

best to protect citizens and colleagues. Captain DeMarco valued the special bond between officers, and the great responsibility entrusted to the police force as the first to respond during crises.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to acknowledge the career of Captain John DeMarco. I am grateful for his twenty-six years of service to Niagara Falls, and I wish him the best of luck as he brings his expertise in law enforcement to his new role as a faculty member in the Niagara University Criminal Justice Department.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the 150th anniversary of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, which was established in the city of San Francisco in 1863, and which is now headquartered in my Congressional District in Novato, California. A celebration of this important milestone will be taking place on April 4th at the Old San Francisco Mint.

Fireman's Fund has been one of the nation's premier insurance companies, protecting the future for individuals, families, and businesses. Its own history parallels that of both this state and country. Fireman's Fund has insured the construction of national landmarks including the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis.

It survived the Chicago Fire of 1871 and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, playing a critical role in rebuilding after the devastation. The company was also there when it mattered for many displaced people after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989.

This company is a true innovator—the first insurance provider to write a standing grain policy in the U.S., the first carrier to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance, and the first company to add “green” insurance to their offerings for homes and businesses.

The Fireman's Fund name, which is heralded in California, emanates from the founder's arrangement to pay 10 percent of the company's profits to support the widows and orphans of firefighters who died in the line of duty. That tradition continues today through the company's Heritage Program®, providing fire departments throughout the nation with life-saving equipment and training. Working in combination with its employees, agents and brokers, the company has distributed more than \$30 million to support firefighters for safer communities since 2004. The company has also been a benefactor of numerous charities in the San Francisco Bay Area and its generosity has added tremendously to the vitality of our communities.

More than 1,200 Californians work for Fireman's Fund, with the majority of them residing in my own Congressional District. They are not only dedicated professionals who partner with agents and brokers to provide high quality insurance services, but many spend countless

hours engaged in volunteer work for a variety of causes.

I look forward to being at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Fireman's Fund on April 4th. It is a great company with outstanding people and it remains one of California's most enduring financial institutions. Given the time of rapid change in which we live, it is comforting to know that companies like Fireman's Fund still endure, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them well with the hope that they will still be with us for another 150 years.

HUNGARY TODAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, less than a month ago I chaired a hearing on “Anti-Semitism: A Growing Threat to All Faiths.” One of the witnesses was Tamás Fellegi, a former minister in the Orbán government, who is himself Jewish. His testimony was impressive, as was the long list of significant actions the Orbán government has taken to combat anti-Semitism in Hungarian society.

Mr. Fellegi admitted frankly that anti-Semitism is a serious social problem in Hungary. Fortunately, the Orbán government is on a clear upward trajectory here, and gives every sign that it will continue to be part of the solution rather than the problem. I'm confident it will particularly take on the persistent attempts to rehabilitate Holocaust perpetrators and vicious anti-Semites, both from the 1930s and 1940s and today. I will certainly continue to urge it to do so.

We all know that many NGOs and a few governments, including our own, have been vocal in criticizing the Hungarian government on various grounds touching on democracy and human rights—and that the Hungarian government and its supporters have rejected these criticisms vigorously.

Having reviewed material on both sides, I must say that I believe the Orbán government is right when it says that many of the criticisms are unfair, involving double standards, misrepresentations, and inaccurate information. The Hungarian government has carefully documented this, for example in its “Open Letter to Freedom House.”

For another example, the administration, in criticizing the Orbán government's adoption of a new constitution, claimed in its written testimony to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe this week that in “fundamental” matters, “the process must lead to a consensus built from a cross-section of society, rather than reflect only the opinions of the ruling coalition . . . the lack of serious consultation with different sectors of society, did not honor the democratic spirit . . .” Anyone familiar with the passage of the Obamacare legislation might well question whether this is a message our government is ideally situated to deliver. Certainly it should have avoided the rude insinuation about democracy.

Yet we need to continue delivering these and similar messages to a number of foreign governments—we must not give in to the cynicism induced by our own or any other government's failings.

