

A construction project for a new interchange in my home, Hall County, was delayed because of the need to survey for the bat.

What's worse, even if no bats are found during the preconstruction bat survey, Fish and Wildlife Service requires a clearing restriction in construction contracts for prime-building months if certain factors contributing to a quality bat habitat are present. These types of restrictions increase prices and create unnecessary and burdensome delays on important infrastructure projects. Similar restrictions can also negatively affect other sectors such as forestry, ranching, and utilities.

The underlying bill takes important steps to address the problematic requirements associated with the bat's status as a threatened species. This amendment goes the extra step to prevent the current situation from getting even worse by prohibiting the use of funds to list the Northern Long Eared Bat as endangered.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO JERRY MATHIASSEN

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jerry Mathiasen of Council Bluffs. Jerry was recently named the president and CEO of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF). He had previously served as the interim president and CEO at PCCF before his most recent post. PCCF serves as a community builder within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area by leveraging partnerships and providing grants across the county to improve the lives of its citizens.

As a native of Council Bluffs, Jerry returned home after serving in the administration of Governor Terry Branstad for 14 years. Once home, he gave his time and talents to the Iowa West Foundation for almost 18 years. Jerry has had a long, successful career as a philanthropic leader and has earned the title of President and CEO of PCCF.

I applaud and congratulate Jerry for his recent promotion to President and CEO of PCCF. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Jerry and wishing him nothing but continued success in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #417 on House Amendment 64 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING CHANCELLOR WILLIAM "BRIT" KIRWAN

##### HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator and faithful public servant, Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan, for his years of faithful dedication to the University System of Maryland. After 46 years as an exemplary advocate of educational excellence, Mr. Kirwan retired last month. I would like to thank him for his passion, dedication, and commitment to the students of Maryland. From his 24 years as a faculty member, to his decade serving as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, and on to his 12 year tenure as Chancellor of the Maryland University System, Chancellor Kirwan has touched and contributed to the lives of countless Marylanders. In addition to his stewardship of Maryland's institutions of higher education, Chancellor Kirwan has also been a national thought leader on a wide range of topics including innovation, academic transformation and higher education's role in economic development. Among others, Chancellor Kirwan has received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the Tech Council of Maryland's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, the Regional Visionary Award from the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's Public Service Award. His achievements speak for themselves. Chancellor Kirwan's services have been greatly appreciated and his efforts will be sorely missed. I congratulate Chancellor Kirwan on his many accomplishments and wish him all the best in his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan for his years of leadership and excellence in the education of Maryland's students.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #390 through 391. Had I been present,

On Roll Call #390, Motion to Close Portions of the Conference on H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, I would have voted YES;

On Roll Call #391, Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act, I would have voted YES.

#### TRIBUTE TO KNAPP PROPERTIES INC.

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Knapp

Properties, Incorporated of Des Moines, Iowa. Knapp Properties was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Knapp Properties has lived up to these goals and strives to treat all of their associates with the same respect and integrity that they would expect in return. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Gary Neugent.

I applaud and congratulate Knapp Properties for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Knapp Properties Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

#### IRAN

##### HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the Chairman and the Members of her subcommittee.

I rise today with grave concerns about this agreement that could very well lead to an increased likelihood of a nuclear Iran.

This outcome is unacceptable and the consequences would have harmful effects on our country and the region.

Simply put, we cannot trust a country that continues to sponsor and sanction terrorism against U.S. interests and actively promotes the destruction of our strongest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

The United States must limit opportunities for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons rather than providing avenues for the spread of such weapons.

A nuclear Iran will be very unlikely to respond to peaceful international intervention. By permitting Iran to obtain nuclear weapons capability—even after 10 years—we will increase the likelihood of future military action in the Middle East.

This will increase the burden on our already strained military and put the brave men and women of our armed forces at risk unnecessarily—while increasing the possibility of further destabilization in multiple countries in the Middle East.

Additionally, by lifting the sanctions on Iran and releasing the money held in accounts held abroad will we be promoting the further funding by Iran of terrorist activities and groups such as Hamas and the Taliban. Strengthening a regime well known for state sponsorship of terrorism goes against all reason.

Further, we can be sure that other countries are looking at this agreement with Iran as a bellwether of permissive activity. If one country in the region is allowed by the United States to obtain a nuclear weapon, surely others will look to follow suit.

It's my belief that Congress should step up the pressure and reject any agreement that

does not meet our nation's strategic objectives. I am deeply concerned that the U.S., once a strong leader on the world stage, is now allowing ourselves to be duped and undercut by a country with an agenda of terror and instability rather than the peace and cooperation that developed nations seek.

I urge my colleagues to reject any agreement that diminishes the standing of the U.S. and does not completely cut off weaponized nuclear capabilities for Iran.

RECOGNIZING RIGIDIZED METALS CORPORATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING INNOVATION AND ITS PASSION FOR THE BUFFALO COMMUNITY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Rigidized Metals Corporation as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Along with the dedicated team of Rigidized Metals, CEO Rick Smith has made significant contributions to metal technology while sustaining strong local ties. Rigidized Metals consistently seeks to improve both its product and the region, focusing on energy and environmental sustainability as well as maintaining the highest quality product.

