

In addition to raising revenue and increasing services to meet consumer demands, upgrading to energy efficient technology can reduce the postal fleet's carbon emissions while simultaneously cutting costs. This is critical because the federal government ought to lead by example, not lag decades behind. Further, implementing cutting-edge active safety and crash avoidance technology across the postal fleet will make streets safer for all users in every community in America.

The Postal Service is a vast and sprawling enterprise that touches almost every household six days a week. We will all benefit from preserving and improving this vital piece of America's infrastructure and fabric of life.

#### SUPPORT AN END TO CORRUPTION IN GUATEMALA

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, a surge of unaccompanied child migrants from Central America was front-page news. Although that humanitarian crisis at our borders appears to have abated, the difficulties and life-threatening challenges faced by many citizens in Central America continue. The region urgently needs support in order to address the root causes of outmigration—economic and social inequality, insecurity and injustice.

It is encouraging that the Obama Administration has worked with the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to present a request for \$1 billion to tackle the structural and multidimensional causes of migration through investments and programs to create jobs, expand education and social protection, strengthen public security and the judicial system, and improve transparency and efficiency in public administration. Congress is now considering this aid package in the House and Senate versions of the FY 2016 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bills. While I support the overall amount of the request, I do have concerns about how best to target funds so that they reach vulnerable and poor communities, and especially youth and families in those communities, who are most in need of support, while at the same time strengthening human rights and judicial systems in each of these countries.

In this context, I believe it is important to focus attention on the situation in Guatemala, which today is facing a critical juncture. Recent revelations of cases of widespread and deep-seated corruption in Guatemala raise serious concerns about the capacity of that government to be an effective partner in reducing poverty and inequality in the region. Evidence of massive and shameless looting of the state by high level Guatemalan officials in the Perez Molina government, the legislature and political parties has sparked a remarkable citizen mobilization. What started as urban, middle-class protests organized through social media networks has morphed into nationwide demonstrations demanding the resignation of President Perez Molina, and the immediate passage and implementation of fundamental reforms to electoral, judicial, civil service, and procurement systems. Some are calling for a 'government of national renovation' as a tran-

sition to begin to renew the political leadership and help restore citizen confidence in government.

I want to honor this unprecedented, continuing, and fearless rise of the Guatemalan people—students, people of all ethnic and religious groups, civil society organizations, and ordinary citizens of all ages are coming together with a common agenda against corruption and in favor of reform. That said, I note that frustration is growing as proposed reforms supported by the National Platform for Reform of the State—a coalition of over 100 civil society and academic organizations—are not progressing as demanded. And there are legitimate concerns expressed by civil society organizations that national elections scheduled for September 6th will take place in an environment that will enable fraud through illicit financing and in which threats will be used to intimidate voters. In this crucial moment, every citizen who is speaking out peacefully needs to be protected, defended and encouraged.

I also want to recognize the brave and excellent work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, CICIG, whose technical capacity has supported the bold investigative initiatives undertaken by the Guatemalan Attorney General's office to uproot corruption. When CICIG was established in 2007, it was described as a choice between the past and future. Guatemala recognized that it needed help controlling illegal, clandestine and corrupt power structures in the post-conflict years. CICIG is now at the heart of this challenging but potentially promising moment in Guatemala's history. Together with civil society and some dedicated leaders in Guatemala's justice system, the good women and men of CICIG are playing a critical role in helping move Guatemala towards justice and a better future. They, too, need protection and encouragement to keep up the good work.

Clearly, the next few weeks and months are critically important as the Guatemalan people work to figure out how to best address the challenges they face. At this important juncture, I urge the Obama Administration, including our U.S. diplomats and other agency representatives in Guatemala, to do their utmost to support Guatemalan civil society efforts to hold their own government accountable. Over the next weeks and months we will see whether Guatemala is capable of carrying out real change and moving closer to establishing a just, accountable and increasingly secure, equitable and prosperous country for all its citizens.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MS. CASSIE WELCH

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cassie Welch for her service to my office and the 21 Congressional District of California over the past year.

