

for it. Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Mr. Bert Berkley and expressing our gratitude to his incredible dedication to both the industry and our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM'S COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO THE SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees and leadership of the Pierce County Library System, recipients of the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Science. This is the highest honor that our nation bestows upon libraries and museums. The library system has served Pierce County with steadfast dedication for over 60 years. This award is well-deserved.

The Pierce County Library System operates 18 libraries, and serves the county's diverse readership of over 555,000 residents. The library system has seen a continuous rise in the number of residents that rely on the accessibility of the library and its ancillary services.

For five consecutive years the Pierce County Library System has faced major budget reductions. Despite this, the Pierce County Library System has found innovative solutions to continue providing excellent services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the library system's pioneering research informed their decision to implement one of Washington State's first non-Dewey Decimal systems. It was an immediate success—in the first four hours, 780 visitors checked out 1,566 items.

The library system's flagship Early Literacy Program has produced outstanding results in the community. Library staff continue to work with many partners, including the Pierce County Health Department and Child Care Aware of Tacoma/Pierce County, in developing successful curriculum and services to provide caregivers and parents with tools and training to help children prepare for school. Early learning is vital to eliminating the preparation gap and ensuring that every child has the building blocks and resources they need to achieve in school and in life.

As I close, I can say with confidence that our community is a better place thanks to the careful thought, innovation, and dedication of the Pierce County Library System. I am pleased to recognize the service of the dedicated employees and leadership of the Pierce County Library System today in the United States Congress.

HONORING ANGELA KREPS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special member of my staff. After more than six years of serv-

ice, Angela Kreps will be leaving her post in my Kansas City District Office.

Angela began working in my campaign office, then joined the District staff in 2005. She has filled many roles in the office including caseworker, staff assistant, and field representative.

Most recently serving as a caseworker, Angela is known for her patience and kindness in dealing with constituents. Whether it is listening to a veteran's retelling of war stories, helping a bride-to-be get her passport renewed, or assisting a single-mother in dealing with the IRS, Angela's experience and listening ear can put constituents at ease.

I have received many letters of thanks for the outstanding constituent service Angela has provided. Her professionalism and dedication to serving my constituents was a great example of how government should work. While I am losing a valuable member of my team, I am excited for Angela to begin the next chapter of her career.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking Angela Kreps for her many years of service to the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I know Angela's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her best of luck in all her endeavors and many years of success to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF LONG-TIME PUBLIC SERVANT, CONGRESSMAN SID MORRISON

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, May 13, to commemorate the 80th birthday of Congressman Sid Morrison, who for more than 50 years and counting has served our nation and the great state of Washington as a public servant. Sid's career has represented results-oriented government, bipartisanship and service to all with integrity and honor.

His service began in 1966 when he was elected as a Washington state legislator, serving in the House until 1974, when he was elected to the Washington State Senate and served until 1980. During his time as a Washington legislator, he developed a reputation for taking on tough issues and reaching past politics to find bipartisan answers.

In 1980, at the age of 47, he was elected to this great body and served in the U.S. Congress for 12 years, from 1981 to 1993. As a Member of the House, Sid worked on many issues including energy, water, forestry, agricultural markets and immigration. As a leader in Congress, he worked to ensure reliable energy supplies to support the energy needs of the nation, science and space research, advanced technology and providing the nation with a strong defense. Sid's congressional service also saw him as an advocate for civil rights, small businesses, people in need of organ donations, and the wide variety of needs of every citizen seeking help with the federal bureaucracy.

Throughout his many endeavors since serving in Congress, Sid has been actively in-

involved in federal policies to make Washington and our nation better for all citizens.

He was appointed as Washington State Secretary of Transportation in 1993 and served until 2001. In that post, Sid spearheaded work for safer roads, new ferries to make Washington the nation's largest fleet, the rebirth of freight and passenger rail, transit expansion and airport improvements.

During the last 10 years, Sid has worked on special projects for Washington governors and continues to serve on many public boards. He has been a leading voice on behalf of public power and consumer-owned utility service in Washington state through his work as the chair of the Energy Northwest Executive Board. He also serves in the water, agriculture and education arenas including: on the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance, Board Chair; on the State Fair Park Board; and the Central Washington University Board of Trustees Chair.

Despite all the above, he is officially retired, but don't tell Sid that, as many of us seem to be moving in slow motion next to him.

I have personal and professional respect and admiration for Sid. As he celebrates his 80th birthday, I wish him happiness and good health and my best wishes.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTHA MCLEOD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Martha McLeod and to celebrate her distinguished career in advance of her upcoming retirement as president of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Connecticut.

Under Dr. McLeod's leadership, Asnuntuck Community College has maintained a strong commitment to eastern Connecticut's students. Through the school's professional programs such as manufacturing technology and allied health, students have developed skills that have matched the needs of local employers. Asnuntuck's transfer programs have prepared students to continue their education at Connecticut's world class four year universities and colleges. Dr. McLeod's administrative and leadership expertise have guided many students to rewarding careers in growing fields throughout the state.

Throughout her career, Dr. McLeod has advanced opportunities and the quality of education in Native American communities across the country. She was the founding president of Bay Mills Community College, a tribal college, in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Dr. McLeod has also applied her expertise at the national level, by serving as an evaluator for tribal programs for the Department of Education and the Department of Labor. Dr. McLeod has also served on the President's advisory board for the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Highly engaged in the local business community and committed to economic growth, Dr. McLeod is an active member of Rotary International and serves on the Board of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce (NCCCC). She also serves on the Economic

Development Commission for the city of Enfield and has previously served on as Chairperson for Enfield's 10 Year Plan of Conservation and Economic Development. She has worked with the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Connecticut Director of Economic Development, to work with incoming European businesses to identify needed workforce skills and provide appropriate preparation and training to potential employees.

