

County Schools, Lorain and the surrounding area hospitals, American Shipbuilding, Cleveland Electric Illuminating, and B.F. Goodrich, to name a few.

IBEW founder Henry Miller envisioned a union of electrical workers banded together toward the goal of improved safety, wages and working conditions for the brotherhood. A century later, his legacy stands tall through the brothers and sisters of Local 129. We offer our heartiest congratulations to IBEW Local 129 in celebration of its rich history and thank you for working to illuminate our world over the last 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF  
SPECIALIST DONALD SCHLIESSER

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued citizen of Cedar Park, Texas. Specialist Donald Schliesser has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. He is deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SPC Schliesser enlisted in the Army in June 1957. After nine years of combined Active and Reserve service as a military radio operator, he left the Army and worked in the civilian sector as a financial planner. He concluded his successful career after 42 years, and enjoyed the next few years in retirement traveling our great nation with his wife. Choosing to be closer to their son, SPC Schliesser and his wife moved to Cedar Park, Texas.

Throughout SPC Schliesser's life, he has demonstrated his deep commitment to selfless service time and time again. In 2007, and again in 2015, SPC Schliesser decided to come out of retirement to serve on the Bond Advisory Task Force to review and recommend potential bond projects to the City Council. His efforts helped establish Cedar Park's infrastructure to accommodate its massive growth. Being an avid pilot, he served in the Contra County Sheriff's Air Posse. Applying his skills learned from the Army, he assists in emergency communications as an amateur radio operator. In 2011, he led the effort to raise \$225,000 in community donations for the Cedar Park Veterans Memorial. Citizens like SPC Schliesser are essential to making cities like Cedar Park, TX great places to live.

Though humble about his military service, Specialist Schliesser has remained dedicated to serving his community and honoring the military. I commend him for his work and am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the

National Football League Players Association (NFLPA).

Since 1956, the NFLPA has served as a strong advocate and defender of the players that make the National Football League (NFL) a world class product. As professional athletes, the players train and compete at the highest level.

The service you provide to your members is incredibly important. In fact, the NFLPA helps ensure the best interests of its players by negotiating a strong Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), ensuring the terms of the CBA are met, negotiating strong retirement and insurance benefits, and enhancing the image of players and their profession on and off the field.

As an avid Denver Broncos fan, the players are valuable and important to our city, the Broncos organization and the sport of football. Our committed Broncos players have brought three Super Bowl Championships home to the city of Denver. The players have always been active in our community and continue to make our city proud.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and commend the players union for the representation it provides to the talented and hardworking football players of the NFL.

WELCOME MEERA ANUSHA  
SARASWATI TEPPARA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate my former Chief of Staff Dino Teppara and his wife, Vatsala, on the birth of their daughter. Meera Anusha Saraswati Teppara was born at 11:10 p.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2016, in South Carolina. Meera weighed six pounds and fourteen ounces and measured 19 inches long. She is the second child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching her grow as she is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to her wellbeing and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Meera's grandparents, Vijay and Vasanti Alsi of Vienna, Virginia, and Dilip and Gita Teppara of Columbia, South Carolina. Congratulations to the entire Alsi and Teppara families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA MARIE  
JONES

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and invaluable service of Ms. Patricia Jones, who passed away August 5, 2016.

Patricia Marie Jones was born on September 3, 1944 in Vallejo, California to Booker T. and Mildred Jones. At a young age the family relocated back to its homeland of Heidelberg, Mississippi where Patricia graduated

from Southside High School at the top of her class.

After her high school graduation, Patricia moved back to the Bay Area and enrolled at Vallejo Junior college. Patricia earned her Associates Degree. Understanding the power of education, Patricia transferred to San Francisco State University where she would earn her Bachelor's Degree two years later in Journalism. She then enrolled into University of California, Berkeley and in 1973 earned her Master's Degree in City Planning.

Patricia had a distinguished career in public service that included local, state and federal service. She served in the city of Richmond as the city planner, the assistant to the City Manager for External Affairs and Assistant Director of Housing Development. She also served as a Board member of the East Bay Community Foundation. Most recently Patricia served as Assistant Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, a regional planning agency representing nine counties in the Bay Area.

Patricia was committed to excellence known for her work ethic, integrity, creativity and fierce determination. She excelled at everything she did.

Patricia was also a world traveler and over the years had visited Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and Cuba. She lived a full life and inspired all those around her to do the same.

But no matter her accomplishments, Patricia always put family first; she always made time for them no matter the time of day or size of the problem. She leaves to honor her memory, brothers Terry and Kenneth Jones, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District remembers the extraordinary life of Ms. Patricia Jones. Her contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.

LAURA TOBEY, NATURAL GROCERS BY VITAMIN COTTAGE, PREMIUM PANELS INC., WANCO INC., COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION AND GENE AND DEE MILSTEIN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Tobey with Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Premium Panels Inc., Wanco Inc., Community First Foundation, and Gene and Dee Milstein for being honored by the Arvada Economic Development Association for their outstanding contributions to the Arvada community.

Laura Tobey is posthumously recognized with the "Community Champion Award". Through her vision, enthusiasm and leadership, Laura was instrumental in the redevelopment of the blighted buildings in Olde Town Arvada. Today this area of Arvada is a thriving retail and commercial district. Her significant impact on the community will be felt for years to come.

Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage is recognized as "Retailer of the Year". Their capital

investment of \$750,000 to the property at 77th and Wadsworth Boulevard created improvements to the façade and interiors including opening an interior walkway to all tenants. I commend Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage on their mission is to provide shoppers with an affordable, healthy lifestyle as well as empower them to take control of their own wellbeing.

