

RECOGNITION OF GOVERNOR
EDWARDS' BIRTHDAY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th birthday of Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana. One of eight children, Governor Edwards learned the importance of helping others at a very young age, which he's shown through his profound strength and leadership in governing our great state of Louisiana. A retired Airborne Ranger for the United States Army and a diligent public servant, Governor Edwards has always put his community and nation first.

Within his first 8 months in office, Governor Edwards has focused on the state's crippling budget crisis, led our recovery from the historic floods that destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and worked to bring the community together after two tragic shooting incidents. Through it all, he has focused on the positivity in our citizens and the need for rebuilding our state.

Governor Edwards has faced every task and issue with an optimistic attitude, always believing that better days would be coming for Louisiana. I am proud to wish my friend a happy birthday.

HONORING FLOYD "SHAD"
MESHAD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my dear friend and committed community advocate Floyd "Shad" Meshad for his forty four years of work advocating on behalf of America's veterans.

Shad served as a Captain in the U.S. Army and as Medical Service Officer in the Republic of South Vietnam. There, he counseled soldiers in the field who were suffering from a multitude of psychological and emotional problems resulting from their experiences in combat.

Upon his return to the States, he continued this work, dedicating himself to serving American veterans through counseling and pioneered treatment techniques for what would later become known as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD.

Shad's accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to the wellness of veterans. In 1971, Shad started the Vietnam Veterans Re-Socialization Unit, where he spent eight years helping veterans readjust to civilian life. And in 1978, Shad worked to develop and lobby for the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Act, which launched an investigation of PTSD and other psychological issues experienced by some Vietnam veterans. The following year, he founded the Vet Center Outreach Program, which to this day provides readjustment counseling for veterans at more than 300 locations across the country.

In 1985, Shad also founded the National Veterans Foundation (NVF), whose mission is to support veterans in crisis and provide serv-

ices to better the lives of veterans and their family members. The NVF operates a crisis hotline that offers on-the-spot crisis counseling and resource referrals for veterans of all wars.

Shad has received many accolades for his efforts. He is a recipient of the Veterans Administration's Administrator's Commendation & the VA Special Contribution Award and has been featured on many major television networks and news programs including 60 Minutes, 20/20, Dateline, Nightline, and CNN News. He also authored the book, *A Captain for Dark Mornings*, which chronicles his experiences during the war in Vietnam.

My family has known Shad since the 1970s when he worked with my husband Walter to develop the curricula for a class on the Vietnam War at the University of California, Santa Barbara in my district. By offering his personal experiences in Vietnam, Shad has helped thousands of young minds better understand the war through the unique perspective of both a soldier and a therapist.

Shad is a dear friend and I am so grateful for his unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans. His dedication to easing our combat veterans' transition to civilian life is truly inspiring. Through his personal work and the work of the organizations he founded, more than 350,000 veterans have received help with financial problems, mental health issues, receiving VA benefits, healthcare, employment, housing, family counseling, and many other issues.

I am honored to recognize Shad's countless achievements and I would like to express my upmost gratitude for his service to America's veterans. I wish him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDI-
ANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED
CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, October 21, 2016. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On October 21, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Citlalli Guadalupe Lindsey, Milan Torlak, Susan Wambui Njoroge, Balwinder Kaur Kandola, Alberto Trevino Alvarez, Daniel Alvarez Sanemeterio, Yolanda

Barrera, Timothy Overcomer Cangmah, Michelle Buenaventura Capatan, Emmanuel Chigozie Chijioke, Jacqueline Esther Diah, Teresa de Jesus Alcaraz de Diaz, Guillermo Diaz, Veronica Fernandez, Raul Garcia, Claudia Edith Hernandez Franco, Adolfo Hernandez, Ahmed Hjayyer, Francisco Javier Jimenez, David Leonardo Lagunas, Javier Lira, Shaima Ramzi Musa, Vivian Thuy Nguyen, Kim Nguyen-Rienks, Elodia Ontiveros, Nareshkumar Kantilal Patel, Kishankumar Nareshkumar Patel, Jinal Patel, Immaculee Gakwaya Songa, and Valentina Trifunovic.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on October 21, 2016. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING TREE TRUST

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tree Trust, to recognize and commemorate the 40th anniversary of an organization devoted to ending joblessness and expanding the urban tree canopy.

Founded in 1976, Tree Trust was inspired by a simple idea: Improve the environment while investing in people. Tree Trust does exactly that through reforestation drives, employment training, and environmental education programs. They have fought for countless reforms to public programs that now provide meaningful opportunities to serve the community and connect with the outdoors.

For 40 years, Tree Trust has transformed lives and landscapes. They have planted and distributed nearly 90,000 trees and shrubs while investing in over 55,000 youth and adults since their inception. I know the quality of Tree Trust's work first hand. Since being elected to Congress, I have joined them for many tree plantings and community service days. Many summers, I have had the honor to present the Governor's awards at their Youth Employment Program Awards Picnic to outstanding young people who are improving our community.

My driving force in Congress is making a more generous, inclusive, and sustainable society. I want young people to believe that they have the power to make a meaningful change.

