

CELEBRATING THE LONG-
STANDING COMMITMENT TO EX-
CELLENCE OF THE NAVAL SUR-
FACE WARFARE CENTER CRANE
DIVISION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the active duty military and civilian employees at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division as they celebrate their 75th anniversary and the 241st birthday of the United States Navy.

Located at Naval Support Activity Crane in Indiana, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division supports the shore command of the U.S. Navy and provides engineering services for electronic systems and electronic, strategic, and special warfare weapons. These systems and weapons have proven to be critical to the success and high performance of the Navy over NSWC Crane's 75 years of service.

American Naval supremacy and military readiness depends on the ability to harness the power of the cutting-edge technologies that NSWC Crane supports. Because of these hardworking employees and military personnel, the exceptional men and women of our Armed Forces are well-equipped to defend our nation and support our allies across the globe.

NSWC Crane, which is located on the third largest naval installation in the world, is an important contributor to the Indiana economy. The base employs over 5,000 civilian personnel and is an engine of the Indiana economy that provides secure jobs to Hoosiers who work every day knowing the vital role they play in the defense of the nation. Moreover, it is one of Indiana's largest high-tech employers, with over 2,000 scientists, engineers, and technicians.

This organization is committed to excellence and continues to promote patriotism, honor, and strong national security. Their continued devotion to our service members and our country should serve as an honorable example for all Hoosiers.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I am honored to celebrate the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division's 75th anniversary and the U.S. Navy's 241st birthday. Lastly, I would like to recognize the important work of the men and women at NSWC Crane, and wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, October 10, 2016 is Taiwan's National Day, marking the founding of the Republic of China 105 years ago. I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important occasion.

I've had the opportunity to visit Taiwan in the past. The country's evolution into a free society that espouses the values of free elections, human rights, free markets, and the rule of law is a significant one in which the United States has played an important role. Taiwan remains a great friend and strategic ally to the United States.

Beginning with passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, Congress has been at the forefront of bilateral relations with the island nation, playing a key part in ensuring Taiwan's military needs are addressed and assisting Taiwan with its democratic and economic development.

That cooperation continues today. Congress has played a critical role in assisting Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly and facilitating its entrance into the Visa Waiver Program. Most recently, through the assistance of the United States, Taiwan was granted observer status in Interpol.

As a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum and World Trade Organization, Taiwan is an important trading partner and export market for the United States in almost every major sector. It is our ninth largest trading partner overall, and the sixth largest international market for U.S. agricultural products. Taiwan has been a full participant in trade negotiations and initiatives, devoting a great amount of effort to multilateral trade and investment activities, working to ensure that any trade agreements are both free and fair.

Given its economic strength and dedication to global trade and investment, Taiwan should be given fair and equal treatment when considering future U.S. partnerships and trade deals. As we continue to discuss the merits of a Trans-Pacific Partnership, we must carefully examine the implications of excluding countries that are not only robust trading partners, but critical geopolitical allies as well. It is my hope that the U.S. Government thoughtfully consider all these relevant factors and allow them to inform our path forward in an evolving landscape of international trade.

I look forward to the continued collaboration with Taiwan in the months and years ahead as we continue to enhance our bilateral security, economic, and trade relations.

HONORING LEVI LEIPHEIMER'S
GRANFONDO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Levi Leipheimer for his work to create the GranFondo cycling event, taking place this year on October 1, 2016, which has enjoyed great success in the cycling community and has raised funds to support many local charitable organizations in our community.

Mr. Leipheimer led an impressive cycling career from 1997 until his retirement in May 2013. His accomplishments include three Amgen Tour of California victories from 2007 to 2009 and a bronze medal at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics in the road time trial.

Mr. Leipheimer later finished as the Tour de France Stage 4 winner in 2009 and won the Tour de Suisse in 2011.

Mr. Leipheimer began "Levi's GranFondo" in 2009 to welcome cyclists of all ability levels from around the world to our community and to raise funds for important local causes. The GranFondo has achieved incredible success under Mr. Leipheimer's leadership, raising nearly \$2 million for philanthropic causes over the past eight years. Furthermore, publications including Red Kite Prayer, Road Bike Action and Outside Online have recognized the GranFondo as one of the best organized cycling events in the world.

The GranFondo has raised nearly \$2 million for the King Ridge Foundation which supports numerous programs that address the needs of at-risk youth in our community. For example, the foundation provides funding to the Forget Me Not Farm and the B-RAD Foundation which teach children and teens team-building and leadership skills through farming and outdoor adventures. The Social Advocates for Youth program, also supported by the foundation, provides housing, counseling and job training to young adults at risk for homelessness.

The King Ridge Foundation also creates opportunities for our young people to become involved in cycling through its 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program, which supplies bikes, helmets and locks to 50 underserved youth in our community each year. The GranFondo has also helped our community in times of need, raising over \$60,000 for the Valley Fire relief efforts in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, Levi Leipheimer has created an impressive event that provides resources for young people in need. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. It is therefore, fitting and proper that we honor him here today and recognize the tremendous value of his GranFondo event for our local community.

RECOGNIZING THE TEN YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY OF NAVIENT'S MUN-
CIE, INDIANA FACILITY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ten-year anniversary of Navient's Muncie, Indiana facility in my district. As one of the largest employers in the region, Navient has recognized the talent and value that Hoosiers bring to the table.

Today, Navient has two locations in Indiana and employs more than 2,000 people who are on the front lines providing superior customer service to both private and public sector clients. The employees in Muncie play an integral part in providing quality loan counseling and guidance to over 12 million customers nationwide whose loans are serviced by Navient.

