

2562, Swiss Club, G.A.F. Society, and the G.B.U.

Len Wasserman leaves to cherish his life and legacy his loving wife Wilma Wasserman, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family and friends. May we join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional man.

PINE RIVER LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of the Pine River Library District in Bayfield, Colorado. For their continued excellence and service to their community, the Pine River Library District has been selected as the Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal for 2014.

The Board of Directors and entire staff have contributed to the development of a truly world-class facility that provides a diverse array of services to the Bayfield community. Pine River not only offers traditional library services, but provides patrons with laptops, GPS devices, and e-readers to check out and use. Their dedication to the community also extends to education, offering teen and youth programs, free film and documentary screenings, and community classes on a regular basis.

The library is committed to creatively engaging the public through hands-on understanding of sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly research through their Living Library program. Everyone can come to the library and learn about sustainable foods in the community garden, explore a geodesic greenhouse, or take advantage of the upcoming tool lending program that will allow patrons to start their own garden at home. It is clear that Pine River is more than a library; it is a hub for knowledge and education that offers valuable resources to the Bayfield community every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the passion for knowledge that the Pine River Library District represents and to congratulate them on their selection for this prestigious award. With their unique and comprehensive approach to learning, I am confident that they will continue to serve as an example to libraries worldwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and missed the following votes:

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this motion.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments

Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

H.R. 1228—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building," as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (Rep. BISHOP (UT)—Natural Resources). Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this rule.

An amendment, offered by Ms. TSONGAS, numbered 3 printed in House Report 113—385 to preserve the ability of the President to declare as national monuments those that provide for the "protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history," regardless of their size. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING KEITH CARSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Carson for his extraordinary career in public service. Mr. Carson is currently a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for District 5, where he has served his constituents with dedication.

A proud Berkeley native, Mr. Carson graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor of arts in social sciences. He went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from California State University, Hayward. Mr. Carson served as an aide for Congressman Ronald V. Dellums for 14 years before holding public office.

During his tenure on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Carson has promoted and continues to promote many beneficial programs for youth in Alameda County. Among these, Mr. Carson initiated the Family Journeys/Youth Ancestry Project in partnership with McClymonds High School, Berkeley Technical High School, Beyond Emancipation, the African American Genealogical Society and the staff at the Family History Center at the Mormon Temple. The Ancestry project is a semester long research project with the aim to spark conversations between youth, their parents, and other family members. Furthermore, Mr. Carson spearheaded a pilot youth bus pass program in 2001, providing AC Transit passes for all students in grades 6 through 12 who qualified for free and reduced lunch in the county.

Mr. Carson has also been at the forefront of the fight to improve health services in Alameda County. One example, Alameda County's Place Matters is an initiative designed to improve the health of communities by addressing the social conditions that lead to poor health. In addition, he pushed for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services to develop an African American Utilization Study to determine which behavioral health care services in Alameda County African Americans utilize in an effort to better serve the population.

Mr. Carson is keenly committed to community leadership, serving as chairman of several Alameda County committees and organizations. He currently sits on the Board for the Alameda County East Bay Economic Development Alliance, one of the largest business organizations serving the East Bay Area. Mr. Carson is also the Chairman of the Alameda County Budget Work Group and is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Moreover, he represents the Alameda Board of Supervisors in State and national organizations, including the Board of Directors for the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Carson has been praised for his commitment and contributions to the community. He has worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of the community he serves through public service and raising awareness on critical social issues.

It is a privilege to call Keith one of my closest personal friends. We have traveled to Cuba, Africa, and Asia together and have shared many unique experiences in learning about the world and our responsibilities as global citizens. As our beloved, the late Supervisor John George instructed us—think locally, act globally. Keith's life is the epitome of that wisdom. As a longtime friend, Keith not only supports my work as an elected official, but constantly checks in with me to remind me of the importance of work-life balance, whether it's taking time to rest, exercise, eat properly, and spend time with my family. He cares deeply about my personal well being given the 24/7 nature of my work and for that, my family and I are deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Keith Carson, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you continued success as you serve the residents of the East Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNM UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work and impressive accomplishments of the Undergraduate Mock Trial Team at the University of New Mexico. This determined group of students recently competed in a regional tournament in California, where their performance earned them a trip to the opening round of the national competition. Following a strong second place finish in that round, the team has qualified to move to the next round taking place later this month in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to their success in the regional tournament and the opening round competition, the team has traveled around the West, placing first in a competition in Colorado Springs, and giving impressive performances in competitions in Texas and California. While their success in mock trial competitions is a source of pride, it is their initiative and leadership as a self-coached group that is so impressive.

While many of the teams it competes against have a faculty or professional attorney

coaching them, the UNM team has taken upon themselves to manage, train, and govern their own team. Founded four years ago, the students have worked diligently over that time, as they have improved their skills and turned their vision into a successful and accomplished team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the UNM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team—Laura Worden, Cris Romero, Nicolas Cordova, Daniel Whiteley, Valeria Garcia, Danielle Harrier, Sarah Peterson, and Seth Barany—and wish them the best at the national competition.

**NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Norwood High School Mavericks girls' basketball team and their coach, Greg King, for winning this year's 1A State basketball championship title.

Their thrilling 38 to 34 victory over the Caliche High School Buffaloes marks only the second time in the school's history winning this prestigious athletic title. According to Coach King, this is a team that fights hard for every victory on the court and in the classroom. These talented young women exemplify the versatility and passion of our amazing student athletes, and will no doubt have bright futures.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to offer my sincere congratulations to Norwood for this year's exciting victory, and I commend Coach King and each member of the team for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit as they continue their bright academic and athletic careers.

**IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION
REGULATION**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today, April 1st, marks the 30th anniversary of the effective date of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR replaced the Armed Services Procurement Regulation and the Federal Procurement Regulations. The principles of the FAR system have remained constant, providing a consistent government-wide approach to the rules and processes of contracting with the U.S. Government. The FAR has helped facilitate our ability to tap into the vast resources of the private sector in those instances when the work of the government can best be performed by outside entities.

The United States Federal government is one of the world's largest consumers of goods and services, with total procurement spending of approximately a half trillion dollars each year. We need to ensure that the government acquires goods and services in an efficient and streamlined fashion, while getting the best value for the American taxpayer.

Many have criticized the fashion in which the government acquires goods and services, particularly information technology, as cumbersome and inefficient. The FAR has evolved to provide broad flexibility to the government, while balancing the need to conduct business with integrity, fairness, and openness. Under the FAR, small businesses have grown into a critical business partner for the Federal government.

The FAR is the Federal regulation that most reflects a collaborative process. Unlike other Federal regulations, the FAR is not signed by one agency, but by three agencies—the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—under the overall direction of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (in the Office of Management and Budget). They are supported by seventeen other civilian agencies and the small agency council. Together they continuously improve Federal acquisition, incorporating best practices from private industry while protecting taxpayer dollars from waste and abuse.

The FAR has its own authority for rule-making which streamlines the process but provides the opportunity for participation in the rulemaking process by both government users and the public. There have been notable collaborative rulemakings in the past, such as the implementation of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, and I support the continued use of the FAR rulemaking process to provide robust exchanges between government and the public.

From the shortest FAR clause which reads “United States law will apply to resolve any claim of breach of this contract” to the longest one, the Government Property clause, which is over 5000 words long, the FAR is a flexible instrument designed to do the job.

More than 30 percent of the government's discretionary budget is dedicated to procurement—the grunt work of the government. It may not be glamorous, but it is what makes the government work. We acknowledge and support the FAR on its anniversary, but remain committed to streamlining and improving its operation and ensuring that acquisition professionals across the government have the tools, training, and support they need to properly use this critical tool.

While the FAR is by no means a perfect document, most countries in the world, whether developed or developing, study the FAR and borrow from it for their procurement system. More importantly, the hard working men and women of the acquisition workforce play a vital role in the policy that is developed for the FAR, and in making that policy work on a daily basis they strive to ensure that the taxpayers, in the end, get best value.

On behalf of those taxpayers, I direct my thanks to the acquisition workforce community for all you do to make our federal acquisition system work. Our system, while not perfect, is better than any alternative out there and something for you to be proud of—you make it work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 147, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

**HONORING CHAPLAIN BENJAMIN
VEGORS ON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chaplain Benjamin Vegors, who is retiring after giving over 145 years of service to our nation's veterans. A dedicated servant, Chaplain Vegors spent countless hours counseling and caring for our veterans throughout the Pacific Northwest at the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

A World War II veteran, Chaplain Vegors served in the Army Air Corp from 1942–1945, assigned to Europe as a tail gunner in B24 Liberator bombers flying 30 missions over Germany and Austria. When asked what called him to the ministry, Ben tells about one particular mission over Germany when two of the plane's outboard engines were shot out. With the plane out of formation and slowly losing altitude, the pilot had to make an emergency landing. With enemy soldiers in pursuit, Chaplain Vegors felt certain that they were all going to die—if they bailed out of the plane, they would be shot in the air but if they stayed in the plane, they were sure to go down. While sitting in his usual landing position, Chaplain Vegors made a midair commitment that if he survived, he would serve God for the rest of his life.

Following discharge from the military, Chaplain Vegors went back to school and then to Seminary at Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon. His pastoral career began in Astoria, Oregon, followed by a ten-year post in Junction City, Oregon. Afterwards, he went to Walla Walla, where he met Jim Dennis, the Chaplain at the VA Hospital. Chaplain Dennis invited Ben to accompany him on his night calls to veterans. This led to an intermittent chaplaincy appointment with the VA and eventually to a part-time chaplaincy position.

In 1972, he was appointed as a full-time chaplain. After 42 years of service as Chaplain of the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, Chaplain Vegors is retiring. Knowing that he has made a difference in countless veterans' lives, Ben once said that he would serve 1,000 years if he could. As it is, he is the oldest Chaplain in the United States. A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington's veterans and on his country will long be remembered.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chaplain Vegors for a lifetime of dedicated service.