

work. Their businesses not only effectively serve the gay community, but they also contribute to the multicultural and welcoming environment that has been critical to the growth and development of Ann Arbor. It is my hope that Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr will remain active in promoting the values of tolerance and respect. Their leadership has effectively served the city's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Keith Orr and Martin Contreras for their success in business and impactful leadership in the community. Their success and activism are worthy of commendation, and it is my hope that they continue to play a leading role in the Ann Arbor community in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING SOKA GAKKAI
INTERNATIONAL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Soka Gakkai International (SGI), the Buddhist association of more than 12 million people, on celebrating 86 years since its founding.

On November 18, 1930, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda founded the Soka Gakkai in Tokyo, Japan to spread the Buddhist ideals of equality, respect for all life and the connection of self and the environment. Makiguchi served as the first president of The Soka Gakkai and was succeeded by Toda as the second Soka Gakkai president. With the desire to further spread Buddhist philosophy across the world, Daisaku Ikeda founded Soka Gakkai International while he served as the third president of Soka Gakkai.

Today, Ikeda and the other founding presidents' work is evident in the 12 million individuals in 192 countries and territories who share the same beliefs and mission the founders established years ago. Most notably, the American branch of Soka Gakkai International is the largest and most diverse Buddhist community in the United States with 350,000 members organized in more than 500 chapters nationwide. In combination with its 100 centers, the members all actively engage in the promotion of sustainable living, human rights, and peace.

November the 18th has come to symbolize a day when each SGI member strengthens their own determination and sense of responsibility to be ambassadors of goodwill in the communities they serve. In the DFW Metroplex, members of Soka Gakkai International provide enormous contributions to the community they serve where their members are making individual contributions for peace and freedom.

I honor Soka Gakkai International's 86th anniversary celebration and for their lifetime commitment to peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SWI INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS FOR BEING AWARDED THE FOUNDER AWARD DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SWI Industrial Solutions, an outstanding non-profit that provides more than 200 individuals with disabilities meaningful and dignified work, while expanding the work forces of other manufacturers. SWI Industrial Solutions was recognized by the Missouri Association of Manufacturers (MAM) and given the Founders Award for their 50 years of business in the Springfield community.

The Founder's award honors MAM founder, the late Jack T. Gentry, and is presented to select MAM member companies that preserve the manufacturing tradition and promote and advance manufacturing in Missouri.

In these 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions has directly impacted the local economy in a positive way and has given countless individuals the confidence and training on how to be a good employee, and how to succeed at their jobs.

It is my honor to recognize SWI Industrial Solutions for this great achievement and wish its workers a joyous and well-earned celebration of their success. By creating jobs, delivering top-class products, and exhibiting exemplary work ethic for 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions have made southwest Missouri a better place to live. It makes me proud to serve them, and all of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District.

HONORING CAREGIVERS OUTREACH MINISTRY EMPOWERMENT INC. 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Caregivers Outreach Ministry Empowerment Inc. (C.O.M.E.) a remarkable organization in New York City that for 10 years has empowered family caregivers with accessible resources and knowledge to make comfortable choices and decisions that will have a positive impact upon the quality of life for themselves and their loved ones.

A family caregiver, sometimes called an informal caregiver is an unpaid individual—a spouse, partner, family member, friend co-worker or neighbor—assisting others with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks. In New York City, 1.25 million family caregivers provide over one billion hours of unpaid care to elderly loved ones. Nationally, there are approximately 1.3 to 1.4 million-child caregivers who are between the ages of 8 and 18 providing care to a family member. Youth caregivers are often called a "hidden population," because they suffer from a systemic lack of support from their schools and communities.

Since its founding in 2006 by Diane Leona Cooper, C.O.M.E. has worked to educate,

equip and empower community leaders with the tools to develop and implement the C.O.M.E. Outreach Support Model. The group has collaborated with a wide array of elected officials and organizations to advocate for family caregivers, and the work they have done in the community has been nothing short of remarkable.

