

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE  
CALLAHAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diane Callahan, who is retiring after 15 dedicated years of public service in Highland Village. The city has benefited immeasurably from her unfaltering precision, unfailing commitment, and unwavering devotion to the residents she serves.

Ms. Callahan began serving the City of Highland Village in 2000 as an administrative secretary. She performed zealously in this role by compiling meticulous reports and utilizing her comprehensive knowledge of city policy to the benefit of constituents and businesses alike. In 2008, after several years of ardent work and study she earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification. In 2011, Ms. Callahan was appointed City Secretary of Highland Village. In large part due to her efforts, the City of Highland Village has operated efficiently and reliably, thereby solidifying the quality of life residents of the city have come to enjoy.

Ms. Callahan had an extensive breadth of duties as Highland Village's City Secretary. She was responsible for keeping all seven council members informed on city events and developments as well as maintaining city ordinances, coordinating municipal and special elections, and responding in a timely manner to public information requests. Ms. Callahan performed these duties with sterling customer service.

In 2014, Ms. Callahan attained the title of Certified Municipal Clerk, an award distributed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, in recognition of her vast experience and attendance at an exhaustive number of educational programs. Additionally, Ms. Callahan was honored by the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association as the 2015 Municipal Clerk of the Year. This most recent achievement is a testimony to the professional reputation she has built with her commitment to excellence.

As Ms. Callahan retires, she is highly esteemed by her colleagues and the community she has served for 15 years, and she will be greatly missed. It is my privilege to honor such an outstanding citizen and serve the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**JAMES E. DALE**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James E. Dale for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

Jim has served on the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee and the Golden Planning

Commission. He was a founding member of the Sustainability Taskforce, and he currently serves on the Citizens Sustainability Advisory Board and the Golden Visitors Center Board. Additionally, he supports the Golden History Museum, Landmarks Association, Foothills Art Center, Miners Alley Playhouse and Colorado Cowboy Gathering.

I congratulate James E. Dale for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank him for his continued commitment to the City of Golden.

**HONORING TAIWAN'S 104TH  
NATIONAL DAY**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's 104th National Day on October 10th, also known as Double Ten Day.

Both the United States and Taiwan share the belief that remembering our countries' heritage is critical to forging a path to a better tomorrow. Only a few decades ago, Taiwan was an authoritarian state. Yet today, presidents and legislators are elected through a peaceful, democratic process. I applaud Taiwan for cherishing these liberties rather than taking them for granted.

The United States has been a close ally of Taiwan for many years, and our friendship is solidified by our core set of shared values. Justice, rule of law, human rights, and freedom of the press are treasured by people in both the United States and Taiwan. Furthermore, Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the United States.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am pleased to see Taiwan's admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group and World Trade Organization, as well as Taiwan's observer status at the World Health Organization. However, Taiwan and its 23 million people are still not fully represented in the United Nations. It is vital for the United States to continue to stand with Taiwan by supporting its meaningful participation in international bodies. This is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 76, which supports Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in supporting Taiwan's full and equal membership in the United Nations and other international organizations.

I would again like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 104th National Day. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past and to look ahead to a promising future.

**IN VENERATION OF RETIRED  
MAJOR JOHN SPARKS**

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the retired Major John Sparks. Major Sparks is a trailblazer for the African American

community, with a career that spans fifty-seven years and three very different industries.

Major Sparks joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954. After finishing first in his Drill Instructor School in San Diego, Major Sparks went on to serve his country in the Vietnam War. He was one of two African Americans to receive Battlefield Commission. Furthermore, Major Sparks continued to make strides as a service man when he was the first African American officer to be chosen to command Marines aboard a ship. Despite facing pervasive racism and segregation, John Sparks climbed the ranks of the US Marine Corps until he retired as a Major in 1978.

With the asset of military training and service, Major Sparks joined the business world. After serving in the Marine Corps for over twenty years, he worked as Director of Educational Training at IBM for twenty years. Not done giving back to his community, Major Sparks subsequently taught at Booker T. Washington high school for thirteen years before retiring.

Major Sparks has spent his professional career educating, leading and serving the American people in a number of different industries. There is much that can be said about Major Sparks' diverse career. He undoubtedly opened doors for those that served after him in the armed services. He has helped educate and inspire both young minds and young professionals. He has been not only a leader in the military but also within his own community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only honor the impressive achievements of this man, but also to commend his compassionate contributions to my Congressional district and to the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished individual.

**RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH  
SCIAME, RECIPIENT OF THE  
SONS OF ITALY'S 2015  
GUGLIELMO MARCONI AWARD**

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joseph Sciame, a resident of New Hyde Park, New York and life-long public servant who recently received the Sons of Italy's 2015 Guglielmo Marconi Award, which is presented biennially to an Italian American who has made significant contributions to the United States.