Ms. Welch was born in Savannah, Tennessee to Donnie and Marilyn Welch. After spending her youth in Savannah and completing her high school education, Ms. Welch attended the University of North Alabama, where she received a Bachelor's of Science in

Biology, Mississippi State University, where she received a Master's of Science in Animal Nutrition, and the University of Idaho, where she received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Animal Physiology.

After completing her education, Ms. Welch accepted a Fellowship in my Washington, D.C. office through the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Federation of Animal Science Societies. During her time in my office, she handled several legislative portfolios, including agriculture, animal rights, budget, housing, labor, natural resources, and social security.

On August 21, 2015, Ms. Welch's time in my office will come to an end. Ms. Welch will be moving to Iowa to begin the next chapter of her life. While I know she is very excited about her upcoming journey, she will be greatly missed as a member of my team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Cassie Welch for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well in this next chapter of her life.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BRANSON FFA TRAP TEAM'S NATIONAL CHAM- PIONSHIP

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Branson High School Future Farmers of America Trap Team on their senior division championship win and overall third place victory at the 2015 Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship.

The Senior Division team, made up of Kennedy Mattox, Kory Gray, Jacob Anderson, Gage Dixon and Colten Calvert, hit 974 of 1,000 clay pigeons to take first place in their division. During the competition, Kennedy missed only one target, placing him above 697 other shooters to earn third place in the individual standings.

The Pirates' trap team earned a third place victory overall. It is the culmination of the Open Division team's fifth place victory, the Intermediate Advanced team's fourth place victory, the Intermediate Entry's third place victory and many other individual medals in sporting clays, handicap trap and regular trap.

The 2015 Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship had a record breaking number of entries, further showing the team's sharp skill and national achievement. The program is designed to use shooting sports to teach valuable skills such as sportsmanship, responsibility and teamwork to young individuals.

The Branson team, led by Coach Joe Henderson, has seen ample success in recent years and will compete at The American Trap Association's AIM Grand Nationals in August.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Branson High School FFA Trap Team for their accomplishments and hard work and in wishing them luck in their future endeavors.

## HIRE VETS ACT OF 2015

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, as a combat veteran, I'm deeply concerned that the men and women of our military continue to struggle to find employment upon reentering civilian life. These individuals have not only displayed great courage but have acquired distinctive skills that make them ideal candidates for employment. Veterans who serve this country honorably shouldn't struggle to find employment, which is why I'm introducing the HIRE Vets Act of 2015.

The HIRE Vets Act is a bipartisan bill that would promote private sector recruiting, hiring, and retaining of men and women who served honorably in the U.S. military through a voluntary and effective program. Specifically, it would create an awards program recognizing the meaningful, verifiable efforts undertaken by employers—both large and small—to hire and retain veterans.

This program, designed to be self-funded and within the U.S. Department of Labor, will allow employers to proudly display one of four Presidential Awards on their products and marketing materials. These "HIRE Vets Medallions"—Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—would be awarded to employers that achieve specific hiring and retention goals each year.

The program also establishes similar tiered awards for small and mid-sized employers with fewer than 500 employees. To ensure proper oversight, the Secretary of Labor would be required to provide Congress with annual reports on the success of the program and the hiring and retention levels of veterans.

This bill goes beyond simply recognizing that a business hires veterans. The HIRE Vets Act is an opportunity for Americans to see which companies truly live up to the employment promises they make to veterans. It is our duty to ensure veterans are given the benefits and resources they've earned through their service to this country, and this includes encouraging meaningful job opportunities. This bill creates an innovative system to encourage and recognize employers who make veterans a priority in their hiring practices, incentivizing the creation of thousands of jobs for veterans.

