

I applaud Wazee Partners for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the City of Wheat Ridge, and I congratulate them on their success.

HONORING DON CARPENTER

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a friend, mentor and tremendous public servant, Don Carpenter. After 20 years as a district court judge and 42 years in the practice of law, Judge Carpenter retired from the bench on October 2, 2015.

Mr. Carpenter began his legal career in 1973 as an associate at a Cape Cod law firm. Deeply dedicated to the local community, he became a public prosecutor shortly thereafter. And for the next 21 years, he faithfully served the people of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties, working his way through the ranks to become the First Assistant District Attorney.

He was known as a firm but fair prosecutor who embraced our responsibility to apply the law equally to all. He knew that, while the law could not heal all wounds or right every wrong, it is the strongest tool we have to deliver on the promises of a just society.

His commitment to the Cape Cod community led to his nomination to the state bench. I cannot tell you how many cases Judge Carpenter heard over his two decades in that role. How many disputes he resolved. How many lives he impacted. How many addicts he helped get healthy. How many victims he helped find closure. But I can tell you that there is at least one young prosecutor he helped mentor.

I will never forget knocking on his door after a trial, seeking insight into what I could have done differently or advice on which pitfalls to watch out for the next time. His door was always open, to prosecutors and defense attorneys alike. And, for me, his advice was simple and direct—do what you think is right. The law grants you the ability to request the loss of someone's liberty. Use it wisely. Don't take it lightly.

Mr. Speaker, over the span of a 40-year career in our justice system, Judge Carpenter used the practice of law wisely, fairly and honestly. His retirement is a loss for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the residents of Cape Cod. We wish him and his family well in this new chapter in their lives.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL EDMUND J. BARRETT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Colonel Edmund J. Barrett of New Jersey on his retirement from the United States Army for his military achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey and the United States of America.

Originally from Moorestown, New Jersey, Colonel Barrett enlisted into the Army Signal Corps in 1984. After a tour in Germany, he attended Rutgers University and the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate.

Over the course of his 31-year career, Colonel Barrett served in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and in a multitude of countries including Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Brussels. He studied and mastered Arabic at the Defense Language Institute. He served the Joint Staff, at the Pentagon, working on Iraq, and later, broader Middle East issues, as a Joint Staff Planner. After deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, in 2006 Colonel Barrett became a staff officer at the National Security Agency.

In June, 2012 the Colonel was deployed to Afghanistan with the NATO training Mission as the Senior Advisor to the Afghan National Army (ANA). His work with the ANA prevented over a dozen "Insider Attacks" from Afghan Soldiers or infiltrators on U.S. and Coalition soldiers. After saving countless lives in Afghanistan he came home and returned to NSA as a valuable asset providing firsthand knowledge from his time in the Middle East as he directed the Afghan Mission Management team as a Senior Strategist.

His extraordinary service has earned Colonel Barrett numerous decorations and awards including the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the NATO Medal, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and the Knowlton Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence, and he was presented with the MacArthur Leadership Award in 2000 by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

Additionally, he has been a loving husband and father of four and even made time to coach youth soccer, lead three Habitats for Humanity Church Youth Ministry Builds, and climb to the peak of Kilimanjaro with his then 16 year old son.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Edmund J. Barrett is a great American whose self-sacrifice, leadership, and love of country exemplifies the American spirit. I join his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for his outstanding service to our country.

RIDLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD GRANT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students of Ridley School District for receiving a grant of nearly \$100,000 to support community service and work on behalf of their community.

For almost 15 years, horticulture classes offered at Ridley High School have provided students the opportunity to grow and harvest fresh fruits and vegetables through the use of greenhouses. A growing interest in these classes has led the school district to expand the program into a year-long student effort to donate their fruits and vegetables to a local food bank. The grant, from the State Farm

Youth Advisory Board, will allow the school district to build more greenhouses and expand the program into the summer, when students can volunteer their time to continue working on their harvests. This will mean more food is sent to those who need it and fewer members of the Delaware County community will go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students of Ridley School District and commend them on their hard work and community service.

LA FONDA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud La Fonda's Mexican Restaurant for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Council Partnership Award. Selected by the Wheat Ridge City Council, the Council Partnership Award recognizes businesses showing strong community ties and a positive reflection of Wheat Ridge values.

La Fonda's Mexican Restaurant has been a staple of the Wheat Ridge community for decades, and is well known for its delicious Mexican food as well as its rich history. Mexican immigrant Luis Abarca and his partners founded the restaurant in 1971 and were at the forefront of Mexican food becoming a mainstream American tradition. Just as the Abarca family was a critical partner in supporting Colorado culture, La Fonda's Mexican Restaurant is a generous partner and contributor to the Wheat Ridge community today.

I applaud La Fonda's Mexican Restaurant for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the City of Wheat Ridge, and I congratulate them on their success.

IN TRIBUTE TO DENNIS G. BABCOCK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Dennis G. Babcock, a loyal veteran and resident of Enfield, Connecticut who passed away last month.

Born in Albany, New York in 1940, Dennis served in the U.S. Navy's submarine force from 1958 to 1960. After his service in the Navy, Dennis moved to Connecticut in 1960 where he would launch a 37 year career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. A self-identified "post-Korea, pre-Vietnam" veteran, Dennis served as a stalwart advocate for the Connecticut veterans. He served veterans across my district as a driver and advocate for the Disabled American Veterans group.

After joining the Enfield Chapter in 1995, Dennis was appointed commander, remaining in that post until 2015. Dennis was exceptionally devoted to his fellow veterans, pouring his heart out to those who gave their lives for this country. He was a firm believer that "vets help vets," and he would regularly clock in more than 250 miles per day shuttling veterans across the state to their medical appointments.

