

of what was to become a thriving community center. Founders had a vision for the community of Midland and its families where local citizens both young and old could come to learn, socialize, and participate in recreational activities.

It is this vision that has helped the West Midland Family Center continued to grow and expand throughout the years. By the generosity of multiple donors and foundations, the WMFC has added a 20,500 square foot building for classrooms, an outdoor pool, a playground, baseball diamonds, and a soccer field. These facilities have enriched the lives of thousands of children, adults, and families throughout the area. After the completion of its most recent expansion project, the WMFC now offers licensed childcare, family support, and afterschool programs. It is because of the guidance and support of countless volunteers and generous individuals that the Center continues to fulfill its mission today.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, it is with great honor that I commemorate this 40th anniversary of the West Midland Family Center and congratulate the organization for its many years of success within Midland County. I offer my deepest appreciation to the organization for all it has done and wish it continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. LINDA ESCOBAR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Escobar for her many contributions to Tejano and Conjunto music.

Linda Escobar is a native of Alice, Texas. She and her father, noted conjunto pioneer Eligio Escobar, created an act that toured nationwide with a group of musicians that included Lucha Villa, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Cantinflas, Los Relampagos and Freddie Fender.

While still a child in the late 1960s, Ms. Escobar composed and recorded the gold record "Frijolitos Pintos." After the death of her father in 1994, Ms. Escobar collaborated with Japanese accordionist Kenji "El Gato" Katsube, to create an electric mix of Asian/Tex-Mex music. Ms. Escobar was awarded Female Vocalist of the Year at the South Texas Conjunto Association Music Awards in both 2001 and 2003.

To pay tribute to her father and other veterans, Ms. Escobar founded "El Veterano Conjunto Festival," now in its 16th year of existence, which raises funds for the Eligio Escobar Scholarship Fund for talented young conjunto musicians.

In recognition of her distinguished musical career, she was inducted into the Tejano ROOTS Music Hall of Fame as well as the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame. Additionally, she has received numerous other awards and accolades, including a key to the City of Alice.

Known as the First Lady of Conjunto Music, Ms. Escobar has been instrumental in promoting Conjunto Tejano and Tex-Mex music throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Ms. Linda Escobar and her contributions to the Conjunto, Tejano and Tex-Mex genres. Further, I appreciate you joining me in recognizing her contributions to South Texas' cultural heritage.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN A. LEGGIERI FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND TO OUR NATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel John A. Leggieri for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to the United States of America. Colonel Leggieri will retire from the Army in December after serving almost half of his 30-year career in Congressional Liaison.

A native of Claverack, New York, Colonel John Leggieri was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Sienna College's ROTC program. Initially branched into Air Defense Artillery, John led Soldiers in demanding situations—first with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and then with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then transitioned to the Quartermaster Corps, where he led Soldiers for the next decade as a logistician in New York, Nebraska, Virginia, and Arkansas.

In 1999, John began the next phase of his career in Congressional Liaison. He initially served as an Army Congressional Fellow for a year, working in a Member's office on Capitol Hill. For the next 14 years he served in positions of increasing responsibility in the critical, fast-paced arena of Congressional Liaison. He worked as Legislative Liaison Officer for the Chief of the Army Reserve and then as Congressional Budget Liaison Officer for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. There are few who know more about the Congressional budget process and none respected more. After his initial work with Congress, John was selected as a National Security Fellow and studied for a year at Harvard University's prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Colonel's next role with Congress was as Chief of Congressional Plans and Strategy for the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he directed the development of long-range Army wide legislative goals and objectives to help clearly communicate the Army's multi-billion dollar annual budget requests. Finally, Colonel Leggieri served as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison, where for the last three years he ensured the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Congressional Appropriations Committees. John's tenure as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison coincided with a particularly challenging fiscal period for the Department of the Defense. Under his leadership, the Army's Congressional Budget Liaison Office navigated dramatically declining de-

fense budgets as operations in Iraq and Afghanistan drew down and sequestration was implemented. In spite of these challenges, John was instrumental in ensuring that Congress was informed of the importance of key programs for the future of the Army.