Companies have a choice in where they do business, and I am confident Navient has chosen well in Muncie, Indiana. I want to congratulate the employees in my district for ten years of tremendous work, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I missed roll call vote 557 and 558.

On roll call vote 557, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.

On roll call vote 558, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.

On September 27, 2016, I missed roll call votes 559, 560, 561, and 562.

On roll call vote 559, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 560, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

On roll call vote 561, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 562, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

HONORING LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lennie Roberts, a tireless advocate for our open spaces and wild creatures, a conscience for elected officials on the local, state and federal level for all things environmental and a personal friend for over 35 years. Lennie will be honored today with the extremely rare "Guardian of Nature Award" from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter for her four decades of exemplary service. This is only the second time in the chapter's 83-year history that this honor will be bestowed. There is no one who comes close to Lennie Roberts in vigilance of our environment.

Lennie served on the original California Coastal Commission after it was established by voter initiative in 1972. In 1974, she was a founding docent for Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Whether as policymaker or docent, Lennie Roberts seems to advocate and educate because the laws of nature command her to these tasks.

One of Lennie's greatest accomplishments was her fight against construction of a six lane freeway at Devil's Slide, a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 along California's beautiful coast. Instead, Lennie Roberts had the audacity to proffer to Caltrans a pair of tunnels. These tunnels now connect communities long threatened with periodic isolation when massive rock and debris slides, or the loss of the roadway, occurred during storms.

Construction came after a decades-long, hard-fought battle by the so-called tunnelists. A handful of visionaries saw that San Mateo's beautiful coast could be protected and the public's safety ensured.

Vast stretches of the Santa Cruz mountain range from San Mateo through Santa Clara

counties have been preserved because Lennie and her friends established, with voter approval, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Working with local philanthropists such as Tom Ford and the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Lennie's vision of a permanent mechanism to identify and preserve precious tracts of land has given the Bay Area a crown jewel: huge Redwood forests, hundreds of miles of walking and riding trails, recreational opportunities for people and pets, and habitat that nourishes endangered and threatened species. In part because of Lennie's advocacy, local farmers and ranchers now transition agricultural lands into permanent conservation, often permitting sustainable agriculture to remain on the property even when the land is in public ownership.

Lennie's interests are not simply in the mountains. The coast and coastal waters, and streams that serve as endangered species habitat, are all enriched and preserved through her efforts. Vast stretches of open space along the coast have been preserved by a local ordinance, passed by voters, that was inspired by Lennie's direction and standards.

The Yosemite Trust is an important steward of Yosemite National Park, and Lennie is an active member of the trust's board of directors. The planning and long-term vision for John Muir's most precious place on earth is in skilled hands through Lennie's thoughtful advocacy.

Some say that Lennie Roberts knows every square inch of rural San Mateo County. I can tell you that she certainly knows every square inch that is worth preserving. At the same time, she is also willing to support thoughtful development and this includes using land within already-developed areas for housing and public services. In short, she is a public steward and compromise is often offered but only with the public's best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to join me in honoring San Mateo County's version of a Mount Rushmore figure, Ms. Lennie Roberts. Where Caltrans once proposed to carve a bypass, we might carve her visage although she would undoubtedly oppose such a sacrilege against the pristine nature of our coast, and perhaps file a lawsuit, if anyone seriously made such a proposal. The Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter may be honoring Lennie Roberts with a Guardian of Nature Award, but in truth they are only stating the obvious over the past many decades. Mother Nature has no greater local and regional guardian, and we are all honored to call her friend and leader as she is honored on October 1st for her lifetime of achievement in service to this nation's environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League on the day of the organization's 5th annual Fight for Justice Gala. The ACRL plays an integral role in advocating on behalf of the constitutional and civil rights of Arab Ameri-

cans through its legal and outreach efforts and continues to serve as a driving force toward meaningful change.

The ACRL was founded in 2011 in Dearborn, Michigan to protect and advocate on behalf of the wider Arab American community. The organization acts as a conduit between Arab Americans and the media to ensure adequate and accurate representation on issues affecting the Arab American community. The ACRL is dedicated to combating negative stereotypes through education and outreach, and providing legal representation for individuals whose civil rights have been violated.

The organization plays a vital role in addressing discrimination and helps shape public policy initiatives that protect and preserve Arab Americans' civil rights. ACRL also works to better the wider community through charitable efforts, including recent efforts to provide bottled water to families in Flint.

The ACRL has effectively served the Arab American community at a time when the principles of religious tolerance and respect are under threat. The ACRL's efforts show that, in a time of uncertainty, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We must all come together to combat the most extreme elements of society while recognizing our common humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the ACRL. The organization serves in the public interest through its anti-discrimination initiatives, and it is my hope that it continues to be an effective advocate for the Arab American community.

TRIBUTE FOR PASTOR JAMES MODLISH

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor James Modlish of the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Pastor Modlish, through his faithful service and commitment to God, has served individuals and families across Colorado and the country for the past fifty years.

Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Pastor Modlish received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He went on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Hyles-Anderson College in Hammond, Indiana. After receiving his Ph.D., Pastor Modlish got to work establishing churches across the nation.

In 2007, after establishing churches in Wisconsin, New York, Washington State, and Idaho, Pastor Modlish came back to Walsenburg in Huerfano County, Colorado, where he and his wife planned to retire. God seemed to have other plans for Pastor Modlish. Shortly after moving to Walsenburg he formed the Huerfano Community Bible Church. Today, the Huerfano Community Bible Church has grown to a congregation of 120 people.

Not only has Pastor Modlish spent his life spreading the gospel in communities across the United States, he has also prioritized sharing God's word across the world. Pastor Modlish has visited 26 different countries to inspire missionaries and share the good news of