

community and nation. After returning from the war, SGT Thompson followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, J.Q. Thompson, who was instrumental in the founding of the town and school system in Troy. SGT Thompson joined the Troy Masonic Lodge where he served as the secretary for 38 years, and was recognized for being a Mason for 60 years in 2007. SGT Thompson also served on the first Troy City Council, the Bank of Troy Board of Directors, and was a Charter Member of the Troy Volunteer Fire Department.

With admiration and deep respect, we pay tribute to SGT Thompson for his sacrifices for our country and the lasting impact he has had on his community and beyond. Dedicated public servants like him make Central Texas a great place to live.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD
OTHMAN ATTA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mahmoud Othman Atta a highly-respected leader in the Muslim and interfaith community, veteran, husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Mahmoud Othman Atta died on November 9, 2016 at the age of 80.

Mr. Atta was born in the Palestinian territories and moved to Milwaukee at age 16 with his dual-citizen father. He graduated from West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended two years of technical college and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a medic. After his military service Mr. Atta returned to the Palestinian territories, where he married his wife, Intisar and had two children. He later returned to Milwaukee with his family in the mid-1960s.

He is regarded as the Milwaukee area's first de-facto imam, leading prayers and religious services in homes, though he never held the title full time. Local Muslims hailed from various homelands, speaking different languages and Mr. Atta bridged those divides through communal worship. He organized classes to teach Arabic, the language of the Qur'an so that everyone would be able to pray and read the Holy Book together.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was one of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's seven founding members. Mr. Atta guided Milwaukee's Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee in the 1970s, when an estimated 200 Muslims lived in the city. He helped lead fundraising for the purchase of its main center on the city's south side and served on the society's first board of trustees, a position he held for about a decade.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was a natural leader. He saw the value in reaching across racial and religious lines, joining interfaith organizations and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups. He was respected for his character and his knowledge. Mr. Atta would open his home to a stranger; realizing how it felt like to be alone without family, so he always had a soft spot in his heart for students or individuals who were coming from overseas.

Mr. Atta worked as an engine technician at Briggs & Stratton for about 25 years, retiring

in 1990 after suffering his first stroke. Mr. Atta had been in declining health in recent years and suffered a stroke while he and his wife spent several months in the Palestinian areas. He returned to the Palestinian territories every year or two, where his large family is well-known. About 1,000 people there have attended visitations spread over three days, after his death.

Mahmoud Othman Atta is survived by his wife Intisar; 2 sons Othman and Ihsan; 2 daughters, Janan and Bayan; and 12 grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mahmoud Othman Atta. He had an attachment to Milwaukee, and he loved the Midwestern lifestyle. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements, I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House chamber for certain roll call votes on Monday, November 14th through Wednesday, November 16th. Had I been present on these days, I would have voted 'aye' on roll calls 575, 576, 577, 578 and 'nay' on roll calls 579 and 580.

DR. KELLY J. ZÚÑIGA NAMED CEO
OF HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga of Sugar Land, TX for being named the chief executive officer of the Holocaust Museum Houston.

Dr. Zúñiga was brought to the Holocaust Museum Houston as executive director to expand outreach and enhance programming to expand the museum's reach throughout the community. Her experience and success have brought the museum forward, making her the obvious choice for the CEO position. Dr. Zúñiga has more than 25 years' experience in building, managing and leading fundraising teams that focus on the successful completion of capital and endowment campaigns. In 2012, she was also named as one of "Houston's Most Influential Women of 2012" by Houston Woman magazine. She is a true leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga for being named CEO of the Holocaust Museum Houston. We are confident she will expand her success as the new CEO.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND JOHN
CLARK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy and

John Clark of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 19, 1966.

Judy and John's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMY AND
DAN LOEPP FOR BEING NAMED
EDWARD H. MCNAMARA GOOD-
FELLOW OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community service and stewardship of Amy and Dan Loepp, the recipients of the 2016 Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. Amy and Dan have been dedicated in the efforts to improve the greater Detroit area through their involvement in nonprofit groups and local charities.

Since 1914, the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit has provided aid to children in the greater Detroit metropolitan area. Detroit Goodfellows donates and distributes holiday gift boxes to needy children that includes toys, books and warm clothing. Additionally, the group donates shoes for children who cannot afford proper footwear and provides dental care to those individuals who do not have access to it. Detroit Goodfellows also gives grants to children to attend summer camps, including the Detroit Fire Department Camp and the Detroit Police Department's "Explorers" program.

Detroit Goodfellows honors individuals who have demonstrated commitment to the Detroit community through its Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. This year, Amy and Dan Loepp were named recipients of this award for their service to the community. Dan Loepp is the current president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and oversaw the relocation of 3,000 Blue Cross employees into downtown Detroit, providing an economic boost to the surrounding region. His wife, Amy, cofounded Impact100 Oakland County, an organization that awards grants to nonprofit organizations in Oakland County. Both Amy and Dan have also been strong supporters of various philanthropic organizations in the greater Detroit area.

Amy and Dan embody the values of charity and community that Detroit Goodfellows represent. Their selfless actions and innovative initiatives on behalf of the Detroit community have contributed to the well-being of the city while creating a more decent life for countless children in need. They have been tireless advocates on behalf of the region, and it is my hope that they continue to be involved in initiatives to improve the southeastern Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Old Newsboys' Good-fellow Fund of Detroit, as well as Amy and Dan Loepp. They have provided services critical to the well-being of countless Michigan children and their families.

**CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
CORPORAL ROBERTO VASQUEZ**

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 of Corporal Roberto Vasquez. The embodiment of the U.S. Marine Corps' values of honor, courage, and commitment, Cpl. Vasquez is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Cpl. Vasquez's seven years of honorable service in the Marines from 1983–89 reinforced his innate drive to not quit until the job is done and done right. He leaves every situation better than he found it and has made permanent and positive impacts on his beloved Hutto, TX.

Whether it's teaching, working with at-risk kids, or coaching football, Cpl. Vasquez communicates the importance of self-respect to young people. His honors as an educator and his achievements as a school administrator are testimonies to his skill and devotion to ensuring students receive the education and guidance they deserve.

Yet Cpl. Vasquez's commitment to community doesn't stop at the schoolhouse gate. He's active in Cub Scouts, feeding the hungry, and is a devout member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. As Commander of American Legion Post 302 in Hutto, TX, Cpl. Vasquez has seen the membership of this proud organization devoted to the family of veterans grow under his leadership. Most important, he's never forgotten those who served but did not return.

Corporal Roberto Vasquez's motto is "other first." These stirring words aren't a meaningless expression but a deep and lasting creed that is the guiding force of his life. It's the work of selfless citizens like Cpl. Vasquez that keep our country safe and make cities like Hutto, TX wonderful places to live. I commend his commitment to his Corps, his nation, and his community and am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 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 \$19,871,327,867,180.13. We've added \$9,244,450,818,267.05 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**BROOKE BOTKIN FINISHES AN IN-
CREDIBLE HIGH SCHOOL
VOLLEYBALL CAREER**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pearland's Brooke Botkin for her outstanding volleyball career at Pearland High School.

The 6-foot, 3½ inch senior is preparing to complete her fourth year starting for the Lady Oilers. Brooke's impressive career has included being named as a Wendy's 2016 High School Heisman candidate, a three-time all-state selection and two-time Greater Houston Volleyball Preseason Player of the Year, not to mention numerous national honors. Her coach, John Turner, said she was the best six-rotation player the school has ever had, surpassing everyone with her blocking ability, digging, aces, setting and "of course, the kills." On top of her near perfect grade point average, Brooke spends her spare time helping with clothing drives, food drives, beach cleanup in Galveston and working youth volleyball clinics. She will attend and play volleyball for the University of Southern California in early 2017.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again on her exceptional volleyball career at Pearland High School. We know she will represent Pearland well in California.

**HONORING ENGINEERING AIDE
CHIEF TROY R. COLE, SR., U.S.
NAVY, 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 honor Engineering Aide Chief Troy R. Cole Sr., U.S. Navy, Retired, of Cedar Park, Texas. A World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran, EAC Cole served as a guardian of our great nation against countless enemies. A true patriot and exceptional citizen, EAC Cole is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

An intrinsic sense of adventure inspired EAC Cole to begin his naval career at age 17, shortly after World War II began. With a career spanning over three decades, EAC Cole saw much combat, and received numerous commendations, medals, and awards as testament to his exemplary service. Yet even upon retirement, the call to serve his beloved country continued to burn inside. EAC Cole returned to the Navy he loves, spending the next decade teaching, training, and mentoring the next generation of service men and women.

EAC Cole's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his fellow service members. Today, EAC Cole remains devoted to celebrating the life, and honoring the memory, of his brothers and sisters in arms. Each year, EAC Cole invests countless hours in orchestrating many of Cedar Park's veteran memorials, parades, and ceremonies. He is beloved

by the Cedar Park community for his leadership and passion.

EAC Cole serves his fellow men with the same dedication, honor, and humility with which he defended his country. He exemplifies what it means to be an American, consistently placing his country and fellow men before himself. May we all follow the example of great men such as EAC Cole, and live a life of passion, loyalty, and selflessness.

**RECOGNIZING KENN TUCKEY AS
THE CENTRAL PENN BUSINESS
JOURNAL'S 2016 HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE**

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Kenn Tuckey as the Central Penn Business Journal's 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee. Each year, the Central Penn Business Journal honors top companies and individual leaders for their outstanding contributions to Central Pennsylvania's business community. Kenn's businesses have been in my district for almost five decades, and his commitment to customer service and community engagement have been essential to his continued success.

The Tuckey Companies include Tuckey Metal Fabricators, Tuckey Mechanical Services, and Tuckey Restoration. Established in 1968 as Frank Black Mechanical Services and with a focus on residential services, Kenn's father, Denver, purchased the company in 1981 and renamed it Tuckey Mechanical Services. Kenn founded Tuckey Metal Fabricators in 1978, and after purchasing the mechanical services business from his father in 1984, he was approached by local community leaders who identified a need for an emergency repair company that would specialize in fire and water damaged property. With the creation of Tuckey Restoration in 1992, Kenn used his years of experience to meet this need, and eventually brought all three companies under one umbrella. He has grown the companies into leaders in the industrial and commercial sectors, and has been recognized with the prestigious Chrysalis Award for Remodeling Excellence and an "Impeccable Workmanship" citation from the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Although three generations of Tuckeys still work within the organization, Kenn has always understood the value in engaging the community at large. Giving back to the community has always been a top priority for Kenn. He and his employees have volunteered for organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Carlisle YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and Hospice of Central PA. Kenn's reputation in Carlisle is nothing short of exceptional, and this has allowed him to engage in various other ventures that benefit the region. The Tuckeys have made a commitment to spurring growth in Central Pennsylvania by purchasing old, rundown buildings, such as St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newville, and renovating them into state of the art housing communities. Hard work and quality service do not go unnoticed, and Kenn's impact on the region has afforded him a reputation that will inspire