

tours to engage young learners, providing curriculum materials to various Martinez schools, and sponsoring state-wide conferences and workshops related to history. With 200 volunteers and an additional 300 members, it is no surprise that the Martinez Historical Society is a cornerstone in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Martinez Historical Society is of tremendous value to our community, and its success has brought awareness to our community's vibrant history through the work of the Martinez Museum and its dedication to education. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the Martinez Historical Society here today.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
AARON M. TOBLER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron M. Tobler of the United States Air Force who has been named one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2016.

Aaron enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 2011 and received honors at both basic training and technical school. He is currently a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 50th Intelligence Squadron at Distributed Ground Station-Two at Beale Air Force Base, California where his job is to exploit high-value targets and satisfy intelligence requirements in support of Combatant Commanders around the World. As a direct result of Staff Sergeant Tobler's work, weapon manufacturing compounds were identified and destroyed, crippling an entire terrorist network. He also facilitated successful over watch of Joint Task Force troop convoys, ensuring over two thousand miles of roads were clear of threats.

When he's not working for the Air Force, Aaron is an active member in his community. He is a manager with the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, and serves on the Board of Directors for Rocklin Residents Unite for Fido community group, an organization that offers scholarships to wounded veterans to receive training for their service dogs. He is involved in several community fundraising events, offering strategic support and is a regular blood donor.

Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding Airman. His has accumulated many accolades and medals in his Air Force career, and now he can add being the first Reservist in the Intelligence Career Field to ever be selected as an Outstanding Airman of the Year as one of his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Sergeant Tobler and his family are assigned to Beale Air Force Base in my district. And it is my privilege to recognize him here for his outstanding contributions to California and to the United States.

RECOGNIZING SUE WATSON

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sue Watson, who celebrated her 80th birthday on October 8th. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to her my wishes for an extraordinary, happy birthday and congratulations on this very special milestone.

Sue Watson was born on October 8, 1936 in South Bend, IN. She and her family moved to Palm Beach in 1976. In 1981, Sue was one of the founding members of Temple Judea and in 1982 was among the representative members of Palm Beach County at the first United Jewish Appeal Campaign Leadership Gathering in Israel. An avid dancer, Sue has won numerous ballroom dance competitions and awards—as well as the envy of her peers. She has dedicated her life to caring for others, from volunteering to care for infants born with HIV to her work helping patients at Hospice of Palm Beach County. Sue would say her most important work, however, is being the mother of Jodi and Brad Ochstein and the grandmother of Chris and Jake Ochstein, all of whom love her and were thrilled to be with her to celebrate her 80th birthday.

I am honored to recognize Sue Watson in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I wish her a joyous and enriching year ahead. Happy birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TOM
HAYDEN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Thomas Emmet Hayden—husband, father, and public servant—who passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

Born in Royal Oak, Michigan, Tom attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He served as the editor in chief of the campus newspaper and found a true passion for the Civil Rights Movement. From this critical juncture, Tom began his journey of public service and ensured he would be a voice to the voiceless.

Through these early formative years, Tom became an inspirational and resolute leader, critic, and organizer whose legacy was borne during a time of political and social upheaval. He was politically active during the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, giving voice to a generation that yearned for peace and racial justice.

Tom's dedication to public service continued in the California State Assembly from 1982–1992 and State Senate from 1992–2000. Whether it was divestment from apartheid South Africa or support for solar power, Tom proved to be an amazing political force and spoke truth to power.

Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara Williams, sister, three children, and two grand-

children. His family has much to be proud of given his critical legacy, and he will surely be missed. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Tom Hayden's exceptional life.

HONORING DEBORAH SLIZ ON HER
DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ms. Deborah Rochelle Sliz, who for more than thirty-five years has served with distinction as a trusted advocate for the community-owned utilities that serve consumers in small and large communities alike.

I first met Deborah through her work as the Washington representative of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, fondly known as SMUD. SMUD serves the City of Sacramento with affordable electricity on a not-for-profit basis. And in the same way SMUD has focused on providing reliable, forward-thinking customer service, Deborah has provided her clients with sound advice and valuable insights into energy policy.

Deborah began her career here on Capitol Hill, as Counsel for Chairman Morris K. Udall of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee—now known as the House Resources Committee. There she handled water and power issues, which became her life's work. She went on to advocate for not-for-profit power systems at the American Public Power Association, then at APCO Worldwide. In 2006, she became the President and CEO of Morgan Meguire, LLC and has built a highly regarded government relations firm during a transformative time in the energy industry. Her commitment to community-owned electric utilities, coupled with her business sense, people skills, and personal integrity, have made Morgan Meguire—under her leadership—second to none when it comes to energy policy advocacy.

Deborah has worked with Members of Congress throughout the country, from both sides of the aisle, to advance her clients' interests. Deborah has played a pivotal role in the development of landmark legislation including the Clean Air Act of 1990, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Hoover Power Reallocation Act of 2011, to name just a few.

