

A SALUTE TO FLORIDA NATIVE
WILLIAM R. ELLIS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize William R. Ellis who has been an integral part of Brevard County, Florida for more than 50 years. Bill currently serves as the Vice President of Government and Industry Relations for Health First, Inc. in Meltourne, Florida. He will retire from that position on June 14, 2013, after 57 years of distinguished service to our community and the State of Florida.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Ellis has been responsible for all governmental and industry relations for Health First, Inc. Bill also currently serves as a consultant for The Viera Company and has served as a consultant for the Governmental and Community Affairs of the Canaveral Port Authority. In that position, Bill was responsible for maintaining community and governmental relations locally and statewide.

Bill Ellis is well recognized for his early years of service. From 1956–1982 he served in various managerial positions with the Florida Power & Light Company in Brevard County, Florida. From 1982–1986 he held the position of Federal and State Regulatory Representative in Washington DC and in Tallahassee, Florida. From 1986–1991 he served as District General Manager with Florida Power & Light Company in West Palm Beach, Florida. From 1991–1993 he served as an Area Manager for Florida Power & Light Company in Brevard County, Florida and retired in 1993. From 1993–1998 he served as the Director of Public Affairs for the Canaveral Port Authority in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Bill's community service includes: past President and current Board Member for BCC Foundation and Brevard Cultural Alliance; Secretary of Civilian Military Affairs Council; past Chairman of Brevard County Tourist Development Council; past Chairman of Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce; past Chairman and current Executive Committee and Board Member EDC Government Relations of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast; Board of Governors, Executive Committee, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of Governmental Relations Committee for the Melbourne-Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce; past President and member of the Space Coast Tiger Bay Club; and past Chairman of United Way. Bill is also member of the following professional associations: the American Hospital Association; the Associated Industries of Florida; the Florida Hospital Association; Keep Brevard Beautiful; the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce; and serves as an associate member with the Florida League of Cities.

Bill Ellis is married to Carol, with 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. He is a 4th generation Floridian and was raised and educated in the Florida school system.

Bill has been an integral part of Brevard County for more than 50 years and for that we are grateful. Bill and Carol will be missed as they leave Brevard and relocate further south. Now, that community will be the beneficiaries of their commitment to service.

Thank you for making the Space Coast and Brevard County a better place.

RECOGNIZING SNOOTY THE
MANATEE'S 65TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Snooty the Manatee's 65th Birthday.

Snooty is an ambassador for wildlife preservation, a local celebrity, and tourist attraction to Manatee County, most of which I represent in Congress.

Born on July 21st, 1948, Snooty is the world's oldest known living manatee.

Since June 20, 1949 he has lived at South Florida Museum in Bradenton, Florida, where researchers from New College of Florida and Mote Marine are able to learn more about the health and life cycles of manatees.

Manatees frequently suffer from both man-made and natural hazards, such as red tide, cold water, boat strikes, and, in the past, hunting.

Snooty is one of the most popular representatives for endangered species.

He has fostered 26 manatees recuperating from illness or injury and is currently sharing his 60,000 gallon fresh water pool with two young rescued manatees, Cheeno and Longo.

Snooty has also contributed to public education by appearing on Captain Kangaroo in 1982 and greeting more than 2 million visitors of all ages who learn about manatee care, conservation, eating habits, reproduction and physiology.

He reaches people world-wide on the "Snooty Cam," an online, live webcast.

The beloved Manatee was declared the County's official mascot by the Manatee County Commission on April 4, 1979.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the many contributions Snooty has made to the world's knowledge of Manatee's and encourage my constituents to participate in Snooty's 65th Birthday Bash and Wildlife Awareness Festival on July 20.

CONGRATULATING U.S. SOUTHERN
COMMAND ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) on their 50th anniversary, and to commend its exemplary service to the United States in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

SOUTHCOM provides invaluable contingency planning, operations, and security cooperation to the volatile region, and has been an invaluable asset to the area. Whether it be through deterring illegal activities such as drug trafficking, dismantling transnational organized crime networks, or fostering alternatives to criminal influence in under-governed areas. SOUTHCOM has consistently supported the region for all their security needs, and has strengthened the regions defense capabilities.

