

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the Schererville Fire Department, as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Schererville Fire Department is hosting a celebratory event on Friday, September 26, 2014, at the Patrician Banquet Center in Schererville, Indiana.

The Schererville Volunteer Fire Department was established on June 25, 1914, under the direction of Fire Chief Fred Henderlong, and was made up of twenty-five volunteer members. In the early days, the firefighters did not receive compensation for their work. This changed in 1953, when one dollar was given to the members for attending a monthly meeting, responding to a call, or working for one hour. Today, the Schererville Fire Department is a fully paid organization consisting of sixty-one employees. Throughout the years, the department has changed its standards to fit the needs of the community. From purchasing the department's first motorized piece of fire equipment in 1922, to upgrading their ambulance service from basic life support to advanced life support in 2006, the Schererville Fire Department has upheld their mission statement of "serving the needs of its people."

The leaders and members of the Schererville Fire Department continue to touch lives through their outstanding community service, especially to those most in need. Every year, the organization lends its support to a variety of charitable organizations, including Hoosier Burn Camp, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the American Heart Association, Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids, "Bump Out Cancer," Tri-Town Safety Village, Schererville Baseball League, and the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge several individuals who, in conjunction with the Schererville Fire Department, have worked diligently to support this outstanding organization. In addition to the firefighters and all of the employees of the department, I would like to recognize Fire Chief Joseph M. Kruzan, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Town Council President Mike Troxell, and Board of Safety Chairman Pete Sormaz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Schererville Fire Department on its 100th anniversary. Northwest Indiana is both grateful and proud to have had the organization's support during the past 100 years, and for their selfless service, the leadership and members of the Schererville Fire Department are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING WWII VETERANS OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP DURING 50TH AND FINAL REUNION IN DALLAS, TEXAS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize veterans of the 485th Bomb Group as they celebrate their 50th and final reunion this week in Dallas, Texas.

The 485th Bomb Group was one of four heavy bomb groups assigned to the 55th Bomb Wing during World War II. The 485th began conducting combat operations on May 10, 1944 with a mission to bomb the marshalling yard at what is now Knin, Croatia (formerly Yugoslavia). Their final mission was flown to the Linz, Austria marshalling yard on April 25, 1945. The group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for the June 26, 1944 mission to the Florisdorf Oil Refinery in Vienna, Austria. Despite encountering heavy flak and intense fighter opposition, the Group was able to inflict considerable damage to the refinery, crippling the enemy's vital fuel production during a crucial period of the war.

As we honor these heroes today, I am reminded of what President Calvin Coolidge once said, "A nation which forgets its defenders, will itself soon be forgotten." I for one am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets the sacrifices that so many endured in order that we may enjoy the freedoms that have made our country so great.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to acknowledge its continued efforts to safeguard our nation's land, water resources and cultural heritage.

Since its creation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has preserved land in every state across America. The fund has supported more than 41,000 state and local park projects at no cost to hard-working taxpayers.

In Pennsylvania alone, the self-sustaining LWCF has provided more than \$315 million in funding over the past five decades, benefiting restoration projects at national historic sites such as the Valley Forge National Historic Park and the Gettysburg National Military Park. In addition, the LWCF played a critical role in the creation of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset, PA.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund also spurs outdoor and recreational economic activity in and around preserved lands, accounting for jobs and a strong tax base for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to preserve and protect our nation's most precious lands and waters for the past 50 years. I celebrate the Fund and

look forward to the excellent work the LWCF will do in the years to come.

VETERANS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4276, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Improvement Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which have demanded multiple deployments for many of our nation's courageous soldiers, have taken a psychological toll on U.S. service members.

As our brave military men and women fight to defend our great country, they put themselves at risk of combat-related health problems, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other brain related maladies.

More than 280,000 United States service members have been diagnosed with a degree of TBI in the past 10 years, and more than 19 percent of veterans may have some form of the disorder.

There is no doubt that these fearless men and women suffering from traumatic brain injuries deserve not only our gratitude, but also our support throughout recovery and treatment.

Thanks to the Assisted Living Pilot Program, these veterans struggling daily with TBI will be provided with 24-hour assisted living help.

Mr. Speaker, our United States veterans bravely put their life on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe.

By passing H.R. 4276, veterans combating TBI and PTSD will receive assistance to enhance their rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration.

The Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Care Act expands the requirements for Veterans Affairs Department reports to affirm the enrollment, completion, and effectiveness of the pilot program.

The community-integrated rehabilitation treatment provided by the pilot program will serve as a vital resource to our veterans as they overcome burdensome health problems.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4276 to show their support and gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service men and women, and to ensure that veterans battling traumatic brain injuries receive the care and rehabilitation they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ARMANDO RAMÍREZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Armando Ramírez. Mr. Ramírez was born and raised in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and

educated in the public school system. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War.

After serving in the military, Mr. Ramírez moved to New York City where he worked while continuing his education during the evenings. Mr. Ramírez attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, and graduated from Saint Francis College, Brooklyn, NY in 1980, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science. He took several civil service examinations and became a police officer in New York City. Mr. Ramírez believes now, as he did then, that working as a police officer was a mission, not just a career in public service.

During Mr. Ramírez's 30-year career as a law enforcement officer in New York City, he served in rackets and fraud investigations while assigned to the District Attorney's office in New York City. He worked in the organized crime, homicide, narcotics, major cases, political corruption, economic crime, and sex crimes bureaus.

