

industry to hold the position of Plant Manager. She later went on to become Vice President and General Manager of the company. Mrs. Lozano has also worked as a realtor for the past 28 years and as a supervisor for twelve social workers and one specialist for 22 years. In the past she has also been appointed to serve the community as a Commissioner for Hialeah's Housing Authority.

Mrs. Lozano's work does not stop there, as she has been a volunteer for Liga Contra el Cancer and for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for over 30 years. Along with her husband Richard Irizarry, Mrs. Lozano has made tremendous contributions to our community and both are highly admired for their hard work. In 2004 she was recognized as one of the eight public service employees in Miami-Dade who perform their professional duties with excellence. She has also received the "Most Humanitarian Award" from the Department of Children and Families. She has also been recognized by the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, for her leadership on a number of projects which help alleviate some of the burdens of needy families in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my dear friend Mrs. Lourdes Lozano for her continued service to the South Florida community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual and wish her continued success.

HONORING MID-DELTA HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center. The Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center was founded by Clara T. Reed in 1978 in Belzoni, Mississippi. For more than 30 years the Mid-Delta Home and Hospice has been dedicated to serving the needs of patients throughout the Mississippi Delta.

Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center continues under the dynamic leadership of Chief Executive Officer Clara T. Reed. Mrs. Reed received her licensed practical nursing degree from Mississippi Valley State University in 1964. She later received her Registered Nursing degree in 1970 and a Bachelor's degree in Gerontology from Mississippi Valley State University in 1990.

Mrs. Reed's outstanding leadership and dedication has moved the organization on a progressive track and helped to expand its reach around and beyond the state of Mississippi. Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice provides health and hospice care to individuals and their families in 32 of the 82 counties in the State of Mississippi. Mid-Delta operates 10 branches in Mississippi locations which include Batesville, Belzoni, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Canton, Greenwood, Greenville, Lexington, Madison, and Tunica. They also have offices in Bastrop and Vidalia, Louisiana. Currently, Mid-Delta has over 650 employees spread throughout the Mississippi Delta and treats over 3,500 patients annually. Mid-Delta prides itself on providing specialized services 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice for its unwavering commitment and continued home health care services it provides in the great state of Mississippi and surrounding areas.

TRIBUTE TO MAX MCINTOSH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Max McIntosh, the director of the VA's Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) in White City, Oregon, who will retire tomorrow, March 30, after 39 years of service to the VA.

Since 2003, Max has run the SORCC, transitioning it from a domiciliary into a world class rehabilitation center and a system of clinics for veterans in southern Oregon. He came to the clinic two years earlier as Chief Operating Officer.

When he arrived, the SORCC served 7,000 outpatients in the region—no small feat. Today, through the good work of Max and his staff of over 500 employees and another 500 volunteers, the SORCC cares for 450 residential patients and 18,000 outpatients in Southern Oregon. These are men and women who have worn the nation's uniform to defend our freedom and cherished way of life, and they deserve the highest levels of care. Max made sure that they received it.

In his years as director of the SORCC, Max and the facility have adapted to serve our nation's heroes—from those who served in World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan. Vocational rehabilitation and employment services place veterans with community employers and partners. They have programs focused on post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention, and clinics on chronic pain and diabetes. They recently instituted a system of home-based primary care, caring for veterans in their homes.

Perhaps the greatest challenge he faced in his tenure was among the first, when a proposal was floated to close or reduce services at the SORCC. Max stood arm-in-arm with me and the rest of the community as a fierce advocate for the facility. Today it stands as a nationally known veteran rehabilitation center, in no small part because of Max's leadership.

When I spent Veterans Day with Max and the veterans of southern Oregon at the SORCC this past November, I noted that "A nation is judged by the way it takes care of the people who protect its freedom." In his 39 years of service to our country, Max has made us proud. I understand that he's already signed up to do volunteer work at the SORCC.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, state, and nation, I thank Max for his service to this country's heroes, and wish him well as he moves on.

