

TRIBUTE TO PINELLAS SUNCOAST  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**HON. DAVID W. JOLLY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority for the solidarity they expressed in their efforts to help Orlando.

The PSTA is giving free bus passes to individuals who wish to donate blood across Pinellas County in aid of the victims of the Orlando shooting. This is just one of the many ways in which Pinellas County has stood with Orlando in the wake of the attack to express our support and sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the PSTA for helping the Orlando victims and coordinating a county-wide effort for residents to donate blood. I ask that this body join me in recognizing the efforts of PSTA and in praying for all the families of those affected in Orlando. God Bless.

HONORING MANTECA CITY FIRE  
CHIEF KIRK WATERS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Manteca City Fire Chief Kirk Waters, who has announced his retirement after 29 years of service.

Kirk always sought a career that allowed him to be of service to others, and ultimately received a degree from Pruitt College of Respiratory Therapy. After becoming a state-licensed respiratory therapist, he began working for the Modesto City Hospital.

In keeping with his devotion to service, Kirk applied for a position with the Manteca City Fire Department in March of 1986. Being the son of a firefighter, Kirk was captivated by the idea of following in his father's footsteps. He began his work in June of the following year, and quickly proved himself to be an invaluable member of the Department. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Firefighter Engineer in November of 1990. Due to his strong work ethic and desire to improve the community, Kirk was named Acting Captain in July of 1995. He was subsequently made Fire Captain the following year. He continued this trend of advancement by being named Fire Division Chief in February of 2005 and Fire Chief in November of 2009.

During his tenure as Chief, Kirk was responsible for speeding up response times in spite of a 40 percent increase in emergency calls. Furthermore, he orchestrated a plan to improve response efficiency at large structure fires through the strategic positioning of fire trucks. These are only two feats among the many innovative measures Chief Waters spearheaded during his tenure. He undoubtedly went above and beyond in his duty to improve public safety in the community.

Fire Chief, however, is not the only capacity through which Mr. Waters sought to benefit his community. In fact, Kirk serves on the Board of Directors for the Manteca/Lathrop Boys and

Girls Club, the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Raymus HOPE Family Shelter. Along with all of these honorable commitments, Kirk makes time to coach youth basketball for the Manteca Parks and Recreation Department. It is clear that he has dedicated his life to service for others.

Kirk and his wife, Shelly, have 6 children, are very involved with their church, and enjoy remaining healthy and active. Following his retirement, Kirk will return to his roots as a respiratory therapist and help sick newborns at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire services in the city of Manteca by Chief Kirk Waters, and wish him continued success in his retirement and future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEIGH ANNE MOHLER

**HON. DAVID W. JOLLY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Leigh Anne Mohler's achievements in winning the award of General Manager of the Year for Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Ms. Mohler has over 12 years of experience in sales and management. In September 2013, she joined the Fairfield Inn & Suites Clearwater team and has sought to take every business opportunity possible since. She has been able to successfully close 24 new accounts and increase their corporate occupancy through her exemplary work ethic and consummate drive.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Mohler for her tenacious business ethic in Pinellas County. Her hard work only serves to increase the amount of opportunities for our county and I ask that this body join me in recognizing Ms. Mohler for her incredible efforts.

IN CELEBRATION OF MR. ALBERT  
"BARNEY" LAROCHE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Albert "Barney" LaRoche in celebration of reaching his 100th birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past one hundred years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on New Hampshire.

Mr. LaRoche was inducted into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey Hall of Fame on February 17, 2002 for all of his contributions to hockey in the Granite State. As a player for twenty two years, most notably with the Berlin Maroons, and as a coach for Notre Dame High School and later his beloved Maroons, Barney helped achieve impressive records for all the teams he worked with. His dedication to the sport of hockey and skill as a competitor and mentor have not been forgotten to enthusiasts in the Granite State and I

know they all join with me in wishing him a happy birthday.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. LaRoche on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,360,176,741,617.54. We've added \$8,733,299,692,704.46 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LACEY EKBERG

**HON. DAVID W. JOLLY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Lacey Ekberg for being named the new president of Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Ekberg has been named the new chamber president, but such a role is not alien to her. She previously served as the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce President with a self-proclaimed "call-it-as-I-see-it" attitude. She is determined to put the town on the map and I know she will work hard with business owners and the government to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Ekberg for her tenacity in her work for Tarpon Springs and Pinellas County. She has an admirable and diligent work ethic and I ask that this body join me in congratulating Ms. Ekberg on her new position.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 368 (Rep. Ellison amendment).

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 368.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY  
BIGHAM

**HON. MICK MULVANEY**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Larry

Bigham, one of my constituents and a true servant of our community.

A native of Chester, South Carolina and proud graduate of The Citadel, Larry dedicated much of his free time—what little he had—in service to his community. In addition to owning a popular restaurant in Rock Hill, he served on the Rock Hill School Board, the Rock Hill Economic Development Board, the Santee Cooper Board, the Winthrop University Eagle Club Board, was actively engaged in the local Republican Party, and even ran for Congress—twice. His near-victories, in a part of the world long dominated by the other party, set the stage for many future wins, including my own: something that will never be lost on me.

