

remarkable; his dedication to safeguarding the public, deep moral character, and persistence and determination will continue to be an inspiration for future generations.

RECOGNIZING LELAND A. STROM

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Leland A. Strom for his completion of a distinguished tenure of service on the Board of the Farm Credit Administration.

Leland Strom was nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December of 2006 as a Member of the Board of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). In May of 2008, President Bush designated Mr. Strom Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, an office he held until November of 2012. He recently became the longest serving FCA board member since the three board member structure was adopted in the mid 1980's.

Mr. Strom has more than 35 years of professional experience in the agriculture industry, from production and finance to local food systems and agribusiness. Throughout his career he has promoted a strong agriculture industry in his home state of Illinois, the United States, and abroad. He has traveled extensively in a variety of capacities, with a focus on promoting sustainable food production, rural development, and growing markets. He has engaged in discussions with government officials in the United States and abroad, as well as business and finance leaders.

During the period following the financial crisis of 2008, Mr. Strom was frequently engaged in discussions with members of Congress and senior officials of the United States Treasury and Department of Agriculture. His leadership of the oversight of the Farm Credit System, along with his extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry, proved invaluable during the extreme market volatility which occurred during the 2008–2009 financial crisis.

In his various leadership roles, Mr. Strom has been a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion for women and minorities. During his tenure, the Farm Credit Administration issued a proposed rule to identify and broaden diversity and inclusion within the Farm Credit System. Under his leadership at the Agency, FCA earned a top five placing as a "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" in the small agency category awarded by the Partnership for Public Service for 2011.

In his home state of Illinois, Mr. Strom worked closely with Kane County officials in helping develop a farmland preservation program, with his home farm being the first dedicated to permanent agriculture use. The County's Farmland Protection Program is the first and only funded county-based agricultural conservation easement program in Illinois.

In 2011, for his efforts in protecting and managing the assets of America's agricultural industry, Mr. Strom was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Northern Illinois University. A lifelong Republican, Lee has developed an excellent reputation as an individual who is willing to work across the aisle to find consensus in resolving difficult issues.

In sum, Leland Strom's contributions to the agriculture industry through his service and leadership of the Farm Credit System, have helped to make today's agriculture, one of the strongest industries in the United States and the world.

ANDREW TAFOYA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrew Tafoya for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrew Tafoya is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrew Tafoya is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrew Tafoya for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed three roll call votes and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 113—Yes
Roll Call No. 114—Yes
Roll Call No. 115—Yes

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Seventh Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we recognize pharmacy's contribution to the American healthcare system. This year's event, organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, takes place on March 25–26. Nearly 400 individuals from the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy leaders and pharmacy company executives—will visit Capitol Hill. They will share their views with Congress about the importance of supporting legislation that protects access to community and neighborhood pharmacies and that utilizes pharmacists to im-

prove the quality and reduce the costs of providing healthcare.

Advocates from 45 states have travelled to Washington to talk about the pharmacy community's contributions in over 40,000 community pharmacies nationwide. These important healthcare providers are here to educate Congress about the value of pharmacists and protect access to the essential services they provide as part of our healthcare delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, Members of Congress and their staff have toured retail chain pharmacies in our own communities more than 325 times since 2009.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their healthcare needs. The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible healthcare provider deeply committed to providing the highest quality care in the most efficient manner possible.

As demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as healthcare affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to healthcare. Eighty-nine percent of Americans reside within a five-mile radius of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists are one of our nation's most trusted healthcare professionals. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, healthcare screenings, and other healthcare services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall healthcare costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

Mr. Speaker, as we refine healthcare reform and seek new strategies to improve patient care, pharmacists will play a critical role. I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care and lower costs. In recognition of the Seventh Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, executives, and the entire pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

MICHELLE FOKAM OF KATY, TX DISTRICT 19-6A MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Michelle Fokam of Katy, TX for claiming the honor of District 19-6A Most Valuable Player during the 2014-2015 basketball season. Ms. Fokam and the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team continue to lead Katy ISD in excellence and determination.

Ms. Fokam is a junior at Seven Lakes High School, and was voted District 19-6A's MVP thanks to her key contributions as one of the leagues best inside defenders and rebounders, as well as her formidable offensive player skills. This honor comes after an exciting season as the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team won its fourth consecutive district championship and its second undefeated season.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Michelle Fokam for being honored as the District 19-6A Most Valuable Player, and to the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team for your continued victories. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 119, 120, and 121. I would like to indicate that I would have voted "No" on roll call 119, "Aye" on roll call 120, and "No" on roll call 121.

