

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex scraped and spray painted 28 fire hydrants in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Joseph Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I'm proud to support Brain Awareness Week to highlight the importance of neuroscience research as one of the most promising and productive areas of science today. Understanding the brain is not only important for understanding speech, memory, pain, or decision-making, but could lead to treatments that have a transformational impact on millions of individuals who suffer from neurological and psychiatric disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. We must continue to make robust and sustained investments in agencies like the NIH to continue the tremendous progress we've already made, both to improve public health, and to maintain our leadership in the scientific enterprise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on March 14th & March 15th, 2016, I was unavoidably detained because I was attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, I would have voted NO.

On roll call no. 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 123, I would have voted YES.

HONORING MS. LINDA PARKS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Parks, whom I have named Woman of the Year in Napa County, California. For more than four decades, Ms. Parks has worked to build Napa-based Lixit Animal Care Products into the major manufacturer and employer it is today.

Currently serving as President and CEO of the company, Ms. Parks joined Lixit in 1971 as a buyer, three years after the company's

founding. At the time, it employed only ten people. In 1994, Ms. Parks and other employees purchased the company using an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, allowing employee stakeholders to participate in business's future and success.

Under Ms. Parks's leadership, Lixit maintains international markets in Canada and Mexico, and employs more than 100 people in its downtown Napa, California location. Lixit employs many people with developmental disabilities, helping them participate in the workforce and gain independence through the company's Adults with Disabilities program.

Ms. Parks has earned a distinguished reputation in the California business community. In 2015, the North Bay Business Journal named her one of the Women in Business award winners of the year. A graduate of the Building a Minority Business program at the Tuck School of Business, Ms. Parks has led Lixit to become a certified women-owned company.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Linda Parks for her dedication to building a successful business and diverse workforce that enlivens the Napa County business community. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP ALFRED A. OWENS, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr., who this week is celebrating 50 years of pastoral ministry in the District of Columbia at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, where he has provided outstanding service to not only residents of the District, but throughout the country.

As pastor of one of the largest churches in the District, for five decades, Bishop Owens has been among the nation's most prominent pastors. His reputation for serving his community, humor, and messages of hope has allowed him to grow from a membership of only seven members in 1966 to more than 7,000 today.

Bishop Owens, a native Washingtonian, has a heart for the community, establishing, among other social service programs an alcohol and drug abuse program and free mental and emotional counseling through certified professionals, and becoming one of the first church HIV/AIDS healthcare programs in the nation. In addition, he is passionate about helping our returning citizens and making them productive community members. He lives by his mantra, "It's just nice to be nice." But, he understands the responsibility he has as a pastor to ensure his ministry goes beyond the four walls of the church and serves those most in need.

Among Bishop Owen's many accomplishments are serving as the Dean of the Joint College of African American Pentecostal Bishops since 2000. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Divinity.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know of the ministry of Bishop Owens and many congressional staff attend his church. There-

fore, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr., for 50 years of extraordinary contributions to the national capital region and the nation and to wish him many more years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL—WASHINGTON, DC

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the World Affairs Council—Washington, DC (WAC-DC). WAC-DC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and international community of geopolitical, business, and civil society issues in our interconnected world.

Since its founding in 1980, the World Affairs Council—Washington, DC has positively impacted the professional development of hundreds of thousands of teachers, educators, and students (high school and college) in the DC metro area, across the United States, and internationally through its global education, international affairs, and global communications programs. In 2009, WAC-DC launched its own weekly one hour international affairs program, World Affairs TODAY, that is filmed in front of a live audience in the Horizon Ballroom of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and broadcast nationally throughout the United States.

The Council provides a neutral, independent and non-partisan forum for speeches by presidents, prime ministers, cabinet officials, Members of Congress, and other prominent political leaders. Additionally, economists, diplomats, scholars, corporate leaders, authors, governors, researchers, journalists, and Nobel laureates are invited to participate. American and international speakers join Council members, VIP guests, online and television audiences, and the public for in-depth discussions on major foreign policy and education issues that have a global impact.

