

that Bryant Schlade of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Bryant's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Bryant brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Napoleon High School, in Napoleon, Ohio, Bryant was on the Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Bryant was a member of his school's football, basketball, and track and field teams and earned varsity letters in all three sports. In addition, Bryant served as captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year. He was class president, member of the student council, Spanish Club member, Envirothon, and volunteered his time as an usher at church. I am confident that Bryant will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bryant Schlade on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Bryant will excel during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING DR. RAY ANN HAVASY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ray Ann Havasy, an esteemed resident of my congressional district. Not only is she an active and vocal member of her community in Port Washington, she is also the Director of the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, a valuable and necessary organization on Long Island.

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning exists to promote science education and literacy in children and adults. They accomplish this by holding workshops that engage our youth and challenge them to pursue their education inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Havasy, along with CSTL, has made an effort to promote S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning through local competitions that challenge participants to think critically about their studies and allow them to sharpen their knowledge in an applicable manner. The efforts of CSTL represent the type of innovative, out-of-the-box thinking we need to ensure that our children's academic competence remains that of a global leader.

Dr. Havasy and the Center for Science Teaching and Learning represent a positive institution in our community and I applaud their work. I am honored to be able to represent them here in Congress.

REMEMBERING JOHN BENINCASA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life and service of John Benincasa. John sadly passed away on April 6, 2014 at the age of 87.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Alliance" to those in his community, John was an extraordinary civil servant and veteran who served as president of the Alliance City Council and dedicated himself to the people of Stark County. On the day of his passing, John was in his 11th consecutive term as City Council president.

After graduating from Mount Union College, John worked as vice president and general manager of Da-Tronics Inc. He later became the City of Alliance Safety Service Director for much of the 1980s under then Mayor Francis Carr.

John was an active volunteer for his community, including 12 years on the Alliance Park board. John also spent 13 years in the Alliance Jaycees as a Board Member, where he helped organize and manage the Carnation City Triathlon/Duathlon for 25 years. John was also an active member of the United Methodist Church and the Alliance Area Family YMCA.

He was an exemplary civil servant, who was able to set aside partisan differences and work for the betterment of the city he loved. John will be honored by the Stark County Democratic Party posthumously with the lifetime achievement award. He was devoted to his family and faith, and was dedicated to and strongly preached the principles of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the life of John Benincasa. I extend my most sincere condolences to John's entire family. His contributions to this community will not be forgotten. Northeast Ohio is a better place because of his service and his life. I ask that the House join me in remembering Mr. John Benincasa.

HONORING THE ETZ CHAIM CENTER ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of The Etz Chaim Center on the occasion of their anniversary this June, marking 25 years of providing quality Jewish education from a spiritual perspective to the Delaware Valley. Etz Chaim is a welcoming, non-judgmental organization dedicated to bringing the beauty and depth of Judaism to the contemporary Jew. Through a diverse menu of educational and spiritually-focused programs, Jews of all backgrounds are able to grow and connect more passionately with their heritage. Based in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, in my Congressional district, Etz Chaim provides programming for Jews and families in Montgomery County and the Philadelphia area.

Etz Chaim was founded in 1988 by Rabbi David Wachs and Rabbi Moshe Ungar in Northeast Philadelphia. Since then, both their space and their programs have grown. Etz Chaim's new headquarters in Elkins Park opened in 2012, allowing them to expand their numerous class, forum, and event offerings, providing hundreds of educational and spiritual programs for the community. Each year, Etz Chaim reaches almost 1,000 people, from community based events attended by many, to one on one learning sessions for individuals looking to advance their personal growth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Etz Chaim and all of their success in supporting the Jewish community in Pennsylvania.

HONORING CHARLES WILLIAM RANSOME

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie Ransome who served our country for 23 years in the United States Army. I had the great privilege of knowing Charlie, and today I am including in the Congressional Record a tribute to him so that my colleagues will know how much he contributed to the nation, to his community, to his friends, and to his family.

