

know her to understand her and to understand her was to love her.

Irene departed her natural life on August 1, 2016. Her parents, Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long, her loving sister, Eva Smart, and her niece, Carolyn Smart, all preceded her in death. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her children: Virginia Brown and George Gary; a grandson whom she reared as her own, Donald Gary, all of Lexington, MS; two very dedicated friends Gloria Remus and Ruthie Marshall of Lexington, MS; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; a God granddaughter, Sade Melton; nieces, nephews, cousins, and neighbors whom she loved; family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene L. Gary, for her dedication to the community.

COMMENDING THE 2016 BEST OF BRADDOCK RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards, presented by the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. These awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations, and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our community. I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards:

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Casey McCollum, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. For 10 years, Ms. McCollum has worked with A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, providing safe and loving care for foster dogs, including pregnant dogs and those rescued from puppy mills and inhumane conditions. Her dedication and unconditional love for the dogs she fosters helps prepare them for their adoptive families and forever homes.

Glen Erickson-Bell, Chapel Hill Civic Association. Mr. Erickson-Bell is the "Steward of Oak Hill Park." When efforts to engage park personnel were fruitless, he took it upon himself to contact Friends of Accotink Creek for guidance. These efforts led to the formation of the Friends of Oak Hill Park which led efforts to clear the trails and clean up the trash so that residents were able to once again enjoy Oak Hill.

Young Person of the Year: Bonnibel Bishop. Since elementary school, Ms. Bishop has been involved in community service. She has traveled throughout the Commonwealth promoting her anti-bullying platform and participated in events for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.) She also has donated her time to various events in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including its Children's Hospital.

CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Holy Spirit Transportation Ministry. Richard and Maly Chobot formed the Transportation

Ministry at Holy Spirit Church to help those who need rides to medical appointments or procedures. The entirely volunteer group provides a service that makes a difference in the everyday lives of members in the community.

Boy Scout Troop 1965. In the past year, the 40 Scouts of Troop 1965 have collectively completed more than 800 hours of service projects ranging from conservation projects to construction projects throughout the area. The members of Troop 1965 continue to serve those around them and the greater Braddock District.

Staff, Volunteers and Friends of Kings Park Library. With the closure of Pohick Library for renovation, the Kings Park Library has seen an exponential increase in usage. The dedicated staff, volunteers, and friends of Kings Park Library have worked together to meet the increased demand without sacrificing service, making Kings Park one of the most cherished libraries in the county.

Friends of Oak Hill Park. Instead of sitting back and waiting for someone else to solve a community problem, the Friends of Oak Hill Park took matters into their own hands. They united the communities surrounding Oak Hill Park and launched extensive clean-up and restoration projects, transforming it into a welcoming parkland for all to enjoy.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Paula McKinley, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. While many celebrate Memorial Day and July 4th with picnics and parades, Ms. McKinley personally purchased more than 800 U.S. flags and oversaw their installation, ensuring that we remember our history and honor those who gave their lives for us all.

Ron Luxenburg, Lake Braddock. The winter of 2015/16 was one for the record books. While most of us were home stranded, waiting for the plows to arrive, Mr. Luxenburg plowed his entire cul-de-sac, as well as his neighbors' driveways and sidewalks without being asked or paid. These efforts truly exhibit Mr. Luxenburg's generosity and passion for serving others.

Don Wallace. Mr. Wallace sits on the board of Food for Others and since 2008, has actively worked to educate the community about the need to donate food for thousands of Northern Virginians who might otherwise go hungry. He has personally organized the collection and transfer of donated food to the Food for Others warehouse. His efforts have resulted in more than 9 tons of food being donated to this worthwhile organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Han-

over Fire Department in Pennsylvania on its 200th Anniversary.

The collective accomplishments of the staff and volunteers of the Hanover Fire Department truly are exceptional. Over the last 200 years, the Department's men and women helped to save countless lives and properties, and have made the Hanover area a safer and better place in which to live and work.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate the Hanover Fire Department on its 200th Anniversary and wish them continued great success and service in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE SHEDDEN

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Shedden who is the current President of the Tennessee School Boards Association. Debbie has been active at the local, state, and national levels of education for several years. She was named the Tennessee School Board Member of the Year in 2011 and received the Premier Ambassador Award from Tennessee School Boards Association in 2013 and 2014. In 2016 Tennessee Education Commissioner Dr. Candice McQueen reappointed Debbie to the Tennessee Task Force on Student Testing and Assessment. Debbie is also actively involved in the Rogersville Rotary Club and the Interact Club at Cherokee High School.

Debbie has dedicated herself to serving the students and communities of Hawkins County and Tennessee. I am proud to recognize Debbie for her commitment and work to improving education in Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MELISSA KEESEE FOR HER SERVICE

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on her retirement from federal service. Mrs. Melissa L. Keese, Paralegal Specialist, U.S. Special Operations Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (SOJA), MacDill AFB, Florida, is retiring after over 37 years of distinguished and dedicated federal service, the last 22 years serving in SOJA.