As C.O.M.E. celebrates its 10th anniversary, I want to take the opportunity to thank their leadership team and staff for all of the good works they have done. It is wonderful to know I have such an amazing partner fighting for families in the community.

HONORING CHRIS GEORGE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 WILLARD M. MCCRAE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), as he is honored by Liberty Bank with their 2016 Willard M. McCrae Community Diversity Award.

Named in honor of Willard McCrae, past chairman of the Liberty Bank Board of Directors and founding member of the Liberty Bank Foundation Board of Directors, this annual award honors an individual who has made an "outstanding and ongoing contribution to the cause of promoting and celebrating diversity in the communities served by Liberty Bank." I can think of no one more deserving of such a recognition than Chris George.

Chris has dedicated a lifetime to promoting human rights, social justice and equal access to all. He began his career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Sultanate of Oman and later worked with Quakers in Lebanese villages and refugee camps. He worked with Save the Children, primarily in the West Bank/Gaza Strip, was the director of the Middle East division of Human Rights Watch, and he directed the legislative strengthening project for the Palestinian Parliament during his tenure with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He continued that unique dedication here in Connecticut through his work at IRIS and it is that good work that has earned him this very special honor. As the Executive Director, it has been through Chris' leadership that IRIS has grown into one of the most respected, vibrant refugee resettlement programs in Connecticut. Welcoming refugees from Somali, Iraq, Congo, Sudan, Cuba, and Columbia, IRIS has helped many families navigate the many difficulties associated with resettling in a new community, country, and culture.

From the time of its founding, our nation has welcomed those from other shores, particularly those whose own home countries have become too dangerous for them to stay. Whether boarding the Mayflower to escape religious persecution or fleeing from the many countries that are today caught in the midst of civil war, America has long been a safe haven for many. Chris has long championed the contributions refugees make to our communities

and our country. Encouraging faith communities and other groups to co-sponsor refugee families, he has worked to bring together Connecticut's diverse residents to support refugee resettlement and has advocated vigorously for the U.S. government to allow more refugees into the country. Most recently, when that increase was approved, IRIS and its community partners stepped up to welcome four hundred and sixty to our state. Under Chris' leadership, IRIS has not only built relationships and better understanding between Americans and the refugees, but between the different local organizations.

Throughout his professional life, Chris George has demonstrated a compassion and commitment that is second to none. He embodies the spirit in which the Willard McCrae Community Diversity Award was created and I am honored to join all of those gathered this evening in extending my sincere congratulations to him as he is bestowed with this very special recognition. Chris—many thanks for your service and best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF
JOHN PEDROZO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Mr. John Pedrozo. John has been a life-long advocate and community leader for the people of the San Joaquin Valley and has passed on his committed spirit of service to others. His awareness of the unique issues that face Merced County, and the solutions he has offered in response, have proven to be valuable assets in the development of our Valley.

John's community ties to Merced are diverse and long-standing. After graduating from Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School in Merced, John moved on to graduate from Merced High School and Merced College soon after. John married his wife Kelly in 1979, and in her found someone who shared his commitment to improving the lives of others. Together John and Kelly raised three wonderful children: Kacie, Josh, and Anthony. They have followed John's example through both professional, and faith based engagements by assisting countless residents of the San Joaquin Valley throughout their careers.

John has served Merced County in multiple capacities, ranging from leadership roles in the Future Farmers of America during his youth, to his service on the Merced County Board of Supervisors. John was a member of the Merced Union High School District Board of Trustees before assuming his 12 year tenure on the Board of Supervisors. He has also served on the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority for a number of years, some as chairman, which has enabled him to be a guiding voice on the direction of transportation projects in the San Joaquin Valley.

During his time on the Board of Supervisors, John was a tireless proponent for enhancing educational opportunities for the youth in his district. His commitment to expanding access to youth programs for the children of Merced has been instrumental in improving the state

of education countywide. John's steadfast support of law enforcement has also helped make Merced County a safer place, and will not be forgotten.

