

achievement. In the coming years, I hope to see the cooperation between the United States and Kazakhstan continue to grow as future leaders build on the successful foundation that has already been laid.

HONORING CHIEF KATHLEEN
HARRELL ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Kathleen Harrell, on the occasion of her retirement from the Florida Department of Corrections.

Chief Harrell has given 30 years of distinguished public service to the State of Florida through her knowledge, integrity and leadership. Her tenure at the Florida Department of Corrections began on August of 1986, where she worked as a Field Agent within the Correctional Probation sector. She then spent several years performing professional work investigating, assessing, supervising, counseling, administering, and/or classifying offenders as a Correctional Probation Officer. It was in 1993 when she joined the Office of Inspector General and strived passionately to become the Assistant Chief of Investigations for the Florida Department in January of 2013. Chief Harrell deserves our admiration and respect for her dedication to public service.

Besides working tirelessly to ensure the wellbeing of Florida's citizens, Chief Harrell dedicates time to worship as a member of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL since 2011. She has also been an avid cyclist for ten years and frequently participates in fundraising rides for multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS charities. If there's something Chief Harrell loves as much as cycling, it is the Miami Dolphins, being a seasonal ticket holder for around fourteen years now.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Chief Kathleen Harrell on her retirement. I wish her the very best of luck in all her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING MR. TOM BAKER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Tom Baker of Waitsburg, Washington who passed away on November 14, 2016 at the age of 86.

Tom Baker was born on April 17, 1930 in Fort Morgan, Colorado. As a child, he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, and active in various church, music, and social events. Following his high school graduation, Tom attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Printing Management in 1953. It was during his college years that he met and fell in love with his wife Anita.

Tom's passion and dream from a young age was to work in newspapers. Following positions with various local newspapers in Colorado, Tom and Anita eventually moved to

Waitsburg in 1963, where Tom bought stake in the Waitsburg Times, eventually becoming editor and publisher in 1964.

As publisher of the Waitsburg Times for 27 years, Tom was able to employ his dry wit and unique style while chronicling the life and times of the people of Waitsburg. Tom officially sold his stake in the Waitsburg Times in 1991, but happily contributed to the paper with his weekly column "TOMfoolery" until 2009. Tom understood the importance of providing the citizens of Waitsburg with a weekly print newspaper tailored to their interests and passions.

An active member of his community, Tom enjoyed spending his time working with the Waitsburg Commercial Club, Masonic Lodge No. 16, the Waitsburg Historical Society, the Waitsburg Presbyterian Church Choir and Board of Elders, the Walla Walla Community College Board of Trustees, and the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association among many others.

Tom was also an active and loyal community servant, who ably filled roles on the Waitsburg City Council and served as Mayor of Waitsburg on two separate occasions.

Tom is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anita, his sons Charles and Loyal, and daughter Peggy, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Baker was a dedicated public servant and important member of the greater Waitsburg community for many years who will be truly missed. His positive spirit, belief in the good of the community, and devotion to his passions was truly admirable. I will fondly remember Tom Baker and share my condolences with his family.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment I introduced today to eliminate the electoral college and provide for the direct election of our nation's President and Vice President.

For the second time in recent memory, and for the fifth time in our history, we have a President-elect, who lost the popular vote.

The reason is because of an antiquated system that was established to prevent citizens from directly electing our nation's President.

That notion—that citizens should be prevented from directly electing the President—is antithetical to our understanding of democracy.

In our country, "We the People," are supposed to determine who represents us in elective office.

Yet, we use an anachronistic process for choosing who will hold the highest offices in the land.

It is time for us to fix this, and that is why I have introduced this amendment today.

When the Founders established the electoral college it was in an era of limited nation-

wide communication. It was premised on a theory that citizens would have a better chance of knowing about electors from their home states than about presidential candidates from out-of-state.

The development of mass media and the internet, however, has made information about presidential candidates easily accessible to U.S. citizens across the country and around the world.

Today, citizens have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-state presidential candidates than knowing about presidential electors from their home states. Most people don't even know who their electors are.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might well as require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

Since our nation first adopted our Constitution, "We the People," have amended it repeatedly to expand the opportunity for citizens to directly elect our leaders. What resulted was the following:

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of race.

The 19th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of gender.

The 26th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens 18 years of age and older to vote, regardless of age.

And the 17th Amendment empowers citizens to directly elect U.S. Senators.

We need to empower citizens to directly elect the President and the Vice President of the United States.

I am privileged to serve as Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. My colleagues and I at the Judiciary Committee will be holding a forum next week to examine our outdated presidential election process. I hope members will attend and share their views.

Working together, I know we can fix this historical anomaly, and make our Constitution better reflect the "more perfect Union" to which it aspires.

HONORING MARY KEEHAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in our community, Mary Keehan, who is an honoree at the American Irish Association of Westchester Annual Dinner Dance.

Mary was born in White Plains, New York to Peter and Catherine Kevill, who emigrated from Ireland and married in Scarsdale. Mary attended White Plains High School and simultaneously worked part-time at Macy's department store. Eventually graduating with honors

and becoming an office manager for a Chiropractor, Mary felt her passion in a different field and decided to return to school in the field of Electrolysis.

Mary combined passion for service and business, and she established her own practice in Electrolysis. Her business has served thousands of people for the past 34 years, while her service to her community through volunteerism made an equally lasting impact.