Charles William "Charlie" Ransome, 49 years of age, passed away peacefully at his home in Sugar Land, Texas on November 30, 2012, after a courageous seven month battle with pancreatic cancer.

A celebration of Charlie's life was held at a funeral mass at St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land, Texas on Friday, December 7, 2012. He was buried in Houston National Cemetery with full military honors, as was his wish. Serving as pallbearers were Michael Ransome, Bobby Balli, Terry Ray, Adrian Janak, David Ragusa, Richard Whitworth, Bill McLaughlin, and Jim Allen.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife and son, Melinda Janak Ransome and Charles Zachary Ransome of Sugar Land, Texas. Also surviving him are his parents Rufus G. Ransome, Jr. and Jeanine Calderoni Ransome of Brownsville, Texas; his sister, Kathryn Anne Traynor (Frank) and nieces Sarah, Emily, and Rebecca of Houston, Texas; his brother, Michael Edward Ransome (Denise) and nephew Joshua and niece Olivia of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Additional survivors include his uncle, Charles Fount Ray and cousins Sandy and Karen Ray, Marshall and Mary Lou Ray, and Terry and Laurie Ray, all of Brownsville, Texas; and his uncle and aunt, William S. McLaughlin, Jr. and Doris Calderoni McLaughlin, and cousins Mary Leigh McLaughlin, Grayson Tate, and William S. McLaughlin, III, all of Houston, Texas.

Charlie was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Rufus G. Ransome and Kathryn Eidman Ransome; maternal grandparents, Dr. Charles F. Calderoni and Doris Thompson Calderoni; and his aunt Ann Ransome Ray.

Charlie was born on June 7, 1963, in Brownsville, Texas, to Rufus G. Ransome, Jr.

and Jeanine Calderoni Ransome. He graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 1981 and Texas A&M University in 1985 earning a degree in civil engineering. While at Texas A&M Charlie proudly served as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He went on to serve 23 years in the U.S. Army and active reserves, retiring in 2008 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Charlie served tours of duty in Germany and Korea immediately out of college and was deployed to Iraq in 2004 with the Army Corps of Engineers as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq Charlie managed logistics for the military's construction efforts and troop rotations and served as a special investigating officer. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his time in Iraq. Charlie believed very strongly that his years of his service in the military were his contribution to making a better world. Patriotism was a way of life for him. He closed all his communications with the following quotation from Edmund Burke (1729–1797): “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

In 1991, Charlie married Melinda Janak. They were blessed with the birth of their son, Charles Zachary, in 1996. Charlie spent 21 beautiful years with his beloved Melinda and 16 with his beloved Zachary. The family loved to travel especially to all the wonderful National Parks where Charlie marveled at the natural beauty that God created.

Charlie's civilian engineering career was spent with Jacobs Engineering, in Houston, Texas where he was employed for 24 years. Always a giving man, Charlie was active in volunteerism both through Jacobs and his son's activities. Some of his favorite contributions were running United Way campaigns for Jacobs, reading to under privileged children and serving as treasurer for his son's high school athletics booster club.

Charlie was a man of great integrity, with the highest of moral standards. He was truly a family man, always loving to have his family and friends join him, Melinda, and Zach to celebrate at their home. An avid sportsman, hunting, fishing and scuba diving were some of his favorite pastimes.

Charlie treasured his wonderful life and lived it to the fullest. He will always be remembered as a very kind and compassionate man who loved people. In turn, Charlie was loved by everyone who knew him, as was evidenced by the tremendous outpouring of love, care and support from family and his many friends throughout his illness and passing.

We treasure the years Charlie spent with us. He will forever live in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR MR. RAMON
RIVERA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Rivera from Malaga, Washington. Mr. Rivera is the founder of the Mariachi Huenachi program at Wenatchee High School and also the director of that remarkable music group. Recently, he was honored by the Seattle City Club with one of the 2014 Washington State Jefferson Awards.

