

Superior Court four times. Among his many awards and commendations, the Fresno County Law Library was renamed in his honor.

In retirement Judge Creede remained active as a visiting judge. He also participated in a remarkably wide array of charitable organizations and civic groups including some dedicated to preventing animal cruelty, which was a particular passion of his.

Known for his sense of humor, work ethic, and compassion, Judge Creede was a wonderful asset to the Fresno community. For decades he served his country and his community with distinction. He leaves behind an enduring legacy that his family should look upon with the deepest sense of pride.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, January 27, I missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted: “yes”—rollcall vote 24—H.R. 2166—Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act; “yes”—rollcall vote 25—H.R. 3008—To provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes.

HONORING GARY BIXHORN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Gary D. Bixhorn on his retirement after 35 years of educational leadership and service. As Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Gary oversaw New York State’s largest BOCES, serving more than 50 school districts across an area of 1,000 square miles. Under his guidance, Eastern Suffolk BOCES became a leader in exploring cost-saving opportunities for school districts, and Gary became one of the region’s top advocates for Long Island schools.

Gary did an outstanding job during exceptionally challenging economic times for education, testifying frequently before commissions and forums where he shared his vast knowledge and understanding of school finance. He was a key spokesperson in the fight to urge New York State lawmakers to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment, a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of aid to school districts, and he fought New York’s first property tax cap, one of the most stringent in the nation. Newsday called him, “the region’s leading analyst of financial trends in education.”

Gary understood the unique qualities of Long Island’s schools and was a master at forming coalitions to advocate for their most pressing needs and to find creative solutions to save money and provide services. As national economic conditions declined, he advocated for shared services as a means of reducing costs, arguing that BOCES was well

positioned to provide these shared services. He embraced and promoted the idea of cost sharing as an alternative to school district consolidation, and he championed the concept known as “functional consolidation,” or the pooling of resources to provide such services as business management, food service, software purchases and transportation.

Gary’s vision for BOCES went well beyond its traditional role to provide regional educational services such as special education and career and technical education. He saw BOCES as a vehicle for helping school districts join together to meet their collective needs. He once said, “BOCES doesn’t exist in a vacuum. It exists as the collective will of our component school districts and our stakeholders in the region.” He demonstrated the kind of strategic, regional thinking that could provide effective solutions. Gary also served as president of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, SCSSA, and then as chair of its Legislative Committee. He was well versed in the particular needs and characteristics of the region’s school districts and saw it as his responsibility to communicate those needs to legislators in Albany and Washington, particularly in pushing for fair distribution of state aid.

I was proud to stand with him and others last June for the unveiling of Long Island’s first P-TECH program, a cutting-edge educational partnership with Longwood School District to train Long Island students for high skill technology jobs. Gary also served as a member of my Education Advisory Board and was always looked to for his ability to synthesize information and analyze educational data.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to work with Gary Bixhorn. He embodies the spirit of the BOCES mission to enable school districts to operate more efficiently by working together. His ability to see the broad picture while analyzing the small details made him a valuable educational resource for our region and a widely-respected leader. On behalf of New York’s first congressional district, I would like to thank him for his lasting impact on education and wish him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING ALCALDESA SUZANNE BRANGHAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzanne Brangham, who has been named the City of Sonoma’s 2014 Alcaldesa, or Honorary Mayor. The title “Alcalde,” or “Alcaldessa” when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for “Mayor.” While the Alcalde was the primary civil authority during the Spanish colonial period in California, in modern times, it is an honorary title bestowed upon invaluable members of the community.

Ms. Brangham has lived in Sonoma for 25 years, where she has given back to her community as both a businesswoman and philanthropist. She has founded a number of businesses in Sonoma, including the Ramekins Culinary School, the MacArthur Place Hotel & Spa, and the General’s Daughter restaurant, which is located in a Victorian home built by

the daughters of Mariano G. Vallejo, the Commander General of California and founder of the City of Sonoma. In addition to revitalizing Sonoma through her business ventures, she authored the bestselling book *Housewise*, which earned her national interviews and appearances on the Today Show, Good Morning America, and Oprah.

Ms. Brangham is as equally dedicated to her philanthropic efforts as she is to her business ventures. Her efforts include promoting local arts—she has worked with the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, the Sebastiani Theatre Alliance, and the Sonoma International Film Festival—and helping the young people of Sonoma Valley through organizations such as Teen Safe Ride, the Mentoring Alliance, and the Sonoma Valley Boys & Girls Clubs. She has also served with the Sonoma Valley Hospital Coalition, the Sonoma Valley Fund, the Lyon Ranch Animal Rescue and Therapy Center as well as Pets Lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, Suzanne Brangham is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today as Sonoma’s Alcaldesa for 2014.

HONORING AUBURN UNIVERSITY FULLBACK JAY PROSCH

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who is representing our community in South Alabama in the Senior Bowl, Jay Prosch. Jay is a fullback at Auburn University, having originally attended UMS Wright in Mobile, AL, before playing college football at Auburn.

Jay is an exceptionally talented young individual. While serving as Team Captain his senior year at UMS Wright, he received the Joe Bullard, Jr. Award, given to the player who displays exemplary leadership and love of the game of football.

In addition, Jay was awarded the Most Valuable Linebacker Award, Mobile Optimist Club Offensive Back of the Year Award, and State of Alabama 4A Lineman of the Year Award. That year, his senior year, he recorded 199 tackles, 114 solo stops, 16 of which were for a loss, five pass interruptions, and one sack. He also rushed five times for 16 yards and one touchdown as a fullback.

