

great Sheriff, Sheriff Leon Wilmot from Yuma, Arizona.

Sheriff Wilmot has been an effective law enforcement officer and a staunch advocate in opposing illegal immigration and for supporting the rule of law. His leadership has recently been recognized by the National Sheriff's Association which has named him Chairman of its Immigration and Border Security Committee.

Much deserved Sheriff Wilmot, congratulations. Know that we support your efforts here in Washington, D.C.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIC LUND

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Eric Lund, a true American hero, as well as the community that banded together to help serve one of their neighbors who sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom.

Sergeant Eric Lund joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 2003 after graduating from Ludington High School. He served with the 126th C Company as a gunner atop a Military All-Terrain Vehicle, and was in Afghanistan when he was injured in May 2012 as a result of a roadside IED. The explosion resulted in serious injuries including the loss of both arms.

Eric spent over two years enduring numerous surgeries during his rehabilitation in San Antonio, Texas. However, he knew his goal was to be back home in Ludington—near friends, family, and the water. Returning home for Eric also meant living an active lifestyle that include biking, being outdoors, and most importantly, being able to live independently and tackle everyday tasks on his own.

That dream became a reality as a result of an outpouring of support from the Ludington community and the “Helping a Hero” organization.

As part of the their first Michigan project, “Helping a Hero,” working with Malliet Construction, built Eric a new home featuring adaptive technology to allow for independent living tools like voice activation and a shower with scrubbers. Donations from the Ludington community came in various forms—from money to materials and labor. There are so many people to thank for making this project a reality for Eric, and I will be proud to join them all on June 8, 2015 for the neighborhood “Welcome Home” ceremony.

As our nation's heroes return home, we must welcome them back and recognize the sacrifices they made protecting our freedoms and way of life. As the Ludington community has proven, we can and must help serve these brave men and women. So long as there are soldiers like Sergeant Eric Lund fighting for us, we can never forget that the cost of freedom is high.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition of the proposed cuts to the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) under the Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill.

Since 2009, the Department of Transportation has provided state and local governments with grants to complete infrastructure projects. Many communities have profited from these investments, providing neighborhoods with safer pedestrian pathways, revitalizing economically distressed areas, and reducing congestion from traffic.

TIGER grants are meant to provide eligibility to infrastructure projects that do not qualify for restrictive formula based federal funding. Freight, port, and bridge projects across the country have benefited from financial support from TIGER. Reducing accessibility to TIGER grants will prolong infrastructure projects and increase traffic in our communities.

The House FY16 THUD appropriations bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is a \$400 million reduction from the 2015 enacted level, cutting the Department of Transportation's budget by 80%.

Severe cuts to TIGER are troubling, and substantial funding for the program is crucial to my District. For example, the Durfee Avenue grade separation proposal in Pico Rivera would reduce an estimated 15.3 hours of vehicle delays on a daily basis. Rosemead Boulevard/Lakewood Boulevard in my District carries tens of thousands of cars every day, providing goods movement to the Gateway cities. The Del Amo Boulevard bridge is structurally deficient, outdated, and in need of maintenance to improve lane capacity problems.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and language restricting TIGER eligibility in the HOUSE FY16 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about providing services that communities deserve.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MS. CORA CIOTTI FROM THE WELDON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent,

Ms. Cora Ciotti, as she retires after working nearly 40 years in the education field. Ms. Ciotti began her career in education in New York where she worked as a Youth School Officer for the New Hyde Park School system. Later, she moved to Weldon, North Carolina, in my congressional district, where she worked for the Weldon City Public School system in a number of capacities.

Before embarking on a career in education, Ms. Ciotti attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York where she was trained and certified as a Youth School Officer. Ms. Ciotti's training helped her to navigate some of the unique challenges that were presented by students and empowered her to have a dynamic and positive influence on their lives. Many of the youth who were influenced by Ms. Ciotti decades ago have grown into productive citizens who are making positive contributions to their communities.

After relocating to Weldon, North Carolina, Ms. Ciotti began working with the Weldon City Public Schools, where she served as a Teacher's Assistant and Attendance Counselor, among other important roles. She demonstrated care, compassion, and dedication to the students with whom she worked. If any student was hungry, Ms. Ciotti fed them. If any student lacked clothing, Ms. Ciotti clothed them. At times, Ms. Ciotti even provided shelter for some of our troubled youth by opening up her own home.

Ms. Ciotti was indeed special in her own way to the youth; she possessed a talent for reaching the youth right where they were; she deserved judgement; she changed the lives of many and pushed them in a positive direction, and for that we should all be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Cora Ciotti has positively influenced the lives of countless young people over her nearly 40-year career in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Ciotti for her dedication to generations of young people and in offering her best wishes as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LOUIS “BILL” HORTSMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of William Louis “Bill” Hortsman, a devoted family man, respected Hoosier leader, and a selfless contributor to the Jennings County community. Bill leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Hortsman, and his two children, Duane and Denise.

Mr. Hortsman graduated from North Vernon High School in 1951 and, in addition to attending First United Methodist Church in North Vernon, was also a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Charles-ton.

Bill is a true patriot who served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 after graduating from high school. In his early career, Bill worked for Hortsman Standard Service Station and Hortsman's Standard Oil Delivery.

Bill was also well-known for his commitment to his community. He was a life-long volunteer

at the Center Township Fire Department, and he served as Chief for eight years. Bill was also a bus driver for Jennings County Schools for 4 decades, Justice of the Peace for Center Township for eight years, Jennings County Treasurer for four terms, and a worker in the Jennings County Treasurer's Office for 28 years before retiring in 2008. In his free time, which was limited, Mr. Hortsman enjoyed word puzzles and the outdoors, including fishing trips and yard work.