Mary became a member of the American Irish Association, where she held the office of President in 2008, and currently serves as the financial secretary. Mary is also a member of the Tarrytown LAOH, and is often seen leading the Rockland County Ancient Order of the Hibernian's Pipe Band in marches and parades as "Banner Mom".

With such an impressive record of civic engagement, it's no surprise Mary's list of accomplishments is extensive: President of the Ardsley American Legion Auxiliary for six years, President in 1981 of the Westchester County American Legion Auxiliary, National Board Member at the NYS Electrolysis Association, President of the Ardsley Garden Club, Board Member of the Ninth District of Federated Garden Club of NYS, Board Member of the Girls Scout of Westchester-Putnam, and committee member of Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club. She also serves on the Board of Elections for the Town of Greenburgh.

Married to George Keehan, Mary and her loving husband raised six wonderful children together. She is also the proud grandmother of six amazing grandchildren, her pride and joy.

Mary has shown incredible spirit through her service and love of family. It is an honor to recognize her as one of the American Irish Association of Westchester Annual Dinner Dance Honorees. Congratulations to Mary on this most deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE PEORIA LIONS ON THEIR STATE TITLE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Peoria Lions for their Class 5A championship win against the Vernon Hills Cougars earlier this week.

Peoria struggled to stop the Cougars in the first half, but the Lions forced three second-half turnovers, allowing them to build a two-score lead. Junior quarterback Coran Taylor threw for 215 yards and two touchdowns, and added 134 yards and three scores on the ground. Fellow junior Geno Hess led all rushers with 215 yards and two touchdowns of his own. In the end the Lions racked up 621 yards in their 62–48 win.

I congratulate the Peoria Lions on their outstanding victory in their 5A championship win. The Lions are now first-time state champions, a testament to the impressive football program that coach Tim Thornton has built.

Mr. Speaker, as a former athlete, I understand how important this is to the young men, the coaches and the community. They never gave up. They kept playing their best, and

their team spirit and belief in themselves helped them become state champions. Their efforts and resilience should inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING SYSCO NORTH TEXAS' OSHA "STAR SITE" HONOR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sysco North Texas and its nearly 600 employees for the achievement of being recognized as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program "Star Site."

The Star Site designation is the highest honor within OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. The Program rewards companies who lay out a comprehensive compliance and safety risk management plan for internal controls, which translates directly into fewer workplace injuries and illnesses. Sysco North Texas received this award by maintaining a workplace injury incident rating well below the industry average, and by meeting other strict metrics for workplace safety.

Sysco North Texas operates an 800,000 square foot facility in Lewisville, Texas, serving nearly 4,000 customers throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metro region and beyond. The facility has been in operation since 1973. As an upstanding business in the 24th District of Texas, I am proud to represent Sysco North Texas here in Congress. I commend them and all other businesses around my district as they continue to provide good jobs and safe work environments for Texas citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the safe and beneficial work environment Sysco North Texas provides for its employees. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing this hard earned achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT W. LOHR, JR.'S 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank Mr. Robert W. Lohr, Jr. for his three decades of extraordinary leadership and service to the town of Purcellville, Virginia, located in my congressional district.

Mr. Lohr has served in local government for 30 years, and for the past 23 years he was the town manager of Purcellville. As town manager he has been instrumental in the growth and development of Purcellville. Mr. Lohr has overseen Purcellville's rapid growth to a community of around 9,000 residents.

In his role as town manager, Mr. Lohr, oversaw a number of important projects to improve the local infrastructure and quality of life for Purcellville's residents. Some of these projects include the development of the Basham Simms Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Purcellville Maintenance Facility, as

well as the effort to preserve and improve historic downtown Purcellville. Mr. Lohr's dedication to bettering the town and the lives of its citizens has been evident during his years of tireless service.

Mr. Lohr's selfless desire to constantly improve Purcellville never went unnoticed, least of all to his colleagues in the town government. Working in close collaboration with the town council, Mr. Lohr was able to identify the needs of the town's citizens, and develop a strategy in order to complete their needed goals.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Lohr, Jr.'s 30 years of public service, especially those 23 years as town manager of Purcellville, Virginia. Today, we honor and celebrate the contributions he has made to the town and all its citizens. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOHN NESGODA AS THE AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS) POST 1 OF PENN- SYLVANIA'S VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. John Nesgoda for receiving the American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 1 of Pennsylvania's Veteran of the Year Award. AMVETS' mission is to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American veterans that have served honorably. Through leadership, advocacy, and engagement, AMVETS work to improve the quality of life for our veterans, their families, and their communities, and John's years of dedication to these principles have earned him this important award.

During the height of the Vietnam War, John answered the call to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Air Force. From 1963 to 1967, John served overseas providing communications support to troops on the front lines. His service to others did not stop after leaving active duty. As 3rd Vice Commander, and a lifetime member of AMVETS Post 1, John leads by example and works every day to ensure that all Pennsylvania veterans are taken care of. He is a lifetime member in the McAdoo Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and a member of the Quakake American Legion. John has also spearheaded fundraising efforts that support veterans' programs like PTSD Working Dogs for PA Veterans, Hazleton Cold Weather Shelters for local veterans, coordinated numerous military funerals, and assists with cemetery maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. John Nesgoda for receiving the American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 1 of Pennsylvania's Veteran of the Year Award. His years of service, during both active duty and as a veteran, have exemplified his commitment to his country and the military veterans in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On behalf of my constituents, I thank John for his dedication and wish him and his wife Carol all the best in their future endeavors.