

day—denouncing Russian authoritarianism and combating Putin's aggression. Ukrainians are on the ground battling Russian separatists and thugs attempting to steal their democratic freedoms and undermine their self-governance.

As a result, Ukraine has suffered 7,883 deaths and 17,610 wounded citizens, according to OCHA's latest report. Five million Ukrainians have been affected by Russia's aggression. It is shocking that this number is hardly discussed. One million Ukrainians have fled Ukraine since 2014, and 1.5 million Ukrainians are considered Internally Displaced People. And these numbers continue to rise.

Ukraine needs more humanitarian assistance, and they need it now. Winter is fast approaching. Time is running out for winterization. Temperatures will plummet to 0 degrees and below. Eastern Ukraine has already experienced its first snowfall. We must act before it is too late.

Today, many Ukrainians have little to no access to humanitarian assistance because very few humanitarian partners have received authorization from the de facto authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk to operate. Restrictions on freedom of movement have resulted in civilians waiting 24 hours before they can cross checkpoints across the ceasefire line which will be impossible to do in the winter. Additionally, a recent assessment has discovered that 20 percent of Internally Displaced People reside in destroyed or damaged homes. These homes need rebuilding materials now as temperatures continue to drop.

These crucial humanitarian supplies need to be airlifted to Ukraine, and the United States should expand its efforts in helping to provide these supplies. It is becoming ever more critical by the day. Let's bring more humanitarian assistance to our partner in democratic freedom, Ukraine, immediately—before the death toll increases any higher.

TRIBUTE FOR KATRINA RUGGLES

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Katrina Ruggles. Ms. Ruggles is a school counselor at Center School in Center, Colorado and has recently been awarded the Colorado Secondary Counselor of the Year for 2015 by the Colorado School Counselor Association.

School counselors throughout Colorado compete for this award and the recipient must demonstrate leadership, professionalism, as well as a willingness to assist in students' ability maximize their personal, social, and academic development. Amongst these qualities, the counselor must demonstrate evidence of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven counseling program as well as holding responsibility for further development of programs supporting students' career, personal, social and academic development.

Ms. Ruggles is an outstanding counselor, who has served in Center, Colorado schools for 14 years. Not only has she been a statewide name among professionals but she has become a successful grant writer, earning close to \$300,000 in scholarships for students year after year.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Ruggles' passion and drive to help her students succeed should not go overlooked. Students living in rural areas can often find themselves with limited resources. Ms. Ruggles' dedication to her students' success ensures that limited resources do not hinder their academic experience. Ms. Ruggles exemplifies the best qualities of academic professionals from the Third Congressional District of Colorado, and I congratulate her for her achievement and wish her continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF ART KIESEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Art Kiesel for his eight years of service on the Foster City City Council, twice as Mayor and twice as Vice Mayor. Foster City is losing an outstanding public servant and advocate for well-reasoned public policy, as well as a man widely known for his kindness and sense of humor.

During his tenure, Art supported many city initiatives that were instrumental in shaping Foster City for the better for many years to come. The parks system was built out as Werder Park and Destination Park were completed this year. In 2014, the city's smoking ordinance was implemented. In recent years, the city entered into a fire management shared services model with San Mateo and Belmont, delivering operational efficiencies for residents while strengthening department performance. The city established a gatekeeper ordinance for development projects to create an early vetting process for large developments. It also added a synthetic softball/soccer field at Edgewater Park and a 15-acre site was sold and developed into the new Foster Square. Phase II of the Levee Pedway Repair project was completed in 2009 and in 2013 Phase III was finished. The city also installed a synthetic soccer/baseball field at Sea Cloud Park and a synthetic soccer field/walking track at Port Royal Park, all during Art's tenure on the council. The construction of the VIBE Teen Center, a favorite hangout for 6th–12th graders after school and on weekends, was also completed during Art's time on the council.

The city is embarking on a multi-year effort to increase the height of the levee that protects Foster City, an urgent improvement in an era of rising seas. Art Kiesel has been a strong proponent of this project and of protecting his community for decades to come.

