

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 636, I voted 'Nay' when I intended to vote 'Yea'.

SHARON TREFNY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sharon Trefny for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Sharon has spent extensive time as a systems engineer, community organizer and project manager, working with both domestic and international partners. She helped establish the Native American Commission on Urban Affairs, the first of its kind in the country. Sharon also helped to create a Women's Commission in Los Angeles where the first U.S. rape hot-line was set up.

In 2000, Sharon became the First Lady of the Colorado School of Mines. In that position, she interacted with women leaders such as Jehan Sudat (the late Anwar Sadat's wife), Madeline Albright, Wu Yi (Vice Premier of China), Jill Biden, and a UN delegation of women from Afghanistan. Sharon used the insight she gained from these experiences to help connect women's leadership to the women on the School of Mines campus.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sharon Trefny for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING CALVIN
FRAUENFELDER AND DUSTY
JOHNSON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvin Frauenfelder and Dusty Johnson for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Fall 2015 session of Congress.

The work of this young man and woman has been exemplary and I know they both have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these two and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

Our interns have made plans to continue their work with various organizations in Washington and Colorado. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all

the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Calvin Frauenfelder and Dusty Johnson for their service this Fall.

RECOGNIZING CANDY ALCOTT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize Candy Alcott, an amazing Livermore resident whose acts of kindness are bringing joy to Lake County children devastated by the Valley Fire.

When the Valley Fire destroyed hundreds of homes earlier this year, leaving many families with nothing, Candy jumped into action. She wanted to make sure the children of Lake County were "not forgotten."

Candy drove from Livermore and brought donations. She gave away a few bikes that first day, but there were still many more kids in need. Candy said she would be back, and she has fulfilled that promise over and over again.

Thanks to Candy's tireless efforts, good Samaritans and generous businesses have donated hundreds of bikes. Now called the "Bike Angel," she has even created a group, Bike Angels United, to help continue this outpouring of love and support for the children of Lake County.

Candy said that the generosity people have shown in donating the bikes has been a "miracle." This miracle, though, only happened because of her caring, dedication, and energy.

We want to express our deepest appreciation for Candy's devotion to the children affected by the Valley Fire. What she has done is truly remarkable, and we wish her the very best as she continues her charitable work.

CELEBRATING THE AVON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Avon Chamber of Commerce's 50th anniversary.

Today, we recognize the Avon Chamber of Commerce for serving as a tireless advocate for our local businesses and an essential resource for their leaders and employees. Over the past 50 years, the chamber has worked hard to create an environment that allows its members to flourish by providing advice, resources, and networking opportunities. Currently, the Avon Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse group of over 340 businesses—both large and small—from every industry.

We here in the State of Connecticut are proud of our highly-skilled workforce, and Avon is an ideal location for companies who want to take advantage of this strength. Organizations like the Avon Chamber of Commerce help businesses continue to grow, so that

Connecticut's economy is vibrant and competitive for years to come. The Farmington Valley owes much to the Avon Chamber, and Connecticut is a better state thanks to their advocacy. I look forward to continuing to work with the chamber as they continue to thrive and welcome more businesses into the region.

Congratulations to Executive Director Lisa Bohman, Board President John Shea, the Board of Directors, staff and members of the Avon Chamber of Commerce on its 50th anniversary.

JOAN SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joan Smith for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Joan began as a Parent Resource Counselor in 1992, but for the past 25 years has worked for Rocky Mountain Education Center at Red Rocks Community College. During her tenure, she wrote the first National Science Foundation Grants on behalf of the college both of which were funded and began the long and very successful relationship between NSF and Red Rocks Community College.

As director of the OSHA Institute at Red Rocks Community College, she became passionate in seeking solutions to the high fatality rate among oil and gas workers in the field. Joan worked nationally through the industry's STEPS Network to convene a committee of oil and gas professionals from across the country to develop safety training programs for workers. She has also developed relationships between the College and several international partners, including the countries of Jordan and Saudi Arabia. She worked with students, universities, and employers in Jordan to create the first Solar Energy Technician and Occupational Safety and Health Associates Degree programs through the Al Baqa Applied University.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joan Smith for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL (CPC)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), which today celebrates 50 years of service to the Chinese-American, immigrant and low-income communities in New York City.

CPC was founded at the grassroots level and its roots are deep in New York's Chinese American community. In the mid-1960s, as immigration from Asia began steadily growing, CPC was launched and began counseling

families referred by local schools. As the agency developed, it began providing case management services to help recent arrivals adjust to their new homes.

The organization grew rapidly and started providing important educational services to school-age children, including early child care. Shortly thereafter, CPC launched Project Reach, which provided programs for at-risk gang youth in Chinatown. Today that initiative offers services for youth of all backgrounds.

Today, CPC has blossomed into a critical anchor in our community. Over 8,000 people are served every day through more than 50 programs in 33 locations throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Early childhood services provide a nurturing environment that offers young Chinese New Yorkers an environment to grow and learn.

