

lost their lives in what is known as the Farmington Mine Disaster.

On the morning of November 20, 1968 multiple explosions rocked the small town of Farmington and the surrounding area. The blasts were felt as far as 12 miles away. Ninety-nine men went down in the mine that day, and only 21 made it out alive.

The sacrifice of these miners and their families was not in vain. The disaster led to historic safety changes for the mining industry. The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 was signed into law as a result and generations of coal miners have benefited from the improvements in working conditions.

Coal and coal mining is in West Virginia's lifeblood. Tens of thousands of West Virginians rely on coal to make their livelihood. Even today, mining coal is a difficult and often dangerous job. We must never forget the important contribution these men and women make to America.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 1st Congressional District of West Virginia and the families of these 78 miners, I remember the victims of this tragedy and honor the sacrifice they made.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 604, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

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

HONORING PRESIDENT JAAN MANUEL SANTOS CALDERÓN OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his bold leadership and commitment to public service.

President Santos began his distinguished career in public service when he served as the first-ever Minister of Foreign Trade. In this capacity, President Santos tirelessly sought to bring a higher quality of life to the people of Colombia by expanding trade and promoting economic prosperity. As the Minister of Foreign Trade, President Santos's strong leadership allowed him to successfully establish Colombia as a rising international economic force.

After founding the Social Party of National Unity, which is now Colombia's largest political party, President Santos served as the Minister of Defense. Thanks to his steadfast leadership and commitment, President Santos helped weaken dangerous guerrilla groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

President Santos's achievements as a national leader are undoubtedly worthy of our admiration. I commend him for an impressive career and applaud his lifelong dedication to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Fairfax County Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance educational and recreational services.

The Fairfax County Park Service Awards are presented in several categories: the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards which were established in 1988 and named in honor of Ellamae Doyle in recognition of her many years of outstanding service as a member and chairman of the Park Authority Board, the Eakin Philanthropy Award named in honor of the Eakin family who donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Resource Award named in honor of the late, longtime historian, author, and chairman of the Sully Foundation, and the Outstanding Volunteer Awards. I am honored to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2013 Service Awards:

Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients:

ExxonMobil for its generous support of the Summer Entertainment Series, its investment in an outdoor classroom at Huntley Meadows Park, and for support of the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience.

Jon and Ruth Ruskin who, through the RZ Foundation, have made significant financial contributions that have supported Fairfax County Parks programs and initiatives including Bright Futures RecPAC scholarships, Arts in the Park performances, and funding for open space land acquisition.

The Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award:

The Sully Foundation Ltd., which has contributed nearly half a million dollars in support of special projects at Sully Historic Site since 1970.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients:

Howard Albers for his work as a volunteer consultant to identify and secure new sources of funding for park programs and facilities.

Jim Hickey for more than 17 years of volunteer service to Lake Accotink Park and for establishing the Friends of Lake Accotink, for which he serves as president.

Sarah Kirk for her efforts as founder and president of Turner Farm Events to ensure that equestrian programs at The Turner Farm in Great Falls remain free to the public.

Elly Doyle Special Recognition Awards:

Casto DeBiasi, Lassine Doumbia, The Great Falls Trail Blazers, The Friends of Green Spring Gardens Board of Directors, Lynn Mulvey-McFerron, and Melina Tye.

2013 Outstanding Volunteers:

Fran Anderson, William A. "Bill" Bozo, Lisi Bradshaw, Joan Carson, Sue Erbele, Clint Fields, Natalie Gilbert, Mostafa Kamvar, Lauren Kinne, Barbara Leven, Judy Nitsche, Martha Orling, Jaque Ristau, Cathy Ruiz, Marilyn Schroeder, Jim and Jo Anne Stapleton, John Tucker, Karen Waltman, and the Ziegler Family.

2013 Student Honorees:

Monica Banghart and Rohil Bhinge.

Mister Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

THE 210TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEESBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company, which celebrated its 210th anniversary on November 15.

The fire company is an important part of the history of the Town of Leesburg. It began in 1803 when Leesburg residents formed a "bucket brigade." Each male member of the household kept buckets made of leather on the floor of their homes. Later in the 1800s, the bucket brigade reorganized into the Leesburg Fire Company, and by the 1820s the company had acquired a new hand-pumped fire engine. In the 20th century, the company advanced from the use of hand-pulled engines and hose carts to more modern fire engines. Further expansion happened in the 1920s with the construction of a new fire station and the purchase of several new fire trucks.

Over the past 210 years, the fire company has grown and changed significantly while safeguarding the Leesburg community. In 1928, the company responded to 21 calls, and by the 1970s, demand for the company's services had grown to an average of 300 calls a year. The company then hired its first fire marshal to keep up with demand. Today, the volunteers and career firefighters who make up what is now called the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company use advance training and the highest-quality equipment to provide fire prevention, emergency rescue services and fire safety education. In 2012, the fire company responded to more than 1,723 calls, underscoring the organization's invaluable contributions to the community.

A banquet in honor of the 210th anniversary was held on November 16, which focused on the book, *The Early History of the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company 1803–1925*. The book was researched and written by 11-year member James R. Fazekas and is filled with newspaper articles as well as maps, photos, drawings and reproductions of archived documents commemorating the fire company's history and accomplishments. Mayor Kristen Umstattd also presented the Town of Leesburg's annual donation of \$400,000 to the fire company—a substantial increase from the town's allocation of \$53.69 in 1891.

