

as an innovative, livable and exciting mixed use neighborhood while preserving its historic and creative character. The neighborhood has emerged with vibrant agencies, businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues including: The Broadway Theatre Center with its spectacular Cabot Theatre draws audiences into the ward at night, many fine restaurants bringing a contemporary vibe and flair to the neighborhood, a Congressional District Office, and the annual Third Ward Art Festival has joined the roster of Milwaukee's outdoor events. However, the construction of the Milwaukee Public Market has been the pivotal point in guaranteeing the Third Ward's sustained viability, as well as, a new hotel, the Journeyman. However, the HTWA does not want to rest on its laurels, Nancy would like to see more public space, more people getting off the streetcar and shopping and dining in restaurants, as well as, a grocery store and a drug store in the Third Ward.

Nancy O'Keefe is responsible for the many social events which are staples of the downtown culture and brought many visitors to the Third Ward including: Summer Sizzles, Christmas in the Third Ward, Gallery Nights, World's Largest Coffee Break, Shortest & Smallest St. Patrick's Day Parades, Sculptures on Ice Competitions, and Small Business Saturdays. She has also served on numerous boards including: Architectural Review Board, Friends of Lakeshore State Park, and Downtown Neighborhood Association.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Nancy O'Keefe. In fact my Congressional District Office is sited in the Third Ward. I have had the privilege of joining with Nancy and other dignitaries to promote Small Business Saturday and other events in the Third Ward. I join with friends in congratulating her on her retirement. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Nancy O'Keefe and celebrate her outstanding leadership. Nancy O'Keefe has overseen the Third Ward's transformation from a district with growing potential into an urban success story. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Nancy O'Keefe.

COMMEMORATING FRANK
ABDNOUR, OWNER OF THE SPOT-
TED COW

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Frank Abdnour of Peoria, Illinois on his retirement as owner of The Spotted Cow, an iconic restaurant in my hometown.

Mr. Abdnour first opened the Spotted Cow in the early 1980's as an ice cream push-cart on the Bradley University campus. During this time, Frank became a fixture of campus life and a favorite of students in need of a frozen treat in between classes. In 1987, fueled by the American entrepreneurial spirit, Frank successfully opened a brick-and-mortar ice cream

store in Peoria Heights. Nineteen years later, Frank pursued his dream of turning the Spotted Cow into a full service restaurant at the corner of Sheridan and Glen, where it has become an institution in the Peoria community, serving the most delicious food and of course, ice cream.

The Spotted Cow is a landmark throughout Central Illinois, known for its Italian beef, burgers, salads, and, most importantly, ice cream. Frank's famous, one of a kind ice cream is made in-store with flavors that can only be found at the Spotted Cow.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Frank on a successful career as a Peoria icon, and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on as The Spotted Cow continues to serve as a cornerstone of Peoria culture for years to come.

RECOGNIZING BELLA RUBIO FOR
HER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVICE TO REAL COUN-
TY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bella Rubio for 20 years of dedicated public service to Real County and the State of Texas.

Bella currently serves as county and district clerk for Real County, the western-most county that I represent. She is retiring but her legacy will live on for years to come in the towns of Leakey and Camp Wood in Real County.

Bella has been a dear friend to me and my staff for two decades. She is well-respected in her community and has helped me greatly in serving Real County at the federal level. For anyone in Real County needing assistance with the government, Bella has been there for them. She is dedicated, persistent, and conscientious.

Apparently, Bella has inspired a spirit of public service in her son, Lucas, who is now interning in my San Antonio district office.

Congratulations to Bella Rubio on her retirement. Everyone who knows her appreciates her many contributions to Real County. She is a patriot, a leader, and a friend to all. And for all that she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

HONORING SHERIFF BRIAN
MARTIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Brian Martin, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Lakeport, California, Sheriff Martin enlisted in the United States Army Military Police in 1992. While in the Army, Sheriff Martin was a paratrooper and was assigned to the Fort Bragg Military Police Special Reaction

Team as a team leader and sniper. Sheriff Martin then attended Modesto Junior College Police Academy in 1997 and joined the Pismo Beach Police Department where he was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as an Officer of the Year. Sheriff Martin has since served as Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant and Lieutenant in the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Martin has served as Sheriff for Lake County and provided valuable leadership during times of crisis. During the devastating fire season of 2015, Sheriff Martin led the evacuation of 20,000 people in response to the historic Valley Fire, which burned over 70,000 acres and destroyed nearly 2,000 structures. His actions saved countless lives in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Martin for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

TYBEE ISLAND VETERANS CIRCLE
OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL MONU-
MENT

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tybee Island Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument.

This monument is a tribute to all branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marines, and Coast Guard.

It was built for all veterans that have previously served in the United States Armed Forces as well as those currently serving.

The Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument took several years to complete, with a committee dedicated to this project beginning their work in October 2006. Tybee Island donated a piece of property in Memorial Park, and the groundbreaking was done two years later, on December 7, 2009.

I am proud to represent a district whose citizens came together to build this memorial monument. Generous donations poured in from community members, fundraisers, and even brick sales. This speaks to the proud military tradition present on Tybee Island, and Georgia's First Congressional District, more broadly. The monument is a beautiful tribute to our servicemen, and I thank the city of Tybee Island for making it happen.

IN HONOR OF ANNA MARIE SMITH

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Anna Marie Smith, a woman of strength, character and commitment to her community. Ms. Smith has been a friend, mentor and volunteer to many individuals and for organizations throughout the City of Gloucester City and the surrounding community in southern New Jersey, including myself, and it only seems fitting that we honor someone on the floor of the House of Representatives who has dedicated herself to helping others.

Ms. Smith has lived in the City of Gloucester City since 1963. Throughout the time since then, she has proven to be a tireless advocate for veterans, children, those less fortunate and animals.

