

enter the global workforce. Dr. Merle Horowitz will be honored this evening at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association annual dinner. Dr. Horowitz recently retired after ten years of service as superintendent of Marple Newtown School District. Dr. Horowitz's retirement comes after a 40 year career of educating students, and nearly three decades in Delaware County. She's a respected expert on cyberbullying and has spoken at length on the topic to audiences around the country. Tonight's honor is a fitting one and we are grateful for her service to the young people in our community.

HONORING UGA IX, "RUSS"

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Uga IX, the University of Georgia's beloved mascot who also goes by the name of Russ, for his dedicated service over the past three-plus seasons.

On October 22, 2015, the University of Georgia announced that Uga IX has decided to retire at the age of 11. Russ has worked a total of 38 games since being awarded a "battlefield promotion" and assuming the title of Uga IX during the 2012 season. Following the deaths of his half-brother, Uga VII, and his successor, Uga VIII, Russ also served as the interim mascot for 25 games from 2009–2012.

With a 51–22 record, Russ served admirably as Uga IX and is cherished by University of Georgia fans worldwide. The Bulldog Nation is sad to see Russ retire, but we look forward to welcoming Uga X, "Que", as our new mascot. Que will be formally introduced during the Georgia Southern game on November 21, 2015, in Sanford Stadium.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize Uga IX, "Russ," and thank the Seiler family of Savannah, owner of the lineage of "Uga" Bulldog mascots, for their continued support of the program. Go Dawgs!

RECOGNIZING THE NOVEMBER 7
CROSS-STRAIT MEETING

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic meeting between Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou and China's President Xi Jinping on November 7. Included below are President Ma's insights on the meeting. Like President Ma, I agree that these are discussions which must continue. But at a time of increasing security concerns and rising tensions in the region, I believe this meeting was an important step toward improved relations and stability in the region.

In my meeting with Mr. Xi, we exchanged views on cross-strait relations, peaceful development and the consolidation of peace, and the status quo of prosperity. You must all be concerned about the atmosphere at the meeting. The meeting took place in a frank and very positive atmosphere. I found Mr. Xi to be

pragmatic, flexible, and candid when discussing the issues. We hope that this spirit will be reflected in the handling of cross-strait relations.

Our discussions focused on several points. The first point is the consolidation of the 1992 Consensus and the maintenance of peace across the Taiwan Strait. I told Mr. Xi that the consensus reached between the two sides in November 1992 was that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait insist on "one China," but differ as to what that means, and each side could express its interpretation verbally. This was the 1992 Consensus of "one China, respective interpretations." The ROC's interpretation does not involve two Chinas; one China, one Taiwan; or Taiwan independence, as the Republic of China Constitution does not allow it. I also emphasized that sustainable peace and prosperity should be the common goal in the development of cross-strait relations. We will continue to consolidate the 1992 Consensus of "one China, respective interpretations" as the basis for relations, and maintain the status quo of peace and prosperity.

The second point is the reduction of hostility and peaceful handling of disputes. We told Mr. Xi that the people of Taiwan are especially concerned about security and dignity. We wanted Mr. Xi and mainland China to understand that we hope all disputes, whether they be political, military, social, cultural, legal, or of any other form, can be peacefully resolved, allowing both sides to experience mutual good will. I made special mention of the frustrations our people have had when participating in NGO activities, as well as the interventions our government has faced when taking part in regional economic integration and other international activities. We hope to see a reduction of hostility in these areas, especially with regard to our NGOs. I told Mr. Xi that these organizations comprise elite members and specialists, who have reacted quite strongly to these issues and the treatment they received. We hope there will be fewer such occurrences. In response, Mr. Xi said he hopes these issues will be appropriately handled case by case.

I also stated that many people of Taiwan are concerned about mainland China's military deployments against Taiwan, including the Zhurihe base with which we are all familiar and where missiles are deployed. Mr. Xi said that these deployments are in principle not targeted at Taiwan.