The success of the fire company is due in part to the leadership of President Richard Wolfe, who has been with the company for nine years. I would also like to recognize Rick Etter, a 29-year member who served as chair of the anniversary committee, and J.B. Anderson, a 43-year member. Their and exceptional service is appreciated.

I commend all the members of Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company for their bravery, dedication and willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our community. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET THOMSEN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harriet Thomsen from Washington State, who will be recognized as an extraordinary volunteer by Friend to Friend America at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Day on November 23, 2013.

Harriet has been a volunteer and supporter of Friend to Friend since it was founded in 1974. The visitation program connects volunteers to elderly or disabled persons living in nursing homes, increasing the quality of their lives and establishing long-time friendships. Harriet has since been a strong advocate for the elderly community and has worked vigorously to maintain Friend to Friend's mission.

Harriet's passion for volunteerism stem from her first visit to a nursing home in her earlier years. She noticed that most homes provided dark activity rooms and were lacking sanitary equipment. Harriet immediately took charge and published an article in her local newspaper asking for donations like paint, chairs and lamps to improve assisted living facilities. She also mobilized women at her church, addressing the concerns she had about the unfortunate conditions some elderly must endure when living in a nursing home. She became invested and took it upon herself to positively change the living situation of seniors.

Although Harriet is highly praised for her selflessness and dedication at Friend to Friend, she also volunteers at the Children's Hospital Boutique in Kent, Washington and regularly cooks dinners for the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church. She is currently a retiree that spends more than 40 hours a week assisting others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Harriet Thomsen. Harriet is a true inspiration and an excellent example of a community leader. Her service to Washington State will be appreciated by many for years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONORING JOSEPH A. GATTO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Joseph An-

thony Gatto, a tireless educator and community artist who passed away, at the age of 78.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado on December 22, 1943, Joseph soon came to call California his home as World War II provided a large migration of workers to settle in the West Coast. Officially settling in East Hollywood, Joseph graduated from Fairfax High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. After turning 18 years of age, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. Upon completion of his service to the military, Joseph returned to Los Angeles and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles and continued his education earning a Master's from Cal State LA and another Master's from Pepperdine University becoming the first in his family to graduate from college.

During his career he worked multiple jobs tirelessly as he was not only an educator in high schools during the day, having never missed a day of work during his 47 years, he also was a University professor on the weekends at Cal State LA and California State University Northridge. All a while serving as an assistant to his brother a concession manager at Dodger Stadium. In 1968, Joseph met his wife with whom he had three wonderful children; Nicole, Michael—a California Assemblyman, and my friend, Marianna, each of whom went on to do great things in their own right.

Joseph was awarded the "Bravo Award" as California Arts Teacher of the Year, in 1986. He was also honored consecutively at the White House by former President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and again in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush. Following his success, he was honored yet again in 1990 as the California and Pacific Region Art Educator of the year. Joseph wrote many books throughout his life, many being used as classroom textbooks from Canada to Texas.

He will be remembered as a father, friend, and as an outstanding educator in his community. He will be missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of Joseph Anthony Gatto.

HONORING THE HETTINGER FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hettinger family for their commitment to family solidarity. It is evident by their love and support shared between parents and children that this family deserves to be recognized for its commitment to one another.

Robert and Thesia Hettinger have been blessed with a large family, twelve children in all. The family wasn't always that large; however, after Robert's sister passed in 2006, the Hettinger family grew by seven. With ten children at home, Robert's sister's husband became overwhelmed when they learned of her cancer and Robert and Thesia were eager to help.

Robert works as a district network specialist for the Millard Public Schools. Thesia is currently a stay-at-home mother and certainly

keeps very busy with twelve children at home in Papillion. During the final months of her life, Robert and his sister's relationship evolved as they struggled to cope with her disease and living arrangements for all of the children. Soon after his sister passed, Robert and Thesia, along with their five children, made the decision to bring six of their nieces and nephews into their family. The four remaining children stayed with their father; however, they continue to play a significant role in the Hettinger children's lives.

All in all, the adoption process took three years and was finalized in 2009. Recently, the Hettinger's added another nephew to their family, bringing the grand total to twelve children. Miraculously, all of the children are very loving, respectful, and protective of one another and all share a genuine concern for helping others.

The Hettinger reserves Monday nights for family time. During this time they will all get together, which is extremely difficult to do with twelve children between ages seven and seventeen, to focus on their spiritual lives.

Robert and Thesia believe that to be good parents they must teach and lead by example. It is folks like Robert and Thesia who embody the spirit of strong communities. It is an honor to recognize them today.

"FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY": IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of President John F. Kennedy. On the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic passing, it is important to remember all of the ideals that President Kennedy championed and the many Americans that have dedicated their lives to public service based on his example. In honor of President Kennedy, I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Fifty years ago this day . . .
As a Nation cried and prayed . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As up to Heaven,
an American Hero made his way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
as our Nation's hearts gave way!
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As Camelot,
came to an end that day!
As a Nation's great hopes were so torn away!
As the tears so ran down her face . . .
Fifty years ago today!
For we will long remember,
where we were so then there . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
When,
we lost our most beloved JFK . . .
As we all so knelt and prayed!
As up towards Heaven a new Angel made his
way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
So young and so bright,
who so fought to fight . . .
To Save The World!
In World War II,
aboard P.T. 109 all in his most heroic hue
. . .