But we should be a lot more humble—especially when we are dealing with a country like Hungary, where the system of constitutional checks and balances is alive and well, where a democratic party with an unprecedented supermajority and a mandate for dramatic change, gained in a free and fair election, passed a democratic constitution and shows itself open to working with others to amend and improve the flaws in its new laws. This is a conversation between equals, and there is a lot we can learn from Hungary. I'm thinking particularly here of the constitutional cap on public debt and the statement that life will be protected in the womb.

I'd like to congratulate the Hungarian government for the many laudable things in the new constitution—many things that advance human rights, including the prohibition of human trafficking, reproductive cloning, and its promotion of the culture of life. And for the rest, I look forward to a continuing conversation with the Hungarian government about their and our constitutional traditions and how they can both be improved.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN WEIR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the unparalleled career of Mr. Stephen Weir and congratulate him as he retires after forty years of public service on behalf of the people of Contra Costa County. Steve Weir has been known throughout our community as a man of uncommon commitment and unwavering integrity.

Born in Richmond, California and raised in Pleasant Hill, Steve has been a life-long resident of Contra Costa County. Following his graduation with Honors from the University of California at Berkeley, Steve moved back to Central County to begin his career as a public servant. He won his first elected position in 1973 as the Contra Costa Water District Director. After serving seven years in that capacity, Steve was elected to the Concord City Council in 1980, and in 1984 he was selected by his colleagues to serve a two-year term as Concord's Mayor. During this time, Steve also took on the responsibilities of regional Commissioner for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and became Chairman in 1991.

It was in 1989, following the death of County Recorder Jim Olson, that Steve was appointed to fill the vacant seat for County Recorder. Steve was subsequently elected to the office in 1990 and has been returned to the position by voters every four years since.

As County Clerk-Recorder, Steve immediately went to work streamlining the Clerk office system from five offices spread throughout Martinez, to one consolidated, state-of-the-art facility. Leveraging nearly \$13 million in federal and state grant funding, he developed and purchased a vote tabulation system and introduced electronic recording to our county. Steve's efficiency continued to garner favorable results as his implementation of a department-wide Performance Management Program

brought high praise from the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. He also established a Real Estate Fraud Notification System which has protected the County's property owners.

Steve has earned many awards and distinctions throughout his career, including the 1993 Citizen of the Year Award from the California Transportation Foundation in recognition of his skill in bringing improvements to the Contra Costa and Bay Area's transportation systems and under his watch, the Contra Costa County Clerk's Office was awarded the County Department of the Year Award in 1994. However, we are certain that the distinction Steve and his long-time partner, John Hemm, take most pride in is the fact that their marriage in June of 2008 was the very first same-gender union ever conducted in Contra Costa County.

As Steve trades his desk chair in Martinez for his bicycle seat, we expect to see him quickly surpass the record 5600 miles of roads and trails he logged last year and to easily hit his personal goal of 75 round trip rides to the 3,864 foot summit of Mt. Diablo this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in commending City Clerk-Recorder Steve Weir for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join his husband, John, his family, friends and colleagues, in congratulating Steve on an outstanding career and wishing him the very best as he begins a well-deserved and we imagine, a very active retirement.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF THE EASTMAN MACHINE COMPANY AND THE STEVENSON FAMILY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and honor the Eastman Machine Company for its 125 years of business. Owned by the Stevenson family for the past five generations, Eastman revolutionized the apparel industry. Today, Eastman is undoubtedly the global standard for material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment.

The Eastman Machine Company began in 1888, when Canadian inventor George Eastman developed the first fractional electric motor that could be mounted onto a cutting base. By attaching the motor to a reciprocating knife, he created the Eastman, the first electric fabric-cutting machine.

The Eastman rendered manual cutting obsolete, transforming the apparel industry. Rather than painstakingly cutting materials by hand, the Eastman allowed companies to cut fabric mechanically, which exponentially increased production speeds while drastically lowering production costs.

Ten years later, one of Eastman's first investors, Charles P. Stevenson, took over full ownership of the company. The Stevenson family holds the company to this day and remains intimately involved in all aspects of the business.