The third point is the expansion of cross-strait exchanges and mutual benefits. We emphasized that given the fact that Taiwan and mainland China have different social and economic systems, the two sides need sufficient time to engage in deeper exchanges. We also reiterated Taiwan's interest in participating in regional economic integration. The issue of which side joins first and which side later should not arise. Mr. Xi expressed willingness to discuss this issue and welcomed our participation in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and mainland China's "one belt, one road" initiative.

The fourth point is the establishment of a cross-strait hotline. We believe that a hotline can be set up between the Mainland Affairs Council Minister and the Taiwan Affairs Office Minister, who can then exchange views on important or urgent issues. Mr. Xi stated that this matter could be promptly dealt with.

With regards to cultural and educational exchanges, I also expressed the hope that main-

land China can allow more vocational college graduates to pursue higher education in Taiwan. I noted that our efforts over the past several years have met with limited success. As we from Taiwan know, our polytechnic universities have a shortage of students. I drew attention to the fact that Vietnam, Thailand, India, and Indonesia have been funding graduate studies by university lecturers at polytechnic institutes in Taiwan. We welcome these students. Before I took office, we had about 30,000 students from overseas studying in Taiwan. This year, the figure has increased to above 100,000. We intend to transform Taiwan into an Asia-Pacific center for higher education. I mentioned that mainland China has over a million vocational college graduates. Mr. Xi said he is willing to look into this matter. The vocational college graduates I refer to are like graduates from five-year junior colleges in Taiwan who then enroll in two-year programs at polytechnic colleges.

The fifth and final point is joint cooperation for cross-strait prosperity. I suggested that history has left behind several issues that the two sides cannot resolve overnight. These issues must be handled pragmatically. If we deal rashly with some of the excessively sensitive issues, it will make things worse. The maintenance of cross-strait peace and stability is Taiwan's mainstream view. How cross-strait relations develop in the future will have to take into account the direction of public opinion. In particular, I reiterated that cross-strait relations should be built on the foundation of dignity, respect, sincerity, and good will, for only then can we shorten the psychological gap between the two sides. I especially expressed the hope that the two sides can turn hostility into friendship and seek peace, not war."

RECOGNIZING COL. WYLIE W.
JOHNSON

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Wylie W. Johnson of the U.S. Army Reserve. Wylie, an Army chaplain, served our nation in five conflicts. He continues to serve today as the Pastor of the Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, Delaware County, where he's been since 1997. Wylie will tonight receive the Freedom Medal from the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association at its annual dinner. It's a well-deserved tribute for a man who has looked after the spiritual needs of our men and women in uniform for decades.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALBANIAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY
CENTER (AACC)

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Albanian American Community Center (AACC) in Waterbury, Connecticut and the 103rd anniversary of Albania's independence.

Next week, the City of Waterbury will recognize Mr. Xhemal Dani as the 2015 Albanian Mayor of the Day. On that day, the double headed eagle flag will fly over Waterbury City Hall, and we will celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Albanian community over the past fifty years. The AACC has been instrumental in bringing our community closer together through religious and non-religious events including festivals, picnics, and charity dinners. Regularly taught Albanian language, culture, and history lessons at the center highlight the rich and vibrant heritage of the Albanian community.

The Albanian-American Community Center's mission began fifty years ago when a small committee organized to advance an environment where religious and social activities could thrive. Through strong work ethic and fundraising efforts, the organization, then-known as the Albanian American Moslem Community, was able to build a new mosque and bring an Imam to serve the City of Waterbury and the surrounding region. In 1969, construction began on the current mosque located on Raymond Street, allowing the Albanian-American Community Center to expand its membership and services to the community.

Under the leadership of President Visar Tasimi, the AACC has strengthened its Scholarship Program, making college more affordable for youth and their families. Since the fund's establishment in 2012, over \$10,000 has been awarded for higher education scholarships. I was pleased to be a part of the scholarship reception this summer and meet the talented recipients.

To the members and leadership of the AACC, thank you for your tireless efforts to encourage friendships and unity among all Albanian-Americans and educate the public about your traditions and culture. Your achievements are a true testament to the positive impact diversity can bring to our community. I am proud to represent you in Congress.

