

For the past 44 years, Dr. McGinnis preached and brought the Word of God to people all over Texas. He pastored several churches including Northrich Baptist Church in Richardson, First Baptist Church in McAllen, as well as the church that he founded, Rockhaven Church in Roanoke. Joe Bob loved the Lord and his entire congregation. He offered words of comfort and peace to those who were suffering while also preaching The Word boldly and fervently.

Dr. McGinnis is survived by his wife, Brenda, daughter, Taylor Hubbard, and son Josh. Dr. McGinnis' efforts to spread the Gospel of Christ will not be forgotten as he leaves behind his beloved church and thriving congregation in Roanoke. Each year he led Trophy Club's National Day of Prayer event and delivered thoughtful and timely devotions recognizing the faith foundation of our country. I personally appreciated his prayers for myself and other public officials. It is an honor to have represented such an esteemed constituent in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 21, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 448 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1557), and

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 449 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2256, as amended).

CONGRATULATING COLONEL TODD
MAYER

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Military, I congratulate Colonel Todd Mayer on 30 years of valued service and dedication to his country.

Since 1985, Col. Mayer has upheld the core LDRSHIP values that are near and dear to the National Guard: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity, & Personal Courage.

A highly decorated soldier, Col. Mayer was awarded the Purple Heart in 1991 after being wounded in Operation Desert Storm and the Bronze Star in 2003 for his heroic achievement. His time in uniform is celebrated by these courageous leadership efforts. He has brought incomparable virtue to himself, his family, his uniform, and his nation.

Col. Mayer, congratulations again on your retirement and thank you for your longstanding service to the United States Army National Guard.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF KAREN
IGNAGNI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Ignagni for her more than two decades of leadership as President and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and to wish her every success in her new position as President and CEO of EmblemHealth.

Karen Ignagni served with great distinction at AHIP. Her intellect, broad policy knowledge and experience helped shape some of the most consequential national health policies for our country, including the Affordable Care Act. Her ability to see the benefits the Act would bring to insurers and consumers was extraordinarily important and contributed to the successes now being realized by millions of Americans.

Jay Gellert, the highly regarded President and CEO of Health Net praised Karen, saying that

"She was the face of the industry when it was attacked. Without compromising her beliefs, she handled all of that with integrity and dignity, and I think that was because from the start she was committed to the end point." He opined that after all she had done to frame the Affordable Care Act's regulatory infrastructure, she probably took on the challenges of leading EmblemHealth as a way to "play it out on the ground."

Karen Ignagni, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, is a graduate of Providence College and earned her MBA at Loyola College. Prior to her work at AHIP, she served as Director of the AFL-CIO's Department of Employee Benefits, and worked for the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and in the office of Senator Claiborne Pell. She has written about health policy issues and has received many honors for her leadership, including the Second Century Award for Excellence in Health Care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Karen Ignagni and wishing her every success in her leadership of EmblemHealth. We are a stronger, better country because of Karen Ignagni and her distinguished work and I'm privileged to have worked with her and call her my friend.

EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEERISM:
TOBIAS GEIGER

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank Tobias Geiger from East Central Electric Cooperative in my district for his service and sacrifice to put into action cooperative principle #6—cooperation among cooperatives. In March this year, Tobias traveled to Haiti as a volunteer for the NRECA International Foundation where he helped build the country's first electric cooperative. This work is

part of a rural electrification project managed by NRECA International and funded by the United Nations Environmental Program, USAID, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life and to providing healthcare, education, access to clean water and economic opportunity. In Haiti, less than 15 percent of the population has regular access to electricity. Tobias spent two weeks in the town of Coteaux to help build a distribution system that will interconnect three towns. Upon completion, the diesel-solar hybrid electric system will provide safe, affordable and reliable power to 1600 consumers. His contribution included upgrading and installing new power lines, training locally hired linemen in proper construction methods, pole climbing techniques, proper headline use, and important safety practices.

Thank you Tobias Geiger, for your dedication and commitment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY
OVER JAPAN DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Yankee Air Museum's observance of the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day. Because of the bravery of the Greatest Generation, this day marks the end of humanity's darkest time, the spreading of liberty to many peoples across the world, and the start of the greatest peace time economic boom in American history.

On August 15th, 1945, the Empire of Japan surrendered to the United States aboard the USS *Missouri*. Seventy years after the end of the Second World War, we celebrate this historical event and honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women who served this country.

We are honored to have the Yankee Air Museum commemorate this event. Since the formation of the Yankee Air Museum in 1981, it has done excellent work to restore and preserve artifacts from World War II. Through its commemoration of Rosie the Riveter, the museum has tirelessly highlighted the efforts of the women who were the heartbeat of the Arsenal of Democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as the World War II era aircrafts fly over Yankee Air Museum, I hope my colleagues will join me to celebrate the freedom of the many because of the sacrifices of the men and women of the greatest generation.

275TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 275th anniversary of Cornwall, Connecticut.