In his many years in the liaison role, John helped showcase the Army's great accomplishments by leading countless high profile Congressional delegations to locations around the world, including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo, and innumerable other places where dedicated Americans serve our nation. These fact finding missions have been instrumental in improving the United States' foreign and defense policy.

Colonel Leggieri's leadership throughout his career positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. His integrity, his exceptional work, and his sense of service are leaving our world improved and they have always served as an example for those he has commanded. To quote Charles Dickens, Colonel Leggieri is, "as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel John Leggieri for over three decades of service to his country. We wish John, his wife Rebecca, herself a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and now Professional Staff Member on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and their two children, Olivia and Gabriel, all the best.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT RICHARD R. ONSGARD

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Onsgard, Command Chief Sergeant for the 146th Airlift Wing for the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, on the special occasion of his retirement from a distinguished and exemplary career.

Chief Onsgard has had a remarkable and admirable career enlisting in the Air National Guard in 1972, serving the Los Angeles Fire Department for 24 years and rising to the rank of Engineer, and being selected in 1996 as First Sergeant of the 115th Airlift Squadron. Answering his country's call of duty, Chief Onsgard was activated for Operation Noble Eagle and assigned to a Marine Expeditionary Force. In addition to serving on active duty for both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Chief Onsgard has supported missions for the National Guard Bureau in many areas including logistics and planning.

As the senior ranking enlisted member of the 146th Airlift Wing, Chief Onsgard has served as the Command Chief and the principal advisor to the wing commander on areas pertaining to the welfare, health, morale, progress, and efficient utilization of all the enlisted members assigned to the wing. In addition to his honorable service, Chief Onsgard has served as the representative to the wing commander and the enlisted force on committees, councils, boards, and has represented the enlisted force at military and civilian functions.

His work has earned him many accolades and awards that mirror his personal vigor and professional work ethic. These honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, which are but a few of the decorations that showcase his long career path of achievements.

Chief Onsgard's lifetime career of servant leadership and his many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to his country and community. As this chapter in his career comes to an end, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Chief Onsgard's years of honorable and selfless service that greatly contributed to the success of the United States Air National Guard's mission.

For these reasons, I commend Chief Master Sergeant Richard Onsgard and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN EDITH GREEN TO ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous contributions of our former colleague, Edith Starrett Green, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1955–1974, representing Oregon's 3rd District. During her tenure in the House, Mrs. Green was one of the nation's leading advocates for expanding access to higher education for all Americans and ensuring equal pay and opportunities for women and minorities.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. Green authored two landmark pieces of legislation that continue to shape the field of post-secondary education, including the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, which authorized the use of Federal funds to expand and improve classrooms, libraries, and laboratories on college and university campuses. She also sponsored the Higher Education Act of 1965, which for the first time authorized Federal financial assistance for undergraduate students. President Lyndon Johnson referred to the Higher Education Facilities Act as "the greatest step forward in the field since the passage of the Land-Grant Act of 1862." Her commitment and success earned Mrs. Green the monikers "the Mother of Higher Education" and "Mrs. Education."

Mrs. Green, a native of South Dakota, also was concerned with the issues of equal opportunity and equal pay for women and minorities and advanced pioneering legislation addressing both issues. She was appointed to President John F. Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women and chaired its Civil and Political Rights Committee in the early 1960s. She was the author of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, which she helped push across the finish line eight years after first introducing it. She followed that by winning support for her amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1965 to expand the scope of the bill to include training opportunities for urban youth.

Mrs. Green was known as a shrewd legislator, once called a "bare-knuckle fighter" by one Congressional observer, and those skills helped her advance this and other issues close to her heart. She spent much of her public life working to eliminate the social and legal obstacles preventing women from achieving equality in post-secondary education.