Congratulations to the Board of Directors, members, volunteers, and all who have helped organize the anniversary celebration. I look forward to many more years of your continued success.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN COONEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate longtime anchorman Kevin Cooney of KCCI-TV in Des Moines. After 33 years at KCCI and a lifetime dedicated to journalism, Kevin has decided it's time to put down the notes, turn off the teleprompter and enjoy retirement.

Since 1982, Kevin has been a constant figure in Iowa's living rooms, bringing us the news. During that time, he has covered some of Iowa's most important news stories ranging from the catastrophic floods of 1993 to interviewing President Clinton at the White House on the day of the Oklahoma City bombing. His wide range of knowledge on the issues of the day and his ability to captivate large audiences are second to none.

As an Iowa native Kevin has always had a unique perspective on issues Iowans care

about the most. His passion and genuine love of reporting the news is clear. He has earned the respect of those all across Iowa's media for his professionalism as well as his knack for making those around him better. Kevin is a leader in the truest sense of the word and an ambassador for all Iowans, they have counted on him for breaking news the last 33 years and he has delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kevin on his retirement as one of the most trusted faces in Iowa news broadcasting. His unwavering support for the state of Iowa and his commitment to providing news stories with integrity is a testament to his character. I am proud to represent him, his family and his fellow colleagues in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kevin on this incredible milestone and wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARGE LOZINAK LAWRENCE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marge Lozinak Lawrence of Springfield for her service to our country during the conflict in Korea. Marge was a nurse in Korea, joining the cadet nursing program for \$15 a month. She cared for wounded soldiers and did her best to save lives. Marge will be honored tonight at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Annual Dinner with the 2015 DCVMA Freedom Medal. It's a fine tribute for someone who has served our nation and our warfighters overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 18, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 634, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1210) Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3189) Fed Oversight Reform and Modernization Act.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call 635, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions for the Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 636, the Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call 637, the Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act.

RECOGNIZING JOLIET CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S ANNUAL VET- ERAN CEREMONY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joliet Central High School and its Veterans Ceremony.

On Friday, November 6, 2015, Joliet Central High School hosted its 5th Annual Veterans Ceremony to recognize the sacrifice of alumni, faculty, and community members who have served in the armed forces.

This year, Joliet Central High School honored the following veterans:

Joseph Berman; Charles Muller; Bill Thorns; Ted Micci; Felix Pasteris; Dan Ursitti; Edward Mena; Christo Dragatsis; Jerald Brazeal; Donald Boyer; Gregory E. Warren; Larry Musson; Frank Varman; Larry Evert; and Hank Pillard.

I would like to commend Joliet Central High School for recognizing our veterans and I join the students, faculty, and administrators in thanking them for their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONNA AND MICHAEL BARBETTI, RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 SAM AND JANE CALI STAR AWARD FROM THE BROAD- WAY THEATRE LEAGUE OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna and Michael Barbetti, recipients of the 2015 Sam and Jane Cali Star Award from the Broadway Theatre League of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Broadway Theatre of Northeastern Pennsylvania was established in 1959 by the late Benno and Gertrude Levy. The Levy's love for theatre stirred their desire to bring Broadway to Scranton, thus providing access to this unique American art form to the citizens of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Broadway Theatre was blessed with a great board president for many years, the late Sam Cali, whose dedication and support moved the organization into the new millennium.

Each year, the Sam and Jane Cali Star Award is presented to a distinguished community leader who has demonstrated exemplary dedication and service to the arts in northeastern Pennsylvania. Donna and Michael Barbetti are longtime patrons of the arts and were jointly chosen for the award by a committee that wished to recognize their history of support.

Donna and Michael Barbetti are residents of the City of Scranton. Donna is a Registered Dietician with a Master's Degree from Marywood in Food and Nutrition. In addition to her involvement with the Broadway Theatre League, Donna is the President of the Lackawanna County Women's Commission and is a board member of the Pennsylvania Women's Commission. She also is a board member of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen and the Scranton Area Foundation, and she is on the Advisory