For the past twenty-eight years, Ms. Smith has been the Secretary to the Gloucester City Board of Health. She worked for a decade at the Camden County, New Jersey Clerk's Office until she retired at the age of 82.

She formed the Heroes to Hero Run and Memorial Scholarship Event in honor of our fallen soldiers, and remains actively involved in that yearly event. She is an active member of the local Democratic Committee's Executive Board and attends monthly meetings and volunteer activities.

Ms. Smith works actively with the City of Gloucester City's Rabies Clinic, and volunteers to help staff the events in the City and she regularly volunteers her time for the City's Red Cross Blood Drive. She volunteers at the local Ronald McDonald House, at the Larc School for disabled children, and helps to collect school supplies and winter clothing items for local school children.

With all of her volunteer efforts, Ms. Smith remains a proud Grandmother to Velann Tomlin and is fixture in the lives of her Great Grandchildren, Luke and Mersadie.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Smith continues to encourage and inspire everyone who knows her and those she continues to meet. I hope that you will all join me in thanking her for all she has done and will continue to do for her friends, family and neighbors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE A. WALLACE CATO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional public servant and outstanding leader, Chief Judge Anthony Wallace Cato, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Georgia Judicial Circuit in Bainbridge, Georgia.

A. Wallace Cato was born on February 6, 1938 in Decatur County, Georgia to the late John Ebb Cato and Edna Stegall Cato. A Georgia man through and through, he has lived in Bainbridge his entire life. He attended the University of Georgia and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1960 and a law degree in 1964.

In 1966, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives but he resigned in November 1969 to take office as District Attorney for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit. He served as District Attorney, prosecuting crimes in Southwest Georgia, until 1978.

Judge Cato resigned as District Attorney in 1978 and was appointed as Superior Court Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit in a newly added seat. He served as Judge under Chief Judge Robert Culpepper, Jr. until December 15, 1982 when Judge Culpepper retired. At that time, Judge Cato became Chief Judge and he has maintained that position since.

Chief Judge Cato was a member of the Council of Superior Court Judges and served as Secretary and Treasurer in 1983–1984 under President Judge Emory Findley. Chief Judge Cato succeeded Judge Findley as the President of the Council in 1984–1985.

Chief Judge Cato also served as an Administrative Judge of the Second Judicial Administrative District for two terms: 1986 through 1988 and 2002 through 2006. As Administrative Judge, he served on the Executive Committee of the Council during these time periods.

Throughout his career, Chief Judge Cato has been recognized for his commitment and leadership on the bench. This year, he received the 5th Annual Emory Findley Award for Outstanding Judicial Service from the Council of Superior Court Judges. Always a mentor to those around him, Chief Judge Cato possesses the rare quality of humble leadership.

After retirement, Chief Judge Cato will enjoy spending time with his wife, Sadie; their three children, Karen, Wally, and Nancy; and six grandchildren. Chief Judge Cato has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable A. Wallace Cato upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career spanning 38 years as a Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

DAN EVANS OLYMPIC
WILDERNESS ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Washington and the region I represent are known for their breathtaking natural treasures.

Visitors from around the world come to take in the view of Mt. Rainier and hike the beautiful trails in the North Cascades.

But we cannot talk about Washington's natural treasures without thanking the man who's been instrumental in maintaining and protecting them for future generations.

Former Washington governor and U.S. Senator, Dan Evans, had an unwavering commitment to preserving our state's national parks and forests throughout his distinguished 50 years as a public servant.

From the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act to the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988, Senator Evans' initiatives have had a lasting impact on every person who had or will get the opportunity to experience Mother Nature's gifts.

It is only fitting that the name of the Olympic National Park Wilderness recognizes the efforts of the man who fought so hard to preserve it.

As someone who remembers the excitement of exploring our national forests as a kid, it has been one of my greatest pleasures as a father—and now as a grandfather—to pass the experience on to new generations.

Senator Evans understood this. He understood that even man's greatest feats of architecture could not compare to the magnificence Mt. Rainier's over 14,000 foot summit or the hidden pristine lakes in the North Cascades. He understood we only have one chance to protect these gifts.

And as a Republican from Washington State, he showed us that conservation did not have to be a partisan issue. It is a duty that falls on all of us, regardless of party or region.

Senator Evans deserves to be recognized for the contributions he made to my home state and to our country. I ask my colleagues in the House to please join me in supporting the Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT AUWATER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Scott Auwater for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Scott Auwater became BronxWorks' Assistant Executive Director for Case Management Programs in 2002 after serving as a department director for seven years. He is an alumnus of the State University of New York at Cortland and has a Master's degree from the Hunter College School of Social Work. After graduating from college, he served for two years in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. Scott first joined BronxWorks as a student intern in 1986 and has been a full-time staff member since 1988.

His portfolio includes BronxWorks' street homeless services, family shelters, HIV/AIDS services, and foster care prevention programs. Scott established the BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team, led BronxWorks' expansion into the homeless services programs, and he is widely recognized as an expert on homelessness. He oversaw BronxWorks' role in dramatically reducing street homelessness in the borough and has done innovative work in addressing the health needs of chronically homeless individuals.

Scott has served on a number of not-for-profit boards over the years including The Bronx Borough President's African Advisory Board and Throup Family Residence, a Bronx faith-based organization that shelters families and provides permanent supportive housing. Scott is married to Luz Real and has four children. In the years since his Peace Corps service ended, Scott has kept in close contact with his network of friends in Sierra Leone and returned to the country twice. Scott and Luz's youngest son, Hassan, was born in Sierra Leone during the country's brutal civil war and Hassan was adopted after his birth parents were killed during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Scott Auwater for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.