As John moves forward in his life, there is no doubt that he will continue to find ways to help make Merced County a better area for all of its residents. His dedication to his family, friends, and constituents have provided a better future for the people of Merced County, and I am confident that his service will gain him further recognition as a man of honor and selflessness in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Pedrozo for his contributions to Merced County. John's service and commitment to improving Merced County has laid the foundation for others to contribute as he has.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE
OF KENNETH L. SCHROEDER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a pioneer in Silicon Valley, Kenneth L. Schroeder, who died on October 26, 2016 at his home in Los Altos Hills, California, at the age of 70, due to complications of ALS.

Ken Schroeder was born in Illinois, earned a BSEE from the University of Wisconsin and an MBA from University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He received numerous academic honors, including membership in Tau Beta Pi and was selected as one of the "125 People of Impact" at UW. His first job after Wharton was at Hewlett-Packard. He then joined Spectra Physics where he became General Manager of the Construction Laser Division. In 1979, Ken joined KLA Instruments as Vice President of Manufacturing, and became President and COO in 1991.

Under Ken's leadership, the company made great strides. Semiconductor test equipment became a multibillion dollar market, and KLA-Tencor was named one of the "Best Managed Companies" by Forbes Magazine. Electronic Business Magazine rated KLA-Tencor one of the best run semiconductor equipment companies in the world, and the company received accolades for its employee training programs. San Jose Magazine ranked KLA-Tencor as "one of the best places to work" in Silicon Valley. VLSI Research named Ken Schroeder "Most Valuable Executive" and elected him to its Hall of Fame. During his time as CEO of KLA-Tencor, sales doubled and retained earnings tripled.

Ken leaves his beloved wife, Fran Codispoli, his son Christian, his daughter-in-law Sarah and grandson Erik; his daughter Margaux and his son-in-law Brian. He also leaves his sister Nancy, his brother Robert, many loving family members and countless friends.

Ken Schroeder was a national treasure. He was a giant of a man, tremendously effective in business, big of heart, huge in his generosity and tall in stature. I consider it a great privilege to have known him and called him my friend, and he will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our most

sincere condolences to the love of Ken's life, Fran, and to the entire Schroeder family.

HONORING JERRY CLUPPER AS HE
IS AWARDED THE 2016 AMERICAN
MANUFACTURING HALL OF
FAME LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven Manufacturers Association and the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered as Jerry Clupper, Executive Director of the Association, is honored with the 2016 American Manufacturing Hall of Fame Leadership Award. For more than two decades, Jerry has played an integral role in advancing manufacturing, as an industry and a career path and this award is a reflection of all of his good work.

Owner of Process Services, LLC and Executive Director of the New Haven Manufacturing Association for the last fifteen years, there are few who devoted as much time and energy to advocating for manufacturing in our state. Manufacturing has grown in so many ways yet too many hold tight to the stereotypical images of grimy factory floors and worker faces stained with grease and dirt. No one has worked harder to change that image than Jerry. He has spent countless hours meeting with his fellow manufacturers, collaborating with high school and college educators, and advocating for changes in the halls of Connecticut's General Assembly. From workforce development to investment in manufacturing, Jerry has and continues to be a catalyst for change—strengthening relationships between the community and the industry and inspiring a new generation of manufacturers.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend a personal note of thanks to Jerry. Over the years, he has helped myself and my staff on a variety of projects. He has joined me at local technical high schools to look at ways Congress can support skills training that better prepares students for local manufacturing jobs. We have visited community colleges where he has helped to develop curriculums for advanced manufacturing degrees that help those graduates meet the changing needs of our manufacturing industry. And it was under his leadership that the New Haven Manufacturing Association and I developed the concept and legislation for the Manufacturing Reinvestment Act. He has been an invaluable resource and what began as a working collaborative has grown into a cherished friendship.

Jerry Clupper has been a leader in Connecticut's manufacturing industry in every sense of the word. His vision, dedication, and advocacy have renewed the spirit of an industry that has a long and proud Connecticut history. There is no one more deserving of being honored with the 2016 American Manufacturing Hall of Fame Leadership Award. I am honored to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Jerry on this very special and prestigious recognition.