Premium Panels Inc. is recognized as the "Outstanding Small Business" for their \$3.1 million capital investment in a building in the Arvada Tech Center allowing the company to remain in Arvada and double their workforce. Premium Panels provides high quality metal roofing panels for commercial and residential roofing.

Wanco Inc. is recognized with the "Outstanding Large Business Award" for their \$8.6 million expansion of a 95,000 square foot building which resulted in the retention of the existing facility and 200 new jobs. Wanco was established in 1984 and is the leading manufacturer of highway safety and traffic control products.

Community First Foundation is recognized with the "Community Partnership Award" for their \$1 million grant to Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Health Sciences building in Arvada. This investment in the RRCC will improve the quality of education for students and create positive change within the community. Community First Foundation is a grant making public charity dedicated to identifying and solving broad community problems. Gene and Dee Milstein are recognized with the "Lloyd J King Entrepreneurial Spirit Award".

Gene and Dee are the founders and owners of Applewood Seed Company which has been in business for more than 50 years. Applewood Seed Company is a premier commercial and wholesale supplier of wildflower, garden flower, native grass and herb seed. I commend them on their commitment to innovation, their community and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize each of the Arvada Economic Development Association award recipients for their professionalism, investment in the community, and their dedication to making Arvada a thriving world class city.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SER METRO-DETROIT FOR THEIR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SER Metro-Detroit, a nonprofit organization that offers workforce training and skills development to the greater Detroit community. SER promotes self-sufficiency and upward mobility through its literacy, education and employment initiatives, and has played a key role in creating the vibrant metropolitan Detroit workforce that exists today.

SER Metro-Detroit was founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization to provide skills training and placement services for employers in the private sector. Since its establishment, the organization has expanded its offerings to include youth outreach and education programs, as well as further developing its workforce

placement program. Today, SER Metro-Detroit offers targeted programs for adults and youth to train program participants and place them into private sector employment. The programs include apprenticeship placements for qualified individuals, as well as financial and employment coaching that better prepares trainees for entry into the workforce.

SER has provided southeast Michigan residents with the skills and training they need to succeed in the global workforce. Additionally, it has created a pool of skilled workers that possess the training expertise that is in demand in the workplace. As a result, well-paying skilled manufacturing and skilled trade jobs are returning to Michigan, and the region has benefited from this economic revitalization. SER Metro-Detroit's comprehensive offering of education, training and employment opportunities has proven successful in helping to alleviate the economic difficulties that many families in southeast Michigan faced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing SER Metro-Detroit for its workforce development initiatives. It has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Metro Detroit residents and been a catalyst for the economic rejuvenation of the region.

#### CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ELIJAH KING, JR., U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Elijah King, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired, who served his country in the Army for 30 years and continues to serve his fellow soldiers and his community following his retirement. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

A native son of Tuskegee, Alabama, CSM King enlisted in the U.S. Army in August of 1977. Along with serving in Korea and Germany, he is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2007 as Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. During his service in the U.S. Army, CSM King was a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Legion of Merit and three Bronze Star Medals for his service in combat.

This brave soldier is also a committed citizen. Following his military career, he continued to support the military and community through positions in various services such as the Co-Chairman of the Fort Hood Retired Council and the Chairman of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Killeen Branch NAACP, Board of Directors KISD Communities in Schools, and Military Child Education Coalition. CSM King's work has improved the quality of life in central Texas in immeasurable ways.

CSM King's motto is "Old Soldiers never die and I refuse to fade away." As evidenced from the respect and admiration that his fellow sol-

diers and colleagues have for him, along with lasting effect on the community he loves, CSM Elijah King stands true to his word and will never fade away. I'm grateful that heroes like him call central Texas home.

#### UNITED IN BLUE

#### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the incredible sacrifices that our law enforcement officers have made in order to protect us and keep our communities safe. Although acts of heroism are displayed every day by the proud men and women in blue across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it is the extraordinary sacrifices of officers in our sister state of Louisiana that I am compelled to highlight today.

On July 17th, 2016, Corporal Montrell Jackson and Officer Matthew Gerald with the Baton Rouge Police Department and Deputy Brad Garafola with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Parish Office were shot and killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sergeant Bruce Simmons and Corporals Chad Montgomery and Nicholas Tullier were also injured in the same shooting. These men were not just protectors; they were fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons. We are in awe of their courage, and we are indebted to them for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed a frightening trend in this country. I have never seen this level of disrespect and injustice towards our law enforcement on such a large scale. Even though these anti-police sentiments are only harbored by a small, unappreciative, and sometimes hateful minority, we must speak louder in defense of those who protect us.

Ultimately, if we do not unite as a nation by showing unwavering and unequivocal respect for proud institutions like our police, then we are inviting further unconscionable acts. We must work harder than ever, in the memory of these officers, to assure that we make America safe again. Despite this tragedy, there is still ample reason for hope. In this time of grief, in the wake of these heinous acts, law enforcement agencies across the country have banded together with the Baton Rouge community in order to show their support for the families and friends of these officers.

Later this week, Mississippi Gulf Coast law enforcement agencies are partnering with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Blue Team to host a special charity event titled "United in Blue" for the fallen and wounded officers from Baton Rouge. All proceeds will rightfully go to support the families and wounded officers.

Above all else, on behalf of your brothers and sisters in South Mississippi, I would like to thank every man and woman in law enforcement in South Louisiana. And I would like to thank all law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders for their service to our country. Our nation stands proudly behind you.