This weekend, Cornwall will begin its celebration of this historic milestone. Over the past 275 years, Cornwall has stayed true to its roots as a small agricultural New England town. Its rich history has endured and remains evident in its rolling farmlands and colonial era architecture.

Though small in size, the town of Cornwall has been making a big impact since it was incorporated in 1740. During the 1800s, Cornwall's rich natural resources made it an ideal location for iron production. Two of Cornwall's iron firms formed part of the nationally recognized Salisbury Iron District. Cornwall is also home to the historic Covered Bridge. Built in 1864, this is one of the last standing covered bridges in Connecticut, and is still functional today. The bridge serves as an enduring symbol of Cornwall's rural New England legacy.

Cornwall exemplifies the type of small agricultural community on which our country was built. As we have grown as a nation, this community has continued to demonstrate its ability to adapt and prosper. I am honored to represent Cornwall in Congress.

Congratulations to Cornwall on its 275th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "END OIL AND GAS TAX SUBSIDIES ACT OF 2015"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2015" that will save American taxpayers more than \$40 billion over the next decade.

American taxpayers are subsidizing some of the largest and most profitable companies in the world with their tax dollars. These subsidies underwrite the costs of oil and gas production, including offsetting intangible drilling costs, the cost of tertiary injectants, and costs associated with domestic production. There are also subsidies that offset foreign taxes, provide tax shelters disguising active income with passive losses, and subsidies that allow major oil companies to discount the value of their inventories.

The "End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2015" would end 10 of the most egregious tax loopholes enjoyed by the oil and gas industry—tax loopholes that have helped companies like Chevron, ExxonMobil and Shell add to the billions in profits they already make every year. The legislation is very similar to President Obama's proposal to eliminate oil and gas tax preferences in his FY 2016 Budget.

Instead of padding the bottom line of oil and gas companies, taxpayer dollars could be better spent renewing and rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and investing in emerging clean resources like wind and solar that will help us combat climate change and transition to a clean energy future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELISABETH BUCK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elisabeth Buck for being named a 2015 Woman of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Ms. Buck has served in a wide-range of leadership roles throughout her career. At Iowa State University, where she earned a BA in political science, Ms. Buck and her peers realized her leadership abilities when she was elected student body president. That was just the beginning. She went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Iowa Governors Tom Vilsack and Chet Culver. Following her time in the Governor's Office she took on the role as Director of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). As Director of IWD, Ms. Buck changed the culture of the state agency, creating a more efficient and effective department through the implementation of new, innovative programs.

After her work in state government, Ms. Buck joined United Way of Central Iowa in 2011 as Senior Vice President of Community Impact. Since then, she has risen through the ranks and now serves as the Chief Community Impact Officer. Her time at United Way has been concentrated on advancing their overall mission of improving lives through the mobilization of the community and rallying around a common goal. As the Chief Community Impact Officer she oversees a sizeable budget, utilizing the resources given to her in a cost-efficient and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ms. Buck in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her abilities to better her community and the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. LANCE GROMME, RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lance

Gromme of Colville, Washington for receiving the 2015 Veteran of the Year Award for the State of Washington Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I want to recognize Mr. Gromme for his contributions and his tireless effort to improve the lives of our Eastern Washington veterans.

This annual award honors a veteran from Washington State who has committed him or herself to the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and who shows an undying devotion to bettering the lives of the veterans within their community. Through the years, Mr. Lance Gromme has demonstrated this commitment and is well deserving of this award.

Mr. Gromme's devotion to serving his fellow veterans began forty years ago when he became a life member of the American Legion while still active duty in the United States Army. After his retirement, Lance continued to show his dedication by becoming a life member of the VFW. After joining the Colville, Washington post in 2009, Mr. Gromme quickly became a leader among his peers. After just one year of involvement at the Colville post he assumed the positions of Quarter Master, Service Officer, and Fundraising Coordinator. In addition to meticulously managing finances and running all major fundraising events, Mr. Gromme spends countless hours diligently working for veterans.

In his role, Mr. Gromme was instrumental in encouraging the Stevens County Commissioners to establish a Veterans Resource Phone line to assist veterans with a wide range of needs and issues. Moreover, when it came to his attention that some veterans were not receiving the services they needed, he joined with the Northeast Washington Hunger Coalition to help those veterans in need. Mr. Gromme is a true testament to what an involved and devoted community member looks like and continually goes above and beyond to better the lives of his fellow veterans.

So today I acknowledge these accomplishments and congratulate Mr. Lance Gromme on being a constant leader in his community and on receiving the distinct award of Veteran of the Year for the Washington State Veterans of Foreign Wars. I applaud your work and continued advocacy for the veterans in North-eastern Washington.

RETIREMENT OF COLLEEN KELLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Colleen Kelley who is retiring as President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). Her resignation will become effective in August, following NTEU's National Convention in Hollywood, Florida.

Colleen Kelley has provided the NTEU and federal employees with skilled leadership over the past 16 years, while always advocating in an honest and forthright manner with Congress. Having served at the IRS and in various NTEU roles, her experience and unique perspective on the impacts of proposals on