## HONORING ANGELA PEATMAN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angela Peatman, an outstanding member of the Napa Valley community and my dear friend, on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Born on July 30, 1935, Ms. Peatman has been a dedicated public servant, a devoted mother, and a tireless advocate for families in the Napa Valley. She began her public service at the Cope Family Resource Center in Napa, where she served as a board member and later as president. Ms. Peatman flourished in her role at the nonprofit organization, where

she cherished the opportunity to work directly with her local community.

Ms. Peatman also served as a founding board member and president of the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center. Founded in 2005, the Center offers educational programs and advocacy services to support personal growth and family stability in the Latino community throughout Napa County. The organization also works to bridge the gap between service providers and the Latino community by providing culturally sensitive intake and referral services for over 500 families every year.

In 2010, Ms. Peatman was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Napa Chamber of Commerce in recognition for her years of service to the valley's community. She was also named "Associate" by her alma mater, Stanford University. This prestigious title is given to a select few alumni who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the university.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize Ms. Peatman on the occasion of her 80th birthday for her years of valued service to the Napa Valley community. We wish her a very happy birthday and many years of health and happiness.

## HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the City of South Tucson, a community known for the resiliency, determination, and independence of its residents.

As a native of Tucson, Arizona, I am privileged to represent the City of South Tucson in the United States Congress. The support and loyalty I have received from the residents of South Tucson during my entire public life is a great honor for me personally.

Over 6,000 people and 300 businesses call the City of South Tucson home. This square mile city incorporated by its residents, rather than losing its identity to the City of Tucson, continues after 75 years to assert its independence and be the unique and proud community it has always been through its history.

South Tucson is about family and community, offering to the much larger metropolis of Tucson a view of our past and a dynamic view of what a community can do to retain its character while looking forward.

South Tucson boasts the best Mexican cuisine found anywhere; Las Artes, a model for integrating public art and education; and public services from the state of the art San Lena library to excellent public schools Ochoa and Mission View. South Tucson has a sophisticated network of social service providers and City of South Tucson first responders who place the safety of their residents first.

The greatest asset that the City of South Tucson has is its people, a diverse group representing Native-Americans, African-Americans, and Anglos, and families that have contributed so much to the region.

From South Tucson have come generations of political leaders, tradesmen, educators,

decorated war veterans, business leaders, civil leaders, and so many hardworking people whose dignity and determination better us all.

Like all small towns and cities in America, the City of South Tucson faces challenges, but the drive to meet those challenges and prosper for the next 75 years is without a doubt the city's future.

I wish to congratulate the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson and the residents of the city on its 75th anniversary. The commemoration ceremony on September 19, 2015 at the Music and Arts Festival will be a day in which we pause and acknowledge the history, achievements, and the future of the City of South Tucson. Congratulations to South Tucson.

## NICK BERARDINO'S RETIREMENT

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and contributions of Nick Berardino, the General Manager of Orange County Employees Association.

Born and raised in Los Angeles to Italian immigrants, Nick is a Marine Veteran and served our country for two years in Vietnam.

He became active in the civil rights movement, the first of what would become a lifetime of commitment to those who are oppressed or discriminated against.

I have known Nick for years and he always looked for doing the best for his organization and the people he represented.

From pension reform to workplace rights, he has led OCEA through a series of monumental achievements for the working men and women he represented.

I am honored to recognize Nick Berardino's distinguished career of exemplary service and leadership in strengthening the middle class, fighting for social justice and dignified working conditions for 18,000 public employees and instilling integrity at the Orange County Employees Association.

## HONORING MR. ART COVIELLO

**HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Art Coviello, an international expert on cybersecurity, on the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years as a strategic, operating and financial-management expert in high-technology companies.

Mr. Coviello graduated magna cum laude from the University of Massachusetts in 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He started his career as a certified public accountant at Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and held positions in financial and operating management at several technology companies.

He joined RSA, the Security Division of EMC, in 1995 and was the driving force in the