I want adults struggling with unemployment to know that they are valuable, important members of community. We as a society will shape our vision of tomorrow through action and service. Tree Trust is an organization that is leading the way, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

Once again, congratulations to Tree Trust for 40 years of service. I am looking forward to seeing what they accomplish in the next 40 years.

TO RECOGNIZE LORRI KOSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the top leaders of the modern fresh produce industry and a Salinas Valley visionary. Lorri Koster is Chair, CEO and a primary shareholder of Mann Packing Company headquartered in Salinas, CA. Mann is a major grower, shipper, and processor of fresh vegetables on the cutting edge of technical innovation and market development. So while you may have never heard of Lorri Koster, I can guarantee that every member of this House has eaten something grown or shipped by Mann Packing.

Lorri was raised in the agricultural industry and is the third generation of her family to work in produce. Her late father Don Nucci had been a key partner in the company. She started her full time career at Mann in 1990 directing the firm's marketing and communication programs. In 2000 Lorri left Mann to join ProduceOnline.com as vice president of marketing. Lorri then became an associate publisher with Produce Business magazine. After several years of writing, raising two young boys and working for Mann on a consulting basis, she returned to the company full time in 2006 to represent her family's interest and lead the business development, marketing and product innovation efforts.

Lorri's leadership extends beyond Mann to the greater fresh produce industry and her local community. In 2000, Lorri was the International Fresh Cut Produce Association board president and the first woman to chair an American produce trade association. She is a past chair of the Grower Shipper Association of Central California. She has participated on the boards of various leadership committees for several industry organizations, including the United Fresh Produce Association, the Produce Marketing Association, Western Growers, the Grower Shipper Association of Central California, and the Produce for Better Health Foundation. She shares my passion and has been a relentless advocate for creating more access to fruits and vegetables in schools and federally funded feeding programs. Lorri currently serves on the Western Growers Association board of directors and a board alternate for the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. At a local level Lorri serves on the boards of the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, and on the business advisory councils for Rancho Cielo and CSUMB's Business School.

Lorri has a Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations with a minor in business marketing

from California State University, Chico. A "baseball mom" and "Forty Niner Faithful", she resides in Salinas with her husband Tom where she loves cheering on their two boys, Jack and Sam.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of the entire House in thanking Lorri Koster for her outstanding leadership in the produce industry and the Salinas Valley. Our nation is a better place because of her efforts. We wish her and her family many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN INDIANA AREA LABOR FEDERATION COMMUNITY LABOR AWARDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL—CIO), recognized several individuals and organizations for their dedication and service during the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on Thursday, October 20, 2016. These individuals, in addition to all Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations will receive special recognition. Jeff Chidester, Ironworkers 395, is the recipient of the Service to Labor Award for his many years of service to the labor movement and his outstanding dedication to his fellow union members.

The Union Labor Award was presented to the Women of Steel, United Steelworkers, District 7, for their unselfish devotion to the labor movement through its promotion in all areas: social, civic, educational, and political.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg, South Bend, Indiana, was honored with the Community Services Award for his exemplary service to his community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Indiana.

State Senator Earline Rogers was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of labor activism and her commitment to her community. For the exceptional service she has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Ray Kasmark, IBEW, and David Blankenship, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, were presented with the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These honorees are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their unions and the Northwest Indiana community through their hard work and tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on 150 years of academic excellence. UW-Platteville celebrated its sesquicentennial throughout the 2015–2016 academic year. As this university enters its 150th year of providing quality and affordable education, it is fitting we highlight the academic achievements of the faculty, staff, graduates, and students. Their continued dedication to higher learning has been a great source of pride for me as the university excels year after year. U.S. News and World Report ranked the online learning courses as one of the top in the nation and it is the fastest growing UW System school.

Founded in 1866, the university is located in Platteville, Wisconsin, near Wisconsin's southwest border. It began its storied history as Wisconsin's first state teacher preparation institution as the Platteville Normal School. Its proud engineering heritage has roots with the Wisconsin Mining Trade School founded in 1907 and in 1917 became the first school in the United States to offer a three-year course in mining engineering. The mining school became the Wisconsin Institute of Technology in 1939, which would merge with the Platteville State Teachers College in 1959 to become the Wisconsin State College and Institute of Technology at Platteville. In 1966, the name was changed again to the Wisconsin State University-Platteville. After joining the UW System governed by the board of regents, the school reached its current namesake in 1971 as the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

I have always been proud of the strong and continuous emphasis placed on education by those I represent in western and central Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is a leading example of this; expanding on its original academic disciplines of engineering and education, it now provides over 42 majors for over 8,000 students. Courses are even offered through an innovative distance education program enabling over 3,000 students the world over to pursue higher degrees. This thriving body of students have banded together under the symbol of a Pioneer. The Pioneers have long established traditions such as the lighting of the "M". Laid in 1936 by mining students attempting to build the largest M in the world, the community now holds a twice-annual ceremony where they light the whitewashed stones in a brilliant blaze. When a tornado caused significant damage to the campus in June of 2014, the Pioneers rallied around their strong sense of community to ensure classes were able to continue for the fall semester.