CONGRATULATING SHANA CHANDLER AND BRANDON WEST ON THE BIRTH OF HUDSON SCOTT WEST

HON ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Shana Chandler and Brandon West on the birth of their son, Hudson Scott West. Hudson Scott was born this morning, March 29, 2012, at 1:32 a.m., in Washington, DC.

Weighing eight pounds and ten ounces, Hudson Scott measured twenty-one and one-quarter inches long. I understand that both he and his mother are doing very well.

I am excited by this blessing, and I am extremely happy for Shana, Brandon, and the West and Chandler families. I wish them all the very best.

FRUSTRATION WITH ABC NEWS REPORTING ON BEEF PRODUCTS, INC. (BPI)

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my frustration with ABC News' muckraking "journalism" that has forced the closure of a plant employing more than 200 people in my district.

What we have before us is a perfect example of mainstream media completely disconnected from reality. In a quest for accolades and attention, reporters, talking heads, and morning talk show hosts at ABC have made it their intention to drive Beef Products, Inc. (BPI) out of business. And they may have succeeded. Despite developing a process that adds approximately \$15 of value to each head of cattle processed, and providing safe, healthy, lean meat for more than 300 billion meals, BPI is being forced to close the doors of its plant in Finney County, Kansas.

But while the reporters, producers, and executives at ABC move on to their next "public interest" story as questions of finely textured lean beef fade into the background, the same cannot be said of employees at BPI. It is ironic that a perfectly good "public interest" story for them to cover is the loss of hundreds of jobs for people in my district and from the three other BPI plants across the country. But doing so would bring too much attention to ABC's role in causing these people to lose their jobs.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker—finely textured lean beef is just that: beef. In terms of meat content, it is no different from the steak being served at Charlie Palmer's, or the hamburger at Five Guys. It's not scrap, filler, or substitute. It's beef.

And it's safe to eat. While much has been made of the use of ammonia to treat the meat once it is processed, it has not been, and should not be a safety concern. This process has been approved by the USDA on a whole host of food products, including meat, cheeses, chocolate, pudding, condiments, and beverages to prevent food-borne diseases.

Not once, in nearly 20 years of production, has there ever been a report of e.coli or other food-borne illness resulting from finely textured lean beef. It is safe, healthy and only being vilified because someone thought it might win them an award.

It is my hope that the American people will not be so easily fooled in the future, and will explore the facts for themselves, rather than allowing a news organization, on a crusade to win awards, take down a safe, successful company providing good jobs for hundreds of Americans.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER VALOPPI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Valoppi, an outstanding individual and leader in South Florida.

Ms. Valoppi is a multi-Emmy Award winning TV journalist, award winning author and social entrepreneur. Ms. Valoppi is the President and Co-Founder of the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program (WOT), a unique mentoring organization that helps young at-risk women live up to their full potential. She is currently engaged in expanding WOT nationally to inspire and motivate women across the nation. Through Ms. Valoppi's leadership, WOT has received national recognition and has been the focus of study by the Harvard Business School Community Partners Program.

As lead anchor at NBC 6 WTVJ in Miami, Ms. Valoppi covered historic moments including the 2000 Presidential election, the Elian Gonzalez saga, the Versace Murder, the Olympics, and California's Northridge earthquake. She also took a leading role in driving the stations commitment to fair, accurate, and balanced journalism.

Both Ms. Valoppi and her husband, Christian Berdouare have made tremendous contributions to our community and are highly admired for their hard work. Ms. Valoppi is a recipient of Florida Jeb Bush's Points of Light Award, the highest honor in Florida. She was named a Heavy Hitter in Non-Profit by the South Florida Business Journal. She has also been awarded the "Inner Circle of 12 Distinction" from the American Cancer Society and the "Woman of Impact Award" from the Women's History Coalition, among many other awards and recognitions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Jennifer Valoppi for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dear friend and an exemplary individual.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK
PALMERSHEIM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Patrick

Palmersheim for being awarded the Medal of Honor from the Iowa State Daughters of the American Revolution.

Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 and incorporated by Congress in 1896 as a national volunteer organization committed to encouraging patriotism and promoting American ideals through better education for our nation's children. Nationwide, DAR boasts more than 170,000 members from 3,000 chapters across all 50 states in addition to various international chapters as well.

The most prestigious honor awarded by Daughters of the American Revolution is the DAR Medal of Honor. To receive this prestigious award, one must be a native born American who has shown an extraordinary commitment to the qualities of service, leadership, trustworthiness and, of course, patriotism. DAR Medal of Honor recipients are recognized for making lasting contributions to our American heritage through selfless service to their country, state, community and fellow man.

Accordingly, Mr. Palmersheim has been serving Iowans his entire career. Patrick served nine years in our nation's Air Force before civically serving in his rural Iowa community through his roles on the city council, as a volunteer firefighter, and as mayor. In 2002, he was appointed Executive Director of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs by then Governor Tom Vilsack. Patrick's leadership in his new role directly led to Iowa becoming the first state in the U.S. to pass legislation that allowed nursing homes the opportunity to report their residents for potential eligibility for federal benefits from the Veterans Administration. Mr. Palmersheim was also instrumental in establishing the long-desired Iowa Veterans Cemetery, which has provided a final resting place for 80,000 veterans since its groundbreaking in November of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, what Mr. Palmersheim has done for the state of Iowa and our veterans cannot be understated. He is truly the benchmark for which this prestigious award is bestowed. It is an honor to represent Patrick and all of Iowa's veterans in the United States Congress and I trust my colleagues in the House will rise to join me in congratulating Patrick for all he has done.

HONORING DONALD JONES, JASON
BOWMASTER, AND DANIEL
DIMATTEO

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three Arkansas heroes.

Jacksonville Fire Department Captain Donald Jones and Engineer Jason Bowmaster along with Jacksonville Police Officer Daniel DiMatteo were struck by a van while responding to an accident on Monday, March 19th.

Engineer Bowmaster and Officer DiMatteo are in stable condition.

However, tragically, Captain Jones, a 31-year veteran of the department, passed away as a result of his injuries. He is the first member of the Jacksonville Fire Department to be killed in the line of duty.

Captain Jones served the last years of his career with Station 4 and is survived by his wife, Betty, his five children, three brothers, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Every day across the nation, our first responders put their lives on the line, sacrificing to keep us safe in our communities.

And, these three men were doing just that: serving and protecting their communities.

I honor them for their service to Jacksonville, and I keep them and their families in my prayers as they recover from this tragic accident.

HONORING MARCUS SCHMIDT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marcus Schmidt of the Centralia High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 120-pound weight class.

Mr. Schmidt and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 1 120-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his fourth state medal and second consecutive Class 1 championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Schmidt for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize world-famous Branson, Missouri. This year, Branson celebrates 100 years of heritage, harmony, and hospitality. Branson is a community of people, shaped and inspired by the lakes and hills that surround her, with a common mission, united in perseverance and service to others.

Over the past 100 years, millions of people from around the world have enjoyed and appreciated this special location in Ozark Mountain Country. However, it wasn't always this way, as Branson comes from humble beginnings.

In 1882, a community was founded when a young schoolteacher named Reuben Branson built a store and opened the first post office in a rural area of southwest Missouri. Branson continued to grow, helped by steamboats and the White River Railroad arriving in 1906, and Branson was officially incorporated on April 1, 1912.

In 1907, preacher Harold Bell Wright wrote a best-selling book, "Shepherd of the Hills," which led to an attraction still thriving today. Inspired entrepreneurs kept arriving and in 1949, Hugo Herschend signed a 99-year lease on a cave and went on to build Silver Dollar City. In 1959, Branson's distinction as a music destination began when the Mabe brothers opened the first music show. The Presley family opened the town's second music show on what eventually became Missouri Route 76.