In addition to serving as the Commander for the State of Connecticut Disabled American Veterans group, Dennis also was a member of the Veterans Council of Enfield, the Amvets Post 18 of Enfield, the American Legion Post 0114 of Ravena, NY, and an honorary member of Veterans Who Care. He received the Patriot Award in Enfield in 2012. In addition to these accomplishments, Dennis served as an active member of the Enfield Fire Department from 1972 to 1981, and he was elected as a Fire Commissioner for the last 18 years.

Dennis was a beloved member of the Enfield community, and he will be missed greatly by all of those who benefited from his loyalty and service to helping those in need, especially Connecticut veterans. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Diane, as well as his two daughters and their husbands, and four grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sorrow to Dennis's family for their loss, and to the eastern Connecticut region who lost a loyal community member.

HEALTH INSURANCE TAX

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I recently sat down with several small business owners in my district for a roundtable discussion in Lincolnshire, Illinois. The roundtable discussion focused attention on the Health Insurance Tax on small businesses. These local business owners are extremely concerned about the consequences of a \$500 per employee per year insurance expense they will have to incur.

One business owner at the roundtable, Rick, reiterated that politicians in Washington need to understand that each new tax or expense isn't just some exercise in congressional budget scorekeeping—these are a real-world burdens that harm businesses and make it difficult to keep the doors open and workers employed. This business owner wasn't talking about it as an abstract economic theory; rather, he was worried that his business cannot handle the influx of new expenses. Rick asked me to make sure that leaders in Washington are fighting for Main Streets across the nation. Rick is right. As a small business owner myself, I believe that we need to continue to remind Members of Congress that small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and that we need to encourage a healthy environment that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship.

According to research by the National Federation of Independent Business Research Foundation, the Health Insurance Tax, also known as the HIT, will jeopardize between 152,000 and 286,000 private-sector jobs across the U.S. by 2023.

The harmful and misguided Health Insurance Tax will add a new strain to small businesses on Main Street. Illinois is home to more than 1.1 million small businesses, which employ more than 2.3 million workers. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 928 and why I encourage my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

HONORING SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS EULA JETT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen, Specialist 5th Class Eula Jett for her dedicated and honorable service. She is an exceptional American in both the military and civilian worlds.

Enlisting in the US Women's Army Corps in 1967, SP5 Jett served as a Medical Records Technician where she achieved her rank of Specialist 5th Class. During her 9 year tenure, she completed two tours in Bad Cannstatt, Germany before ending her career at Fort Hood. While there, SP5 Jett worked in the Coding Section and served on the Medical Records Committee at the Darnall Army Hospital. Recognizing her dedication, she received numerous Letters of Appreciation from the Darnall Army Hospital as well as a Letter of Commendation. SP5 Jett is a decorated U.S. Army Veteran whose awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal among others.

SP5 Jett was honorably discharged from the Army in 1976 after 9 years, but that did not stop her from continuing to support the Army she loves. Upon leaving the service, she remained an active supporter of the Army and continued to work at Darnall Army Hospital as a civilian employee. A few years later SP5 Jett would return to support our Veterans as a civilian employee at the Olin E. Teague Veterans Center in Temple, TX.

Continuing in her selfless service, SP5 Jett showed her dedication and love to the Temple, Texas community after her retirement. She currently serves as Chair on the Salvation Army advisory board and the Advisory Council of Safe Kids Mid-Texas coalition. As a woman of faith, she involves herself in numerous capacities in the Church Women of the Temple Area, including serving as the President in 2011–2012.

SP5 Jett's devotion to our country is matched only by her commitment to serving others in her community. I commend her for her service to the nation, United States Army, and her community in Temple, Texas. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

CONFLUENT DEVELOPMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Confluent Development for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Reinvestment Award. The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses who play an active role in improving the City of Wheat Ridge.

Confluent Development brought its diverse expertise in office, industrial, retail and multi-family/senior housing development to the 38th and Kipling development, transforming a blighted area into a retail and housing destination for Wheat Ridge residents. The new de-

velopment is home to Sprouts Farmer's Market, a soon-to-be Morning Star Senior Living and a newly updated Starbucks.

I applaud Confluent Development for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the City of Wheat Ridge, and I congratulate them on their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25, 2015, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote. I would have voted "Yes" on roll call vote Number 387 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1615, as amended).

HONORING JOHN MILTON THOMAS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of John Milton Thomas of Shelbyville, Indiana.

Born in Fairland on Oct. 1, 1926 to Milton and Carris Thomas, John lived a long and full life. Last month, at the age of 88, he passed away surrounded by his loved ones. John is survived by his loving wife of 68 years Mary "Jean" Kerr, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. I had the pleasure of knowing John through both his work with my wife for the town of Morristown, Indiana, and my friendship with his son J. Mark Thomas. I am honored to speak of his accomplishments today.

Mr. Thomas was a member of the greatest generation. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served as a first sergeant during World War II. Just last month, John came here to Washington, D.C. on an honor flight to see the World War II Memorial and pay tribute to those he fought alongside, who didn't make it home.

John loved to serve his community. He was a former member of the Shelby County Council and at one time was the Shelby County Clerk. His other memberships included the Indiana National Guard and Sugar Creek Masonic Lodge No. 279 F & AM. John attended First United Methodist Church, where he also volunteered and held many leadership positions.

John was also a referee for both high school and college basketball, and he was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame for officiating a ballgame with a record-setting nine overtimes, a record which he still holds.

John was a true friend and a great man with a big heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Thomas family during this difficult time. It is my hope that their fond memories of John will comfort them during this difficult time.