

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Gregory Thomas's exemplary service to the people of Aurora and congratulating him on a prominent career.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY HOSPITAL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital in Katy, Texas for earning national recognition for its excellent surgical patient care.

Memorial Hermann Katy was one of three Texas hospitals and one of 52 hospitals nationwide to earn meritorious rankings from the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP). Hospitals across the country are assessed based on how well they protect and care for surgical patients. This ranking reflects their commitment to practicing high-quality care, patient safety, and surgical care improvements. Memorial Hermann Katy provides its community with peace of mind should a medical emergency arise.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Memorial Hermann Katy. Thank you for putting patient safety above all else.

CONGRATULATING MR. PATRICK WHALEN FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE BUFFALO NIAGARA MEDICAL CAMPUS AND WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Mr. Patrick Whalen as he steps down as the Chief Operating Officer of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. A driving force in Buffalo's transformation, Mr. Whalen has helped ignite the renaissance underway in Western New York.

Mr. Whalen has played a crucial role in the development of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus since 2008. As COO, Mr. Whalen demonstrated a true collaborative spirit in partnering with top medical, clinical, and research institutions and with the Fruit Belt and Allentown neighborhoods, the City of Buffalo and Erie County to establish world-class healthcare facilities. His leadership and organizational abilities most recently included his role as Conference Chair at the 2015 MedTech Association conference held in Buffalo.

Mr. Whalen has traveled throughout the world to deliver remarks and share his vision at professional conferences and talks. His expertise is especially welcomed by our partners to the north, where Mr. Whalen was a founding member of the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance and his efforts were recognized with the Canadian Consulate Ambassador Award. Mr. Whalen's deep understanding of

the value of a strong partnership with Canada came from decades of private sector experience and entrepreneurship including the founding of Fulfillment Systems International. As President and CEO, he pioneered the concept of consolidated cross-border shipping that transformed the international distribution industry.

Mr. Whalen's commitment to Western New York goes well beyond his contributions to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and his productive relationship with Canada. Mr. Whalen consistently demonstrates his passion for serving the community through humanitarian organizations and service. He previously sat on the Board of Directors of the Greater Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Rotary Club of Buffalo. In recognition of his dedicated service, Mr. Whalen was presented with the University at Buffalo School of Management Community Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Mr. Patrick Whalen as his family, friends and colleagues will gather on November 18 in appreciation for all he has accomplished and to wish him continued success in future endeavors. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Whalen for his energetic passion, his grassroots and international perspective and his innovative contributions to his city and his country. His dedication to the growth and revitalization of Western New York community continue to heighten Buffalo's reputation and improve the health and well-being of all.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWNSVILLE COFFEE SHOP #2

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jovita Chase as she celebrates the 40th anniversary of her restaurant, Brownsville Coffee Shop #2.

For four decades, Jovita has dedicated her life to serving residents of Brownsville, Texas delicious, well-priced meals. Her restaurant, which features food that is made from scratch, is a favorite of the Brownsville Police Department, the Cameron County Sheriff's Office, teachers, local elected officials and those seeking a hearty meal in a comfortable, homey environment. The restaurant's specialties include homemade flour tortillas and gorditas.

Brownsville Coffee Shop #2 was established in 1964 by Jovita's mother, Rafaela Alviar, who opened several coffee shops in downtown Brownsville. After Rafaela passed away, Jovita and her brother, Andres, took over management of these local institutions. Andres continues to run Brownsville Coffee Shop #1, which has been in business for 42 years.

In addition to providing a gathering place for the community, Jovita supports higher education by awarding scholarship funds to local students in honor of her mother. She also gives back by hosting a monthly meal for the Good Neighbor Settlement House, and she not only provides her employees with a paycheck but also helps them develop a strong work ethic and leadership skills.

Our community benefits greatly from institutions like the Brownsville Coffee Shop #2. Jovita Chase and her restaurant have had a lasting, positive impact on South Texas, and I rise today to share my congratulations along with those of her customers and employees.

