

ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor our dear friend Mike Garcia who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to working families in California.

Mike served as the President of Service Employees International Union United Service Workers West (SEIU USSW) between 1988 and 2014, where he led 40,000 janitors, security officers and airport workers across California in the fight for good jobs. Mike has been involved in the labor movement since 1980, when he began his career organizing janitors first in San Jose and later in San Diego in the "Justice for Janitors" campaign.

In 2010 he oversaw the merger of several local unions into SEIU USWW, a statewide union of property service workers. Mike guided SEIU USWW through years of dramatic growth, taking a union of 1,800 janitors and building a powerful statewide local on the forefront of fighting for immigrants' rights and lifting working families out of poverty.

Mike had a deep understanding of policy and the questions that matter most to working class Californians. He was also extremely brave; willing to face the strongest adversaries when fighting for those who needed his help. According to Mike, his greatest accomplishment was winning the historic janitors' strike of 2000 in Los Angeles, an action he proudly notes "changed the lives of thousands of janitors and their families because USWW members—the real heroes of the strike—laid it all on the line for a chance to win and bring their families into the American middle class."

In retirement Mike will remain a powerful voice for vulnerable populations and a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to help millions of aspiring citizens achieve better lives.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Mike Garcia for his service to our Country.

#### RECOGNIZING BUD ELLIOTT

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bud Elliott as he celebrates his retirement as a reporter and news anchor for KSEE24. For 23 years, Bud has been a part of thousands of viewers' lives, and we will all undoubtedly miss watching him on the evening news.

Bud's career in journalism began years before his time at KSEE24. Bud worked at KHOW radio in Denver, Colorado, where he was news director for most of the 1970s. He

also worked as a news anchor at CNN-2, which later became CNN Headline News. Before arriving in Fresno, Bud worked as the main news anchor at the ABC affiliate in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1987, Bud began his career at KSEE24. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to establish a solid reputation in the community for delivering accurate news. While at KSEE24, Bud has worked as the evening news anchor, morning newscast anchor, and morning show co-anchor. He has worked from both behind the desk and out in the field to deliver news that is relevant and important to residents in the Valley.

The commitment Bud has made to his career and the Central Valley has not gone unnoticed. Throughout his time in the San Joaquin Valley, Bud has earned a number of awards for excellence in journalism, including an Emmy and several Associated Press and Radio-Television News Directors Association awards. Most recently, Bud was recognized by the Fresno County Farm Bureau for his work on a four-part series focused on the water challenges that farmers face in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions Mr. Bud Elliott has made to the San Joaquin Valley. The lasting contributions he has made to our community as a news anchor deserve to be commended.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2014, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 369: "yes;" rollcall No. 370: "yes."

#### CONGRATULATING LEBANESE TAVERNA ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lebanese Taverna on their 35th Anniversary. Tanios and Marie Abi-Najm immigrated to the United States in 1976, along with their five young children: Dory, Dany, David, Gladys and Grace.

The family boarded a cargo ship, in the dead of the night, to escape the Civil War in Lebanon, bringing only what they could carry. Their final destination was Arlington, Virginia where other family members had already been living. After working in local restaurants for three years, the family saved enough to purchase a small restaurant in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, near their home. Being practical, they kept the original sign, "Athenian Taverna," changing just one word, thus "Lebanese Taverna" was born. Each family member had a role at the original location, whether it was greeting guests, serving

food, cooking in the kitchen or finishing homework at the tables.

Lebanese Taverna today, 35 years later, is a multi-concept collaboration with six restaurants, four quick service cafes, a market, and full service catering division. Tanios and Marie are easing into retirement (although still involved in quality control) while the five siblings, each with their own specialty, operate the business. Today the Abi-Najm children still greet old friends and welcome new ones into the restaurants where they grew up and shared their lives, in keeping with their motto, "good food enjoyed in good company." Lebanese Taverna has come to symbolize the realization of dreams and the rewards of dedication.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Abi-Najm on their 35 years of success. This family embodies the very best ideals of the American dream; hard work and a strong commitment to family and community. Congratulations on 35 years of success!

#### IN MEMORY OF PAT TORO

#### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my constituent, Pat Toro, decorated Vietnam veteran, longtime former president of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and retired law-enforcement officer. Pat passed away on Thursday, July 3, at the age of sixty-four, after a long battle with leukemia.

Pat served his country as a Marine during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the United States he continued to serve his community as a criminal investigator for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In addition to being the President of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat held the positions of Southern District Leader and National Director at Large.

During his tenure with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat was profoundly dedicated to improving the quality of life and preserving the history of his fellow veterans. He started a program to provide dignified burials for indigent veterans, which gave ninety people the proper respect they had earned. One of Pat's goals was to construct a memorial that would honor the more than 400 fallen Vietnam veterans from Queens. Although this project remains on hold, completing it would be a fitting honor to Pat's memory.

There is not a better example of unbridled patriotism and service than Pat Toro, who was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in memory of the courageous and benevolent American hero, Pat Toro, who provided an immeasurable service to some of the most deserving Americans.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I missed Rollcall Votes No. 360–369 due to commitments in my district. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on Rollcall Vote 360, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 361, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 362, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 363, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 364, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 365, “no” on Rollcall Vote 366, “yes” on Rollcall Vote 367 and “no” on Rollcall Vote 368.

