

profession, recognizing them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held December 7th through the 11th, 2015.

ATD's members come from more than 120 countries and work in public and private organizations in every industry sector. ATD supports talent development professionals who gather locally in volunteer-led U.S. chapters and international member networks, and with international strategic partners.

Established in 1943, ATD is a leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 7th through December 11th, 2015, as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

HONORING PATRICK McCORMICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

Whether through his service through the U.S. Air Force, New Cumberland Army Depot, or his leadership roles as Director of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution's Current Operations and Logistics Operations, his tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he worked with to be the best.

Through numerous promotions and awards Patrick has left an enduring legacy of service. In particular, by earning the Department of Defense (DOD) Distinguished Civilian Service award, the highest award available for career DOD civilian employees, he demonstrated an exceptional devotion to duty. Through hard work and leadership Patrick's record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens is truly outstanding.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CALIFORNIA CITY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the in-

corporation of California City, a residential nexus for mining, aerospace and desert tourism in Eastern Kern County.

California City began with a dream worthy of its namesake: the foundation of a suburban metropolis to rival Los Angeles. Sociologist and developer Nat Mendelsohn found in the wide spaces of Kern's High Desert the chance to build a completely planned community from scratch, free of parochial interests. He bought 80,000 acres of desert in 1958, carved out a gigantic Central Park featuring a 20 acre lake, and by 1965 had arranged for the incorporation of a massive, 203 square mile township. Overnight, California City became the third largest city in the state.

For generations before Nat Mendelsohn ever gazed upon the High Desert, mule teams carted the bounty of stranded mines to the railheads at Mojave. This traffic expanded in the 20th century, as neighboring Boron grew to produce half the world's supply of borax. Meanwhile, huddled around ancient dry lakes just a dozen miles from town, America's premier jet aircraft test center—Edwards Air Force Base—began to expand into a permanent institution, with hundreds of employees needing homes and services. Even tourism brought jobs to California City, as the surging popularity of dirt bikes and off-roading drew thrill-seekers through town on their way to the wonders of the interior: Jawbone, Death Valley, Red Rock Canyon, and the Trona Pinnacles. California City grew by leaps and bounds, fed by the steady currents of desert commerce.

Today, as the city celebrates its Jubilee, we have a chance to draw lessons from its history. California City would never have existed without the vision and drive of one entrepreneur, willing to bet everything on a dream. In Kern County—as in America—we are dependent both on the enterprising spirit of our people, and on the power of our communities to persevere when they are united. I am proud today to congratulate the people of California City on this 50th anniversary, and look forward to California City's next 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE AND
CATHERINE ROSS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate George and Catherine Ross of Essex, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

George and Catherine's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Ross family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Number 692, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call Number 692, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY
HOLMES ON THE OCCASION OF
THE UNVEILING OF THE LARRY
HOLMES STATUE IN EASTON,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Holmes, who reigned as World Boxing Council Heavyweight Champion from 1978 to 1983, and who will be honored with the installment of a bronze statue depicting the Champ about to strike a punch. His accomplishments not only made the City of Easton known nationally, they also inspired others to strive to be their best, to be a champ.

The statue unveiling held on Sunday, December 13 commenced with a Championship Parade that began on 3rd Street in front of the new Easton City Hall and continued onto the Drive named in the Champ's honor and down to the statue's location in Scott Park on the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers.

"The Easton Assassin" grew up in the projects. At the age of 13, he dropped out of school to support his family. At the age of 19, he started boxing and pursued a legendary career. His left jab is rated among the best in boxing history. An impressive 44 of his 69 wins were from knockouts. Holmes was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2008.

Larry Holmes is not just a champ for his boxing; he is a champ for his service to the community. After retiring from boxing, Holmes became a businessman and invested in his hometown. He is noted to have employed more than 200 people through his various business holdings at one time including Larry Holmes Enterprises, a real estate and property management company; two restaurants; a training facility; and an office complex. Over the years, he has been a role model for young fighters, and he has supported various charities and youth groups throughout the Lehigh Valley, in particular the Easton Area Community Center (EACC), which used to be known as St. Anthony's Youth Center—the place where he first learned to box. Later, and thanks to Holmes, the EACC's annual fundraiser became well-known as an event attended by boxing champions. Holmes can often be seen at community events and performing with his band.

It is an honor for me to recognize Larry Holmes. He has been a good son to Easton. Through this statue, visitors for generations will see the heart of a legend.

HONORING SONYA GISH OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

Through her work with the Information Technology Department at New Cumberland Army Depot, and her leadership role as Deputy Director, and later Director, of Distribution Policy and Processing at Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution, her tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom she worked with to be the best.