Workforce development initiatives create economic opportunity by providing our city's residents with training, new skills and employment placement. Through these efforts, over the past year, CPC assisted over 2,500 clients, enrolling more than 525 of them into English as a Second Language classes and training over 200 others in construction, hospitality and luxury retail.

CPC has also become an important safety net for some of our city's seniors. Senior centers in Manhattan and Queens ensure we are caring for and honoring New York's elderly Chinese. The centers' meals provide a popular reason for seniors to come together, while food is brought to those who are homebound. Programs focused on music, art and entertainment help keep seniors culturally and intellectually stimulated and engaged.

Mr. Speaker, since its founding five decades ago, the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) has become an invaluable and critical force for good in our city. Today, it helps some of our most vulnerable neighbors, while strengthening our community overall and making New York a better place to live. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting CPC as it celebrates half a century of service to New York's Chinese community and to our entire city.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS LEGAL SUPPORT ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Legal Support Act of 2015, a bill to allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide certification and support to law school clinical programs that provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including, among other things, assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including the William & Mary Law School Veterans Benefits Clinic, which serves as a national model for this idea, as the law clinic was the first in the nation to receive a "best practice" certification from the VA. There are many other law schools, such as the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law, that are interested in starting their own VA-certified clinics.

More than 600,000 veterans are waiting for their disability claims to be processed by the VA. With the assistance of lawyers and law professors, clinical programs provide free legal resources to assist veterans with processing their claims. My bill would merely build on what some law schools have begun to do for the last several years. More needs to be done to sustain and increase these programs.

Just as we honored our veterans on Veterans Day, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a concrete measure that would assist our veterans, who have repeatedly put their lives on the line for this country, in their daily lives.

DAN ARVIZU

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dan Arvizu for his exceptional work as Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

Dr. Arvizu is retiring this year, but his legacy of leadership and innovation will endure for many, many years to come. I want to take this moment to say thank you for outstanding stewardship of our nation's premier energy efficiency and renewable energy laboratory.

In addition to his role at NREL, Dr. Arvizu is Chairman of the National Science Board, which is the governing board of the National Science Foundation. He will continue his role as Chairman of the National Science Board and he will also become a visiting professor at Stanford University.

On behalf of everyone at NREL, the people of the state of Colorado, and the United States of America, let me say thank you for a job well done. We wish you all the best on the next steps of your journey.

HONORING MARY V. KING

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and colleague, Mary V. King. Mary was a lifelong resident of Oakland, California, and dedicated her life to public service. She passed away earlier this week.

During her three-terms as the first African American County Supervisor for Alameda County, she authored many policies with lasting impact on the Bay Area, including a values-based budgeting process still in use by the county, and the King Plan for land-use, which is now considered a model for smart-growth. She also served as the chair of several community-based and regional committees, including the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) Bay Bridge Design Task Force. Among her many roles in public service, she worked tirelessly as the General Manager of the Alameda Contra Costa Transit District, often called the

AC Transit District, carrying the agency through tough economic times.

Mary and I became friends when we served together on MTC and worked together on the Caldecott Tunnel, which connects Alameda and Contra Costa counties and contributes to the economic development of our region. She used her considerable expertise in government to develop and advocate for efficient transportation systems, smart land-use planning, housing, and other policies that have helped to create opportunities throughout the Bay Area. She also worked to improve economic conditions and social services for lower income residents, promoting health and education, and youth violence prevention programs. The Mary V. King Health Education Center is named in her honor as part of the Eastmont Wellness Center in Oakland. She also founded the Alameda County "Women's Hall of Fame Awards," which recognizes the accomplishments of other women and has recognized more than 200 honorees.

Among her many accolades, Mary has been awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the "Allen E. Broussard Memorial Award for Outstanding Humanitarianism" by the Alameda County Bar Association, the "George Moscone Memorial Award" by the American Society of Public Administration, the Community Leaders, Recognition Award by the Black Elected Officials and Faith Based Leaders of the East Bay, and was named the "Legislator of the Year" in 1992 by the Arc of the United States.

Mary is survived by her mother Victoria King, two daughters Kimberly and Vikki King, and two grandchildren. She leaves an indelible legacy on the East Bay, and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the extraordinary life of Mary King, and I send my sincere and deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE TALMADGE LITTLEJOHN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Chancery Court Judge Talmadge Littlejohn of New Albany, Mississippi who joined his Heavenly Father on Monday, October 26, 2015.

Judge Littlejohn had a long, distinguished career as a public servant, including service as a district attorney, state legislator, and chancery court judge.

He served in our state house from 1960 to 1964 and the state senate from 1964 to 1968. In 2010 he was honored by the Mississippi Bar for his 50 years of practicing law. He was in his fourth term as a judge in the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi, which includes Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, and Union counties.

Judge Littlejohn always conducted himself as a selfless public servant dedicated to fulfilling any task that was assigned to him.

He was an active member of First Baptist Church of New Albany, where he faithfully