

HONORING SERVICE OF COAST
GUARD CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER
L. ROBERGE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary service of Capt. Christopher L. Roberge, who is retiring after nearly 30 years in the United States Coast Guard.

For the last two years, Capt. Roberge has shown incredible leadership as the Commander of Coast Guard Sector New England, overseeing 1,100 personnel in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and northern New York. His tenure there has capped an extremely distinguished career with over 30 military decorations, including four Meritorious Service Medals.

Since taking command, Capt. Roberge has strengthened Coast Guard operations in the sector and around the country. He identified key vulnerabilities in the sector's emergency communications system and implemented vital changes to make the system less susceptible to outages—his recommendations paved the way for similar upgrades around the country. The Reserve Readiness Assessment Program he developed has moved the sector's Reserve unit to the number one position in the nation for readiness. And while supporting the planning for the first-ever tidal power generator in a U.S. waterway, Capt. Roberge's guidance has put the Coast Guard in a better position to handle future energy projects.

Capt. Roberge's day-to-day management of the sector also served to distinguish him. His leadership and expertise ensured the flawless execution of 1,690 vessel boardings, 213 pollution responses, and 1,058 Search and Rescue cases, with over 2,000 lives saved or assisted and \$38.9 million in property preserved.

As an island resident who regularly makes ferry trips across miles of water, I have a personal appreciation for the men and women of the Coast Guard. I feel safer knowing that they stand ready to respond to an emergency with skill and courage, and deeply appreciate their willingness to risk their lives to save others. My special thanks to Capt. Roberge for the many ways he has better prepared the Coast Guard to answer the call when we need them, and for his exceptional service to the country. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING AUBURN
MANUFACTURING, INC.

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. as it breaks ground on a significant expansion to its Auburn, Maine Kittyhawk Industrial Park location. Founded by President and CEO Kathie Leonard more than three decades ago, Auburn Manufacturing is known across the world as a leader in extreme temperature textiles.

Kathie and her former business partner founded Auburn Manufacturing in 1979. In the

intervening years, the company has grown to employ 50 employees, with its upcoming expansion set to create jobs for four new individuals. Kathie has never strayed from her core commitment to producing American-made textiles, seeking to enhance or improve Auburn Manufacturing's unique products without reinventing the wheel. It should come as no surprise that MaineBiz named Kathie one of its "Women to Watch" in 2009.

Auburn Manufacturing is the only manufacturer of extreme temperature fabrics to make its product line entirely in the United States. The company's commitment to producing "Made in the USA" products is in no small part because of Kathie's strong belief that domestic manufacturing is the key to innovation.

With another major expansion in Auburn Manufacturing's business plan, I have no doubt that Kathie and her employees will continue to turn out quality American made products for years and years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me on congratulating Kathie Leonard and her employees as they begin this tremendous next chapter for Auburn Manufacturing.

CELEBRATING INDIA PLAZA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the India Plaza of Tempe, Arizona for its 10 years of dedicated service to the community.

Since 2003, India Plaza has served as a meeting place gateway for Arizonans into Indian culture, a center for education and celebrating diversity. They have also been actively engaged with the wider community, donating land and funds to various causes and working with both local government and Arizona State University to promote a more accessible city. India Plaza is a true community partner, receiving awards such as the "Best of Phoenix" and an Honorable Mention as "Tempe's Good Neighbor of the Year".

India Plaza serves as an excellent example to the rest of the Nation of what can be accomplished when people come together to promote diversity and understanding. It is my privilege to serve this great community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating India Plaza on its 10 years of service and in wishing it many more.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN OSTRING

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize John Ostring for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neigh-

bors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

On a spring day in June, John Ostring was in his workshop when he heard an explosion from the home next door. As John told his wife Mary to call 911, the house had become engulfed in flames. Knowing his neighbor still may have been inside, Mr. Ostring ran into the burning house to find his neighbor unresponsive on the floor. To save her life, John picked her up and carried her outside until the first responders could arrive. Although the home was destroyed that day, a life was saved because of Mr. Ostring's bravery and quick thinking. John's life-saving actions provide a shining example that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ostring's actions that earned him the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating John on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT MEN AND WOMEN

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Last year, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, during National Police Week, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community.

Sergeant Ryan LaRowe of the Palmetto Police Department received the Career Service Award.

Officer Sean Hammett of the Venice Police Department, Sergeant Debra Kaspar of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, and Detective Louis Licata of the North Port Police Department received the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Sergeant Debra Kaspar, Detective Timothy Speth, Detective Cassandra Dusseau, Detective Louis Licata, Investigator Lynn Thompson, and Investigator Brent Blosser, Detective Jeff Pasler and Sergeant Donald Kennard of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Pharmaceutical Diversion Investigative Unit received the Unit Citation Award.

Officer Peter Vilardi of the Sarasota-Manatee County Airport Authority Police Department, Officer Andres Perez of the Bradenton Police Department, and Officer Joshua Fleischer of the Holmes Beach Police Department received the Preservation of Life Award.

