

Mr. Emanuelson makes Minnesotans proud. On behalf of all Minnesotans and Americans, I recognize Mr. Emanuelson's dutiful service to our country during one of its most dire times of need.

OPERATION HELPING HAND 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Operation Helping Hand on its 10th Anniversary. Operation Helping Hand is a labor of love dedicated to providing support for our United States Military active duty personnel who have been injured in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and are currently being cared for at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Started in May 2004, Operation Helping Hand is a special initiative of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), which currently has over five hundred members. Operation Helping Hand is governed by five retired officers, one prior enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer, and operated by many dedicated volunteers. In the ten years since its inception, its efforts have assisted hundreds of active duty, recently retired, and wounded heroes and their families. Operation Helping Hand knows that one of the most important aspects of the patients' rehabilitation is having family support during their recovery. That is why it helps facilitate this through a myriad of services such as travel assistance with roundtrip air fare for immediate family members, rental cars for traveling, gas, lodging, and other various arrangements that help connect family members to their loved ones during their rehabilitation. These services would not be possible without the generous contributions and grants from individuals, corporations, and associations, which, through Operation Helping Hand's fundraising efforts, have been able to give well over \$1.8 million back to assist our wounded military service-members and their families.

Mr. Speaker, for wounded heroes and their families, Operation Helping Hand hosts monthly dinners—many of which I have been privileged to attend—at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. On May 15th, Operation Helping Hand will proudly host its 120th consecutive dinner. Those in regular attendance at the monthly dinners consist of concerned citizens, community leaders, active duty military and military retirees. Deliciously catered dinners are provided by local restaurants that, in conjunction with other local businesses, generously stuff gift bags chock full of useful personal items and gift certificates for the loved ones of wounded veterans.

Mr. Speaker, for its incredible charitable work, it is no wonder that Operation Helping Hand has received many accolades from, but not limited to, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Tampa Bay, and the Mayor's Alliance. Additionally, Operation Helping Hand has been a recipient of the "Newman's Own" recognition, the 2010 Governor's Points of Light Award, the Florida Distinguished Service Medal, and the President's Call to Service Award. But, according to Oper-

ation Helping Hand, the most valuable and honored recognition comes from the grateful patients and their families once their rehabilitation has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder to have many of these wonderful citizens as constituents. Caring folks like the ones at Operation Helping Hand are what makes America the land of the free and the home of the brave. God bless them, God bless our veterans, and God bless America.

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED  
YEARS OF COMMUNITY IN THE  
TOWN OF PROSPER

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Prosper, Texas, in celebrating its 100th anniversary. This milestone is a true testament and living legacy of the hard work, perseverance, and spirit of community that the early settlers first fostered.

The Town of Prosper is conveniently located to the north of Frisco in Collin County. Incorporated in 1914 with a commission form of government, Prosper started off with a population of just 500 residents. After the war and the depression the mechanization of farming provided the next big impact on Prosper's population.

In 1980, the introduction of light industry, combined with the growth of the Metroplex, led to a comeback for Prosper. Today, Prosper continues to grow and is home to more than 11,000 residents, 100 businesses and one high school state football championship, Prosper High School. The town continues to welcome new ventures to their thriving community every year. While 100 years have passed since its founding, Prosper truly is a shining example of what makes North Texas a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Town of Prosper on their 100th anniversary. I also commend the Mayor of Prosper Ray Smith and all those who call Prosper home, for their dedication, commitment, and efforts in contributing to Prosper's continued growth and excellence while preserving the values of a close-knit community. That's something we simply can't put a price on. I look forward to seeing what the next 100 years have in store.

God Bless all your efforts, and I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BENNY TATE

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for over 25 years.

When Dr. Benny Tate first arrived in Milner, Georgia, Rock Springs Church had just 60 members in its congregation. Today, that number has grown to more than 6,000.

Under the leadership of Pastor Tate, several ministries were formed at Rock Springs Church in order to meet the needs of the community, including:

The Rock Springs Medical Clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance, the Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse, Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to children K through 12, and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing to those in need.

Psalm 68:5 says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Or James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what scripture tells us the role of the church should be—to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Today, Pastor Tate and his wife of more than thirty years, Barbara, reside in Griffin Georgia, and are parents to their daughter, Savannah Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Benny Tate for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community at Rock Springs Church. I wish him many blessed years ahead as he continues to lead, serve, and further the gospel at his full service church.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER-  
INTENDENT JOANNA RUMMER

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of my good friend Joanna (Jody) Rummer, who has served the Sierra Sands Unified School District for 26 years.

Joining the school district as a science teacher in 1988, Jody went on to serve as assistant principal at Murray Middle School and Burroughs High School before eventually becoming Burroughs' co-Principal. In 2001, she joined the district administrative staff as the coordinator of special projects before becoming the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. In 2004, Jody became the school district's superintendent and embarked on a journey that would ultimately transform the Sierra Sands Unified School District.

When Jody took the wheel, her vision was to enhance and grow Sierra Sands. Today, Jody's vision is rooted in the foundation of all eleven district schools, which have been recognized statewide as institutions of academic excellence, earned the California Distinguished School award, and designated as a California Blue Ribbon school. Within the halls of those schools, you'll find students excelling in California's finest programs for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, mastering the art of music, visual arts, and drama, and setting athletic milestones as state champions in multiple

sports. Additionally, in the face of the most challenging of fiscal environments since the Great Depression, Sierra Sands Unified School District has maintained fiscal solvency throughout the entirety of her superintendency.