Foster City has a reputation for outstanding financial management. Art and his colleagues on the council have delivered strong financial performance through times that were both good and bad. This stewardship earned the trust of residents, as was demonstrated when the voters approved Business License Tax Measure U and a 10% transient occupancy tax.

It is important to note that serving on a city council is essentially a volunteer job. You would not recognize it as such when reviewing Art Kiesel's additional duties as a councilmember. He served on the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Legislative Committee of C/CAG, the Airport Community

Roundtable, the Council of Cities, the League of California Cities, the city's Audit Committee and Arts and Culture Committee, was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and served as the council's liaison to the San Mateo Union High School District. Art Kiesel is basically the Eveready Energizer Bunny of city councilmembers.

Art and his wife Janis have lived in Foster City for 24 years. They have two sons, Scott and John, and two granddaughters. Art is a third generation San Franciscan and was raised in the city until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965.

While Art has been a successful financial consultant for almost 30 years with some of the largest businesses in the Bay Area as his clients, he has always made it a priority to serve the community. His civic engagement began in 2000 when he served on the Information Technology Advisory Committee for four years. He continued on the Traffic Review Committee and the Planning Commission. He graduated from the Foster City Citizens Police Academy in 2002 and the Community Emergency Response Team in 2007. His community involvement has been just as extensive as he has been involved with the Lions Club, Canine Companions for Independence and San Mateo 4-H Clubs for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor a great man, public servant and good friend. Art Kiesel stands for integrity, commitment and perseverance. He will be missed in Foster City's public life, but his contributions will make Foster City a stronger and more vibrant community for decades to come.

TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF CONCORD CITY COUNCILMAN JAMES E. "JIM" RAMSEUR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James E. "Jim" Ramseur of Concord, North Carolina, for his more than twenty years of service to our community on the Concord City Council.

Jim was first elected to the Concord City Council in 1995 and has served on the Council five consecutive terms. During this time, he served as Mayor Pro-Tem from 1997–99, 2007 and 2013. Jim is a native of Concord, graduating from Concord High School and attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Jim honorably served our nation for four years in the United States Air Force before going on to a successful business career, where he retired as CEO of Turner-Baxter, Incorporated. In a sign of things to come in his future community leadership, Jim joined the Concord Jaycees in 1973 and within the next year was appointed to the Concord Planning and Zoning Board. He eventually became President of the Concord Jaycees and received the Distinguished Service Award from the organization in 1977. Continuing to be an active member of our community, Jim has served on the Board of Directors of Concord Downtown Development Corporation, and Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc.

As anyone who knows Jim is well aware, he is seen by most folks in Concord as one of the city's foremost historians. He was the Vice Chairman of the City's very successful 1996 Bicentennial Committee and has amassed an impressive collection of historic photographs of Concord that he regularly contributes to the Concord Independent Tribune. Additionally, Jim played a large role in the final design of the new Concord City Hall, which retains many qualities from the design of the 1902 city hall, including the unique tower with the words "City Hall" on the glass.

Jim's steady leadership has seen Concord maintain a low tax rate while its population has more than doubled from the 42,000 people who lived in the city when he was first elected in 1995. During a time that saw our area lose thousands of textile and manufacturing jobs while still increasing in population, Jim and the rest of the City Council were instrumental in continuing infrastructure development, growing city schools and recruiting new industry to Concord. Because of his hard work and dedication, Concord's future looks brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking James E. "Jim" Ramseur for his esteemed service on the Concord City Council and wishing him well as he opens the next chapter in his storied life.

HONORING ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS NEWTOWN DIVISION 2
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the initials AOH may tell the story best. Some say the initials stand for, "Add One Hour"—describing the easygoing, no rush attitude of many of its members. Others believe AOH, "America's Only Hope" has been used to define the loyalty of the Irish to the principles of their adopted land. In either case, its members would certainly all agree, that to be Irish, is indeed, a blessing. To be a Hibernian is an Honor.

I offer my gratitude and congratulations to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Newtown, Division 2, for 25 years of working in harmony with the doctrines of the Catholic Church and fostering a sense of loyalty to country among its members.

AOH, Newtown Division 2, proudly hosts the "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Kilt Tilt Run, Warrior Walk and Festival", featuring the Annual Joe McGinnis Scholarship 5K in addition to the annual Celtic Kilt Night fundraiser for local food banks.