Mr. Sciame is truly deserving of this honor, as he has worked tirelessly throughout his life to serve others and strengthen the communities in which he lives and works. Mr. Sciame currently serves as Vice President of Community Relations at St. John's University, the largest Catholic university in the United States. As a St. John's alumnus and university administrator for three decades, Mr. Sciame has truly dedicated his life to serving the school and its surrounding community. He also serves as a board member of the Jamaica and Staten Island Chambers of Commerce, the Kupferberg Holocaust Center, and the Boy Scouts of America, and chairs the Board of Ethics of the Town of North Hempstead. Mr.

Sciame is the former Chairman of the National Association of Student Aid Administrators, and has long been active in the field of financial aid and higher education, both in New York and nationwide.

As a proud and active Italian American, Mr. Sciame's commitment to public service extends beyond St. John's University. He currently serves as Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations and was the former National and State President and Foundation Trustee of the Sons of Italy, the largest and oldest Italian American fraternal organization.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Sciame on receiving the 2015 Guglielmo Marconi Award, the Sons of Italy's highest honor, and thank him for his service to our district and country. Mr. Sciame is a testament to the valuable contributions that Italian Americans have made to the United States throughout our history, and it is a tremendous honor to count him among my constituents.

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JOHN TRACY

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Tracy for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

John Tracy has shown a lifelong dedication to the Jefferson County community. John's extensive involvement in three local Chambers of Commerce—Golden, West and Wheat Ridge—has helped to bring in new members, create new community events, and support economic development in the region.

For the past ten years, John has served on the Jefferson County Business Lobby and the Lakewood Legacy Foundation. He has also held positions with the Golden Chamber Downtown Merchants and Golden Good Government League for more than 20 years. In addition, John helped found both the Applewood Business Association and the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

Currently, John owns his own publishing company, John Tracy Publishing. In 2011, the City of Golden awarded John with the 'Golden Living Landmark Award' for his exceptional and diverse involvement in the community. Additionally, he has been recognized with Golden Rotary's 'Service Above Self' award and the Golden Chamber's 'Charlie O'Brien Award.'

Congratulations to John Tracy for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for his contributions to Jefferson County.

HONORING MALAKOFF  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Malakoff Elementary School of the Malakoff Independent School District from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas for excellence in education. Malakoff Elementary School was named to the United States Department of Education's 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which: "recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of academic achievement."

Malakoff Elementary School's performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the school board, administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. The school district, parents, students, and community should be applauded for this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to commend Malakoff Elementary School for their continued educational achievements.

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NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, October 10th is the national day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). This day commemorates the launch of the Wuchang Uprising of 1911, which in turn led to the establishment of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on January 1, 1912. As the United States and Taiwan share a close relationship, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

The relationship between the United States and Taiwan is both deep and longstanding, and encompass areas including security, culture, and trade. Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner for the U.S., while the U.S. is Taiwan's largest foreign investor. In 2014, 24% of Taiwan's total agricultural imports came from the U.S. Since 1993, Taiwan has been the 7th largest overseas market for U.S. agricultural exports. In 2014, Taiwan imported nearly \$3.5 billion of U.S. agricultural products, up 10 percent from the previous year, making Taiwan one of the world's largest consumers for U.S. agricultural products on a per capita basis. I am pleased that the 2015 Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission just completed a successful visit to the United States including my home state of Illinois.

Taiwan also has proven its leadership in the global arena through its commitment to democracy, by contributing to international development and humanitarian missions, and through bold diplomatic initiatives such as President Ma's East China Sea Peace Initiative and his South China Sea Peace Initiative, which seek to reduce tensions in those dis-

puted waters. As a result of these efforts, a challenging world is in many ways a better place. I offer my thanks to Taiwan for their commitment democracy and stability in Asia and my best wishes to their people they observe and celebrate Double Ten Day.

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EMMY DIMITROFF

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emmy Dimitroff for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

Raised and schooled in Golden, Emmy has become a community leader through her six years of service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, her work at the Clear Creek History Park and her leadership in Mitchell Elementary School's Environmental Learning for the Future. Additionally, she is a substitute teacher in the Jefferson County School System.

I congratulate Emmy Dimitroff for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank Emmy for her continued commitment to the people and families of Golden.

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NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, as America joins in the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), it is reflective of the strong relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Located in a challenging regional environment, Taiwan has manifested its representative democracy as they strive to ensure a stable, strong government. Their thriving economy demonstrates their disciplined pursuit in fostering freedom and moral principles within their borders. The people of Taiwan are devoted to principles of liberty and self-governance, and they display a remarkable work ethic within their communities.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), signed in December of 1978, the United States stands with Taiwan, seeking to help maintain their peace and security. Marked by the TRA, America will continue to provide sufficient self-defense capabilities for Taiwan, in order to safeguard their homeland.

Taiwan has proven to be a generous contributor to global efforts in fighting against disease and illness, and has been heavily involved in humanitarian assistance. They aided West Africa when faced with the Ebola outbreak, they provided Latin America and the Caribbean region training in preparedness and response for emergency situations, and they