

in Yerevan, which will highlight the unparalleled contribution of the Armenian diaspora to the world during the last century in the fields of arts, science, culture, social welfare and business.

I am honored to pay tribute and express my gratitude and appreciation to Eduardo Eurnekian, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his outstanding achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF CPL. VINCENT
MANNION-BRODEUR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Dedication of Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur Patient Room at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

This newly-dedicated patient room, located in one of the leading rehabilitation hospitals in the country, recognizes Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur and his valiant service in the United States Army. While serving in Iraq in 2007 with the 82nd Airborne, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur was critically injured by an insurgent trap. After surviving forty operations and a year-long coma, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur became an inspiration for people throughout the country and an example of what it means to serve one's country. His noble actions and enduring strength have deemed him a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient and have earned him the gratitude of an entire nation. With the assistance of his parents, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur is now at the point in his recovery where he is able to motivate and speak to Walter Reed patients as well as work with other injured soldiers throughout their own recovery process.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor and thank Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur for his invaluable service in the United States Army and to recognize the dedication of the Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur Patient Room at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognition of Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur and his distinguished service in our Armed Services.

RECOGNIZING TWENTY-TWO FAMILY-OWNED FARMS FOR ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS OR MORE OF FARMING IN MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize twenty-two family-owned farms for reaching the milestone of family farming for one hundred fifty years or more. Throughout our state's history, Minnesota farmers have not only fed the citizens of our great nation, but they help to provide the world with food. These Minnesota families have stood the test of time and passed their farm from generation to generation; sharing their values of hard work, determination, and love of the land. Each family has its own story to tell about the

trials and joys of farming, and no matter what those stories are, they can be proud of the heritage of farming that they have passed as parents to their children over and over again.

These are the twenty-two farm families from Minnesota's Sixth Congressional who have been recognized for their family-owned farms of one hundred fifty years or more.

From Benton County: James E. Donovan (Foley); Glenn Seppelt Family (Foley).

From Carver County: Dale Wildung (Cologne); Earl Schmidt Family (Cologne); Dorothy Light (Delano); Rodney Jaus (Hamburg); Meldon Melcher Family (Norwood/Young America); Gerald Schimmelpfennig Family (Norwood/Young America); Eugene Kamann (Norwood/Young America); John H. Eklund (Watertown); James Hendricks Family (Watertown).

From Sherburne County: Shady Nook Farm/Neal Weis Family (St Cloud).

From Stearns County: Ken Zumwalde (Cold Spring); Torberg/Prill Family (Richmond); Joyce Hansen (Rockville); Robert A. Moeller (St Cloud); David J Morreim (St Cloud); Jerome D. Schroeder (St Joseph).

From Wright County: Richard Lindenfesler (Albertville); William Weldele (Buffalo); Florence Roth (Delano); Lawren Horsch Family (Delano).

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring these twenty-two family owned farms and their owners who represent a great piece of Minnesota's rich history and heritage.

TO RECOGNIZE ALEXANDER HUMMEL AND THE KEYSTONE IRON WARRIORS

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alexander Hummel, an inspiring, impressive 9-year-old from Pennsylvania who founded the Keystone Iron Warriors organization to help our veterans. Alexander is passionately dedicated to serving the needs of veterans and active duty personnel. He also dreams of becoming a U.S. Marine.

The Keystone Iron Warriors works to provide support and resources to veterans and their families who deal with the physical and mental trauma of returning from combat. The Iron Warriors rely on community support, generous donations, and the unified goal of giving back to those who have selflessly served our country. Community contributions go to providing service canines, transportation, and assistance with medical bills to alleviate some of the challenges that face our veterans. Alexander's Iron Warriors also provide friendship and comradery for those who have returned home. None of it would have happened without Alexander's leadership and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Alexander Hummel and the Keystone Iron Warriors for their dedication to serving and honoring our Nation's heroes. I applaud this young man's strength and thank him for the invaluable work he continues to do for our veterans.

HONORING DAVID C.
LEYENDECKER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late David C. Leyendecker of Laredo, Texas—a well-known citizen and a champion of education, veterans, and his community.

Mr. Leyendecker truly embodied the virtue of service in his everyday life. His dedication to his community is evident from the multitude of organizations in which he both led and participated. Mr. Leyendecker served as the Rotary District governor, the president of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Border Olympics of Laredo. He also was the past president of the Blessed Sacrament School Board, and remained an active member until his passing. Mr. Leyendecker served as a commander of the Laredo Marine Corp League 895, and also was the first chapter president of the Korean War Veterans Association 1950 Chapter 209. His unrelenting dedication to education and the military is a testament to his memory and a shining example to us all.

Mr. Leyendecker is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Nancy Knight Leyendecker; children, Nancy Goodman and her husband Andre; Patricia Martinez and her husband David; grandchildren, David Ford Goodman, Andre "Trey" Goodman and his wife Victoria, David Martinez, Jr., Jennifer Martinez and Teresa Martinez; and great granddaughter Kennedy Elizabeth Goodman. He is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other loved relatives and friends. His family and friends will cherish the values and faith that Mr. Leyendecker instilled in them, and will greatly miss his presence.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late David C. Leyendecker. His hard work and spirit have truly impacted many lives and our community. I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS J. TAITANO ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED FEDERAL CIVILIAN SERVICE

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis J. Taitano on his retirement from the U.S. Department of the Navy after 32 years of federal civilian service. Mr. Taitano retired as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Services.