Bill was not only a valuable asset to his community, but also my friend. He frequently attended my Coffee with the Congressman meetings in the 6th District of Indiana and was a long-time supporter of my efforts to serve the State of Indiana. I will always be grateful for the encouragement he gave me and the impact he made on me throughout my political career. He will be missed.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of William Louis "Bill" Hortsman. My thoughts and prayers go out to Bill's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

**CONGRATULATING MADISON
BRUNETTI AND LOGAN NEELEY**

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to a staffer at my district office in Charleston, West Virginia. On June 6, 2015, Madison Brunetti will marry Logan Neeley. I am overjoyed that these two people have decided to commit to one another for the rest of their lives, and uphold the sacred institution of marriage.

I join with their families, friends, and loved ones in congratulating Madison and Logan on this momentous occasion. I wish the soon to be married couple the best of luck, and long, happy lives together.

**TRIBUTE TO GERTIE WEBB OF
SALEM, OREGON**

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who passed away on March 17th of this year. I first met Gertie Webb when her oldest daughter and I worked for former Congressman Denny Smith of Oregon. Subsequently, I developed my long lasting friendship with Gertie when she worked for me while I served as the Oregon House Majority Leader.

Gertie was the youngest of nine children—five brothers and four sisters. Their father was a laborer while their mother tended to the needs of the family and the house. Gertie came along shortly before the onset of the Depression and was old enough to watch her brothers leave the home to serve in World War II. While those were challenging years for an entire generation, those were also the defining years of Gertie Webb's life.

During her childhood years, Gertie was expected to perform her fair share of the chores around the house. By age 13, she was driving the family car to the store to purchase the groceries. When she returned from her babysitting jobs, she would place much of her money in the family jar. It wasn't until she was ready to enroll in high school that her mother returned most of the money so Gertie could attend St. Mary's Academy in Portland, Oregon. Those were tough times, but whenever Gertie spoke of her youth, there always seemed to be a positive message in what she said.

In 1953, Gertie married Charles Webb in Portland, Oregon where they resided until 1964. With their three young children—Sue, Jan and Bill—they then moved to Salem where Gertie lived for almost 50 years. Charles passed away in 1982 and shortly after their college years, the kids scattered in different directions. That is when Gertie returned to the working world, including jobs with Congressman Denny Smith and at the Oregon legislature.

My last visit with Gertie took place at a nursing home where she lived her final three years. These were not sad years but years filled with many friendships and positive memories. She was an active resident, always offering assistance in organizing field trips, social events and other activities for her fellow residents. She would start out every morning in the chapel attending daily religious services.

Gertie's faith was the bedrock of who she was. Not one to wear it on her sleeve, Gertie instead manifested her faith through her actions towards others. A good listener, she had a particular interest in the concerns and needs of the less fortunate. When she would say that she would offer her prayers for someone suffering from a hardship, she truly meant it.

And then there is Gertie Webb, the sports guru. Mr. Speaker, this woman knew sports better than anyone I've ever known. Football. Baseball. Basketball. Golf. It didn't matter what sport, Gertie could tell you what teams were ahead in the standings or what golfer had the best shot at winning the U.S. Open. I was told that some of the nursing home staff would frequently visit Gertie's room for a rundown on the scores. Her favorite team was Notre Dame. Few things caused her as much stress as the Irish facing defeat. Rather than watching the final outcome, she would turn off the TV and rely on one of her children or a close friend to give her the final score.

Gertie leaves behind many family members and friends. I offer my condolences to Sue, Jan and Bill following the death of their mother. Someday, we will all face the same fate as Gertie. When my day comes, I can only hope to be as willing to accept the journey as my friend Gertie. Her faith carried her through a remarkable 85-year journey and I am so thankful that I was able to encounter her during her journey. She was a dear friend to many, and a loving and caring mother of three and grandmother of five.

HONORING JOE DOWLING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GUTHRIE THEATER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Joe Dowling, who is retiring in June from the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota after serving 20 distinguished years as Artistic Director. During Mr. Dowling's impressive tenure, he has directed more than 50 shows and reinforced the foundation for this world-class Minnesota cultural cornerstone.

Mr. Dowling joined the Guthrie as Artistic Director in 1995, bringing his ceaseless creativity and tireless dedication to the arts after leading other theater companies in his native Ireland. Among Mr. Dowling's many achievements is the development of training programs like the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program and A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training. He also solidified a partnership with The Acting Company of New York and created the WorldStage Series, two programs that allow local talent to tour the U.S. and in turn welcome internationally renowned theater programs to Minnesota. He has also shared his vision and talents on Broadway and at other prominent venues throughout the United States and Europe.

Perhaps Mr. Dowling's deepest legacy is the success of a \$125 million capital campaign and construction of a new theater home which was completed in 2006. Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, the theater is an architectural gem. At 285,000 square feet, the new Guthrie includes public gathering spaces and restaurants, and a 178-foot "endless bridge" that highlights a spectacular, soaring view of the mighty Mississippi River. At the heart of the new Guthrie are three unique theaters offering special performance spaces and viewing perspectives. The Dowling Studio in particular is an intimate 200-person black box theater that has welcomed 33 local acting companies and stands as a testament to its namesake's commitment to developing and showcasing the Twin Cities arts community.

In a metropolitan area that boasts more theater seats per capita than anywhere else in the U.S. outside of New York, Minnesotans take great pride in our thriving, high quality performing arts community. Experiencing a performance at the Guthrie is a particular joy, and I attend shows there whenever I can. I am clearly not alone, because under Dowling's leadership, the Guthrie entertains, enriches and enlightens 400,000 patrons each year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to honor Mr. Dowling and his many contributions to the rich cultural landscape in Minnesota as the Guthrie Theater's Artistic Director as well as his lifetime of commitment to the arts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 21, 2015, I was on medical