

commentary, in Hong Kong in 1977 to advocate democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law for the Chinese people. Since its founding, Cheng Ming has become one of the most powerful, if not the most powerful, voices for political change and liberalization in China.

In 2007, Cheng Ming, the most popular political journal published in Hong Kong, celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding. Mr. Wen, its publisher, received hundreds of congratulatory messages from leaders in various circles all around the world. One of the best examples is U.S. Congressman Mark Udall, now a U.S. Senator, who in a letter to Mr. Wen dated October 2, 2007, pointed out that "with a worldwide readership, Cheng Ming has extended far-reaching influences beyond Hong Kong."

Mr. Libby Davies, a member of the Canadian Parliament, in a letter dated October 17, 2007, congratulated Mr. Wen on Cheng Ming's achievements and contributions. Mr. Wen also received many, many other congratulatory messages.

Despite Cheng Ming's great influences, achievements and contributions, Mr. Wen continues to condemn, in his writings, China's one-party dictatorship and advocates an end to political suppression in the PRC. A strong critic of China, Mr. Wen voices his criticisms and advocacy in his monthly column published in Cheng Ming. Mr. Wen will not end his critical writings until and unless China renounces its totalitarian system and becomes a free, democratic country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANK FULBROOK

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Fulbrook. Mr. Fulbrook was a committed city advocate and a valuable member of our community. Mr. Fulbrook leaves behind a loving family, caring friends, and even more admirers.

Mr. Fulbrook always spoke his mind. He was a steadfast defender of his principles, and a tireless crusader against laws and proposals he opposed. Although Mr. Fulbrook didn't receive a law degree, his passion for the law and extensive legal knowledge allowed him to write many legal briefs and file several lawsuits.

Mr. Fulbrook left an indelible mark on Camden, primarily through local government. He believed everyone had a right to have their opinion heard, but was a fearsome debater and powerful advocate for his causes. There was nothing he cared more about than his fellow Camdenites.

Mr. Fulbrook also served on the Camden zoning board, the city's library board, and was a gracious landlord who rented to students looking to live in the city.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fulbrook was a role model for all of the people in the first Congressional District of New Jersey. His dedication to our city inspired many, including me, to strive to be better public servants. I rise with the rest of South Jersey to honor Frank Fulbrook for his outstanding commitment to our community. I wish Frank's family the best; he will surely be missed.

RECOGNIZING BORGERT PRODUCTS, INC ON THEIR NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY OF BUSINESS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the ninetieth anniversary of Borgert Products, Inc., in Saint Joseph, Minnesota. Borgert Product's main mission is to produce premium interlocking concrete pavers and related products, and to provide better service and choices for their customers.

This family owned and operated company was established in 1923 by Lawrence Borgert in East Saint Cloud, Minnesota. In 1953 Kenneth J. Borgert took over the business and moved the operation to its current location in Saint Joseph, Minnesota. After Kenneth retired in 1989, three of his children—Susan, Kevin, and Nadine—acquired the company. In 1999, the Borgert siblings expanded the operation by adding a second state-of-the-art plant. In 2006 Susan became the sole owner. She considers the employees of Borgert Products as her 'work family', attesting to the value she places on each one of the staff.

Borgert Products proudly produces superior concrete paving products that exceed industry standards. Part of their success is due to classes they offer with hands-on lessons for the installation of their interlocking concrete pavers and permeable interlocking concrete pavers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Body congratulate and recognize Susan Borgert and the entire Borgert Products, Inc. family for their long standing dedication to quality products, to customer satisfaction, to the environment, and to their community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL A. SHEEHAN

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express appreciation and pay tribute to Michael A. Sheehan upon his retirement as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. Since his confirmation on December 17, 2011, Mr. Sheehan has distinguished himself as a tireless leader and advocate for special operations forces, counterterrorism policy, and operations. With more than 30 years of experience in combating terrorism, Assistant Secretary Sheehan has provided indispensable advice to the defense committees and directly contributed to U.S. government counterterrorism strategy and policy. He has personally shaped many key counterterrorism initiatives, including the prudent use of operational authorities that fully enabled U.S. Special Operations Forces and our foreign partners around the world. Under his leadership and guidance, the Department of Defense worked to degrade al-Qa'ida's reach across the Middle East and Northwest Africa, and to diminish significantly its influence in Yemen, Somalia, Mali, and Afghanistan. By continually pressing for the ef-

fective and strategic employment of special operations forces to train, equip and advise our foreign partner forces, Assistant Secretary Sheehan has helped implement a U.S. national counterterrorism strategy to meet the challenges of a diversifying terrorist threat.

During this tenure, Assistant Secretary Sheehan has elevated the importance and effectiveness of numerous Department of Defense efforts to build partner capacity and enhance partnered operations. He personally oversaw counterterrorism operational authorities under Section 1208, capacity building efforts under Section 1206, numerous projects under the Global Security Contingency Fund, the Defense Institutional Reform Initiative, and the Ministry of Defense Advisory program that have resulted in the significant improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of these critical components within U.S. defense strategy.

Assistant Secretary Sheehan also provided oversight of multiple Department of Defense humanitarian assistance and disaster relief programs and operations, including assistance to the Philippines after Typhoon Bopha in December 2012, support for non-combatant evacuation in the Central African Republic in December 2012, and the humanitarian assistance efforts in Jordan to address refugees from Syria. Additionally, he has represented the Department on the interagency Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) and has overseen U.S. Special Operations Forces contributions to the African Union initiative launched against Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army.

