

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Craig in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Craig on receiving this degree and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF THE "WORLD WAR II 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND WORLD PEACE EVENT"

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and honor the "World War II 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event." The ceremony, which took place on November 7, 2015, was a City of Houston Citizenship Month event that was organized by the Southern News Group and International Trade Center. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 people viewed the grand opening ceremony at Minute Maid Park.

The event sought to honor our veterans, mark the anniversary of World War II, and celebrate the diversity of Houston. Specifically, it aimed to convey the message that: "America means freedom like no other country on Earth." The ceremony also included the awarding of medals to World War II veterans in attendance, in honor of their courageous service, and the recognition of U.S. and Chinese pilots who fought in China during World War II for the Allies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the "WWII 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event" wonderfully celebrated the vibrancy and diversity of the Houston community. Moreover, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all at the International Trade Center and the Southern News Group, under the leadership of its Chairman Wea Lee, for their hard work in producing this important event. I look forward to future enriching events and efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN M. HUDSON

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the extraordinary public service of Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Vermont Public Service Board for 39 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Vermont Public Service Board is Vermont's utility regulatory commission, a quasi-judicial board that supervises Vermont's public utilities: electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and statewide energy efficiency. The Board regulates their rates, quality of service, siting, and financial management. It reviews the environmental and economic impacts of proposals to purchase energy supply or build new energy facilities—including conventional sources and a growing

number of renewable energy plants in an increasingly complex regulatory field. The process the Board administrators often requires public hearings, evidentiary hearings, and other forms of inquiry and investigation to ensure that high-quality service is provided by the utilities at rates that are just and reasonable. In short, the Vermont Public Service Board plays a crucial role in the lives of Vermonters. It is a role that it could not have hoped to play well without the sustained energy and focus that Sue Hudson has brought to so many facets of the Board's work.

Sue Hudson has had a remarkable and steady career at the Public Service Board. Her service has spanned the terms of six Vermont governors and 24 different Board members. She kept the wheels of regulation aligned and in good working order through major transitions in the utility industry and the Board structure. Through all of these changes, Sue Hudson remained the public face of the Board to countless citizens, developers, and utility personnel as they visited the Clerk's office to make filings, ask questions, and review documents. While many of the cases she processed were highly contested and involved significant public controversy, Sue Hudson's calm demeanor, fair disposition, and credibility as a Vermonter through and through have been a major asset to the Public Service Board in the performance of its responsibilities.

Sue Hudson is a longtime resident of Hardwick, Vermont, where she is a fully involved member of the community. Her husband, Dan Hudson, looks forward to spending more time with her. She has two wonderful daughters and two grandchildren. As busy as Sue Hudson has been helping Vermonters to navigate the regulatory process, she is also an avid and accomplished golfer and tennis player. And she has always found time to be very involved with her church community.

Through her professionalism and dedication, Sue Hudson has made a significant contribution to civic life in Vermont. On behalf of all Vermonters, I ask the House of Representatives to acknowledge Sue Hudson and her remarkable service to the people of the Green Mountain State.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SONAL SHAH

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sonal Shah of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, who peacefully passed away in November after a courageous fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Her life and advocacy were an inspiration. Undeterred by her diagnosis, Sonal lived every day to the fullest and her personal story was a profile in courage.

I was privileged to know Sonal through her work on raising awareness about ALS and her fight for a cure. She would come to Washington to have meetings on Capitol Hill where she would tell her story, share the latest research and inform policy makers of what she and the ALS community needed in funding for public research and to spur private investment. It was during that time I came to know

her wonderful family, including her husband and daughter, who have always been by her side.

Sonal worked tirelessly. She passionately made her case and I was proud to work with her on legislation that will make a positive difference in the lives of many. And that was what was so remarkable about Sonal's fight. Even the most groundbreaking of discoveries would likely have come too late to assist Sonal in her own struggle but she remained committed against the scourge of this disease so that others might have hope. She was a hero in the ALS community and the turnout of love and support at awareness events, at the celebration of her heartfelt book and at laps around the Somerset ball field demonstrated people were compelled by her story.

The fight against this terrible disease was made stronger by having Sonal lead it. She will be missed greatly. I know I will work in Washington with renewed vigor for this cause and will always remember Sonal's strength as we continue to work against ALS.

While we have lost a beloved wife, mother, writer, advocate and friend, let us remember her spirit and perseverance in our own personal struggles and let her determination forever be a source of strength for us all.

TRIBUTE TO TED AND JUDY KENKEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ted and Judy Kenkel of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1955.

Ted and Judy's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Danny, Randy, Jan, and Kelly, their grandchildren, and their great-grandsons, Dominik and Declan, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Kenkel family that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN SPIELBERG IN RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the hardworking, kind, and exceptionally creative people of California's 33rd District. I would like to recognize the brilliant work of one of my fantastic constituents: Steven Allan Spielberg, who was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

His films are adored and cherished by billions around the world. With directorial, production and writing credits for incredible films

such as *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *ET*, *Poltergeist*, *Goonies*, the *Color Purple*, *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, *Lincoln*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Jurassic Park* as well as the *Indiana Jones* movies, it is not surprising that Mr. Spielberg is the recipient of three Oscars, three Golden Globes, four Emmy Awards, and countless other awards and a myriad of prestigious nominations. He is the recipient of the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award and has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany as well as an honorary Knight Commanders of the Order of the British Empire for this work, amongst many other international honors. He is co-founder of Dreamworks Studios and Amblin Entertainment.