Recently, vital humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions have underscored the

importance of their presence in the South Florida community. For example, in 2010 SOUTHCOM led Operation Unified Response, in which a force of about 22,000 troops, more than 30 ships, and 300 aircraft provided life-saving assistance and distributed millions of pounds of food and water in Haiti following its devastating earthquake.

With an economic impact of \$600 million on Miami-Dade County, SOUTHCOM's positive influence is keenly felt throughout the community. SOUTHCOM personnel are mainstays in community organizations and contribute an astonishing 30,000 volunteer hours each year to local charity groups, community projects, and events. Moreover, by participating in activities such as color guard presentations at sporting events and parades, and giving speeches at meetings sponsored by local organizations, we are all reminded of our civic duty and the sacrifices made by those who serve.

SOUTHCOM has become an invaluable organization for the state of Florida, the Nation as a whole, and the region it serves. I am extremely proud to have SOUTHCOM in my Congressional district, and I am confident that they will continue to represent the interests of the United States with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate SOUTHCOM as they celebrate this milestone. I am certain that we can all look forward to many more years of outstanding service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SOUTHCOM's achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KEVIN KUHN AND ANDY MOTEL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel for their years of dedicated and distinguished service to Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Kevin Kuhn, Charlestown Township Supervisor and Member of the Open Space Commission, and Andy Motel, Charlestown Township Planning Commissioner and Member of the Open Space Commission, have each demonstrated exceptional commitment to the concerns of Charlestown Township's residents by working to permanently preserve over 30 percent of Charlestown Township as open space. They have each worked to maintain the historic and rural character of the Township with diligence and unwavering leadership. Additionally, Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel have helped to enable Charlestown Township to expand the hiking and equestrian trail network, provide additional stream protection, and to slow residential growth.

Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel have been the principal leaders in open space preservation for Charlestown Township and have spearheaded efforts to negotiate with various entities while keeping the community abreast of all such developments. Through their energies and direction, the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors has managed the Earned Income Tax and Open Space Fund to ensure all resources are invested wisely.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of their years of service and commitment to the preservation of

open space, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel of Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, for their many valuable contributions to their community.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
RUMFORD'S NATIONAL MAIN
STREET DESIGNATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Rumford on receiving a national Main Street designation and for joining the Maine Downtown Network program.

The National Main Street Program was launched in 1980 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For over three decades, this program has promoted the revitalization of downtowns across the country by leveraging local assets such as cultural or architectural heritage, local enterprise, and community pride. Since 2009, the Maine Downtown Center, MDC, has served as the state coordinator for the National Main Street Program. MDC has done an excellent job building a network of participating communities over the last several years.

As a national Main Street designee, Rumford will receive guidance, resources and professional training in community development from MDC. They will also have access to MDC staff, 24-member volunteer Advisory Council and the National Main Street Center resources. Rumford is capitalizing on its distinct character, through a unique public-private partnership, to stimulate economic vitality in the heart of their community.

This recognition acknowledges the hard work that the Town of Rumford and its business community have put towards strengthening the local economy. Their efforts are already yielding dividends and making the region a better place to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the town of Rumford and on their outstanding achievement.

HONORING CAPITAL ENERGY
GROUP INCORPORATED (CEG)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Capital Energy Group Incorporated (CEG) as the 2013 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, as well as its president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr.

CEG is a District of Columbia small business specializing in energy efficient windows and glass installation. CEG has been awarded contracts on three of the largest projects in the District of Columbia, the U.S. Coast Guard building at the Department of Homeland Security complex at St. Elizabeths, Progression Place—The United Negro College Fund Building, and City Center D.C. In addition to work-

ing on large-scale projects, CEG has completed projects for Anacostia Senior High School, Unity Healthcare and Building K167 in Southwest D.C. Because of CEG's high-quality work, it has now become the largest African-American owned glass and window company in the national capital region. CEG has used its growth to further its goals of employing D.C. residents and promoting glass/glazing as a career option.

CEG's president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr., has over 30 years of experience in the glass/glazing and window industry. He continues to share his knowledge with future generations by establishing apprenticeship programs for District residents to learn more about window glazing and installation.

I ask the House to join me in honoring Capital Energy Group Incorporated and its president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr., for their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the residents of the District of Columbia, and in commending Capital Energy Group Incorporated on becoming the 2013 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year.

