

Peters for his 50 years of service to the Edison Police Auxiliary and I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain Peters for his honorable service to our great nation. His remarkable dedication and duty to his community and nation are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID BRAUNSTEIN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

**Ms. SPEIER.** Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David Braunstein for his eight years of service on the Belmont City Council, once as Mayor in 2009 and again in 2015. Mayor Braunstein leaves with a distinguished legacy of service to the residents of Belmont.

During his tenure on the council, he served as a member of the Joint Notre Dame de Namur and Belmont City Council committee, the city's audit committee, is the former chair of the library community task force, former chair of the library steering committee and former chair of the library bond committee. David Braunstein has also been a board member of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, and was a member of the city's economic development committee.

Education is a core value in Belmont. David Braunstein is deeply committed to this value as evidenced by his career as a teacher at Carlmont High School and through his related council activities. While on the council, he has served as part of the city-school district committee known as 2 + 2 which identifies ways in which the district and city may collaborate to the benefit of Belmont residents.

Belmont is a city filled with the joyful sounds of children laughing. Three of those children are Mayor Braunstein's: Isaac, Noah and Yakira. They attend Ralston Middle School and Fox Elementary School where David and his wife, Patricia, are actively involved in school life. Even though he is incredibly busy as Mayor and as a teacher, David Braunstein made time in his life to be an AYSO and Little League coach, and served as a volunteer football coach at Carlmont High School. For David Braunstein, kids count.

Community building is in Mayor Braunstein's DNA. He has served on the National Night Out Planning Committee and helped to create one of the largest National Nights Out on the Peninsula. He is a tireless advocate to make our neighborhoods better and safer places, and served on the San Mateo County Emergency Services Council.

During his time on the council, Mayor Braunstein has conducted himself in a collaborative manner, both with his council colleagues and elected officials from other cities. He is proud to have been part of purchase of Ralston Avenue Vista Point which offers incredible views. The city purchased 34 acres, sold some land, made a profit and was able to preserve open space.

David was born in San Jose. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science at UCLA and his Master's in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. He also holds a California Teacher Credential from San Francisco State University.

After his retirement from the city council, David Braunstein is looking forward to spending more time with his family and watching his young children grow up. He is also hoping to find more time for travel, reading, cooking and photography—children's schedules permitting.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of Belmont contemplate Mayor Braunstein's contribution to their well-being, they will recognize that he possessed superior leadership skills and leaves having accomplished his objective, and having set an outstanding example for his successors. I know the House of Representatives joins me in wishing him well in his future adventures.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

**Mr. COFFMAN.** Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,786,830,545,682.60. We've added \$8,159,953,496,769.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SAN BERNARDINO ATTACK

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

**Mrs. TORRES.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the tragic shooting in San Bernardino last week and to recognize and honor the victims who lost their lives.

Despite the increasing frequency with which these kinds of events seem to occur, we never expect them to happen in our community. But this December 2nd, that is exactly what happened and tragedy hit home.

I knew the Inland Regional Center well and represented the city of San Bernardino during my time in the State Senate. And on this tragic day, five individuals who lived in cities I represent were taken from this world.

Isaac Amanios was a Fontana resident who came to this country from Eritrea looking for a better life for his children. He was described as an amazing father, brother, an amazing everything.

Sierra Clayborn, a UC Riverside graduate, previously lived in Ontario. Those who knew her say she was energetic, thoughtful, and always smiling, and she loved what she called her blooming career in public and environmental health.

Larry Daniel Kaufman, a resident of Rialto, considered himself a free spirit, loved horror movies, and talked to everyone he met.

Yvette Velasco was 27 and a Fontana resident who was full of life and loved by all who knew her. Those close to her say she embodied intelligence and ambition.

And Benetta Bettadal of Rialto was a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona, also in my district.

She came to the United States fleeing Islamic extremism and the persecution of Christians following the Iranian revolution. In a horrible twist of fate, she lost her life at the hands of the same kind of extremism that brought her to this country.