Past president of the Bucks County Board of the AOH and Newtown Division 2 member, "The Irish Godfather of Bucks County," Joseph W. McGinnis, Jr. would be proud of the work that has continued in his name.

Once again, thank you and congratulations to AOH, Newtown Division 2 for 25 years of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

HONORING THOMAS LEE
MITCHELL, SR.

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Thomas Lee Mitchell, Sr. for his service to his country and to his community.

Mitchell served with the 27th Marines while in Vietnam from December 1965 through December 1968. While in the employ of his country, Mitchell and his compatriots came under fire by North Vietnamese troops in the early morning of May 5, 1968.

A firefight ensued and, after a barrage of North Vietnamese mortar rounds, an American weapons platoon tent became engulfed in flames. Mitchell stormed into the conflagration amid exploding ammunition and carried a badly wounded Marine, who was trapped in the tent, to safety.

Later that same day, Mitchell's company was ordered to begin an assault on two villages. The platoon embarked on the mission and eventually encountered an open trench—which was riddled with North Vietnamese soldiers. North Vietnamese soldiers lobbed grenades at the American troops from the trench; in response, Mitchell and two of his fellow Marines fired their weapons into the trench, killing the entire line of North Vietnamese soldiers. With the trench cleared of enemy fire, the American platoon was able to proceed with the attack on the villages.

Mitchell was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions. In addition, Mitchell also earned, among others, a Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbons, and a Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon.

Mitchell coached little league baseball from 1975 until 1985. He is currently a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Charlestown and the VFW.

It is a privilege to award Thomas Lee Mitchell with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 657, 659, 660, 661, 662, and 663, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA
PIERCE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Barbara Pierce for her 16 years of outstanding

service on the City Council of Redwood City, including one term as Mayor and one term as Vice Mayor. Barbara is the consummate public servant, never tiring of looking for ways to improve the city and the quality of life of its residents.

During her four terms on the council, she served on many committees and represented Redwood City before many organizations—most of them as chair at one point—including the Peninsula Division of the League of California Cities, the League Housing Community Economic Development Committee, C/CAG's Congestion Management Environmental Quality Committee, the Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency, the Resource Management Climate Protection Committee, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Redwood City 2020 Coordinating Council, the Grand Boulevard Task Force and the Bair Island Task Force.

Conservation and environmental protection are core values of Barbara Pierce. She is the spiritual leader of Redwood City's purple pipes project that brought recycled water to Redwood Shores long before our drought made water conservation a necessity. At first, it wasn't easy educating the public about the need to use recycled wastewater, but Barbara's persistent and earnest efforts persuaded the public to choose wisdom in the use of resources over skepticism based upon ignorance. The experiment began in 2000 but really took off in 2007 when the city expanded the pipes throughout Redwood Shores through pump stations. The recycled water project saves hundreds of millions of gallons of drinking water each year, and leaves Redwood Shores as one of the few areas of green landscaping during the current drought.

Barbara has played a significant role in just about every modern decision and process that has shaped Redwood City and made its vibrant downtown a reality. She played a leadership role in the creation of Courthouse Square, the restoration of the entry to the San Mateo County History Museum, Theatre Way and the retail cinema complex. She was also instrumental in the building of the Redwood Shores Library and the Redwood Shores Child Care Center. She worked hard to address traffic congestion, housing, climate change, water supply, and public safety issues, and to build a successful and sustainable community. Her secret to success is collaboration. She strives to work with members of the community and to find a way for everyone to win.

Her ethic of conservation is a direct consequence of her concern about future generations. In addition to her council duties, Barbara led efforts for 25 years at the Redwood City Education Foundation and saved an outdoor education program and created a music program for 3,500 students.

She has served on the board of the San Mateo County Historical Association, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Group and ARTS RWC. She is also a long-time Girl Scout leader, classroom volunteer and site council member. Barbara has a big heart and her love of Redwood City is only secondary to her love of her family.

She was born in Baltimore, Maryland and grew up in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. She graduated with a B.A. and M.A. in Psychology from Moravian College and Catholic University of America, respectively.