

Mr. Speaker, more than three decades have passed since Bum Phillips strolled the sidelines of the Astrodome as the head coach of the Oilers and the beloved leader of "Luv Ya Blue!" Nation, but he will always be remembered as the man who put the Oilers on the map and embodied the spirit and civic pride of Houston, the greatest city in the greatest country in the only world we know.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Oail Andrew "Bum" Phillips.

Luv Ya Blue!

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE'S PICTURE MAIN STREET PROJECT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's choice for the Revitalization Award for their 2013 Business of the Year Awards for their efforts to transform the main commercial strip of the Village of Williamsville into a more vibrant and vital urban village core.

Through the process of placemaking, the village of Williamsville initiated a citizen-driven effort to create a vision for what Main Street should be and to create a plan to make that vision a reality. More than 36,000 vehicles travel down Main Street each day, and residents and businesses identified the lack of a pedestrian environment as a detriment to both commerce and the viability of the future of the village.

The Community Plan was devised in 2005 which identified a solution to the traffic problems on Main Street. Picture Main Street directly addressed those issues by seeking to make the state road more equitable for both drivers and pedestrians. The plan called for numerous improvements to make the shopping district more accessible to pedestrians which include \$7,000,000 streetscape enhancements, aggressive tree planting, bulb-outs, a mid-block signal for pedestrians, lighting, gateways, pocket parks, and even a smartphone application or valet parking in the village. Changes could also result in the creation a "village-square" or second shopping district around the Historic Williamsville Water Mill.

Although pending approval by the state, the changes are set to go into effect next spring. Within the waiting period, thousands of residents took part in "taking back Main Street," an old-fashioned block party that closed the thoroughfare to traffic and invited residents out onto the street.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project's effort to revitalize the Village of Williamsville. Their innovation and determination are not only admirable and deserving of such praise, but an incredible asset to the future success of Western New York. I congratulate the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project as the recipient of the Revitalization Award for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Business of the Year Awards.

IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN ASPIRATIONS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I rise along with the co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Representatives KAPTUR, LEVIN, and GERLACH, to voice my support for Ukraine's European aspirations.

As long-time advocates for the democratization and economic liberalization of Ukraine, we welcome the progress that has been made to date and encourage Ukraine's continued efforts in the coming weeks to realize the final steps necessary to enter into an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius this November.

By strengthening Ukraine's bilateral relationship with the EU, we are confident that through greater economic integration and political cooperation, Ukraine will be able to achieve a stronger relationship with current EU Member States, as well as transatlantic partners, such as the United States, through a shared respect for democratic principles, rule of law, good governance, human rights, and essential freedoms. As such, we believe that the signing of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU will continue to serve as a catalyst for democratic and human rights reforms, enhanced economic development, and improved welfare for all Ukrainians.

Over the last year, we have observed with interest Ukraine's efforts to meet the EU's conditions for this agreement, and as the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius draws near, we wish to encourage all parties to continue to cooperate and work swiftly to complete all remaining reforms, in law and in practice.

Recognizing that key progress has been made in certain areas, including the enactment of a new criminal procedure code, we support further tangible action by Ukraine to address critical issues and incorporate the reforms necessary to improve its electoral system, governing institutions, and its system of justice. In particular, we believe that a crucial step towards such reform would be the pardon and release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko under mutually acceptable terms.

The signing of an Association Agreement with the EU marks a significant opportunity for Ukraine to fulfill its commitments to democracy and human rights and is in the strategic interests of Ukraine, the EU, and the United States. We offer our support and encouragement to Ukraine in the coming weeks as it takes the final steps towards a stronger and enhanced relationship with the EU.