Since 1940, Rigidized Metals has been fostering collaboration, passion, and achievement both in its field and among its employees. The company continues to attend events such as trade shows to continue its improvement and discuss ways to further reduce cost, energy use, and environmental harm. Rigidized Metals manufactures, textures, and finished metals that are not only made of sixty-percent recycled material but that are also one-hundred-percent recyclable. Moreover, Rigidized Metals has received LEED Credits, which recognizes its leadership in energy and environmental design.

Besides their positive ecological impact, the company strives for durability, strength, and natural beauty in their products. From impact resistant railing overlooking Niagara Falls to scratch-resistant textured metal in the National Hockey League's locker room, Rigidized Metal's products are designed expertly to augment each unique environment, considering factors such as acoustics, shade and reflection. Its Cave of the Winds project in Niagara Falls required a unique curvature, lightweight structure, moisture resistance, and a textured depth. Another local project at the Burchfield Penny Art Center includes light and projector totems along the side of the institute, allowing for a new and public approach to viewing art.

The company does not shy from a challenge and is recognized for its national influence. A research collaboration with the University at Buffalo School of Architecture combines industry and academia to achieve a seemingly impossible vertical metal installation that opens up the field to further metal work opportunities.

Family and friends of the Rigidized Metals team will attend the anniversary celebration to commemorate its achievements and usher in a new era of innovation. It took place on Wednesday, July 8th at 4pm at 658 Ohio

Street, where the newly remodeled transfer station was revealed. The revitalization of the station reflects Rigidized Metals work within the community as it reinvigorates historic landmarks rather than build new facilities. It now features a gallery showroom for products at a key location on Ohio Street, connecting the Inner and Outer Harbors.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Rigidized Metal Corporation and my good friend Rick Smith on the occasion of the company's 75th Anniversary. Rick is the third generation president. The company was founded by his grandfather, Rick Smith, followed by his father, until Rick took the reins in 2000. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the company for its leadership in quality, architectural design, sustainability, and commitment to community. Its exceptional impact resides in its pioneering technology, longstanding leadership, and passion for future success in Buffalo and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF JOSHUA ZARKA

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellent work of Joshua Zarka. Since 2011, Josh has served as the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. At the end of July, Josh will conclude his service at the Embassy and return to Israel for a new chapter in his career.

The United States has historically maintained a warm relationship with Israel. This friendship is built by those at the executive level, but nurtured by diplomatic staffs, such as Josh, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to further our countries' shared goals. In his role as a liaison to the United States Congress, Josh has worked with many of my colleagues and me to strengthen this relationship. Josh's energy and commitment to follow up on even the smallest details was evident each and every day.

Joshua Zarka serves as an example of how diplomacy should take place—friends first. His desire to serve Israel and the broader U.S.-Israel relationship is seldom seen and equal. He will be dearly missed, and I wish him well in his studies at the Israel National Defense College.

HONORING TONY J. JARAMILLO, SR.

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with family and friends in celebrating Tony J. Jaramillo, Sr.'s 87th birthday.

Tony was born July 14, 1928 in Socorro County to Juan and Flora Jaramillo—he was the eldest of eight children. When it came time to start high school, Tony received a scholar-

ship to attend Lourdes High School in Albuquerque with the intent of becoming a priest. Ultimately, Tony decided not to stay at Lourdes and would later graduate from Socorro High School in 1947. Shortly after, in 1948, he married the love of his life, Gloria Jean Bowers and they started a family.

What drives Tony is his passion for politics, his selfless dedication to public service, and his resolve to ensure that the citizens of Socorro are living in a thriving community. He has held many elected offices during his lifetime, beginning with Justice of the Peace from 1966 through 1970; member of the Socorro School Board from 1966 through 1972; member of the Socorro City Council from 1970 through 1978; Mayor of Socorro from 1978 through 1986; and Socorro County Manager from 1986 through 1990. He has also been very involved in the Democratic Party, serving as the Democratic Party Chairman from 1972 to 1988 where he actively engaged the New Mexico Legislature.

As a businessman, Tony has been very successful. A licensed Real Estate Broker, he owned and operated a Property and Casualty Agency for many years and was the owner of La Fiesta Bakery and the Mountain Mail Newspaper. Many in Socorro remember his time as the manager of the local Loma Theater, a position he held for over 20 years. And, when he served as mayor, he made economic development a priority and brought the Industrial Park and new businesses to the city.

He and his wife, Gloria, raised eight children and they have many grandchildren and great grandchildren. I would like to extend a "Happy Birthday" to Tony J. Jaramillo, Sr., and thank him for his dedicated public service and for his efforts to create a vibrant community for the citizens of Socorro.

SPEECH OF MARYAM RAJAVI, THE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE OF IRAN (NCR) IN 2015 PARIS GRAND GATHERING OF THE IRANIAN RESISTANCE—13 JUNE 2015

**HON. ROBERT PITTENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following speech by Maryam Rajavi, the elected President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NRC).

In the name of God, In the name of Iran, In the name of Freedom, In the name of 120,000 shining stars, the blazing flames of honor and dignity who defied the religious tyranny, and In the name of all the unsung heroes and heroines who made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live free; so that in the darkest hour of her history, Iran shines with stars, stands proud and cries out: "Down with the velayat-e faqih regime!"

VOICE AND MESSAGE OF IRAN'S GENUINE OWNERS

Elected representatives of nations around the globe, Honorable dignitaries, My fellow compatriots, here and all over Iran: I sincerely extend my gratitude to you all for joining this gathering. We have come here to convey to the world the voice and message of Iran's rightful owners, the Iranian people.