Most importantly, Larry was a loving father, grandfather, and husband. I send my deepest condolences to all of them, and especially his wife, Kathy. Please know that Larry's lasting legacy will be the way in which he so positively impacted countless people in our community, and his memory will live on for years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANTONIETTA MONTIN

##### HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Antonietta Montin, a Largo resident celebrating her 105th birthday.

Ms. Montin was born in 1911 in New York City. She grew up with ten siblings, and she became known for her amazing story telling and her kind heart. She cherished her upbringing in a large family and decided to have one of her own. Today, Ms. Montin has three sons, six grandsons, and twelve great-grandchildren.

She has had the opportunity to travel the world, and frequently can be found sharing stories of these experiences with her friends and family. Ms. Montin is also known for her love of dancing, which she showed her guests at her 105th birthday this past May.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Antonietta Montin for her vivacity and kind heart. I wish her the best in her birthday celebrations and I ask that this body join me in recognizing Ms. Montin for her incredible life.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED SHEHEEN

##### HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Fred Sheheen, one of my constituents, a civil rights activist, and a true servant of our State.

Fred was born in 1937 in Camden, South Carolina to Austin and Lucile. He graduated from Camden High School, and later with honors from Duke University. He dedicated his life to serving his fellow South Carolinian and those less privileged. As the head of the State Commission on Higher Education for nearly a decade, he was instrumental in helping to

make the dream of higher education for all people a reality.

Fred is survived by his wife of nearly fifty years, Rose, his daughters Maria and Margaret, and brothers Austin and Robert, and his grandchildren Austin, Joseph, Anthony, William, Robert, David, Olivia, and Thomas.

Fred is also survived by his son, Vincent. Vincent and I served together in the South Carolina Senate, and I consider him a friend. Fred went to his grave knowing that his son is a good and honest man, an earnest public servant, a good father and husband, and a devout Catholic. I can think of no better memorial to any man than to have a son like Vince.

Fred changed the lives of many for the better, and he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAY AND PLAY INITIATIVE

##### HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Tampa's Stay and Play initiative for helping reduce crime among teenagers in our cities.

Last year, the city of Tampa launched the initiative to help provide a safe space for kids after there was an increase in gun-related crime in the local area. The more than 16,000 teens that participated, all aged between 13 and 19 years old, were granted free passes to recreation centers which stayed open later than usual. As a consequence of the initiative, the homicide rate fell significantly in the following weeks.

The initiative is returning this summer, and food will be served at a few of the locations. In addition, this year's program will include computing, cooking, music and art classes. The initiative provides the students with an invaluable opportunity to pursue alternative life choices away from crime.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and the Stay and Play initiative for giving our children a better chance to succeed in life. The program has helped build stronger communities and save lives, and I ask that this body join me in recognizing their efforts.

#### THEY STAND

##### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem by Albert Carey Caswell.

THEY STAND.

IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED POLICE OFFICERS OF DALLAS—CORPORAL LORNE AHRENS, OFFICER MICHAEL KROL, SERGEANT MICHAEL SMITH, OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON, OFFICER PATRICK ZAMARRIPA

They Stand,  
so we can keep  
All our freedoms we so seek  
They Stand to keep the peace  
To serve and protect while all their families  
weep

Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers who in freedom do so believe

All out there on that thin blue line,  
walking out the front door kissing their  
loved ones goodbye

Knowing full well that this might be their  
last time

They care so very deep,  
as why they wear their hearts out on their  
sleeves

Quiet heroes who on the front lines help all  
of those in need

As why they care in them believe

As why it hurts so very bad,

so very deep

"Let not today be like most days"

stand behind them all in hearts always

Because, They Stand for what is true

As why They have devoted their entire life  
to you

They need your love and support,

to help them fight the darkness to thwart

To serve and protect and never neglect

To keep you safe without regret

They swore a sacred oath,

all in their heroic hues of blue to serve and  
protect to give the most

As They fight the darkness when it comes  
into view

While, others run away from harm,

towards the darkness they so swarm

Brothers and Sisters coming together in a  
bond so very warm

Who for each other are willing to die

Police and First Responders,

all in this brilliance born ready to lay down  
their lives

For heaven holds a place,

for such selfless and gallant men and women  
of honor and grace

As now we see their tears upon their face

As one They Stand up against this evil to  
erase

And Hate Is Hard and it makes me cry.

When, I see those tears in their loved ones  
eyes

Whose, beloved ones will never see another  
sun rise

Brothers and Sisters who ask why

Boys and Girls without Moms and Dads,

Husbands and Wives who've lose the best  
friends they ever had

Mothers and Fathers,

whose precious Sons and Daughters Gave  
That Last Full Measure so sad

But the darkness is no match for the light

As five new Angels have risen up to heaven  
this night

Could you,

or would you stand?

To save the life of another woman, child, or  
man

All out there on that thin blue line,  
while every day and night it happens all over  
again

All across Dallas this night there comes a  
gentle rain

As our Lords tears wash down upon their  
families to remain

to ease their pain

Until, up in Heaven they meet again,

and won't have to cry no more

Let not us find Hate

Let us find respect for such men and women  
of such hearts of grace

For these are The Stars of Texas,

who provide the bed of freedom and safety  
for this great State

Thank them now,

please show them how

how much you care for them who walk on  
that thin blue who death awaits

"United we stand,

divided we will fall" ALL LIVES MATTER  
most of all,

"not the color of your skin" answer Dr.  
King's clarion call