Mr. Taitano was born and raised in Guam. He attended George Washington High School from 1975–1976 before pursuing higher education in the states. He holds a bachelor's degree in business management and economics from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public financial management from the American University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Senior Executive Service Candidate

Development Program, which he completed in 1999.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Taitano has worked tirelessly to improve financial practices and procedures at the organizations he has led. He held numerous financial management positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of the Navy (DON). He previously served as the Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency's Office of Budget and Finance, Chief Financial Officer of the FSA, and Chief Financial Officer of the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service. He has also served as the Comptroller of the DON Naval Sea Systems Command's Naval Ordinance Center and as a Special Advisor for Defense Reform within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 2009, Mr. Taitano was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Operations with the DON's Office of the Assistant Secretary (Financial Management & Comptroller). In this capacity he was responsible for overseeing the DON's \$170 billion operating budget and exercised financial oversight for the DON's 830,000 military and civilian personnel, including over 400 support contractors.

Mr. Taitano is the recipient of the 2009 Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service. He has also received two DON Meritorious Civilian Service Medals, multiple USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Honor Awards, and the USDA CFO Summit Award for the Budget and Performance Management System.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Mr. Dennis Taitano for his many years of dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act in 1964 to permanently protect some of America's most beautiful wild places. The Act has so far protected 757 wilderness areas, accounting for a total of 109 million acres.

The National Wilderness Preservation System—comprised of four federal agencies—was established to monitor and protect these untrammeled spaces. In Pennsylvania alone, the NWPS has designated more than 9,000 acres of wilderness, including the Allegheny Islands and the Hickory Creek wilderness areas. These protected lands are void of construction, roads and permanent structures. Wilderness lands are also void of any logging and mining activities.

The NWPS not only protects the resident wildlife and natural ecosystems, but it also supports outdoor recreation activities and jobs. Wilderness areas provide tremendous opportunities for hiking, camping and fishing. Yet we are just visitors to these lands.

Mr. Speaker, the Wilderness Act and the National Wilderness Preservation System have helped to protect our nation's last re-

maining unspoiled lands and waters for the past 50 years. I celebrate the Wilderness Act and look forward to the excellent work the NWPS will continue to do in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER MATTIE MCKINNEY HATCHETT FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett, as she prepares to step down from the commission at the end of her term.

When her tenure ends in December, Commissioner Hatchett will have completed more than a decade of service to the people of Pontiac as their elected representative to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and will end the most recent chapter in her more than five decades of public service to the City of Pontiac. In 1963, Commissioner Hatchett began serving her community as an employee and volunteer in the Pontiac Public School District. As an education professional, Commissioner Hatchett has been involved in Pontiac Public Schools for more than fifty years and currently serves as a Trustee on the Pontiac Board of Education. During her time in Pontiac Public Schools she has held a variety of positions from teacher to elementary school principal, and several high-ranking administrative roles.

Through Commissioner Hatchett's many public service endeavors in the Pontiac community, she has become a leader, mentor and passionate advocate for her constituents, friends, and neighbors. Her extensive work in the community includes service as the Chairperson of the Pontiac General Hospital Building Authority, an Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency Counselor for Youth Corp., Deputy Mayor of the City of Pontiac, and as a member of the Golden Opportunity Club. She has also been a member of many national organizations like the National Congress of Black Women and the National Baptist Congress.

In her most recent role as Oakland County Commissioner, Commissioner Hatchett has continued to be a staunch advocate for the Pontiac community. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of her constituents are heard and has been involved in finding solutions to the issues affecting them. She has been an active member of the National Association of Counties and, in 2011, was named the first African-American Woman to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Counties.

As an elected representative, I have been honored to serve the residents of Pontiac in my time as a Michigan State Senator and Member of Congress, and I have been so fortunate to have Commissioner Hatchett as a local leader with whom I have been able to work to address many issues affecting our constituents. Commissioner Hatchett's leadership has earned her countless awards and

recognition from local community organizations—she has been honored as the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Woman of the Year, a 2014 Wonder Woman Award recipient and the 2013 IMAGE AWARD recipients from Northern Oakland County NAACP. In recognition of the profound impact Commissioner Hatchett has made on the Pontiac community, in 2008, First Lady Michelle Obama acknowledged her as the "Mother of Pontiac".

Mr. Speaker, the people of Pontiac have been so fortunate to have a passionate advocate and leader as their voice to Oakland County for the last twelve years. Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett's commitment to public service and decades of engagement with Pontiac residents to find solutions for the issues affecting their city and Oakland County are an example of the important work done by our locally elected officials. I know Commissioner Hatchett's voice on the Oakland County Commission will be greatly missed by her peers and by her constituents and wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her service to the people of Pontiac.

CPB'S "AMERICAN GRADUATE: LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks the 3rd annual "American Graduate Day," a live, public broadcasting event highlighting those working to keep America's students on the path to graduation.

Our local public broadcasting station's reporting is only the beginning of the work they do.

The American Graduate initiative, made possible with seed money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is the perfect example of this.

The initiative is a long-term effort by our public broadcasters to shed light on America's dropout crisis. But these efforts don't stop in the newsroom.

It's followed by local stations joining forces with over 1,000 partners and at-risk schools in their communities to find ways of meeting the initiative's goal: A 90 percent high school graduation rate in the U.S. by the year 2020.

This effort couldn't be more critical.

Each year, nearly one million students fail to graduate on time. The U.S., which once had some of the highest graduation rates of any developed country, now ranks 22nd out of 27 developed countries. That means today's generation will not be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

The initiative has made an impact. A study by Johns Hopkins found that American Graduate has successfully built local capacity to end the dropout crisis.

As the founder and co-chair of the Public Broadcasting Caucus, it's an honor to highlight the success of this program and the broader issue it is meaningfully addressing.