Isaac, Sierra, Larry, Yvette, Benetta. These were our neighbors. They could have been our children, our loved ones, or our friends. As our community begins to heal, we owe it to them and to the other nine victims to ask ourselves how to best honor the vibrant lives that were taken from us much too soon.

Mr. Speaker, far too many communities have felt the pain that the San Bernardino and Inland Empire community is facing right now. Far too many Americans have lost loved ones in similar acts of violence. It is now up to us in Congress to use this tragedy as a catalyst for a serious, productive, and respectful dialogue on the actions we can and must take to prevent this kind of tragedy from ever happening again. Inaction is inexcusable and an affront to the lives lost on that tragic day.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND C. MILLER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

**Ms. SPEIER.** Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Raymond C. Miller for his extraordinary 16 years of service on the Brisbane City Council, four terms as Mayor. Dr. Miller served from 1984–1995 and again from 2011–2015 and has made significant contributions to the city and San Mateo County.

Dr. Miller cares deeply about government transparency, accountability and responsiveness. The fiscal and environmental health of Brisbane are of utmost importance to him. This is very well reflected in the work he has done on a long list of committees, subcommittees and boards. He served on the Airport Land Use Committee, the Complete Streets Safety Committee, the City Sustainability Committee, the Open Space & Ecology Committee, the Facilities/Water Sewer Subcommittee, the Finance Subcommittee, and several others.

As a retired Political Economy and Interdisciplinary Social Science professor at San Francisco State University for 44 years, Councilman Miller has an extensive understanding of the public policy process. For example, Dr. Miller has been deeply involved in the contract negotiations for the development of the Baylands, a 600-acre site on the edge of San Francisco Bay, the evaluation of the draft Environmental Impact Report, and the development of sustainability goals.

During his last term as Mayor, Dr. Miller helped restructure the city budget to create a more user-friendly document. He worked with the council to place a business license tax for liquid storage facilities on the ballot, to approve a contract for a hotel feasibility market study for Sierra Point, and to conduct labor negotiations during tough financial times. He also spent many hours as editor of Brisbane's 50th Anniversary History Book Project.

Raymond Miller was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1934. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Public

Administration from the University of Denver in 1955, a Master's degree in Social Science from the University of Chicago in 1958 and a Ph.D. in Social Science from Syracuse University in 1966. He served as president of the Society of International Development and the Association for Integrative Studies where he was a founding editor of Issues in Integrative Studies. He also is the author of International Political Economy: Contrasting World Views and the recipient of the Kenneth Boulding Award from the Association for Integrative Studies.

Dr. Miller married his wife of 55 years, Anja, in Helsinki. They moved to Brisbane in 1966 and she also served on the Brisbane City Council in 1970. They have a daughter, Elna, who lives in town with her twin daughters Julianne and Marissa. In his well-deserved retirement, Dr. Miller is looking forward to spending more time with his family and enjoying theater, ballet and Dixieland jazz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an exceptional scholar and public servant whose intellect and expertise have greatly benefitted the City of Brisbane. Raymond C. Miller's retirement will leave a big void on the city council, but his significant contributions will be felt for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DANTE CLUB'S 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 100th year anniversary of the Dante Club in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The Dante Club has served as a place for Italians to embrace their culture, celebrate their history, and promote athleticism. Today, the Dante Club has over 900 members, a competitive racquetball league, and hosts widely attended social and cultural events throughout the year.

On November 7, 1915, a group of Italian men gathered in Springfield with the goal of creating a club promoting "culture, good fellowship, athletics, and good American citizenship." They named the club after Dante Alighieri, a highly acclaimed Italian poet and constructor of the Italian language. The Dante Club originally only accepted Italian members and sons of Italians, but later eased its membership restrictions, allowing men of other ethnic groups married to Italian women. In 1935, the Dante Women's Club division was formed, and in 1963 the Club's constitution was amended, allowing non-Italians to become members.