Jay has become a standout at Auburn and previously during his time at the University of Illinois as a standout in strength training. He clean lifted more than 400 pounds while weighing just 250. He was also recorded at 4.72 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

CBS Sports named him a “Freak,” as well as Gil Brandt listing him as one of the country’s Top 100 Seniors this year.

We are all so proud of Jay and his accomplishments on the field of play. He has excelled as a player, a leader, and an individual, and is regarded as a leader by his teammates and coaches. South Alabama is proud to claim him as one of our own, and we wish him luck as he takes the field in the Senior Bowl.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE OSTER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community are exceptional. Lake Elsinore has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities better places to live and work. Dave Oster is one of these individuals. On January 25, 2014, Dave will be honored as the 2013 "Citizen of the Year" at the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Gala.

Dave was born and raised in the small town of Mantua, OH, where the friendly and respectful nature of the community created a family-like atmosphere. Dave grew up watching his father establish a successful career in human resources, and soon, his work ethic and values were formed. Growing up, Dave developed his passion for America's favorite pastime, baseball, and found himself consistently holding a leadership position as captain for many of his teams. Dave went on to graduate high school and attend Bowling Green State University and later Ohio Northern University, where he earned his degree in sports management. He was honored with his first leadership award, the Clyde A. Lamb Award, during his senior year at Ohio Northern.

Dave's thriving career in sports began when he interned for the Cleveland Force, a renowned soccer team based in Ohio. His first job out of college followed suit, as he became the General Manager for the minor league baseball team, the Geneva Cubs. Dave became involved in every facet of the organization, from concessions to clean up, and he established an environment of success and fun. Dave quickly learned how to grow a business and manage a staff, eventually leading him to win the John H. Johnson Award for team recognition and running of an organization.

After 4 years with the Geneva Cubs, Dave took his talent and drive to Delaware, where he began his job as Assistant General Manager for the Wilmington Blue Rocks minor league team. During a time when the organization was just beginning, Dave used his skills and expertise to help build the franchise from the ground up. He made sure the community saw every game as a "must-attend" event, and grew attendance from 800 to 6,000 fans, virtually selling out every home game. Dave soon made another move, ending up in

Salem, VA, where he was promoted to General Manager of the Salem Avalanche. For all of his hard work, he was honored with the Executive of the Year award for the Carolina League.

Following his success on the East Coast, Dave took a huge leap of faith, and moved out West, where he found his new home with the Lake Elsinore Storm as the Owner and President. His contributions as a leader in the area resulted in huge economic growth and community involvement. For this, he was once again honored with the Executive of the Year Award in the California League. Aside from the tremendous work he has done to create success with The Storm, above all, he is most proud of the family he has found in the staff, and the passion he has for the community, the players and the franchise. 2013 marked Dave's 25th year in professional sports, and his 14th season with the Lake Elsinore Storm.

Dave is most known as an effective leader with a natural ability to organize the efforts and goodwill of others. He is an enthusiastic team builder who enjoys encouraging creativity in the staff that he leads. Considering all that Dave has done for Lake Elsinore, the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce named him their 2013 Citizen of the Year. Dave's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. He has been the heart and soul of many organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

FERRUM COLLEGE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives BOB GOODLATTE and MORGAN GRIFFITH, I submit these remarks to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ferrum College.

A private institution, Ferrum College was founded in 1913 and has a long and storied history that has left an enduring footprint on Franklin County, as well as Virginia and the nation. The 700-acre campus is located in Ferrum, Virginia, the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Ferrum is home to the second oldest environmental science program in the nation. Today, over 1500 students, from 25 states

and a dozen countries, are currently enrolled in 33 areas of study. Ferrum offers bachelor's degrees in twenty-eight programs and received accreditation as a four-year college in 1976. The students are active members of the surrounding Franklin County and Rocky Mount communities.

We wish the students, faculty, and staff the best, as they celebrate Founders Day and their 100th anniversary on February 8th. We also look forward to the continued success of Ferrum College as it carries on its mission of educating our young people and preparing them for their future endeavors.

KIM SKUMANICK, PRESIDENT OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION
OF REALTORS**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kim Skumanick on her inauguration as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR).

Ms. Skumanick is a graduate of Penn State University and presently works as an associate broker with Lewith and Freeman Real Estate in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Prior to becoming president of PAR, she served as the chair of PAR's Legislative Planning Group and the Legislative Committee. She also held the roles of treasurer of the Realtors Political Action Committee (RPAC) and District 1 Vice President. Today, she is on the Strategic Oversight Committee, Legislative Committee and the Land Use and Local Issues Subcommittee, as well as on the Public Policy & Political Advocacy Coordinating Committee and the Administrative Coordinating Committee. Ms. Skumanick is a National Association of Realtors director and has served for nine years as a Federal Political Coordinator for the 10th Congressional District.

For her hard work and dedication in real estate, Ms. Skumanick has been the recipient of significant recognition. In 2003, she received PAR's Realtor Active in Politics Award. A member of the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors, Kim was president in 2003 and was named Realtor of the Year in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Skumanick has shown outstanding commitment to the Pennsylvania real estate community. Therefore, I commend her on her inauguration as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors and wish her the best in her future endeavors.