SAL QUARTARARO

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service of Sal Quartararo.

On December 7, 1941, Salvatore (Sal) Quartararo, and his three brothers and two sisters, the children of Anna and Peter who immigrated to the U.S. from Italy in the 1890s, sat in their lower east side Manhattan apartment as President Roosevelt's fateful words came over the radio. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, and for Sal and his family, life was about to change. One by one, Sal and his brothers; Ignatius, Liborio (Larry), and Philip (Phil) entered military service; his brothers in the Army and Army Air Corps, and Sal in the Navy.

The brothers ensured their family was well represented in this two front war. Ignatius served in the infantry as a Private Tech Five stationed in Italy, Larry in the Army Air Corps as an aerial photographer in the Pacific, Phil a Sergeant and cook in the Army and at sea, Sal served on board the USS *Sioux*, an Auxiliary Tug (ATF-75) as a Radio Man Second Class. During his time in the South Pacific, Sal saw action in both Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

With four sons now serving overseas, their father Peter proudly displayed four American flags on the checker cab he drove in Manhattan. Fortunately, through God's grace, Ignatius, Larry, Phil, and Sal would all return home safely. They each married, led productive lives, raised wonderful families and like most, moved to the suburbs—Sal and his family relocated to Elmont, and later Kings Park, Long Island.

Now, 64 years later, we recognize Sal Quartararo and his three brothers, Ignatius, Larry and Phil for serving honorably and concurrently during World War II. The brothers' dedication and bravery during their service, work ethic and family values they demonstrated upon their return home are a tribute to the "Greatest Generation".

HONORING REV. DR. JEFFERY R. WHEELER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a spiritual leader in the Mount Vernon community, Reverend Dr. Jeffery R. Wheeler, who has led, as Pastor the Mt. Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church congregation in Mount Vernon, NY with great distinction and integrity.

Originally born and raised in Mount Vernon, Reverend Wheeler received his license to the ministry in 1998 and was ordained in 1999 at the Hunter Hills First Baptist Church in Atlanta,

Georgia. In 2006, Rev. Wheeler relocated back to New York and was consecrated and elevated to the office of Ordained Traveling Elder in the New York–Washington Annual Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church under the auspices of Senior Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Presiding Prelate.

After 20 years away from home, in July of 2011 Reverend Wheeler returned home to Mt. Vernon, NY to pastor where he grew up, worshipped with his family, and began in ministry, at Mount Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Wheeler also began serving as the Director of the New York–New England Ministry to Men. Reverend Wheeler has served in a multitude of capacities within the ministry, including: Staff Ministerial Coordinator accountable for 13 staff ministers, Pastor of Praise & Worship and Ministerial Liaison for the Music Department, Singles Ministry and Family Enrichment Ministry. He has also traveled extensively abroad to conduct Preaching Revivals & Gospel Music Workshops in Oslo, Norway, Stockholm, Sweden, Brighton and London, England, South Africa, and Tokyo, Japan.

A scholar, Reverend Wheeler earned his Masters of Religious Studies from Yale University, in New Haven and his Masters of Theology Degree and Doctorate of Divinity Degree from the Huger Theological Institute/Lighthouse Seminary New York, NY. In December 2013, The Abundant Life Theological Seminary conferred a second Doctorate of Divinity Degree upon Reverend Wheeler.

This year, Mt. Calvary C.M.E. is holding a luncheon in Reverend Wheeler's honor celebrating his years as Pastor. Congratulations to Reverend Wheeler on this great honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, November 16, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on roll call vote 626, “nay” on roll call vote 627, “yea” on roll call vote 628, and “yea” on roll call vote 629.

HONORING MAYOR OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS CHRIS BOSWELL ON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harlingen, Texas Mayor Chris Boswell who has been awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Rio Grande Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Each year the Boy Scouts of America recognize a noteworthy and extraordinary leader in the Rio Grande Valley community. The

award is presented to an individual in honor of their service to the community, and honorees are recognized for their efforts to inspire young people to be leaders.