HONORING ELLENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ellensburg High School Varsity Baseball Team. On Saturday May 31, 2014 the team won the Class 2A Washington State Championship, the first baseball state championship in the school's history.

This group of young men overcame adversity and, through extra practices and hard work, came to finish their season with a 10 game winning streak and winning 14 of their last 15 games. It is this perseverance that earned them this incredible championship. None of this would have been possible, of course, without the exemplary leadership of the Bulldog's Head Coach Todd Gibson, who has inspired and directed these student athletes for the past 5 years.

The young men on the team deserve individual recognition as well. They are: Xander Orejudos, Travis Lyman, Cameron Curtis, Cameron Campbell, Kyle Hickman, Bobby Ward, Tyler Wyatt, Dalton Mandelas, Garrett Hull, Junior Ledgard, Tyrel Panter, Alex Ponchene, Alonso Bibiano, Ceanu Strom, Kyler Watts, Taylor Smith, and Million Zimmerman. The coaching staff also: Brian Kelley, Travis Gibson, Casey Kelley, DJ Smith, Ryan Kellogg, and Gage Gibson.

I am honored to have Ellensburg High School as part of the Eighth Congressional District of Washington and I congratulate them on their success, and earning the 2014 Class 2A State Championship. Thank you.

## HONORING MR. REX DAVIS

**HON. CORY GARDNER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rex Davis, from Lamar, Colorado.

Mr. Davis owns a 298 acre irrigated farm in southern Colorado and has participated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program since 2007.

Throughout the years Mr. Davis has introduced efficient and sustainable practices to

improve his irrigation management which will make his farm operation viable for years to come.

His conservation practices have included gated pipeline, water control structure, irrigation system sprinkler, irrigation reservoir, pest management and nutrient management.

In addition to his farm operations, Mr. Davis raises Black Angus cattle, is a member of the Lamar Elks and is currently working on his second passion by training for his private pilot's license.

I am pleased to recognize Rex Davis as the 2013 Prowers County Conservationist of the Year.

HILLSIDE HOSE COMPANY #1 OF MORRIS TOWNSHIP 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hillside Hose Company #1, located in the township of Morris, County of Morris, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial.

The Hillside Hose Company #1 was founded in 1914 by local citizens as a “not-for-profit” volunteer organization. The Company now serves as Station 3 of the Morris Township Fire Department, protecting more than 22,000 residents. When needed, it also helps other municipalities’ with mutual aid. Along with fighting fires, their dedicated volunteers also conduct neighborhood safety patrols and ensure safety for events such as the July 4th fireworks, graduation ceremonies, or other permitted events. Recently, Hillside Hose Company received a Unit Citation from the Morris Township Committee for exemplary service during the natural disaster of Hurricane Irene.

Hillside Hose Company also provides community programs to their residents by hosting events for children at Halloween, and Christmas. Some of their most successful events include the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween costume parade, and the annual Christmas tree fundraiser sale. These events are open to the public and have a high attendance of children that love to participate every year.

A considerable amount of the Hillside Hose Company #1's budget supports scholarships for local students; youth sports teams, and donations to numerous charitable causes. Hillside awards \$1,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who pursue higher education.

The Company takes pride in educating the residents they serve about the importance of smoke detectors and safety evacuation plans. They offer important information about when to change the batteries in the detectors and teaching children what to do in the event of a fire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating everyone that is associated with the Hillside Hose Company #1, and as they celebrate their Centennial.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA FARM WATER COALITION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today along with my colleague Mr. VALADAO to recognize the 25th anniversary of the California Farm Water Coalition. The Coalition's contributions to California's agricultural industry deserve to be commended.

Since 1989, the California Farm Water Coalition has been working with farmers, law-makers, and the news media to provide factual information emphasizing the importance of farm water to California's food production. The Coalition was instrumental in increasing public awareness about the resourceful water use practices that farmers partake in daily. Some interest groups falsely criticize farmers for not using their water efficiently, making these public awareness efforts even more important.

The Coalition is the largest organization in California that focuses solely on water for agriculture and is comprised of a diverse membership, which includes water districts, agencies, farmers, and organizations from the entire state. For the past 25 years, the Coalition has provided an outlet for their members to share their views and accomplishments with the public.

The California Farm Water Coalition works diligently to increase public awareness so individuals understand the important role that water has in California's economy. Since 1996, they have reached millions of motorists through a billboard campaign with the slogan, “Food Grows Where Water Flows.” They strive to stay innovative in their marketing techniques so that consumers are educated about the importance of water to growing their nutritious fruits and vegetables.

In addition to educating the public on the importance of farm water, the Coalition participates in key legislative meetings to provide valuable data pertaining to farm water and pending legislation that will affect farmers and their use of water. Their participation and resources were useful in the development of the Central Valley Water Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the California Farm Water Coalition. The State of California's agricultural industry has benefitted immensely due to the hard work and efforts made by the California Farm Water Coalition.

## IN HONOR OF PAUL S. AMOS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and servant of humankind, Mr. Paul S. Amos. Sadly, Mr. Amos passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at 3:00