Her colleagues describe Sonya as the consummate role model and a truly indispensable asset to DLA Distribution. Her numerous promotions and awards exemplify an outstanding record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens. Through work ethic and character, Sonya has truly left an enduring legacy of service.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

COLONEL MICHAEL P. DIETZ

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished career and military service of Colonel Michael P. Dietz. An Alaskan native, Michael enlisted in the United States Army in Providence, Rhode Island in 1979. As an Enlisted Soldier, Michael served in Europe, Korea and Central America eventually achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1989, he was given a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corp. During the First Gulf War, he served with the Third Mobile Armored Corp as a Senior Intelligence Analyst.

Throughout the 1990s Colonel (COL) Dietz served in a series of positions of increasing responsibility in the area of military intelligence to include, operations officer of an Anti-Terrorist Response Team and culminating with the Deputy Command of the 6th Civil Support Team, an Anti-Terrorist Team specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction. During this time, COL Dietz had operational control of response elements to the events of 9/11 and the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster over East Texas.

In 2003, COL Dietz commanded mobile collection teams for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in Iraq. He later commanded the entire DIA effort in Afghanistan in 2004. Both positions required work with Allied Nations.

In 2008-2009, COL Dietz commanded the 636th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Texas National Guard. This is the number one rated MI Battalion in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

COL Dietz, in his 36 years of service, has served combat tours with 101st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division as a Battalion Commander, 3rd Army, 3rd Special Forces Group, United States Army Special Operations Command, 5th Special Forces Group, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the 636th MI Battalion.

COL Dietz is currently a member of the Warrior Transition Unit at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. This unit specializes in repairing wounded warriors. COL Dietz is in the process of being treated for numerous injuries that he sustained while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has been married for 31 years to Elly Del Prado Dietz and his daughter, Sharon is a 1st Lieutenant currently serving at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas and his son, Aidan is a 2nd Lieutenant serving as an Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader in the 143rd INF BN (ABN).

COL Dietz's 36 years of distinguished service reflects great credit upon himself, the Texas Army National Guard, the United States Army and the United States of America. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOWLING
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Dowling Catholic High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 4A State Cross Country Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team: Runners: Matthew Carmody, John Clingan, Jack Fink, Matt Fraizer, Skyler Riesberg, Jack Turner, and Ryan Schweizer; Head Coach: Timothy Ives; and Assistant Coaches: Duncan McLean, Gerard Amadeo, Ann Flood, and Kevin Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NAVY CHAPLAIN
CORPS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 240th anniversary of the Navy Chaplain Corps. For 240 years, Navy chaplains have served with honor, courage, and selflessness, ensuring that our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are able to practice and grow in their faith, regardless of where they serve.

Our Navy chaplains are an invaluable pillar of their military communities. The role of a chaplain is inherently religious. As the makeup of our service members has expanded, the chaplaincy has expanded with it to include representatives reflecting the many faith traditions of our troops, including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist. When religious leaders become military chaplains, they pledge to equally serve all members of the armed forces, regardless of religious belief. Chaplains faithfully carry out this sacred duty each and every day.

While military chaplains are noncombatants and do not carry weapons, they still serve in harm's way. Sixteen Navy chaplains have given their lives providing religious and spiritual support for our men and women at war. Two Navy chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their sacrificial ministry to their Sailors and Marines. Lieutenant Commander Joseph T. O'Callahan braved a fiery inferno to administer last rites and direct damage control operations aboard the stricken USS *Franklin* in 1945. Lieutenant Vincent R. Capodanno repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in Vietnam while administering last rites to dead and dying Marines, refusing treatment of his own wounds and directing corpsmen to his wounded comrades, before being killed while coming to the aide of another. Six naval ships have been named after chaplains with one, the destroyer USS *Laboon*, still in service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the brave and honorable service of Navy chaplains over the last 240 years.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
JOYCE I. MARTRATT ON
50 YEARS OF CIVILIAN SERVICE
WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Joyce I. Martratt on her 50 years of civilian service with the United States Air Force. Joyce has served in numerous capacities with the Air Force on Guam, and she has dedicated much of her professional life to furthering its mission and providing critical support to our Airmen.

Joyce was born to Jesus San Nicolas and Rosario Castro Camacho of Hagatna on August 28, 1939. She is the eldest of five children and endured the atrocities of war during the occupation of Guam during World War II. As a survivor of the war, she and her family relocated to the village of Mongmong, where they settled and began to rebuild their lives and homes. In 1955, Joyce was adopted by her Aunt Maria and Uncle Peling Castro in order for her to further her education as they moved to Washington, D.C. before resettling in San Francisco in 1956. She attended Oakland Community College while working for the Gallop Poll. She then moved back to Guam to attend the University of Guam. While at the University of Guam, she met her late-husband Herbert Sablan Leddy, and together they started a family. In 1984, Herbert passed away and Joyce later remarried Charlie Martratt.