Chris Boswell was first elected Mayor of Harlingen in May 2007 and was re-elected in 2010 and 2013. Prior to being Mayor, he served twice as president of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. He was also president of the Cameron County Bar Association.

Mayor Boswell served 10 years as a Cubmaster and 7 years as an Assistant Scoutmaster. His leadership culminated in his serving as president of the Rio Grande Council and later as President of Area 2 which governs 11 scout councils in Texas and Louisiana.

Harlingen and the entire Rio Grande Valley have benefitted greatly from his leadership, vision and expertise, and I rise today to congratulate Mayor Chris Boswell on this well-deserved honor.

IN HONOR OF COY THOMPSON'S PURPLE HEART PINNING CEREMONY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Purple Heart pinning ceremony for United States Army Sergeant Coy Thompson of North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. It is an honor to extend these remarks today and to thank Sergeant Thompson for his brave and selfless service to our nation.

Sergeant Thompson served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War with honor and distinction through his support of ground forces during aerial missions. During the Tet Offensive, Sergeant Thompson was wounded in the line of duty after being hit with fragments of shrapnel from a near-by explosion. After returning to the United States, Sergeant Thompson was awarded with the Air Medal for his actions in support of operations against the enemy. Later, Sergeant Thompson was awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars, as well as the Purple Heart.

On Sunday, November 8, 2015, a special ceremony was held at the Enochville Church of God in Kannapolis, North Carolina to celebrate Sergeant Thompson and recognize him for his valor and service to our nation. Sergeant Thompson was surrounded by family and friends who gathered to witness this special ceremony in which he was pinned with his many medals. Fellow service members were also present and told stories of Sergeant Thompson's courage and love for our country.

I am overjoyed that the Marine Corps League of Cabarrus County and his community recognized Sergeant Thompson for his valiant actions during the Vietnam War. The men and women in uniform who have answered the call to defend our nation represent the best our country has to offer and they deserve our continued admiration. Events like this special ceremony serve as a reminder

that we must never take their service and sacrifice for granted, and that we as a nation must continually find ways to recognize these heroic patriots for their unparalleled dedication to our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in once again commemorating this very special occasion, and to thank United States Army Sergeant Coy Thompson for his service and dedication to our country.

WORLD DAY OF ROAD SAFETY REMEMBRANCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the World Day of Road Safety Remembrance.

Despite greater awareness of the dangers associated with traveling on the world's roads today and improvements in road safety, more than a million people die each year as a result of road crashes. These crashes remain the single greatest cause of death for healthy Americans abroad. In the U.S., more than 30,000 die in crashes, while more than 2 million are injured annually.

The good news is that the number of road deaths is stabilizing even though the number of motor vehicles worldwide has increased. According to the World Health Organization, in the last three years, 79 countries have seen a decrease in the absolute number of traffic fatalities.

The bad news is that road users around the world are unequally protected. The risk of dying in a road traffic crash still depends, in great part, on where people live and how they move around. A big gap still separates high income countries from low and middle income ones where 90% of road traffic deaths occur in spite of having just 54% of the world's vehicles. Europe has the lowest death rates per capita. Africa has the highest.

Though road safety strategies are saving lives, the pace of change is too slow. More countries are acting on road safety, but further action is required. In its recent report “Improving Global Road Safety,” WHO has called for all new roads to be constructed to at least a 3 Star safety standard, using the International Road Assessment Program methodology. Initiatives will be presented this week among government officials, NGOs and international organizations during the 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia, which coincides with the 20th anniversary of observing the World Day of Remembrance. Among the groups in attendance will be the Association for Safe International Road Travel. Since its founding, ASIRT has been a leading and powerful advocate in support of global road safety.

On this World Day of Remembrance, we are reminded of how much progress has been made regarding road safety and how far we still need to go. I encourage my colleagues and the public to reflect on the importance of the task that lies ahead and to commit themselves to the work of preventing the needless deaths caused by road crashes.