

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.

HONORING EMPRESS AMBULANCE SERVICES

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 one of the great companies in my district, Empress Ambulance, which has provided outstanding emergency medical service to the City of Yonkers for over three decades.

In 1985, when Dan and Lenore Minerva acquired Empress Ambulance it was their mission, that since has been handed down to their sons Michael, Daniel and Matthew, that patient care and compassion would be the cornerstone on which the company would be built.

As the landscape in the healthcare industry changed for hospitals over the years, so too has it changed dramatically in the pre-hospital seam: These days an EMS company needs to have trained professionals and state of the art equipment to manage a medical emergency on the street or in someone's home. Empress has accepted this challenge and today they are the preeminent provider of pre-hospital care and ambulance transportation services in our region. With over 90 vehicles and more than 400 highly trained and compassionate employees, Empress is answering the call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In recent years, Empress has seen unprecedented growth in the region. In addition to Yonkers, Empress Ambulance is currently the emergency medical services provider for the cities of New Rochelle, White Plains, Mount Vernon and Pelham. Additionally, the company provides advanced life support services in Yorktown and basic life support supplemental staff in Hawthorne, Mohegan Lake and Peekskill. They have also recently been named the provider of choice to operate four 911 advanced life support ambulances by Montefiore Medical Center for the Fire Department of New York 911 System.

This year, St. Joseph's Medical Center is honoring Empress Ambulance Service for the remarkable contributions the company has made to both the Center and the community as a whole. I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the entire Empress team, and thank them for all their incredible work in our area.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRY S. TRUMAN FOR RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR OF BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry S. Truman Elementary School for receiving the prestigious honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Harry S. Truman was one of 329 schools nationwide to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School.

This national award recognizes schools that practice exemplary teaching and learning. For

34 years, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has been rewarding excellence in students and faculty and to date fewer than 8,500 schools have been granted this honor.

Harry S. Truman Elementary was granted this award in large part due to their high academic performance on standardized tests. This is a distinguished award that recognizes the academic success of a school.

I am honored to recognize Harry S. Truman Elementary School for their hard work and dedication in educating our future leaders of Missouri. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District I ask all of my colleagues to join me to congratulate Harry S. Truman Elementary School.

HONORING MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in celebration of its 60th Anniversary and its six-decade history of service to the community of Fort Worth, Texas.

Founded in 1956, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church began through its commitment to fellowship. Since its founding, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church has committed its efforts to establishing a safe environment for all those seeking spiritual guidance and the desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and ministry. For six decades, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's ministry team has inspired and positively changed the lives of people throughout Fort Worth.

For the past twenty years, Bishop B.C. McPherson II has led Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's membership and its affiliate company Sininian Development Inc. (SDI), a community development organization. Together, they have invigorated the Southside communities of Fort Worth through crime reduction and affordable housing. Bishop McPherson has ensured throughout his tenure that every member can still receive a personal word with him even as the Church has grown its congregation.

Mount Sinai not only offers fellowship for those seeking spiritual guidance at the church in Fort Worth, but also extends its services through its Real Alive Word, R.A.W., online classes. These classes offer spiritual seekers with biblical foundations, syntax, culture and much more. Both traditional and non-traditional religious avenues have contributed to an increase in the number of new hopeful leaders in the DFW Metroplex.

I honor Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's 60th Anniversary celebration and its dedication to the spiritual development of Fort Worth community.

CONGRATULATING ROBYN STUART ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GRAPEVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senior Officer Robyn Stuart on her well-earned retirement from the Grapevine Police Department, in the city of Grapevine, Texas, after twenty-two years of dedicated service.

Stuart's esteemed career began with the Brownfield Police Department in 1993 where she served with distinction until joining the Fort Worth Marshal's Office in 1995 as a Deputy Marshal.

In 1996 she began her service in Grapevine, where she honorably served her community with the highest degree of professionalism for more than two decades. Throughout her tenure with the department, Stuart received seven commendation letters recognizing her outstanding service and dedication to the City of Grapevine.

Over her twenty-two year career, Stuart has completed more than 1,580 hours of training and has achieved the certification of Master Peace Officer. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Grapevine Police Department SWAT team, specializing as a hostage negotiator; a National Academy of Professional Driving (NAPD) instructor; and as a member of the Grapevine Police Department Critical Incident Stress Management/Peer Support Team.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts Senior Officer Robyn Stuart has contributed to the safety and security of the City of Grapevine. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Robyn Stuart and her many years of service.

HONORING MICHAEL MINERVA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who dedicate their lives to serving others professionally are a true asset to the community. For 28 years, Michael Minerva has been an asset to Westchester, through his amazing work with Empress Ambulance Service and our friends at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Mike got his start in Yonkers working for American Ambulette, the company his parents, Dan and Lenore started in 1976. It was during this time that Mike was first introduced to the leadership and mission at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

In 1985, his family bought Empress Ambulance Service. For the next twenty years, Mike was fortunate to work side by side with the biggest driving force of his professional career, his mentor, business partner and "Mom" Lenore Minerva.

In 2008 Mike was promoted to President of Empress and has worked tirelessly to continue to grow the business and provide the highest