, Ms. Bradley joined the Social Studies Department at Nimitz High School in Irving, Texas. Her belief in and commitment to the concept of opportunity is evident in her approach to her U.S. history and government classes. By helping students recognize America's unique opportunities for all and elevating the material with visits to the Dallas Holocaust Museum and the Sixth Floor Museum, Ms. Bradley creates a distinct, positive, and enjoyable learning experience for her students. She exhibits great leadership by coordinating with teachers from other departments and different grade levels to enhance the material and ensure her students are informed, knowledgeable, and proud of our Nation's rich history.

Her lessons extend beyond the classroom. For over twenty years, Ms. Bradley devoted

the third Friday of every month to community service, volunteering alongside a group of her students and Nimitz alumni. What she teaches her students is not merely U.S. history; it encompasses life lessons and the values of opportunity and service. Ms. Bradley exemplifies the important role of educators play in shaping our youth and preparing them to be the next generation of great leaders.

This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions in teaching and service to the humanities. It is my great pleasure and privilege to honor Ms. Bradley for her passion for teaching, commitment to service, and belief in the importance of education and opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Bradley.

HONORING LONG-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in today's time of challenging budgets and fiscal uncertainty, at a time when the long term success of the United States Postal Service hangs in the balance, it is altogether fitting and proper that we recognize the dedicated public servants who have populated the rank and file membership of the Postal Service in Western New York.

The role of a letter carrier remains among the most fundamental in American society. It remains an amazing feat that a letter dropped into a mailbox in Buffalo, New York will shortly arrive at its destination, be it across town or across the country. Letter carriers face a wide array of complications, obstacles, hazards and other challenges as they complete their daily routes. Citizens across the United States open their mailboxes and routinely retrieve their mail, seldom stopping to reflect upon the work performed by letter carriers each day.

Beyond their professional responsibilities, Letter Carriers are integral members of our community as well. While Letter Carriers participate in dozens of charitable events throughout the year, they are particularly effective in the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, where millions of pounds of nonperishable food items are delivered to community food banks throughout the United States. I'm proud to add that the Buffalo region was the first to undertake this effort, and our region routinely leads the nation in tons of food collected for this annual event.

On Saturday, September 24th, Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, representing Buffalo and Western New York, will hold its annual "Old Timers' Night." This event will pay tribute to the careers of eleven letter carriers, each having more than 50 years of service.

Scheduled to be honored are the following members with 55 years of service: Chester Gawel, Richard Miller, Albert Schattner, Chester Stuben, and John Zelli.

Those with 50 years of service who are to be honored include: Richard Bailoni, Edward Dudkowski, Robert Hibbard, Salvatore Iannello, Joseph Sikorski, and John Tutaro.

In addition, Life Members (past honorees with more than 50 years' service) will also be on hand for the event. They include: Florian Chmurzynski, Robert Connors, Frederick Diringer, Ronald Dubois, Norman Gast, Edward Jarnot, Kenneth Kreger, Albert Martin, Guy Merritt, James Mooney, Robert Ohlenschlager, and Thomas Trotta.

The inscription at New York City's James Farley Post Office reads, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." I am pleased to join with Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers to honor these fine public servants, and to wish to them good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT GARRICK L. EPPINGER, JR.'S SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr. A resident of Appleton, Wisconsin, Sergeant Eppinger died while serving our country in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 395th Ordnance Company, 687th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 646th Regional Support Group, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin. Garrick Eppinger, Jr. died protecting the freedoms we take for granted every day. His heroic sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Eppinger embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. He served this country with honor and exhibited profound bravery and selflessness during his three overseas deployments. Sergeant Eppinger was a loving son, a devoted father and now he will forever be known as an American hero. He is remembered by friends and family as a man with a courageous and strong spirit who earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Although the loss of Sergeant Eppinger left a void in the hearts of many, his dedication and exemplary service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Sergeant Garrick Eppinger, Jr. for the sacrifice he made for the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CRUTCHFIELD FAMILY AS THE 2011 OKALOOSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the Crutchfield family for being selected as the 2011 Okaloosa County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Reginald Crutchfield is a fifth generation farmer who truly understands the value of a strong work ethic and good soil, and he instills those values in his family every day. With the help of his wife Regina and his son Phillip, Reggie sows and harvests nearly 500 acres of peanuts, wheat and corn.

Throughout his life, Reggie has epitomized the true meaning of hard work. In 1981, Future Farmers of America (FFA) recognized his dedication to the farming industry and awarded him with the title of FFA Star State Farmer. Since that time, Reggie has worked independently as a farmer among other jobs in order to provide for his family. His impressive career includes work as a researcher of beef cattle with the University of Florida and as a golf course superintendent overseeing grass production. In 2008, Reggie successfully battled cancer and went back to work as a full-time farmer, replanting his crops and expanding his business.

Reggie and Regina have raised their children, Jhanna, Phillip, Bailey, and Paige, to respect the land and to be active members of their community. In addition to helping her husband out on the farm throughout their 27 years of marriage, Regina works as a speech pathologist for the Okaloosa County School District. The Crutchfields are members of First United Methodist Church of Crestview and the Okaloosa County Farm Bureau. This outstanding farm family has overcome constant challenges and continues to inspire those around them with their love of the land and their commitment to family.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Okaloosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year award is a reflection of the Crutchfield family's tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Crutchfield family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 15, 2011, I was inadvertently detained on rollcall vote 709. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MICHAEL FORAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service of Michael Foran, the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year. A native of Newington, Connecticut, Mr. Foran has worked for 20 years within the New Britain school district and became Principal of New Britain High School in 2006. In this time, he has been instrumental in providing the 2,700 students of New Britain High School with the

foundation they will need to succeed in today's competitive economy.

Among many of his notable initiatives, Mr. Foran's focus on career education led to the start of the New Britain Academy for Health Professions, which helps students prepare for careers in health care. He has also greatly expanded the school's mentoring programs for at-risk students. Despite school budget reductions and layoffs, Foran has sustained and advanced his school's reputation by building a more collaborative work environment between administrators, teachers and ancillary staff. As a result, since 2006, test scores have risen, more students are taking AP courses, and fewer students are dropping out. This can be credited to better instruction due to Foran's excellent leadership attributes, which were essential in awarding him the honor of National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP program honors secondary school principals who have arrived at administering distinctive learning opportunities for students. High school and middle school principals from every state in the nation are nominated. From this accomplished pool, 6 finalists are chosen as contenders to be named Principal of the Year. This program recognizes the very pivotal role that principals such as Mr. Foran play in the education system as leaders and role models who excel in maintaining a positive community for both students and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all learn from Mr. Foran's dedication to education and service, and so I ask my colleagues to join me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing Michael Foran as the National Principal of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 715, I was attending a meeting that ran long, and therefore, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 715.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Defense Intelligence Agency on the occasion of its' 50th Anniversary.

Created in 1961, DIA is our nation's premier provider of intelligence on foreign military intentions and capabilities. DIA's workforce of over 16,500 military and civilian intelligence professionals conducts all-source analysis, human and technical intelligence collection, counterintelligence and provides secure information technology support worldwide for military commanders, warfighters and policymakers.