

her accounting certificate. She then began working extensively in the Department of Defense budget career field, culminating her career as a budget analyst for the Army since 2010.

Ms. Collins' service to our nation as both a military spouse and civil service employee has spanned the country: she has traveled, worked and lived in Fort Ord, California, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Fort Dix, New Jersey, Fort Gilliam, Georgia, and served two assignments with Defense Finance and Accounting Services in Orlando, Florida, and Fort Meade, Maryland.

Ms. Collins is the well-deserved recipient of numerous superior performance awards, incentive awards, certificates of appreciation and certificates of achievement. She has earned the Outstanding Financial Support Award, Peer Award and two commander's awards for her untiring work supporting the relief efforts with Hurricane Katrina as well as her subject matter expertise in the Bradley Manning court martial that drew worldwide media attention.

Throughout her career, Ms. Collins has always upheld the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct. Her colleagues have described her as a "trusted professional who took care of Soldiers, Army Families and Army Civilians."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor and thank Ms. Evelyn Collins as well as her two sons, Calvin and Adrian, for their unwavering support of our country. The sheer longevity of her career is indicative of her strength of character and her dedication to the United States. She has been an invaluable Army employee that will be difficult to replace. I wish her many more years of happiness and success in her retirement.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support and as a cosponsor of the Huizenga-Hahn Amendment to increase funding in the 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance Account by \$36,306,000. This modest increase, offset by reducing funding for the Department of Energy, Departmental Administration, by \$36.7 million, will benefit Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund related projects.

I have the good fortune to represent the city of Boston and its Port. Like many ports in this country, the port of Boston is vital to the local and regional economies, generating \$2.4 billion in economic benefits annually and supporting 34,000 jobs.

In fact, every one of our 50 states relies on seaports for imports and exports, totaling

some \$3.8 billion worth of goods moving through U.S. seaports each day, supporting more than 13 million jobs across the country.

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was created in 1986 to ensure that we could maintain and expand our ports and harbors in order to facilitate commerce and drive our economy. For too long Congress has engaged in budgetary shell games, starving the fund and hampering our ability to undertake dredging projects critical to maintaining this vital infrastructure.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013, which the House passed overwhelmingly last year by a vote of 412–4, moved to rectify this situation by setting incremental target expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that reaches 80% in 2020.

Mr. Chair, our amendment is simply in line with the amount overwhelmingly supported by my colleagues, increasing from \$1.178 billion to \$1.25 billion the amount allocated from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, in order to support the critical needs of our nation's ports. The balance in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund at the beginning of fiscal 2016 will be approximately \$8.9 billion. The money is there. With the re-opening of the Panama Canal slated for next year we need to re-double our efforts to make certain that U.S. ports are prepared for increased commercial opportunities and will remain competitive.

All of our constituents benefit from the success of U.S. ports. It is time that we provide the resources to ensure that success. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TORKLIFT CENTRAL

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Torklift Central from Kent, Washington, for their dedication to the community as demonstrated through their annual Turkey Challenge.

In 2011, with the economy in the depths of the recession and many families struggling as a result, the Kent Food Bank unexpectedly lost the majority of its funding with the holiday season just around the corner. This left many households in the area scrambling to find ways to feed their families. Fortunately, Torklift Central—a family-owned company based in Kent—stepped up to meet the needs of the community by forming the Turkey Challenge. The Challenge, which is heading into its fifth year this winter, pits local businesses against each other in a friendly competition to see who can collect the greatest amount of canned food items and cash donations for the food bank. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to providing Thanksgiving meals for residents and families who visit the Kent food bank during the holiday.

Every year, donations for the Turkey Challenge have grown in both the number of cans and monetary donations received. The goal for 2014 was 4,000 pounds of food and \$17,000, an ambitious goal that would have nearly doubled what they collected in the previous year. Participating companies far exceeded those

goals, bringing in 10,820 pounds of canned food and \$22,418 in donations. Altogether, the Turkey Challenge has raised \$56,560 and collected 16,804 pounds of food.

Without the continued dedication of Torklift Central to the Kent Food Bank, many families in our community would go without a Thanksgiving meal and food throughout the year. No longer does the food bank have to turn away families on this special day and at other times during the year due to lack of supplies. Because of Torklift Central's outstanding initiative and contributions, the community can give less fortunate families a memorable Thanksgiving.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Torklift Central. Their service to our community is an inspiration to all organizations across the State of Washington.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SONNY DIXON

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sonny Dixon for his hard work and dedication throughout his broadcast career and public service.

Mr. Dixon is a proud Savannah native, who has readily volunteered to help out in and around his community for decades, serving on numerous boards, including various Chamber of Commerce boards, the United Way of the Coastal Empire, American Cancer Society, Savannah Technical College, Boy Scouts of the Coastal Empire, and many more. Mr. Dixon was twice elected to serve on the Garden City Council before moving on to the Georgia General Assembly. Continuing his public service, Mr. Dixon was elected to five terms in the Georgia House of Representatives, where he served on the key committees of Appropriations, Rules, Transportation, and Interstate Cooperation, on which he served as vice-chairman. Mr. Dixon later retired from elected office in 1997.