The Jefferson Award is an award for “unsung heroes” who have committed themselves to volunteer service and improving the lives of those around them, and, in doing so, improving the world. So far, over 300 students have participated in the mariachi program pioneered by Mr. Rivera, a program which has received national attention. Not only do his students learn about the rich cultural heritage of mariachi music but they are also expected to achieve academic excellence and are encouraged to pursue higher educations, something that many of Mr. Rivera's students would never have considered otherwise.

I am honored to have met Mr. Rivera during the Spring Recess and am even more honored to represent him as my constituent. I congratulate him on the success of his endeavors and earning this prestigious recognition.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS TO RECEIVE THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, who is being awarded the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services on May 8, 2014. This award recognizes “institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities” and is highly selective, as only ten institutions receive the award annually. It is also the highest award any American museum or library can receive.

The largest children's museum in the world, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis has been a mainstay of Indianapolis' cultural landscape since its founding in 1925, and is recognized as the global leader of museums for children. Among its many renowned permanent exhibits are a recreation of the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Seti I, a forty-three foot glass masterpiece by the famed artist Dale Chihuly, the SpaceQuest Planetarium where children can view and understand the Indiana night sky, and a working carousel from 1917. There is also the Dinosphere, which displays full-size dinosaur skeletons, including Leonardo the mummified dinosaur. From May 10, 2014 through November 2, 2014, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis will be the only museum in the United States to display the famed Chinese Terra Cotta Warriors as part of its permanent exhibit “Take Me There: China.”

As a longtime Indianapolis resident who raised two children in our beautiful city, I especially appreciate all that the Children's Museum does for Hoosier children every day of the year. During Halloween, the museum presents its famous Haunted House, and during the holiday season the main staircase is transformed into the magical Yule Slide. Like many Hoosier parents, I have fond memories of taking my children to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, and was so moved by the museum's work that I was inspired to serve on its Board, which was one of the great honors of my career. I am pleased to continue working

with the museum as a distinguished advisor helping to advance its important mission.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage our children's curiosity and provide them with hands-on opportunities to learn about the world around them. The Children's Museum does just that, and undeniably inspires the more than one million visitors who come to experience the museum each year. I am proud to recognize the Children's Museum of Indianapolis today for its outstanding work in winning the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and wish the museum continued success as it seeks to educate Indiana's children and families.

RECOGNIZING DR. DENNIS
JOHNSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Dr. Dennis Johnson on his retirement from the George Washington University's (GWU) Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM). Dr. Johnson has committed more than 20 years of service to the GWU campus and will truly be missed there.

Dr. Johnson hails from a small town outside Merrillville, Indiana. In high school, he was very active in student government and politics. He earned his BA in International Relations from Carlton College and his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University. His academic and scholarly interests include campaigns and elections, the profession of political consulting, and the history of American public policy.

Dr. Johnson has over 20 years of teaching and leadership experience with GWU's GSPM program. Dr. Johnson has served in multiple leadership roles with the GSPM, ending his tenure as the Director of its Legislative Affairs Program, Associate Dean, and later as its Acting Executive Director. Notably, Dr. Johnson served as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer at Jinan University in Guangzhou, China during the 2010–2011 academic year, where he lectured and spoke to a variety of academic, professional, and business audiences throughout China. Dr. Johnson has authored numerous books on political management and has lectured on the subject around the globe. He has had a lifetime passion for politics. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Johnson earlier served as Chief of Staff to then Congressman Norman Sisisky (D–VA).

Dr. Johnson has done impressive work in advancing the cause of democracy around the globe. He epitomizes the American Dream, achieving success as a public school graduate and the first in his family to graduate from college. He earned money for his college tuition working summers in a steel mill. Coming from a small town to having had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have tea with the Queen of England, Dennis has retained a sense of humility and Midwestern charm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Dennis Johnson with sincere congratulations on a job well done for GWU and for advancing democracy around the world.