MONICA BARLETTA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Monica Barletta, longtime parishioner of the

Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Monica Barletta has been a member of the Holy Rosary Church for over 70 years, joining in 1943 to receive her First Communion. She and her late husband Fred Barletta Sr. have been instrumental in every major project undertaken by Holy Rosary Parish. Mrs. Barletta has been a member and officer of the Christian Woman's Society for over 50 years, and has served as a lector for nearly 25 years. Additionally, she was an active member of the committee which initiated the annual Holy Rosary Bazaar in 1978 and she held the position of Bazaar chairperson. She was one of the founders of the church's annual Mother's Day Carnation Sales that support the Pennsylvanians for Human Life organization, an effort which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the local pro-life movement over the past 30 years. She is also currently a member of the Holy Rosary Parish Council.

Mr. Speaker, for her dedicated work at the Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, I commend Monica Barletta.

RECOGNIZING COL. PAULETTE SCHANK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a career dedicated to service to our country. After more than two decades of service, Colonel Paulette Schank will be retiring from her command, but her service and commitment to others will not soon be forgotten. Colonel Schank, a Bucks County resident, is the Commander of the 514th AMDS, Aerospace Medicine Squadron based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Her detachment provides medical support for over 2,600 Airmen, ensuring their medical readiness to meet mission requirements both state-side and abroad.

As both a civilian nurse-anesthetist at Saint Mary Medical Center in Langhorne and an Air Force reserve officer, Colonel Schank has dedicated her life to caring for others—be it in Bucks County or around the world. During her tenure with the Air Force she has provided medical assistance in times of war and in humanitarian efforts—from Iraq to Haiti, Mozambique to Peru.

Colonel Schank is a vital part of my Veterans Advisory Board and a trusted consultant when it comes to pursuing legislation that benefits my district's veterans and military members.

On behalf of a grateful community, a grateful nation, and a grateful world I thank Colonel Paulette Schank for her service and wish her the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2013, I was unavoidably absent and missed

the following rollcall votes: No. 556, the DeFazio Amendment No. 2; No. 557, the Flores Amendment No. 3; No. 558, the Hastings Amendment No. 6; No. 559, the Richmond Amendment No. 16; and No. 560 on final passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Had I voted, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 556, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 557, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 558, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 559, and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 560.

IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES
ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR DONALD R. WINGROVE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Donald R. Wingrove and commemorate his valiant service to our great nation.

CSM Wingrove was born on November 12, 1936, and enlisted in the United States Army two short months after turning eighteen. After basic training, CSM Wingrove quickly rose up the ranks, training and serving from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Thailand. In November of 1970, CSM Wingrove heroically put himself in harm's way and displayed immense dedication to this nation in a clandestine mission to rescue American prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

CSM Wingrove was awarded the Silver Star Medal, the third highest military decoration for valor, for his extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in the face of enemy forces.

I applaud CSM Wingrove's bravery and service, and I thank him for his heroic and selfless actions. We are fortunate to have brave men and women like CSM Wingrove who stand committed to defending our great nation at home and abroad. His dedication and sacrifice represent the best our nation has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, CSM Wingrove was one of the greatest American soldiers and patriots, but he was also a loving father and husband, and a faithful friend to many. North Carolina is no stranger to heroes like CSM Wingrove. Our state boasts some of the finest warfighters the nation has ever seen. We are forever indebted to him and other American soldiers who dedicate their lives to defend our freedom, secure our homeland, and protect our democracy.

HONORING COLONEL TIMOTHY E.
TARCHICK, USAF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Timothy E. Tarchick and to recognize his lifetime of service to our country in the United States Air Force.

On October 31, Col. Tarchick will retire from the United States Air Force after more than 35 years of dedication and sacrifice for our great nation.

While Col. Tarchick currently serves as the Commander of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, he has worked in many other capacities. After enlisting in the Air Force Reserve in 1978, he became an X-Ray Technician, and would later serve as a Loadmaster with the 910th Tactical Airlift Group in Ohio. After graduating from Officer Training School in 1984, he served in many units as Squadron Training Officer, Wing Plans Officer, Tactics Instructor, Flight Examiner, Chief Navigator, 4th Air Force Operations Staff Officer, Director of Operations, and Operations Group Commander.