C.P. Stevenson's son, Wade, assumed leadership in 1908, when he was just twenty-two years old. A shrewd businessman, Wade greatly expanded Eastman's markets. Initially, he propelled sales to reach across the coun-

try. By 1921, he was selling Eastman products in Europe, South America, and South Africa. To further increase sales, Wade developed numerous patents, each stemming from the original Eastman fabric cutter.

Wade controlled Eastman Machine Company for sixty years, passing the company to his son C.P. "Chuck" Stevenson in 1968. Due to his leadership, Eastman acquired the world's leading producer of cloth spreading machines in 1974, Cutting Room Appliance Corporation. With this purchase Eastman became the unequivocal source for all types of apparel manufacturing and fabric cutting machines.

In 1988, Robert L. Stevenson and Wade Stevenson bought the rapidly growing company from their father. Robert became President, and Wade remained in charge of international operations as Export President. Under their innovative leadership, they sought to make Eastman able to produce the complete set of material cutting and handling equipment. They understood that by controlling each piece of machinery, their customers would have the most efficient, economical solution, a truly revolutionary idea.

To accommodate rapidly expanding and widely variable global markets, Eastman purchased North Technology Systems in 1995. North Technology Systems developed groundbreaking software used in computers that controlled cutting machines, and pioneered the use of materials Kevlar and Mylar, which allowed Eastman to expand into new industries that used composite and industrial fabrics.

The Stevenson brothers continue to be passionate about their company's potential and visionary in their pursuit of it. Abroad, Eastman opened a factory in Ningbo, China, in 2004. In 2008, the company acquired Saber Industries of Nashville, Tennessee, improving spreading capacity.

Today, the Eastman Machine Company has produced over one thousand automated systems located in over twenty countries. Since its humble beginnings in Buffalo, New York, it has become the world's foremost producer of material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment, with innumerable patents, and hundreds of machines, and facilities on five continents.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank you for allowing me to acknowledge the incredible legacy of the Eastman Machine Company and the ingenuity, dedication, and vision of the Stevenson family. I wish all those involved with this institution the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING AUSTIN LEE CABLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Lee Cable. Austin 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 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin 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, Austin led his troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, became an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin designed and supervised the construction of an outdoor seating area at Harmony Vineyard Church in Kansas City, Missouri, complete with a cedar pergola, two cedar benches and finished with Missouri River Rock landscaping.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Lee Cable for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALAN JOHNSON

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my college debate coach, and my mentor, James Alan Johnson—known to everyone as "Al"—who passed away in late December of last year. Al Johnson's life began in the little farming town of Swink, Colorado, on July 6, 1930. He attended school in nearby La Junta, and when he was old enough he joined the United States Navy and fought in the Korean War. After the war, he earned his bachelor's degree from Colorado College (CC), and went on to receive a Masters in economics from Stanford University.

He returned to his undergraduate alma mater to spend his career, and became a beloved figure on CC's campus. Respected by his colleagues and admired by his students, Al's career spanned many decades, where he was a professor of economics, the college's debate coach, and the college Registrar. As Registrar, he guided the college towards excellence. It was under his leadership that CC's unique approach towards higher education—the Block Plan—became a reality. Because of this visionary plan of study, Colorado College students have the opportunity to focus on one class at a time. Al's steady hand as Registrar made the vision of the Block Plan a reality; one that continues to challenge students today.

As CC's debate coach, Al inspired generations of debaters. He expected nothing less than our best at all times. He urged us to be scholar-debaters, not just debaters; driving us to research a topic thoroughly, yet honestly, looking at the matter from all sides. All these years later, I remember how Al would repeat anything that was particularly important three times. As I now spend my days giving speeches designed to influence and inform, that guidance continues to resonate with me—to repeat that which is important as you make your argument.

Al's commitment to debate ran beyond just our classroom. He held the positions of president and treasurer of the National Collegiate Debate Association, and organized the National Parliamentary Debate Association and various international tournaments. Even in his