With an encyclopedic knowledge of terrorist organizations, keen strategic awareness, and extensive operational experience, Assistant Secretary Sheehan has continually provided the congressional defense committees of the United States Congress with honest, effective, and timely advice and testimony. Assistant Secretary Sheehan's visionary leadership and guidance has greatly enhanced our national security and further aligned the Department of Defense to meet the 21st century challenges facing our nation and the warfighter. At every turn, in his more than three decades of government service, he has made our country safer. For that, we shall remain forever grateful.

HONORING MICHAEL DAVID NEELEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael David Neeley. Michael 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, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has earned the rank of Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, all

while leading his troop as Senior Patrol Leader. Michael has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Michael renovated the landscaping around the lower level entrance of Gashland Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, by installing stone pavers and a bench and by planting an evergreen tree along with a yellow rose bush.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Michael David Neeley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1961, 484—"nay"; 354, 485—"yes."

CONGRATULATING ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have the distinct privilege of recognizing and celebrating Actors Theatre of Louisville on its 50th anniversary season. As the state theater of Kentucky and a force of tremendous influence on the national stage, Actors Theatre has long been a source of pride and distinction for the people of our community and the Commonwealth.

Since its formation in 1963, Actors Theatre has transformed from a scrappy collective headquartered in a tiny downtown loft to one of the nation's premier artistic institutions and a staple of the city's downtown revitalization. Its world-class collection of theatre artists and administrators have introduced more than 400 new, original plays into the American theater canon, and they continue to defy even the highest expectations.

Actors Theatre also hosts one of the most exciting, innovative, and inspiring festivals in America. The Humana Festival of New American Plays is one of the precious few institutions in American arts where new work can meet its full expression, and where creativity is rewarded with the appreciation of our great city.

Whether it is debuting Pulitzer Prize-winning plays or 10-minute shorts, Actors Theatre remains a preeminent player in American drama and an unparalleled cultural asset for our community.

On behalf of the Third Congressional District, I wish Actors Theatre continued success and look forward to another 50 years of inspiring performances.

CONGRATULATING UNITED FINANCE COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY AND RICHARD PARKER III ON HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE COMPANY

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of American communities are small, successful, family-owned enterprises. In Portland this month we are honoring the 90th anniversary of Parker family's United Finance Company and the 40th anniversary of Richard H. Parker's involvement with the family business.

The Parker family and their business have been an anchor in Portland's eastside for almost a century. It has been my pleasure to work with Rick Parker, Jr., for virtually his entire time with the company, which coincides with my time serving in public office.

His family and employees have been part of the revitalization of Portland's central-eastside district. He was one of the key members of the central-eastside industrial council which helped form a private-public partnership with the city to protect and enhance this vital sector of our local economy.

Most recently, it was my honor to work with him as a leader with Portland's streetcar renaissance and the successful project that brought it to the eastside of the Willamette River. Whether it's dealing with issues of public policy, public investment, or civic and charitable promotion, he and his family have played a vital role in Portland's vibrancy and the renaissance of Portland's near eastside.

I extend my congratulations to him, the family business United Finance Company, and am secure in the knowledge that his son, Richard Parker III, is continuing the tradition of family stewardship and community involvement.

Congratulations and we all look forward to celebrating the centennial in October 2023.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF A HUSBAND, A FATHER, A SAILOR, AND A FRIEND: MARTY BODROG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the hearts of every American felt pain when we heard that a deranged man killed twelve innocent Americans at the Washington Navy Yard on September 16, 2013. My family and I were crushed when we learned that we knew one of the victims of this senseless crime, Marty Bodrog.

We lived in the same neighborhood as the Bodrog family in Annandale, Virginia. It was a neighborhood where the neighbors truly cared about each other. During weekdays, the kids would go to school while the parents went to work. The weekends were unique as there was always an event or gathering of neighbors. My family would see Marty regularly, whether he was walking his dog or hanging out with his family at the pool on a summer day. He was part of the fabric that made our neighborhood such a special place. We miss him.

Marty Bodrog's life was a life focused on others and service. A 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Marty spent twenty-two years on active duty, rising to the rank of Commander. He was a surface warfare officer, known as a "ship driver" in the Navy. After retiring from active duty, Marty spent the rest of his professional career making sure that American Naval vessels were the best our world has ever seen.

Marty also served the family he loved. He was married to the love of his life, Melanie, for twenty-five years. They were blessed with three incredible daughters: Isabel, Sophie, and Rita. No father as ever been more devoted to his family than Marty was.

But, Marty's most important service was his service to the Lord. He created a regular Bible study in our neighborhood and was a religious education teacher in his church, Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield.

A wise man once told me that the greatest gift one human being can give another is the gift of a smile, or a laugh, or an extra heartbeat of excitement. Marty spent a lifetime giving others those gifts.

In closing, I'd like to say to my fellow Sailor and friend, "Bravo Zulu on a life lived well. May you enjoy fair winds and following seas in your new, eternal life. We'll see you again, soon."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 484 and 485. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: rollcall No. 484—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1961—"yes." rollcall No. 485—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree H.Res. 354—"yes."

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARIA LUISA VERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments, service, and contributions of Sister Maria Luisa Vera, as a community leader of Laredo, Texas.

Sister Maria Luisa Vera was born on October 7, 1941 in Brownsville, Texas and is a third generation Mexican-American. For over 20 years she resided in Laredo, Texas and has contributed to the community through ministry in health care.

Although she was educated in a public school system, she received religious instruction from her mother and the parish catechist. After graduating from Brownsville High School in 1960 she decided to continue her education by enrolling in Canales School of Vocational Nursing in Brownsville, Texas and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1961. Within the next two years she joined the Sisters of Mercy and applied for membership in 1963.

By 1970, Sister Maria Luisa Vera received her bachelor's in registered nursing and