Deputy Justin Warren of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office received the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding law enforcement officers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

I also appreciate the law enforcement agencies that made such outstanding nominations and panel that judged them. I believe these awards are a fitting tribute to our officers and a reminder of the important role they play in our communities.

COMMEMORATING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the start of Building Safety Month, specifically in recognition of the expertise, leadership, and influence of the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC develops and publishes the building safety, energy efficiency, and fire safety model codes used throughout the United States, as well as in many other nations.

Over the past year, we have had several sobering reminders about the effects of properly-enforced building codes. When Hurricane Sandy devastated New York, New Jersey, and several other states, we were reminded of how much we rely on these vital safety standards in mitigating damage and loss of life. Reports after Sandy and other natural disasters show that the loss of life and property damage would have been considerably worse had modern building codes not been in place and enforced.

For these reasons, I want to congratulate the leaders of the ICC who sponsor Building Safety Month. These leaders include Ronald Piester, the Director of New York State Division of Code Enforcement and Administration, Stephen D. Jones, Construction Official for Millburn Township, New Jersey, and Guy Tomberlin, Code Specialist for Fairfax County, Virginia. These professionals also act as the President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the ICC's Board of Directors. ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims will join them in Washington, DC this week to discuss the critical need for the adoption and enforcement of current building codes in order to maximize our safety.

I would also like to thank the thousands of men and women who work every day to make sure our buildings comply with building and

fire codes. Their work, largely unseen and often unnoticed, is critical to keeping Americans safe. The model building codes, produced by ICC, allow every community in the United States to share the advantage of building codes that are adaptable to local conditions, but at the same time incorporate the very latest research, materials, and building practices. This is achieved in a private-public partnership, saving local jurisdictions from bearing the significant cost of code revision, updating and coordination. These model codes are produced with the input of thousands of local officials as well as the building industry and represent a consensus on what the minimum safety requirements are for various building types, all developed without using federal taxpayer funds. In fact, the Architect of the Capitol maintains the safety of this building, and all congressional office buildings, following the requirements in the current International Building Code.

During May's Building Safety Month, I recommend that all of my colleagues aim to reach out to building code and fire officials from their districts to learn more about the great work they do in ensuring the safety of the American people and infrastructure through building code compliance and enforcement.

Thank you again to the hard working members and leadership of the International Code Council.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO HAVE DECIDED TO SERVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seventy-one high school seniors in Florida's 22nd District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these seventy-one, nine have joined the Army; their names are the following: Alexander Meyer, Cory Warr, Steven Britt, Victoria Danielson, Evan Giarritta, Brenela Good, Richard Ramos, David Vogelsong, Diego Gonzalez. Nineteen have joined the Navy; their names are the following: Tatiana Parra, Kethleen Souza, Kassondra Uhl, Michael Hamlin II, Alex Riebmman, Kevin Sanchez Villalba, Angevens Eugene, Falon Murray, Nathaniel Hopkins, Jose Colon, Camille Grant, Tylar McCranie, Bryant Ruano, Michael Tesch, Taylor Wachtel, Dandy Barrios, Celines Ocasio, Andrea Castillo, Anthony Celenie. Thirty-eight have joined the Marines; their names are the following: Alexander Field, Christian Garcia, Cody Kruse, David Munoz, Devon Genova, Diana Bustamante, Felipe Moresco, Guilson Godinez, Henry Villatoro, Joshua Carter, Kevin Nguyen, Lucas Ferreira, Austin Pastor, Cameron Kelley, Craig Baumann, Erik Littlefield, John Angeles, Kyle Stewart, Lucas Tavares, Paul Louis Curd, Yira Medina, Anna Dolmany, Lorena Guimaraes, Alma Castillo, Brian Abreu, Edwin Garcia-Gonzalez, Erik Mendez Aguilar, Evan Stimely, Garrett Marshall, Israel Manuel-Pedro, Jona-

than Villalba, Junior Jayseus, Kevin Bradlow, Kyle Marciulonis, Manuel Gonzales, Melissa Gunther, Christian Matute, Iridian Maldonado. Four have joined the Air Force; their names are the following: Paul Girao, Brianna Dipasquale, Stephen Favreau, and Lee Golladay.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's Twenty-Second District, thank you for your service and best of luck as you pursue this challenging endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my recent absence from the House on Thursday, April 25th and Friday, April 26th. During this time, I attended the opening of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Because of this absence, I missed several important votes on the House floor, and would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance. The votes were:

Rollcall 124, on Agreeing to H. Res. 178, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes. I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall 125, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1765, The Reducing Flight Delays Act. I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall 126, on Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527, the Dent of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 2. I would have voted "no".

Rollcall 127, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 527. I would have voted "no".

Rollcall 128, on Passage of H.R. 527, to Amend the Helium Act. I would have voted "yea".

A TRIBUTE TO SIX HEROES OF THE HEARTLAND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ryan Brown, Dave McCaulley, Ben Wier, Rob Bacon, Doug Bates, and Matt Myers for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable