

major key to our success requires that we maintain air-superiority and provide effective air-cover for our men and women deployed in combat zones. This is the defining legacy of the 187th from World War II to today.

Given its rich history and superior service to this nation, the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing stands poised and well-equipped to bring the next generation of air power to the Alabama Air National Guard.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Yogesh Varhade and his pursuit of social justice. His hero, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, died 60 years ago today. Ambedkar inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement in India, campaigned against social discrimination of the Dalit caste, supported the rights of women and laborers, and was appointed first Minister of Law and Justice in India in 1947.

In honor of Dr. Ambedkar, Mr. Varhade founded the Ambedkar Center for Justice and Peace, a non-governmental organization, which has a headquarters in Kingston, PA. For the last 25 years Mr. Varhade dedicated himself to addressing issues of child labor, bonded labor, prostitution, human trafficking, and caste-based discrimination as they occur in India by implementing a legal literacy program for the marginalized in India and by educating others at the United Nations as well as elected leaders like myself.

We in the United States struggle with versions of these ugly truths born from hate and intolerance. Forced labor and human trafficking are a \$150 billion industry worldwide. This nation has done much to pursue diplomatic solutions to these international issues. We must rededicate ourselves to this work and to our many partners in honor of the heroes who led the way.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE ABEYTA

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Abeyta of Montrose, Colorado, who passed away on November 14, 2016. Jose is survived by his wife, Loretta, whom he was married to for 40 years, and their two sons, Lenny and Juan. Jose was a personal friend of mine and a beloved member of his community. He served our country proudly during the Vietnam War from 1969–1971 as a fixed wing mechanic for the Army's 358th Aviation Detachment. He received an honorable discharge after serving for two years.

Mr. Abeyta is a hero because of the time he spent in the Army, but the life he lived after his service showed us what an honorable man and model citizen he truly was. Jose married Loretta one month after returning home from

Vietnam, and they moved to Colorado Springs, where he went to school and earned a degree in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Mr. Abeyta paid his own way through school, and then he and Loretta moved back to Montrose, where he began his career as a probation officer. He later ran successfully for city council in 2006. He served as the Mayor of Montrose in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it was not just his work that defined who Mr. Abeyta was, but also his devotion to serving others. As a husband, father, war veteran, little league coach, and public servant, he lived a life full of selfless service and stood as an example for all Americans to live by. He started out as the new guy in Montrose, and he ended up serving as the Mayor, which speaks volumes about the impact he had on the community. I am saddened by Mr. Abeyta's death, because he is an irreplaceable figure in Montrose, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know him. His family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope the community of Montrose will continue to celebrate his tremendous accomplishments in the weeks and months to come.

#### TO COMMEND THE HONOREES OF THE 2016 KOREAN AMERICAN AS- SOCIATION OF GREATER WASH- INGTON COMMUNITY APPRECI- ATION NIGHT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the extraordinary honorees who will be recognized during the 3rd Annual Community Appreciation Night celebration sponsored by the Korean American Association of Greater Washington (KAAW.) Although this is the 3rd Community Appreciation Night, it is the first in which individuals will be recognized for their public service.

The KAAW strives to inform and engage the Korean American community throughout our region. Through its efforts and the efforts of its President, So Jung Lim, the organization continues to grow and successfully empower Korean Americans to become fully engaged participants in our local community and political process. Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity—in fact, it is home to one of the largest concentrations of Americans of Korean ancestry in the entire country. As the Member of Congress for the 11th District of Virginia and the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am proud to have partnered with the Korean community on numerous issues, going back to my time as a Member and later Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The KAAW has been a constant and invaluable partner in these efforts.

Public service is a core value of our society. Each of us has the ability and responsibility to contribute what we can in order to make our communities better. Whether it is volunteering at a local school, in a community or civic association, at a food bank or other charity, or serving in elected office, the efforts of public servants and community activists enrich us all. This is especially true for first responders and educators. They dedicate their lives to our

children, our safety, and our future. KAAW has embraced this ethos and tonight will honor five first responders and two educators who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

It is my great honor to include the names of the following individuals in recognition of their extraordinary achievements:

Officer Nicole Ha, Washington Metropolitan Police Department, Special Liaison Division—Asian Liaison Unit.

Dr. Shelly O'Foran, English Department Chair, Freedom High School.

Police Officer First Class Hyun Chang, Fairfax County Police Department.

Master Deputy Charles Gravatte, Loudoun County Sheriff Office.

Firefighter Andrew Gode, Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management.

Alex Morrison, Orchestra Teacher, Centreville High School.

Officer Jeong Hong, Fairfax County Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these fine men and women and congratulate each of them on being honored by KAAW. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to KAAW for sponsoring this event and providing the opportunity for us to express our respect and appreciation to each of the honorees.

#### HONORING MRS. GERTRUDE R. GRENADA

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gertrude R. Grenada who was born and educated in the Mt. Olive Community in Bolton, Mississippi.

Mrs. Grenada was one of 10 children who knew too well how important it was to achieve an education. She furthered her education by attending Jackson State College (University). Mrs. Grenada holds a B.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education along with 23 hours of study toward her Master's Degree. She was first employed with the Hinds County Headstart Agency in 1966 as a Social Worker.

Mrs. Grenada served 37 years of employment with the Hinds County Headstart Agency. She touched the lives of more than 4 thousand children in the Bolton, Edwards and Jackson communities. What she enjoyed the most was working closely with the children, being surrounded and respected by fellow co-workers and employers with the highest levels of intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude R. Grenada.

#### PROVIDING CARE TO THE DUCHENNE COMMUNITY

### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recall the significance of the authority extended by Congress to the Food and Drug

Administration in the 2012 Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. This legislation enhanced the FDA's ability to develop and implement accelerated approval programs to provide therapies to patients with rare, debilitating, and one-hundred percent fatal diseases.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder resulting in progressive muscle degeneration. This rare condition, which typically affects boys, is characterized by lung and heart complications that cause certain premature death.

Despite compelling evidence of its efficacy, the FDA recently refused to consider a New Drug Application for a therapy developed to treat a commonly diagnosed form of Duchenne.

As there are no alternative treatments for this particular form of Duchenne eligible for purchase or approval, Duchenne patients are left unable to mitigate the effects of the deadly disease.

I urge the FDA to grant a full and fair review to New Drug Applications for Duchenne therapies in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. The timely delivery of treatments is of the utmost importance to the Duchenne community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 601 (H.R. 5015), Yea on Roll Call No. 602 (H.R. 6427), and Yea on Roll Call No. 603 (House Amendment to S. 1635).

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal of Valor.

Nineteen members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It

is with great pride that I include the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Gold Medal of Valor: Lieutenant Lawrence G. Mullin, Technician Ryland W. Chapman.

Silver Medal of Valor: Captain Carlos R. Carrillo, Lieutenant Daniel P. Gajewski, Master Technician Rolando E. Contreras, Master Technician Timothy J. Pais, Urban Search and Rescue Team.

Bronze Medal of Valor: Lieutenant Joshua T. Allison, Lieutenant Reginald L. Wadley, Master Technician Glenn W. Dressler, Master Technician Robert G. Ritchie, Master Technician Beverly L. Studds, Technician Travis L. Franks, Technician Jorge M. Martinez, Firefighter/Medic R.L. Radam III, Firefighter Delfin Reyes.

Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant David E. Myers, Lieutenant Scott F. Primrose.

Lifesaving Award: Technician Eric C. Villman.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday December 1, 2016 I had to return home to my district for a dental emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted:

ROLL CALL 594: Nay; ROLL CALL 595: Nay; ROLL CALL 596: Nay; ROLL CALL 597: Nay; ROLL CALL 598: Yea; ROLL CALL 599: Nay; ROLL CALL 600: Nay.

#### HONORING THE TOWN OF CRENSHAW

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a thriving town in the Mississippi Delta, the Town of Crenshaw.

Over the course of 20 years, men and women of the Armed Forces, law enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services have been recognized for their service to our communities and country.

Mayor Oscar Barlow and First Lady Heather Barlow have put in tireless hours to get the word out about paying tribute to these very special men and women. They have gone above and beyond their call to make each program special for these men and women.

In addition, they not only get the administration involved in paying tribute, but also area churches, federal, state and county leaders all come together in unity to show support to those who put their lives on the line daily for our communities and country.

Our men and women of Armed Forces, law enforcement, Fire and EMS come out to re-

ceive a thank you from people who truly care and appreciate the sacrifice they make for us all.

The Town of Crenshaw and our country also owe a thank you to the Mayor and First Lady for putting together such a wonderful tribute program for 20 years and for the vision they have in making these programs. We owe these men and women a simple, yet huge "THANK YOU!"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Crenshaw, Mississippi for paying tribute to all Servicemen who serve and protect our communities and this great country.

#### HONORING FLARA PRESIDENT TONY FRANSETTA

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congressmen TED DEUTCH, ALCEE HASTINGS, and PATRICK MURPHY, to recognize retiring FLARA President Tony Fransetta for his leadership and public service.

FLARA, the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans, represents the best interests of retired Floridians and stands in support of working families. As President, Tony has led the organization in its fight to protect the health and economic security of seniors throughout the state of Florida. His energetic leadership of FLARA helped expand the organization, increasing membership from 37,000 to 217,000 during his tenure. Tony leaves behind an influential legacy in which future leaders of FLARA will strive to follow.

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay is declaring Tuesday, December 6th as Tony Fransetta Day in Palm Beach County to recognize Tony's leadership and advocacy. We would like to join the Commissioner and our friends back in Florida in honoring, celebrating, and thanking Tony for his service protecting and advancing the interests of our communities.

Tony is a great role model for Floridians, and we are pleased to honor him today and wish him the best in his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

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