RECOGNIZING LOUDOUN
STUDENTS WHO "BEAT THE ODDS"

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four remarkable students from my congressional district who were recently awarded college scholarships through the "Beat the Odds" program.

Hosted by the Loudoun Bar Association, "Beat the Odds" provides financial support to area students who have overcome challenging, and often tragic circumstances. The students who received awards this year have endured hardships ranging from sexual abuse to illness to poverty, yet have still achieved great success in the classroom or on the athletic field.

I had the privilege of attending a ceremony for the recipients on Thursday, May 23, in Leesburg. It was an honor to meet the students and hear firsthand how they overcame adverse situations. Their ability to remain positive and work hard despite the difficulties they face is inspiring. I wish them all the best as they embrace this wonderful opportunity and move on to college.

The recipients of this year's scholarships are: Jonathan "Cory" Dickey of Loudoun County High School, Shannon Hayes of Park View High School, Leanna Moron of Loudoun County High School and Vineetha Thekkel of Tuscarora High School.

I submit two recent news articles from the Loudoun Times-Mirror and Leesburg Today on these remarkable students.

[From the Loudoun Times-Mirror, May 24, 2013]

FOUR LOUDOUN STUDENTS AWARDED "BEAT THE ODDS" SCHOLARSHIPS

(By Alanna Dvorak)

Looking at Loudoun County High School senior Leanna Moron, one wouldn't suspect the challenges she's overcome.

The poised girl of Thai and Bolivian descent is an academic, sitting within the top

10 percent of her class. She takes time out of her day to work with English Language Learners. She will be attending Penn State to study nursing.

She's also endured multiple traumas, from sexual abuse, financial struggles, alcoholic family members and "tremendous heartache and pain."

"To know what she has lived through everyday and see her still be who she is is amazing," said Megan Dunn, a guidance counselor at Loudoun County and the person who nominated Moron for the award.

Moron received a \$6,000 scholarship from the Loudoun Bar Association's Beat the Odds program at a ceremony May 24 at the historic courthouse in Leesburg. "It's an amazing honor," Moron said. "I'm very thankful for this scholarship and this opportunity."

The Beat the Odds program awards scholarships to students who have overcome significant life obstacles, such as abuse, illness or poverty. A national program, the Loudoun chapter was founded nine years ago by members of the Loudoun County Bar Association. "In a given year, there are roughly 245 days we hold court," said Juvenile and Domestic Court Judge Pamela Brooks, who hosted the ceremony. "I have two favorite days: today and adoption day."

In addition to Moron, three other students received merit awards at the ceremony.

Jonathan "Cory" Dickey, a senior football player and wrestler at Loudoun County High School, received a \$2,000 award. At age 14, he physically stopped his alcoholic father from strangling his mother. His father left and the family was forced to make do with food stamps, social security benefits his mother, who is unable to work, receives and a part-time job Dickey took on. Still: the family was unable to stave off foreclosure.

"I did it not only for myself, but I try to be strong for my brothers," Dickey said. "It is very tough growing up at an early age but I think it's made me a stronger person in the long run."

Park View's Shannon Hayes' parents divorced when she eight, after her father's struggles with alcoholism made it unsafe for her. Two years later, her mom became ill and her father moved back in with the family to help out.

"I thought our family was finally growing back together," Hayes said.

However, her father was diagnosed with Leukemia and died just 15 days before Hayes' 13th birthday. Hayes' family has also struggled financially.

Hayes received a \$2,500 award to put toward her education at Penn State, where she plans to study biochemistry to become a genetic engineer.

Vineetha Thekkel of Tuscarora received the third merit award of the evening. Thekkel and her parents came to America in 2009 and the then 13 year old immediately had to take on an adult role, trying to find transportation for the family from the airport. Once the family settled in Leesburg, the young teenager then solicited for jobs for her mother and deaf father. Despite being laughed out by numerous business owners, Thekkel was able to help her parents find employment. They currently each work three jobs.

Thekkel credits much of her success to agencies around Loudoun County who supported her family during their financial struggles with food stamps and free medical care and teachers who personally supported her.

"With their support, I was able to stay on top of my schoolwork," Thekkel said.

Thekkel will be attending Mt. Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio and hopes to become a missionary doctor. She received a \$2,500 scholarship.