

city from stagnation to restoration. He has the ability to solicit assistance from his constituents while working in tandem with his fellow mayors, county executive, state and federal officials, bringing an era of cooperation to Eastern Jackson County. His style of leadership is embedded in civility, compassion and understanding, rare characteristics in today's political climate. His departure will leave his city in a far better place after his twenty years of public service, twelve years on the City Council and eight years as Mayor.

As Mayor Reimal fondly gave his final state of the City address at the Independence Chamber luncheon, he shared how he witnessed the evolution of his city with personal memories as he and his city grew, evolved and matured. In 1948, during Don's formative years, he grew up in an Independence that encompassed only 3.3 square miles; but by 1975, he had witnessed the city's expansion to 78 square miles. During those years, Don met and fell in love with his wife, Jo, and together they committed themselves to each other, their family and their city. Don, more serious in nature, and Jo, with her outgoing bubbly personality, would serve as the first family of Independence with a deep appreciation for the city's rich heritage and a profound sense of responsibility.

As Independence evolved, there came a slow shift to the city's center of commerce and activity causing the older historic parts of the city to fall into slow decay. Since 1994, in his capacity as Councilman and later as Mayor, he helped to lead the effort to revitalize the area that President Harry S. Truman called home. Under his influence, the Independence Historic Square has had a rebirth due to the restoration of old historic buildings into new and vital centers for its citizens due in great part to Don Reimal working in cooperation with his constituents.

Today, as you visit the old square, you will find the Chicago Alton Depot that opened in 1870 saved, in great part, due to Don and Jo's efforts. The Truman Memorial Building stands tall, restored while Don was City Councilman. Don had worked with State Representative Franklin to obtain funds for the then-named Soldier and Sailor Memorial Building, built after World War I, with the support of local veteran, Harry S. Truman. The building was renamed the Truman Memorial Building, where today's soldiers have been welcomed home and an area in the building has been designated the Veterans Hall, designed for the Veterans' Video Project with recordings housed in conjunction with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

In addition, the Palmer Junior High was converted into the highly recognized Palmer Center for those over 50. These renovations, along with the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, were the cornerstone to the beginning of the Independence Square revitalization. The final piece was added when the Jackson County Historic Truman Courthouse was renovated and rededicated on September 7, 2013, eighty years after Harry S. Truman dedicated the same building. Don had worked for years to find a way to save this wonderful building where Judge Harry S. Truman served Jackson County.

Don's personal touch has had lasting impacts, as he respectfully listened to his constituents, providing support and encouragement to projects that would serve as stepping

stones for further neighborhood stabilization. He was rarely deterred, but would just try another way to accomplish his goals for the city. In 2007, the voters approved a school district change that would expand the Independence school boundary on the western side of the city and annex seven schools. Don and the city knew that they could provide a better opportunity for the students and bring families back to that part of the city. The Mayor worked with a prominent group of local citizens to upgrade an area known as the Norledge Place Redevelopment site, also in the newly expanded school area. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the site in 2011, praising the work of the community and city for using NSP funds and working with private and local funds to transform a depressed area into a site of remodeled and rebuilt homes. With much needed improvements for transportation, a new transit center was built and the IndeBus lines were developed to provide better access for the citizens of Independence.

During his time in office, Mayor Reimal helped to shepherd the continued economic growth along the I-70 corridor and the Little Blue Parkway. With the closing of older outdated hospitals, Center Point Hospital opened in 2007, and in 2012, Children's Mercy East opened in the expanding eastern part of the city. Don has never been deterred from criticism if he believed in what he was doing. He supported new shopping areas, the Greater Independence Business Incubator, fought to have the new Genealogy Library built in Independence, and an Independence Event Center that is the home of the Mavericks hockey team and the Comets soccer team. Mayor Reimal has brought excitement to Independence as both teams are of championship caliber.

His accomplishments are far too many to list, but we can all learn from Don's amazing ability to work with people of all political persuasions and interests. He is deeply admired, well respected and will be sorely missed because he truly cares for his city and the constituents that he was elected to serve. I will remember him as a quiet man whose heart and mind is always in the right place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the Mayor of Independence, Don Reimal, for a lifetime of dedicated service, and wishing him and his Jo a wonderful retirement.

HONORING THE NORTH AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS COUNCIL FOR ITS 2014 INNOVATION CONFERENCE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING A STRONG AND INNOVATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the North American Professionals and Entrepreneurs Council (NAPEC) on the occasion of its 2014 Innovation Conference. Drawing many of its volunteers and organizers from the suburban Chicago district that I represent, NAPEC demonstrates a commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the entre-

preneurs and startups that will increasingly define our success in the 21st century.

Lacking the necessary support, too many of our brightest entrepreneurs' ideas and innovations never get off the ground. Dedicated organizations like NAPEC and the volunteers who make them great—many of whom come from the Tenth District—are helping these young innovators go from startup to step out to success.

Organizations like NAPEC play a key role in building and maintaining the infrastructure and networks our innovation economy needs. I am grateful for the tremendous work of NAPEC, and I look forward to many more years of supporting innovation and ensuring our economic success.