Throughout his career, Col. Tarchick was always ready to meet the call of duty. During hurricanes Katrina and Rita, he led the first Air Force rescue efforts that saved more than 1,000 people. And at his current position, he has successfully converted the 94th Airlift Wing from a training wing to a combat-coded tactical wing. Under his leadership, the 94th Airlift Wing hasn't suffered a single casualty. For his exceptional service, Col. Tarchick has earned the Legion of Merit, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and many other awards.

Col. Tarchick will surely be missed. He has played an invaluable role in the U.S. Air Force for decades, and his effective leadership has left a positive example of leadership that will be passed to all of those who served under him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Col. Tarchick for devoting his life to the upholding of our Constitution and to the protection of our American way of life. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved retirement.

IN MEMORY OF TADEUSZ
MAZOWIECKI

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who passed away today at the age of 86.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki played a pivotal role in the Round Table talks that paved the way for Poland's peaceful democratic transition. He was an architect of the agreement that led to Poland's first partially free elections in June 1989 and went on to serve as Poland's first post-communist prime minister.

Throughout his life, Mazowiecki was a courageous advocate for workers' rights and human dignity. He was the leader of a small group of Polish intellectuals who traveled to Gdansk in 1980 to show their solidarity with striking shipyard workers. He was one of the first to be arrested when communist authorities declared martial law in December 1981 and one of the last to be released a year later. Throughout the 1980s, Mazowiecki served as an advisor to Lech Walesa and played a leading role in Solidarity movement. As prime minister, Mazowiecki sped political reforms, enacted civil and political rights, and laid the groundwork for Poland's successful transition to a free market economy. Poland's peaceful

revolution sparked a chain reaction throughout Central Europe, culminating in Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States and Europe owe Tadeusz Mazowiecki an immeasurable debt of gratitude. The world today is safer and more free because of him and Polish patriots like him. His memory serves as an inspiration to those who fight—often against all odds—for rule of law and human dignity in their own countries, and as a reminder to all that the blessings of liberty and democracy should not be taken for granted.

YVONNE "BONNIE" GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring CEO of Workforce Solution Yvonne "Bonnie" Gonzalez. She has been CEO of Workforce Solution since 2003 and is ending her tenure after ten years. Her tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress for south Texas.

"Bonnie" Gonzalez was born in Rio Grande City, Texas. Gonzalez earned a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin in 1981, and was recruited by Harvard University to attend the John F. Kennedy School of Government where she earned a Master of Public Administration in 1993. Prior to becoming the CEO for Workforce Solutions, she served as founding President/CEO of the RGV Empowerment Zone Corporation from 1995–2003. Under her direction, the Empowerment Zone took a \$40 million dollar federal investment and leveraged an additional \$416 million in local, state, national, and private sector investment into Empowerment Zone communities. From establishing the Teenage Parent Alternative Program, a state recognized program for McAllen I.S.D. in 1988; to being a founding member of South Texas Community College, now South Texas College; to testifying before state and federal officials on development, community and economic development, and education, Ms. Gonzalez continues to be an advocate for the Valley.

As CEO, Gonzalez plays an integral role in leading change and leveraging strategic partnerships within the workforce development industry and in the Rio Grande Valley. Gonzalez is a devoted public servant and community leader. Gonzalez challenges the organization to be innovative, efficient and effective in the programmatic and fiscal oversight of workforce development services for Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties in South Texas. She, together with the Board of Directors, strives to ensure that public dollars go directly to the development of the local workforce, in training, job seeker, and business services. Workforce Solutions was recently recognized as one of the highest performing workforce boards in Texas and one of only 26 national grantees for the 2012 Workforce Innovation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Yvonne "Bonnie" Gonzalez, retiring CEO of Workforce Solution. Her years of dedication