The Dante Club purchased its first site in 1924 in West Springfield. Thirty years later, the Club received notice that its property would be taken away in order to construct the Route 5 highway, so the members purchased the old Memorial School Building in West Springfield. This remains its current home today. The Club has had numerous improvements since its founding, and now includes a kitchen, banquet hall, and health center with racquetball courts. The Dante Club hosts a successful racquetball league, which runs from September to May of every year and includes the six divisions with over 100 players. The health

center was opened in 1970, and has trained several notable athletes, including the Michigan State hockey coach Amo Bessone, and Gene Grazia, 1960 U.S. Hockey Team Olympic Gold Medalist.

Mr. Speaker, the Dante Club's founders have succeeded in organizing a center in America to preserve and celebrate Italian culture and values, while fostering friendships and promoting athleticism and community. I wish the Dante Club the best in its future endeavors, and look forward to watching it prosper for years to come.

HONORING MAJOR BRYAN WHITTIER

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Bryan Whittier of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the Nation. After nearly four years of faithful service in the Nation's capital, Major Whittier will transition from his present assignment as an Army Liaison in the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison to the Army's 2nd Scout Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany.

Major Whittier has demonstrated the invaluable service that Army Congressional Liaisons provide to the Congress. He enabled countless Members and staff to develop better understandings of Army policies, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition was a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. Prior to service as a Liaison, Major Whittier was assigned to my office as a Military Fellow where he quickly became an indispensable asset to our team. His performance was superb and he earned my utmost respect during his tenure on my staff. Major Whittier also completed a Master's Degree from George Washington University during his time here, demonstrating his commitment as a Warrior and a Scholar.

Major Whittier is a native of Scottsdale, Arizona; he commissioned through Norwich University ROTC in 2003. During his twelve year active duty Army career, he has excelled in numerous leadership and staff assignments as an Officer and UH-60 Blackhawk aviator. Major Whittier served as a Rear Detachment Commander and as an Assault Company Commander for 36 months in the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY. From there, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for twelve months. Prior to command, Major Whittier successfully executed duties as a Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Adjutant, Company Executive Officer, and Platoon Leader, during which time he conducted a twelve month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His dedication to excellence has not gone unnoticed. Major Whittier was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and numerous others. He has earned the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, Army Senior Aviator Badge, Combat Action Badge and the Army Staff Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Bryan Whittier and the support and dedication of his wife Shelley and their two children, Bryley and William. I wish them the very best as they continue their service to our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY OF PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to congratulate the Piedmont High School football team on their state championship win in the 3A class.

The Piedmont Bulldogs defeated the Bayside Academy Admirals 44–7, on December 3 at the Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Taylor Hayes, Piedmont quarterback, and Darnell Jackson, running back, were the standout players of the game with a combined 124 yards on 18 carries and four touchdowns between them. Hayes also made the play of the game, with a 48-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Piedmont's coach Steve Smith said, "Our kids played their best football when it mattered the most—at the end of the year."

This victory marks the second state football title in the school's history, and set school records for wins in a season as well as points scored.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Piedmont High School on their achievement. Go Bulldogs.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEMU 89.1'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WEMU 89.1 radio station on their 50th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress and a long-time listener and supporter, it is my honor and privilege to recognize their commitment to providing first class news and entertainment to our community.

Founded on December 8, 1965, WEMU 89.1 began its broadcasting service from the Quirk Building for Eastern Michigan University with the goal of delivering local news and showcasing jazz, blues, and community musicians. Since then, WEMU has grown into one of the most popular news and entertainment stations serving the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti area. WEMU is an affiliate of National Public Radio, which allows the station to provide first rate national news and programming while continuing to maintain its focus on the community and region it calls home.

WEMU has become a part of the fabric of our southeast Michigan community. Over the course of fifty years, they have transformed themselves from a small university radio station into a go-to destination for balanced, informative news and entertainment. In an age