After 18 years on the anchor desk at WTOG, Mr. Dixon is set to retire on May 31, 2015. Mr. Dixon has been a fixture on the Savannah broadcasting landscape for decades covering various issues. He has garnered national attention through his appearances on CBS Evening News, the CBS Early Show, CNN, and the Montel Williams Show. Mr. Dixon has also been featured in Newsweek magazine and in other major newspapers. Mr. Dixon has claimed many awards and achievements, including the Edward R. Murrow Award, Georgia Associated Press Award for Best Documentary and Georgia's Best TV Anchor by the Associated Press. He has also received an Emmy for Best Anchor which distinguishes him amongst both large and small television markets.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join his colleagues, family and many friends in celebrating Mr. Sonny Dixon. He will always be respected for his civic service in assisting and informing our community and the State of Georgia.

HONORING THE 416TH/412TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMANDS AND ENGINEER COMMANDS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of a new memorial wall dedicated by the 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands along with the Engineer Commands Association in honor of members of the armed forces who have paid the ultimate price in service to our country.

The memorial, located at the Parkhurst United States Army Reserve Center in Darien, Illinois, features pictures of the brave service members who laid down their lives for their country. The 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands and the Engineer Commands Association worked countless hours planning, designing, and fundraising for the memorial which will stand in testament to sacrifices made by their fellow soldiers.

I would like to thank the 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands and Engineer Commands Association for honoring our fallen heroes with this memorial wall.

HONORING PHYLLIS MITZEN WITH THE NATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend Phyllis Mitzen on her well-deserved recognition from the National Association of Social Workers. Tonight, Phyllis will be presented with their prestigious 2014 National Lifetime Achievement award. This is a fitting accolade as she has devoted most of her adult life to the social work profession and to improving the care and lives of older Americans.

Phyllis is the co-director of the Center for Long-Term Care Reform in Chicago. She is known and respected as a leader in gerontological social work, has authored books and scholarly papers in the field, and was integral in reforming long-term care in Illinois by helping to craft trailblazing reform legislation. In addition, she serves on a number of statewide advisory boards and commissions. She has also influenced and inspired many as the coordinator of the Older Adult Studies Program at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Before her work at the Center for Long-Term Care Reform, Phyllis spent close to 25 years helping to establish the Council for Jewish Elderly's important presence in our community, first as Director of Home and Community Based Services and ultimately as Director of Government Affairs. Under Phyllis' leadership, CJE Senior Life expanded programming to offer a myriad of services, from evaluating the evolving needs of seniors to adult day pro-

grams and other supportive services which allow individuals to remain in their home and community with dignity. It is critical that such comprehensive and supportive programs are available in our area, and CJE Senior Life gives seniors appropriate services through professional care. It is a testament to Phyllis' amazing contributions to seniors and their families.

Phyllis has served as a mentor and friend to many. I join with them in applauding her steadfast commitment to fighting for the dignity and care of older Americans and in thanking her for her decades of work in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAUREEN MARINELLI

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maureen Marinelli, a thirty-two year veteran letter carrier for the United States Postal Service and the former president of the Massachusetts State Letter Carriers Association. As someone who served as a letter carrier in the past, I applaud her dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ms. Marinelli's career as a letter carrier began in 1983. Almost immediately, it was clear Maureen Marinelli was an exemplary leader among the Massachusetts Letter Carriers, and her peers took notice. Maureen worked tirelessly to help letter carriers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She spent her career working at the grassroots level, representing and advocating for her fellow letter carriers at the state and local level. She did this while remaining a loyal letter carrier. Because of her day to day drive to listen to local letter carriers, she understood the fundamental needs of the men and women we rely on to get our mail.

After twenty years of distinguished service as a letter carrier, her peers elected her the president of the Massachusetts State Letter Carriers Association in 2004 and then again in 2011. During both terms in office, Maureen worked with labor groups across Massachusetts in order to better serve her letter carriers. Because of her hard work, she improved the lives of men and women across the Commonwealth by ensuring that our mail was delivered on time and with a smile.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Maureen Marinelli on this remarkable occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a wonderful retirement and many years of happiness, as well as in thanking her for working tirelessly as an advocate for letter carriers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rainier Beach High School in Seattle, Washington for increasing its gradua-

tion rate by 25 percent since 2011. Located in the southeastern region of Seattle along the shores of Lake Washington, Rainier Beach High School first opened its doors in 1960, and is currently home to about 400 students from the 9th Congressional District.

In previous years, Rainier Beach suffered low enrollment and graduation numbers, as well as high dropout rates. This suddenly changed two years ago when parents, staff, and community members of the Rainier Beach neighborhood pushed for an investment in an International Baccalaureate (IB) advanced learning program. This investment was made to improve the educational outcomes for all students at Rainier Beach. IB is a proven academic curriculum for 11th and 12th grade students across the nation that challenges young adults and prepares them for higher education. Students who have successfully completed IB classes have the opportunity to earn an IB diploma, making them more academically competitive in the college application process.

Since the implementation of this program, Rainier Beach High School has witnessed tremendous improvements in the academic success of their students. Graduation rates have risen substantially in recent years, with 79 percent of seniors graduating with high school diplomas this past spring. Moreover, Rainier Beach continues to exceed the Seattle School District's average graduation rate of 74 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Rainier Beach High School on this academic achievement. I am extremely proud of Rainier Beach for valuing education and promoting growth. Their success story sets the bar very high for schools around the country.

2015 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2015*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young man from my Congressional District, Andrew Lowery from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School. Mr. Lowery is the winner of the 2015 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Mr. Lowery's artwork, a self-portrait in graphite, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition.

In fact, 63 works from 15 different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It's a real tribute to Mr. Lowery's skill and vision that his work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition.

Mr. Lowery's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Mr. Lowery's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the