From a successful 2014 Innovation Conference to all of its work throughout the year, NAPEC is hard at work trying to kickstart our economy and accelerate our startups.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday April 2, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 52 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Don W. Bohnert, U.S. Army Air Force; Wallace F. Burton, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter D. Haines, U.S. Army Air Force; Glenn V. Koch, U.S. Army Air Force; Ernest A. Meyer, U.S. Army Air Force; Orvin J. Sletten, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert H. Walton, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas L. Warren, U.S. Army Air Force; Miles R. Barfield, U.S. Army; Chelsey T. Barton, U.S. Army; John C. Bates, U.S. Army; Donald L. Freeman, U.S. Army; Theodore P. Geck, U.S. Army; James C. Hickey, U.S. Army; Cordino Longiotti, U.S. Army; Richard M. Macdougall, U.S. Army; Benjamin D. Morrison, U.S. Army; David Ha. Packard, U.S. Army; Albert V. Panacy, U.S. Army; James B. Ragsdale, U.S. Army; Robert J. Resner, U.S. Army; Gordon P. Rutter, U.S. Army; Raymond O. Sims, U.S. Army; Arthur N. Sorenson, U.S. Army; Charles W. Weeks, U.S. Army; Howard L. Abbe, U.S. Navy; Fred A. Carneau, U.S. Navy; Gail D. Cox, U.S.

Navy; Herbert N. Ellis, U.S. Navy; Henry T. Fuqua, U.S. Navy; Marlin E. Hammond, U.S. Navy; Donald F. MacLean, U.S. Navy; Donald Cl. Moberg, U.S. Navy; Wayne D. Mosher, U.S. Navy; Francis G. Nelson, U.S. Navy; Harlan S. Nice, U.S. Navy; Omer L. Oyster, U.S. Navy; Frank S. Palmer, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Peterson, U.S. Navy; Charles W. Pio, U.S. Navy; John D. Randall, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Reindl, U.S. Navy; Matt S. Satalich, U.S. Navy; Eugene J. Schmidt, U.S. Navy; Roy Al. Schnurr, U.S. Navy; George R. Schwarz, U.S. Navy; John S. Sherbeck, U.S. Navy; Kenneth E. Thomas, U.S. Navy; Howard P. Thomas, U.S. Navy; William F. Tromblee, U.S. Navy; Robert J. VanDyke, U.S. Navy; Fred R. Young, U.S. Navy.

These 52 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, and airmen who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous work of the West Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau as the agency celebrates 30 years of service to the children and families of my Congressional District. The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) began in 1984 as a grass roots community movement focused on addressing the systemic causes of violence plaguing our West County neighborhoods at that time.

Under the outstanding leadership of Ms. Taalia Hasan, the Bureau consolidated services independently offered by the West County Unified School District, the County Probation Department, municipal and county law enforcement agencies, and local community based organizations. By coordinating the efforts of these agencies, YSB developed an innovative "wraparound" response system that has, since that time, been widely acclaimed as the most effective way to address the needs of children and families in crisis.

Using the Best Practices Model, the Youth Services Bureau staff has, for 30 years, successfully supported children and their families in difficult situations by providing reliable case management, professional counseling, critical crisis intervention, and caregiver respite services. YSB has also developed innovative programs such as the Family Enhancement Col-

laborative—known as Kinship, the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing Program (EPSDT)—and has collaborated with community initiatives such as Building Blocks for Kids to ensure children and families in West County grow and thrive. The Youth Services Bureau also works closely with local law enforcement agencies and the West Contra Costa Unified School District to enhance delinquency prevention efforts and promote academic achievement.

Throughout the past 30 years, the Youth Service Bureau has been a constant guiding light in the West County community. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing work well done by Taalia Hasan and her dedicated staff and wish them many more years of success as they support our children, families and community.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 20 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 20 enlistees, 8 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, 1 is a Coast Guard enlistee, and 1 is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our Nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the U.S. House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our Nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machua, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, and Tyler Stewart. All will be recognized on May 8 at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

RECOGNIZING GRETA CARDOSO IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Greta's generation set an example for our country in the 20th century, and Greta's life is truly reflective of the American Dream.

Greta was born in Tranquility, California, on April 1, 1924. She grew up in a large immigrant family with nine siblings. Her parents, Senhorinda Barcellos and Elisab Baptista, both emigrated from the Azorian Island of Terceira. Strong values were instilled in Greta at a young age. She attended Kerman High School and worked at the local Five and Dime. After graduation, Greta met her husband, Lee Cardoso, while she was working at The Chat and Chew.

In 1950, Lee and Greta married and began their lives together. Both of their families emigrated from Terceira, so their union encompassed many common traditions and values. Their marriage initiated a partnership between the families and led to the establishment of a dairy business. Greta and Lee raised four children: Linda, Sonny, Joe, and Mark. Growing up on a dairy, the Cardoso children gained a strong work ethic and learned to never take their successes for granted.

Greta is a loving and devoted mother to her children. She always gave her children freedom to learn and explore on their own. While they were in elementary school, Greta would volunteer as a room mother. She was not only an outstanding mother to her own children but also to her nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids. Greta's hospitality goes unmatched. Relatives and friends are always more than welcome in the Cardoso household. On a personal note, Greta was an exceptional role model for me—her nephew.

Outside of working on the dairy and spending time with family, Greta enjoyed several hobbies. She loved to sew, crochet, and needle point. Her needle points are a work of art and are cherished by many. She also loved to play cards and liked Portuguese card games the most. Playing bridge, bunko, and bowling were all activities that Greta truly enjoyed because she loves to be in the company of others.

Greta loved her husband, and loves her children, nine grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren dearly. She has led a long and fulfilling life, and is a great example of a strong woman who shows many individuals the beauty and love this amazing life has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in recognizing Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. She is an inspiration for all of us as she has a led a long life filled with joy, love, and happiness of Armenian to the San Joaquin Valley I call home and the entire Nation.