I believe in no uncertain terms, that Mr. Spielberg is our generations' most significant creator in the field of film. He understands the importance cinematography has on our society—especially on our children. That is why I commend his efforts in helping the National Boy Scouts of America develop a merit badge in cinematography. Mr. Spielberg has also taken his art and turned it into a passion for service, establishing the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History at the University of Southern California to record testimonies of Holocaust survivors so that their stories may never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, for his timeless cinematographic accomplishments transforming modern film, our culture, and our history, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Steven A. Spielberg.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 697, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 696, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 695, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 694, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES NEWTON "NEWT" SCHENCK FOR HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, community leaders and arts advocates from across the City of New Haven gathered to pay tribute to the late Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck and honor his legacy with the dedication of a plaque at the Audubon Arts Center in the heart of the City's Arts District. I am proud to take a moment today to stand and join the City and its arts community in honoring Newt for his outstanding contributions.

Today, the City of New Haven enjoys a thriving, vibrant arts community with local the-

aters, symphonies, and music education organizations as well as art studios and performance spaces providing learning and entertainment opportunities for all ages. At the epicenter of it all is the Audubon Arts District—the culmination of Newt Schenck's visionary leadership to breathe new life into a once-beleaguered area of downtown New Haven.

An attorney at Wiggin & Dana, Newt served on the City's Development Commission and was a dedicated patron of the arts. He helped found the Long Wharf Theater and led the City's Arts Council for many years. Newt understood the importance of balancing revitalization with preservation and it was through this paradigm that he worked to formulate and implement a master plan for what would become the Audubon Arts District.

For the better part of two decades, Newt worked to bring together the elements of his vision. He wanted the arts center to be a group of arts institutions that work together, where the whole is greater than its parts. He knew it should be mixed use with arts organizations, businesses, and residential housing. Older buildings would be preserved and repurposed and commercial development would return money to the arts.

Slowly but surely that vision became a reality. Today, Audubon is not only home to the Arts Council, but to Educational Center for the Arts, the Neighborhood Music School, the New Haven Ballet, and Creative Arts Workshop, as well as local businesses like Audubon Strings, the Foundry Music Company, the Silk Road Art Gallery, and Connecticut Public Radio. The plaza, which features beautiful sculptures designed by local artists, also has its own "walk of fame" with stars honoring New Haven arts leaders.

The plaque, designed and installed by Westville sculptor Gar Waterman, is a special tribute to Newt's legacy. Below a beautiful relief of a tree, it reads: "In honor of Charles Newton Schenck III, Attorney at Wiggin & Dana who, in collaboration with the City of New Haven, with vision and persistence led the Arts Council in its development of the Audubon Arts Center 1965 to 1990."

Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck, through his work with the Arts Council and the development of the Audubon Arts District, changed the face of our community and planted the seeds for the New Haven arts community that flourishes as a whole today. I am honored to join the City of New Haven and the New Haven Arts Council in paying tribute to his invaluable contributions to our community and in extending my heartfelt thanks to his wife, Ann, for sharing him with us for so many years. The Audubon Arts District is a haven for artists of all mediums, of all ages, and of all talents—a legacy that will inspire the beauty and magic of the arts for generations to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LYNDAL SCRANTON, SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER SPORTS JOURNALIST, AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable 36-year career of

Springfield News-Leader sports journalist Lyndal Scranton, and congratulate him on his retirement.

Scranton got his start as the Sports Editor of Central High School's student paper, which transitioned to a position at the Springfield News-Leader when he was teenager in the fall of 1979. Ever since, he has written on area sporting events at every level, including the 1985 Bass Pro Tournament of Champions and Jack Nicklaus' hitting golf balls at the 'Top of the Rock' golf course.

Namely though, he has been a staple of Missouri State University (MSU) Sports since the late 1980s and has cemented himself in MSU sports history. Scranton has written about MSU basketball since the team first joined the Missouri Valley Conference, through the 1999 Bears' run to the Sweet 16, and up to present day with Coach Paul Lusk. His coverage of MSU football has now followed five head coaches' tenures, spanning from Jesse Branch to Dave Steckel. In his reporting on the MSU baseball team, he covered their mid-1990s NCAA tournament appearances, their College World Series contention in 2003, and their impressive 2015 season when the team fell just short of another trip to Omaha.

Throughout his career, Scranton built a reputation as being an honest and to-the-point writer. Those who worked with him often remark that his genuine care for people and unwillingness to take cheap shots make him a rare gem from a bygone era of impartial journalism. He has even been a huge help to Legendary Sportscaster Art Hains. If Art ever needs to call for an expert opinion on horse racing, auto racing dating back to Larry Phillips at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Track, or the NBA, Lyndal is Art's go-to man.

All of his peers know—Hains included—that despite his making his living as a sports journalist, Scranton was first and foremost a sports fan. He is an avid supporter of the St. Louis Cardinals, the L.A. Lakers, loves to bowl, and also enjoys watching horse races at Oaklawn—that's not to mention that he makes some of the best bar-b-que in the Ozarks.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I extend my appreciation to him for his dedication to sports journalism in our community and wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CATHIE ALFF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cathie Alff of Anita, Iowa, for being selected as a 2015 Hospital Hero by the Iowa Hospital Association. Cathie was one of 10 Iowans recognized with this honor.

As a certified nurse's aide in the Cass County Health System, Cathie is known for her compassionate and caring treatment for each and every one of her patients. She understands that the relationships she builds with them is the most important aspect of her job. Her number one priority is ensuring their quality care and treatment throughout their entire stay.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cathie for receiving this prestigious 2015 Hospital Hero award.