A relentless advocate for her students, I was honored to work recently with her to secure almost \$60 million in Federal defense funds to replace Murray Middle School and modernize Burroughs High School. Many of the parents of Sierra Sands students work at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories while their children attend class in 1940s and 1950s era buildings. Jody was instrumental in securing these funds and worked tirelessly with the Department of Defense through a competitive process to ensure her students can learn in modern buildings in today's digital society. Jody also was key to Sierra Sands securing \$7 million to build a state-of-the-art new Career Technical Education Building.

I have known Jody for years, and always sought her advice when I served in the California Assembly and now in the U.S. House of Representatives. Whether it is working to provide resources under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so schools can better serve their disabled students, to critical reforms to the Impact Aid program to help ensure military-serving districts, like Sierra Sands, can continue to provide a world-class education to its students by cutting through bureaucratic red tape, to working on common-sense reforms to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that focus on students, Jody has tirelessly represented her students, school district, and our Ridgecrest community's interest while providing sound, objective, and to-the-point advice. When I visit Jody in Ridgecrest and speak to students, she is always quick to laud her staff, teachers and students' achievements and hard work that have made Sierra Sands one of the best school districts in Kern County and the State of California. Those are some of the reasons why she has been twice recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as Administrator of the Year and named this year as California's Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our community, I would like to wish a happy retirement to Jody Rummer, who has devoted so much of her life to the success of the students and community she holds so close to her heart. I will miss working with Jody, but I know she will still be involved in education and our Ridgecrest community and I look forward to still be able to call on her for advice to strengthen the educational needs not only of Ridgecrest, our county, or our state, but of our country.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WILLIAM A. THIEN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY

### HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Commander-in-Chief William A. Thien as he visits the State of Michigan and our Fifth Congressional District on Monday, May 12, 2014.

William A. "Bill" Thien was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 24, 2013, at the VFW's 114th National Convention, held in Louisville, KY.

Having served in the U.S. Navy from 1969–1974 as well as five years in the Indiana National Guard, Commander Thien holds decorations that include the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Bar, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), National Defense Service Medal and several from the National Guard.

He joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 3281 in New Albany, IN, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions including All American Post Commander, All State District Commander and All American State Commander. He has also held positions on numerous National committees, including Vice Chairman of Citizenship Education and Community Service and as Chairman of National Scholarship and Recognition.

Now retired, Commander Thien is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Vietnam War Post 1, National Rifle Association, Patriot Guard Riders, Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 51 and VFW National Home.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Commander William Thien for his strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our country.

HONORING MICHAEL HEISLEY, SR.

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great Illinois businessman and philanthropist, Michael Heisley, Sr. who passed last Saturday at the age of 77. He was a classic American success story. In 1979, he mortgaged his house and took out a loan to buy a bankrupt industrial equipment company which he then turned around to become profitable. He purchased other Rust Belt manufacturing companies, including some in the 6th District of Illinois, and in the process turned his Heico Companies into one of the largest private companies in the Chicagoland area. He did not buy businesses to flip them, but to fix them and make them thriving enterprises once again.

Mr. Heisley not only kept manufacturing jobs in the United States, he also brought jobs back to the United States. He was able to move the NBA's Vancouver Grizzlies to Memphis, Tennessee. Like the companies he fixed, he left the Grizzlies in far better shape than he found them. Mr. Heisley was a philanthropist who donated to numerous charities including: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, St. Patrick's Catholic School in St. Charles, his alma mater Georgetown University, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, in honor of his brother Joseph who served and his best friend Rocky who died in Vietnam.

Mr. Heisley never lost track of his ties to St. Charles, IL his home of 35 years. He served on the St. Charles School Board and was a longtime parishioner at St. Patrick's in St.

Charles. He is survived by his wife of more than fifty years Agnes, five children and 12 grandchildren. Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in honoring Michael Heisley, his family, and his legacy of service and achievement.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ROBERT  
LUNDY

### HON. STEVE SOUTHERLAND II

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly heroic and remarkable man, Taylor County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Lundy. On February 5, 2014, Deputy Lundy was having his car serviced in Perry, Florida, when a crazed gunman drove his vehicle through the front of the store and opened fire.

Despite being off duty at the time and suffering a close range shotgun blast, Deputy Lundy courageously engaged the shooter without hesitation and took him down. As a result of Deputy Lundy's bold and selfless actions, innocent lives were saved that day and a gunman intent on causing mayhem was stopped before he could do any more harm.

After spending several weeks in a coma and being told he would need at least a year in the hospital, Deputy Lundy was able to return home in just over two months—a testament to his strength of spirit and an unyielding determination to be there for his wife and two young daughters.

While Deputy Lundy has a long road ahead in his recovery, his bravery and selfless sacrifice will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of Florida's Second Congressional District, I express my sincere gratitude to Deputy Lundy and wish him a speedy and successful recovery.

HONORING PASTOR EUGENE  
ROBERSON OF FIRST CORINTHIAN  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN NORTH CHICAGO ON  
HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend, Pastor Eugene Roberson of First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. Over those 20 years, Pastor Roberson has been a dedicated community servant and a passionate religious leader, making him a prominent figure throughout the suburban Chicago district that I represent.

With his leadership and guidance, First Corinthian has grown tremendously over the past two decades, both physically and spiritually. Membership continues to rise annually, and in 2001, First Corinthian finished a brick and mortar addition and renovation, fulfilling part of Pastor Roberson's vision for the church.

His weekly sermons and Bible study courses offer insight and inspiration. His passion and enthusiasm engage all generations of