Mr. Ramírez is currently the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Osceola County. He was elected on November 6, 2012 by an overwhelming majority. He is the first Hispanic to hold this position in the state of Florida.

In his capacity as Clerk, Mr. Ramírez responds to constituent concerns of wrongdoing. Currently, he is conducting a forensic examination of alleged fraudulent foreclosure documents submitted by banks to Osceola County courts.

I am happy to recognize Armando Ramírez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the United States and the Central Florida community.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. BINDUKUMAR KANSUPADA

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Bindukumar Kansupada of Yardley, Bucks County and a resident of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District. As a cardiologist, successful business man and faithful community servant, Dr. Kansupada has been an incredible asset for the health and well-being to the families that call the Delaware Valley home. As a member on both of my physician's advisory and Indian American committees, Dr. Kansupada's talents and experience have been a vital part of my legislative and outreach efforts as we work together to provide Bucks County families with the type of patient centered healthcare solutions that keep our communities happy and healthy. I am honored to call Dr. Kansupada a personal friend and I look forward to partnering with him in the future so that Bucks County continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

#### HONORING TAMMIE SCHNITZER

#### HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous American who took a stand against hate and intolerance in her hometown of Billings, Montana.

On a cold winter night in December a little more than 20 years ago, members of a local hate group threw a brick through the window of her young son's room. It was just the latest, but one of the most brazen and ominous, acts of hate committed against not just the local Jewish community but other minority groups as well, including Native Americans. Fortunately, Schnitzer's son, Isaac, was not injured, but Tammie knew this attack on her family—and on her community—required a very public response.

Her first step was to go to the editor of the local newspaper and ask that the attack on her family and her faith be a front page story. It was, and it led to the paper and the entire community rallying around the Schnitzer's, with paper menorah's soon festooning some 10,000 homes and businesses in Billings. The response of the people of Billings to this and other acts of hate didn't simply stymie the purveyors of such hate in and around Billings—it started a national movement that has spawned the "Not In Our Town" nonprofit group that fights acts of hate all across America.

I'm pleased that Hadassah and several of its New Jersey chapters, including the Alissa and Monroe Township Hadassah chapters in my Congressional district, will be honoring Tammie Schnitzer on September 21st. My best wishes to them and my deepest thanks to Tammie Schnitzer for her courage to public service.

#### CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RANDOLPH YMCA

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Randolph YMCA, located in Randolph, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

The Randolph YMCA was founded in 1889 in Dover. The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Dover served as the first home of the YMCA, reaching beyond the Dover area and attracting nearly 200 people per day. In 1908, the YMCA expanded its territory to include Chester, Long Valley, Rockaway, Succasunna, Wharton, and Whippany.

From 1908–1950 the YMCA occupied various locations around Blackwell Street in Dover. In 1951, the need for a more permanent facility was recognized. And, as membership had drastically increased since the end of World War II, so did the need for a headquarters facility. The YMCA then opened a new facility on the corner of Route 46 and North Bergen Street.

In 1976 the name West Morris Area YMCA was established. The name was chosen to re-

flect the expanding service area, including Randolph Township. Due to the vast increase in membership, the Dover building would require an addition, but there was not enough property for both an expansion and parking. In 1977, the Y decided to build a new facility in Randolph Township.

The new facility on Dover Chester Road, Randolph, was officially opened in 1979. The building included a gymnasium, racquetball courts, a pool, fitness equipment, and program space. A childcare center was added in March 1999, which now serves as a shared space with the Randolph School District. In 2009 the late Mr. Clyde Utz donated a second pool, along with 7,500 sq. ft. of additional program space. In 2011, the YMCA received the "Best of Aquatics Award" from Aquatics International.

Now known as the Randolph YMCA, the organization offers a variety of health and wellness programs for all ages. The Randolph YMCA also offers numerous Youth Programs, including: Summer Day Camp, Progressive Swim Lessons, After School Child Care, and Youth Fitness and Conditioning.

The Randolph YMCA continues as a charitable non-profit organization that provides social, physical, and education programs to the community in order to help develop the mind, body, and spirit of all ages. The employees and volunteers at the Randolph YMCA remain focused on growing and improving the foundation to meet the needs of the community, today, and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Randolph YMCA, its members, trustees, and many supporters, as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DUMFRIES-TRIANGLE-QUANTICO LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAMS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous performance and accomplishments of local players in the Dumfries-Triangle-Quantico (DTQ) Little League. During this past summer, the Junior, Senior, and Big League All-Star Teams won both the District 9 and Virginia State championships.

The Big League All-Stars have won the District 9 title for three years running, and this marked their third overall state title. The Senior All-Stars have won the District 9 title seven years-in-a-row and the state title four years-in-a-row. The Seniors went on to win the Southeast Regional Championship, securing a spot in the Senior League World Series. They advanced to the semifinal game, where they came up just short in a 3–2 loss to Latin America. The Junior All-Stars have now won four consecutive District 9 titles and their second state title during that period. The Juniors, many of whom have been playing together since they were 10 years old, advanced to the Southeast Regional semifinal game, where they were narrowly edged out in a 9–8 loss to Florida.

My office is proud to support little leagues throughout the community. The friendships