During her long career, Dr. McLeod has empowered students across Connecticut and the nation through her many contributions to education and economic development. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Dr. Martha McLeod.

THE BENEFITS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, from California's Central Coast to Alabama's Gulf Coast and every single Congressional district in between, travel and tourism plays an important economic role in all of our local communities. This week is National Travel and Tourism Week, a celebration of the \$2 trillion economic engine that helps drive our nation's economy. As the co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Travel and Tourism caucus, we would like to take this moment to raise awareness for America's number one export and to explain how the "Travel Effect" benefits everyone.

The Travel Effect is simple: It is the economic benefit that every single community feels thanks to travel. Supporting over 14.6 million American jobs, the travel industry is a top 10 employer in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Today, one in every eight jobs depends upon travel.

Contributing more than \$129 billion to the federal, state and local tax base, the Travel Effect means that Americans pay fewer taxes. Without those added revenues, the average household would pay over \$1,000 in additional taxes. At 2.8% of our nation's GDP and growing at a rate faster than all other industries, travel will play an important role in driving down deficits for years to come.

Thanks to our efforts here in Washington, the United States is now promoting the entire country as a premier travel destination to the world. Brand USA, the nation's Destination Marketing Organization created by Congress, will help bring in 81 million visitors to the United States by 2016, a 36 percent increase equivalent to 21 million more travelers as compared with 2010. This influx of new visitors will help create over a half a million new jobs in communities all across the country.

And you do not have to live in a coastal district or near a major tourist destination to feel the Travel Effect. Historic sites, museums in your community and other local destinations all play a role in building our travel economy. In other words, travel is right in your own backyard!

During this year's National Travel and Tourism Week, we call on all members to support

the travel industry. While the Travel Effect is great now, its potential is even greater. If we recognize that potential in all of our communities, then the Travel Effect will continue to benefit every town across the United States.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDRA KELLER HAAS

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra Keller Haas, who has been a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for 27 years, giving back to her community and to our veterans across the world.

As a member of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the Pennsylvania State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (PSSDAR), she has served as a chapter officer and as the Chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution Service to Veterans Committee. This committee has a long and proud history of serving our country's veterans and making sure they are never forgotten.

Mrs. Haas is a precious constant in so many veterans' lives as she volunteers her time at the Pittsburgh Veterans Hospital. She organizes toiletry and clothing drives, delivering goods and spending hours with the veterans, thanking them for their service to America.

Mrs. Haas also supports the troops currently serving in our military, including her work spearheading a coupon-clipping initiative for an Army base in Okinawa, Japan. Under Mrs. Haas' leadership, the ladies of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter clip coupons and send them to the base where they are placed in the commissary and can be used past their expiration date. She has collected and sent almost 150 pounds of coupons for our troops and their families to use. What one might see as a small gesture of clipping coupons, it tells our troops and families immensely that they are not forgotten back home.

Mrs. Haas is a Pennsylvania native, born in Eastern, PA. She has been married for 54 years to Jim Haas, a retired U.S. Army officer, and is the mother of two and grandmother of four. She worked as a Home Economics teacher and dietician for years, working with students around every community to where her family was deployed. Outside of her work with veterans and troops, she has volunteered at the local food bank and loves spending time with her family.

I applaud Mrs. Haas for her extraordinary dedication to our troops and to our veterans. Her work with the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the PSSDAR demonstrates an outstanding dedication and love of country. I thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the community and thank her for the positive impact she has had on one of our most treasured national assets, our veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO BURBANK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Fire Department upon its 100th Anniversary. For a century, the Burbank Fire Department has been an integral part of the community, keeping the residents of Burbank safe and well informed about fire prevention.

The Burbank Fire Department started as a small group of volunteers defending the population of 500 from the devastating effects of fire in the community. After multiple fires caused damage to the area, the Burbank Board of Trustees established the Burbank Fire Department in 1913.

Over the years, the Burbank Fire Department has expanded their services to fit the various needs of the community. In 1974 the department started a paramedic program and has been an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider ever since. Burbank Fire Paramedics established field treatment protocols in 1993 and these protocols are now used across Los Angeles County as the EMS standard for clinically effective and safe field care. The department's EMS program has been recognized as one of the best in the State of California.

As a part of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, established in 1979 by the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena, the Burbank Fire Department makes optimum use of fire services available in the area and increases the effectiveness of the cities' fire defense system. The Verdugo Fire Communications Center is still owned by the three original cities, but it also provides services as needed to the Bob Hope Airport, Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena.

Today, the Burbank Fire Department is a full service fire agency with six fire stations, a training center, and seven divisions: Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Fire Apparatus & Equipment, Training & Safety, and Administration. The department responds to 9200 incidents a year and serves approximately 108,000 people over a 17.14 square mile area. I am honored to recognize the men and women of the Burbank Fire Department for their commitment to keeping our community safe and ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Fire Department upon its 100th Anniversary.

HONORING OUR NATION'S NURSES FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN DELIVERING QUALITY CARE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the crucial work of nurses in America.

Few individuals touch the lives of others in the manner in which nurses commit to aiding