Mrs. Keese began her journey in federal service as a U.S. Army Civilian clerk with U.S. Southern Command, Republic of Panama. She then became a U.S. Air Force Civilian as secretary, U.S. Readiness Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She is a plank owner in U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as she transitioned into the standup of the command as a secretary, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She then traveled to Texas where she was a secretary with Air Education Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX and a secretary with Headquarters, U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX. Before returning to MacDill AFB, she became a secretary with the 81st Training Wing

(AETC), Keesler AFB, MS. At MacDill AFB for the second time, she rejoined USSOCOM as a secretary with J3 (operations) then moved to SOJA. Mrs. Keesee has touched countless people in her tenure with SOJA. Notable alumni of SOJA that she has worked with include three U.S. Attorneys, several General Officers in the Army, including a former The Judge Advocate of the Army (TJAG), and numerous prominent local jurists and attorneys.

Her talent and dedication to duty were recognized with her award of one of the first Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medals to be awarded at USSOCOM. In 2008, the Air Force Judge Advocate Corps recognized her as the prestigious Harold R. Vague Award Winner (the most outstanding civilian paralegal in the Air Force). In that same year, SOJA recognized her with the Major General William Garrison Award. This award recognizes "significant contributions to advancement of the rule of law in the Special Operations community." Mrs. Keesee has been a critical part of USSOCOM from its early beginnings and has served with all USSOCOM SJAs (SOJAs) in her time with USSOCOM.

Always professional and going above and beyond, Mrs. Keesee has been an invaluable continuity in the high speed office of SOJA. Melissa has touched and helped countless SOF JAGs and legal personnel in her federal career. She truly is a "Quiet Professional". Her country and home state are thankful and proud. I wish Melissa and her husband of 25 years, Rick, along with their daughter, Jessica, Godspeed in retirement and justly deserved personal time.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JAMIE M. GLINES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Major Jamie M. Glines, United States Marine Corps.

For the past year, Major Glines, call sign "Banana", served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Major Glines is a proud Marine Corps Aviator. During his assignment, he provided senior-level guidance for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Major Glines executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction.

Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my roles as the Readiness Subcommittee Chairman, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus, and the Chairman of the United States Naval Academy's Board of Visitors.

Major Glines directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience in the Marine Corps to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Major Glines took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Major Glines's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Major Glines for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Marine Corps. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, humor and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. As an UH-1Y Huey pilot with over 2,000 flight hours, Major Glines completed multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and served as an instructor at the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron. Major Glines is headed to Marine Corps Aviation in the Pentagon where he will continue to work on Congressional matters. I have no doubt that Major Glines will continue to serve the Marine Corps honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Elise, and his children Arlene, Jordan, Michael, and Zoe the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Marine family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Major Jamie Glines are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Major Jamie Glines, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Marines you are charged with leading. Semper Fi.

HONORING MRS. LINDA BERMAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Linda Berman, a dedicated volunteer for the Democratic Party and resident of Amherst, New York. Linda's tireless service is recognized today by her friends on the Amherst Democratic Committee. A member of the Committee since 2005, Linda and her son David have committed countless hours to further Democratic causes in our community.

Linda was introduced to politics in 2003, when she met Mark Poloncarz. Linda and her son David joined Mark to campaign for John Kerry's bid for the presidency. The three political volunteers established the group "Democrats for Progress" in 2005. That same year Mark Poloncarz sought the office of Erie County Comptroller, so Linda and David worked diligently to support his efforts.

In 2005, Linda joined the Amherst Democratic Committee, where she remains involved in to this day. In her capacity as a volunteer, she worked on every facet of Democratic politics: chairing events, service as a Zone Leader, running phone banks and other important service on campaigns.

Of particular note are Linda's efforts to elect Mark Poloncarz as Erie County Executive in 2011. Her experience earned her an appointment as a delegate in 2012 for the Democratic National Convention, where she traveled to North Carolina to support the nomination of incumbent President Barack Obama.

Before her involvement in politics, Linda and her husband were the owners of Masterline, a successful small business on Sheridan Drive that sold hair pieces. After selling the business, Linda worked for five years at the Buffalo Jewish Center. Next she brought her skills to the business office of the Williamsville Central School District, a position she held for fifteen years before her retirement in July of 2008.

Linda shares her passion for politics with her beloved son David, who has unwaveringly supported his mother and her efforts every step of the way. Over the years, he has walked in parades, knocked on doors, and participated in a number of Democratic campaigns. Their bond as a family and commitment to serving Democrats in Western New York is truly honorable.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Mrs. Linda Berman and her admirable dedication to Democratic politics. Linda's commitment, which she instilled in her son David, is exceptional, and she is most deserving of this recognition by the Amherst Democratic Committee.

RECOGNIZING NEELAM CANTO-LUGO FOR RECEIVING THE VEGA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Neelam Canto-Lugo for her extraordinary service to the people of Nepal. Through her volunteer work with the Women Development Advocacy Center, Neelam provided entrepreneurial training to Nepalese youth, women, and community organizers. Upon her return to the States, Neelam has continued her important work with the organization, supporting its digital literacy and micro-enterprise acceleration projects. To date, Neelam has raised \$9,800 and has received a donation of eleven computers, which will provide greater opportunity to economically disadvantaged women and empower rural entrepreneurs.

On behalf of the people of California's 3rd Congressional District, please accept my sincere congratulations as well as my best wishes for the future.

ARVADA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arvada High School for their creative and unique mobile application (app) that was entered in the 2016