THANKING JOHN WRIGHT FOR SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank John Wright for over thirty-three years of outstanding service to this House in a number of administrative and support roles. He lives in Maryland's Fifth District, and I am proud to represent him here in Congress.

John—or "Turk," as he is known among his friends and colleagues—is retiring after having lent his skills and talents to the House of Representatives for over three decades. He began his career in January 1982 under House Clerk Benjamin Guthrie as an Office Equipment Attendant for Office Equipment Services. After working in the labor room and the House drapery shop, John was promoted to Inventory Control Clerk in 1987, where he was responsible for the delivery, movement, and pickup of equipment for House offices. He also assisted with Congressional transitions, an arduous

process entailing the physical movement of inventory and systems for hundreds of Member offices within a one-month timeframe.

Eager to learn and to help with other duties, John was promoted in 2000, to the position of Vendor Management Counselor for Office Systems Management under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). His assignments included the payment of purchase orders for equipment, supplies, and furniture for Members, Committees, Officers, and support offices of the House of Representatives. He processed a large volume of payments swiftly and formed long-lasting friendships with his customers and coworkers. He offered his services and expertise during each Congressional transition by volunteering extra time to assist with office moves.

John's enthusiasm, experience, and resources made him an invaluable asset to the CAO organization, providing excellent customer service to Members and staff. His outgoing personality, positive attitude, and sense of humor have endeared him to many colleagues and friends. John greeted everyone with a big smile and referred to his coworkers as family. He shares his pride in serving the House just as his late mother, Tillie Wright, did during her illustrious forty-one year career in the catering division of the House Restaurant system.

I congratulate John and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished service to the House and the nation it serves. I wish him and his family all the best as John begins this new chapter in his life.

SUNCOR ENERGY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Suncor Energy for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a company showing leadership within its industry and the community. Suncor's refinery is the only petroleum refinery in Colorado and one of the largest refineries in the Rocky Mountain region, employing 440 workers. It is a major supplier of gasoline and diesel fuel and is the state's primary producer of asphalt.

This refinery is committed to invigorating the community by volunteering and supporting local organizations in Commerce City and in the Denver metro area. Since 2003, Suncor contributed more than \$2.8 million to numerous organizations directly serving the Commerce City community, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and the Adams 14 Education Foundation.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Suncor Energy for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMARTER APPROACH TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2015, a bill that would enable the U.S. to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent without shortchanging combat readiness and operations.

The SANE Act would allow the U.S. to adopt a more practical and stable nuclear deterrent, while at the same time reducing costs and risks without compromising our security or that of our allies. This is achieved by strategically sizing our nuclear weapons programs, all while saving approximately \$100 billion over 10 years and staying within the New START Treaty warhead levels.

President Obama has committed to completely rebuilding all three legs of our nuclear triad—strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and nuclear-armed submarines (SLBMs). The SANE Act does not challenge whether the United States should maintain a triad. It does, however, inject fiscal responsibility and strategic reality into the administration's nuclear weapons planning, which many current and former officials have acknowledged is unaffordable. For instance, in 2013 former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General James Cartwright, said of U.S. nuclear weapons modernization plans, "The challenge here is that we have to recapitalize all three legs [of the nuclear triad] and we don't have the money to do it."

The Pentagon's 2013 "Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States" declared "that we can ensure the security of the United States and our Allies [and] partners and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent while safely pursuing up to a one-third reduction in deployed nuclear weapons from the level established in the New START Treaty." Other experts, including a commission chaired by former General Cartwright, said the U.S. could go even lower without jeopardizing security.

Despite these facts, U.S. nuclear weapons planning calls for spending \$350 billion over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office, and up to \$1 trillion over the next 30 years, to build a nuclear force that will far exceed what the President, the Pentagon, and security experts have said will be needed to effectively deter a nuclear threat. Such spending is not only problematic for taxpayers concerned about fiscal responsibility, but those deeply committed to strong and capable military.

Choosing to rebuild a nuclear triad with such capacity excesses means choosing not to invest in other areas. The recent National Defense Panel report called these plans "unaffordable" and a threat to "needed improvements in conventional forces." Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, has echoed similar sentiments, stating in December 2014 that "[w]e've got a big affordability problem out there with those [nuclear modernization] programs."

America must reconcile the facts: our Defense budget is already squeezed, a nuclear