Perhaps most notably, Mrs. Green was one of several members to introduce legislation prohibiting federally-funded colleges and universities from discriminating against women after the idea was born out of seven days of hearings she held on the topic in her role as Chairman of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education. "If you can make every young girl know that there's no ceiling of expectations, that there is not height to which that young girl cannot go, she'll aspire to that," Mrs. Green said in a 1978 interview. Ultimately, she collaborated with fellow Representative Patsy Mink, of Hawaii, and Senator Birch Bayh, of Indiana, on the groundbreaking Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which opened new academic and athletic opportunities for women and has had a transformative effect on future generations of girls and women across America. Upon her retirement in December 1974, former New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan remarked that "she presided over the enactment of the most important education legislation in the history of the Republic, and I hope someone would say so." Mrs. Green returned to Oregon, where she taught college government classes and passed away in April 1987.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said before and surely deserves repeating: The passionate and persistent efforts of Congresswoman Edith Green have forever transformed our modern classrooms, athletic fields, and employment settings for the better, and she deserves our sincere respect and gratitude. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous record of accomplishment compiled by our former colleague, Edith Starrett Green, and in thanking her family for their sacrifice and support of her career, which continues to help advance opportunities for so many others.

RECOGNIZING THE PAXTON LADY CATS AS CLASS 1A BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS AND HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COACH RANDY INFINGER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Congressional District of Florida's Paxton School girls basketball team for winning the Class 1A Basketball State Championship and to honor the life of Coach Randy Infinger.

The Paxton Lady Cats ended a spectacular season with a record of 26–3 to clinch this year's state championship. The final game was played against Chipley High School on February 20, 2014, in Lakeland, Florida, with the Lady Cats claiming victory with a score of

39–34. Many of the exceptional plays leading up to the victory occurred in the final quarter of this tightly contested championship game. Senior Emily Murray scored a game-high 20 points on the strength of four 3-pointers, including a game-winning 3 pointer with just 38 seconds left on the clock. With their victory, the Lady Cats secured Paxton's fifth girls basketball state championship, moving them into fifth place on the all-time Florida girls basketball championship list. Their latest state championship marks another proud moment in the sports history of Northwest Florida high school basketball.

Sadly, on February 23, 2014, four days after their extraordinary victory, the Paxton Lady Cats and the entire Paxton community were struck by tragedy when long-time Paxton Assistant Coach Randy Infinger passed away. Throughout his dedicated 25-year career at Paxton School, Mr. Infinger coached several teams and touched the hearts of countless students and teachers. His contributions to Northwest Florida and Paxton School were truly exceptional, and his legacy will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of Northwest Florida, I would like to honor and remember Coach Randy Infinger and congratulate players Katie Sebastian (#3), Quinn Williams (#4), Cortni McKee (#5), Faith Elmore (#11), Emily Murray (#12), Sidney Beck (#14), Genesis Long (#15), Lenora Dixon (#21), Allison Carley (#22), Annie Myles (#23), Bethany Neale (#24), Cassidy Brazile (#25), and Kristen Corbett (#45); Head Coach, Steve Williams; Assistant Coach, Kim Corbett; Bookkeeper, Laurie Gilbert; Statistician, Connor Williams; Principal, Beth Tucker; Assistant Principal, Mitch Jackson; and Athletic Director, Steve Williams for their extraordinary victory. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to Paxton School and its talented athletes and coaches for their continued academic and athletic success, as well as our prayers and most sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Infinger and the entire Paxton community for their tremendous loss.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK
REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank because helping Arizona businesses expand their manufacturing capacity and exporting ability creates jobs and grows our economy.

The Export-Import Bank fills gaps in private financing, stepping up where the private sector can't or won't.

Last year, Export-Import Bank Chairman Fred Hochberg visited my district to help small and growing businesses increase their global exports right from our own backyard. From Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2014 the agency supported \$176 million in exports from AZ–09 companies.

One of those companies, MarTek Inc. of Tempe, Arizona, was reluctant to sell their semiconductor equipment to customers in