Utility managers and their elected board members consider her a trusted advisor and say that they have greatly benefited from her leadership and vision, while her colleagues and her staff say she is known for her ability to bring stakeholders together, her integrity, and forthrightness.

With accolades like these, it is not surprising that my personal and professional respect and admiration for Deborah runs deep, and I wish her happiness and good health in her retirement. The wise counsel, determination, and good sense of humor with which she has served on behalf of public power will be fondly remembered.

Thank you for your service, Deborah.

CONGRATULATING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate West Clay Elementary in Carmel, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that West Clay Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

West Clay Elementary's dedication to empower students to become active, independent learners and educational risk takers helps students to achieve their goals and grow academically. This growth mindset allows students to explore opportunities in order to realize their full potential as learners. West Clay creates a positive environment for its students through the school community's commitment to diversity and creating a respectful environment where all students are celebrated for what makes them unique. Their commitment to diversity and excellence has made it a thriving community which fosters respect and builds on a foundation of open ongoing communication between students, teachers, and parents.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at West Clay Elementary give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to West Clay Elementary. I am very proud of you.

DORETHA EDGECOMB

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime accomplishments of

my friend and the trailblazing Floridian, Mrs. Doretha Edgecomb. Her invaluable contribution to the Tampa Bay community is an inspiration to us all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her selfless dedication and honorable service to our community.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a proud graduate of Middleton High School in Tampa, Florida and later Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. She began her esteemed career as a junior high school English teacher with Hillsborough County Public Schools. She later earned a Masters of Arts degree in Reading Education and received certification in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida. Her 52 year career as an educator encompasses numerous positions throughout the field of education, to include Reading Teacher, Learning Specialist, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Elementary Principal.

In 1996, after retiring from the Hillsborough County School District, Mrs. Edgecomb joined Educational Testing Service, serving as a trainer, program developer, and technical assistance advisor for schools in the state departments of Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, she has taught in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

Mrs. Edgecomb was elected to the Hillsborough County School Board in 2004 and re-elected in 2008, where she served as Vice Chair in 2010 and Chair in 2011. She is actively involved in several professional, civil, and social, and community organizations. She represents the School Board on the Hillsborough County Children's Board, serving her second term as Chair. She serves as a member of the Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors as a legislative liaison, board of directors for the Regional Educational Lab-Southeast, Florida State University, advisory committee of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, and the executive board of the Council of Great City Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a 55-year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Athena Society, Inc., where she is the President-Elect of the Robert Saunders Friends of the Library, and a faithful member of Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Edgecomb shared a strong partnership with her distinguished late husband the Honorable Judge George E. Edgecomb. Judge Edgecomb an activist in his own right, blazed the trail for African-Americans in the Tampa Bay. He was the first African-American to serve as Assistant County Solicitor, Assistant State Attorney, and to be appointed as County Judge for Hillsborough County. They share one daughter, Allison who is an Administrator in Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb has selflessly dedicated her life to our community and the children of the Tampa Bay. Countless students and young professionals have benefited from her immeasurable efforts and unabashed enthusiasm. Her commitment will always be remembered and appreciated. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Doretha W. Edgecomb for her lifelong exemplary service to the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of bringing to the attention of the House Grace Episcopal Church of Allentown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year.

Since its earliest days, the Lehigh Valley has been home to a large population of German Americans who established Lutheran and Reformed congregations throughout the region. With the advent of iron-making, however, many British workers began migrating to Allentown, bringing their Episcopalian roots with them. To placate their increasing desire for a church, Rev. Azariah Prior was sent to Allentown where he led Episcopalian services in the Lehigh County Courthouse for three years.

During that time, the first commercially successful anthracite coal-powered iron furnace was created in the community now known as Catasauqua in 1840. Additional workers were needed, and many from Britain joined their fellow countrymen and women in the Lehigh Valley. Further north, in Mauch Chunk, Asa Packer—the renowned railroad tycoon, Congressman, and founder of Lehigh University—requested membership to the Presbyterian Church, but was purportedly rejected due to his unwillingness to sign a temperance pledge. The father of Packer's chief advisor, William Sayre, encouraged him to become Episcopalian. Packer agreed, and the operational headquarters of his Lehigh Valley Railroad in South Bethlehem became a gathering point for other Episcopalian.

Finally, in 1865, the construction of Grace Episcopal Church began on a lot at the northwest corner of Linden and 5th Street.

Today, the Church serves as a bastion of support to the surrounding community through its ministry and its pre-school through elementary, as well as GED, educational programs. It continues to provide a spiritual and physical comfort to the surrounding areas in the Lehigh Valley.

I ask the House to join me in offering congratulations to Grace Episcopal's congregation, and I wish them another 150 years of continued community outreach and spiritual edification.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DAVID BYRNES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sheriff David Byrnes for serving 16 years as Kaufman County Sheriff and for serving a total of 47 years in law enforcement protecting the citizens of Texas.

On November 5, 2017 David Byrnes will retire from a lifetime of serving the United States and Texas. Sheriff Byrnes began his career in the Navy before pursuing a career in law enforcement. He began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff in Tarrant County.