To prepare young people to compete in the 21st century, the Council educates students on international affairs and encourages a national dialogue on "The Importance of Global Education." The Council's teacher development workshops and seminars, youth leadership forums, Academic World Quest competitions, internships, and international study abroad programs foster a balanced view of global issues. The programs facilitate worldwide knowledge transfer, multicultural understanding, and analytical insights for American and international educators, teachers, and high school and college students.

The March 29, 2016 World Affairs HONORS: Global Education Gala is an annual event that recognizes organizations that demonstrate their commitment to best practices in global education, international affairs, and global communications. The WAC-DC will present five distinguished honorees with awards that exemplify the global education mission of the Council, which is to empower educators, students and citizens to effectively compete, communicate, travel and lead in our diverse and interconnected world.

The Republic of South Africa will receive the Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award that will be accepted by H.E. Mninwa J. Mahlangu, Ambassador to the United States. The IBM Corporation will receive the Global Education Award that will be accepted by Daniel S. Pelino, General Manager—Global Public Sector. The George Mason University will receive the Educator of the Year Award that will be accepted by Dr. Angel Cabrera, President. The National Geographic Society will receive the Global Communications Award that will be accepted by Gary E. Knell, President and CEO. The Keynote Address will be delivered by the United States Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Ashton Carter, who will also receive an International Public Service Award.

The World Affairs Council—DC Board of Directors is composed of an outstanding and dedicated voluntary group of individuals, many of whom are nationally and internationally recognized civic, corporate, education, and former diplomatic and government leaders. Along with a dedicated professional staff, strategic partners, members, and volunteers, the WAC—DC is committed to helping make our nation and world a better place for this and future generations through its global education, international affairs and global communication programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding programs that are being provided nationally and internationally by the World Affairs Council—Washington, DC.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, I missed Roll Call Votes 124 through 126 due to my necessary attendance in Massachusetts at a memorial service for Ms. Tiffany Johnson, who ably served the House of Representatives and the nation as my Democratic Counsel for the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations of the Committee on the Judiciary. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On Roll Call 124, I would have voted AYE—(Final Passage of H.R. 4596, Small Business Broadband Deployment Act).
2. On Roll Call 125, I would have voted AYE—(H.R. 4416, To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project).
3. On Roll Call 126, I would have voted AYE—(H.R. 4434, To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project).

HONORING KELLAN CAMPBELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kellan Campbell. Kellan is a very special young man who has

exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kellan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kellan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kellan contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kellan remarked 131 curbs for Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Raytown, Missouri. Since the cemetery has no headstones, the curbs markers assist families in locating their deceased loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kellan Campbell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY COUNTY MEN'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberty County men's high school basketball team on their State Championship title.

On March 3rd, 2016, the Panthers defeated Jonesboro High School from north Georgia to win the Class AAAA State Championship and the school's first ever State Championship in any sport.

Davion Mitchell, an impressive player for the team all year, scored 14 points—all in the second half. The Macon Coliseum crowd erupted during the game when Mitchell, who has already committed to play basketball at Auburn University, scored his first points of the game in the second half.

The team's scoring was led by Richard LeCounte with 20 points and Will Richardson with 19 points. Jaalon Frazier helped the team tremendously on the defensive end by grabbing 15 rebounds.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Liberty County men's basketball program as well as their coach, Julian Stokes, on all of their hard work this year. I wish them the best of luck in future seasons and many more State Championships to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHARD G. LUGAR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE SERIES

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The Lugar Series is a political leadership development program aimed at increasing the number and influence of Hoosier Republican women in

local, state, and national elected and appointed offices. It is my privilege to honor this strong Hoosier organization as it celebrates 25 years of excellence.

The Lugar Series is named after former Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, but his involvement with the group goes far beyond his namesake. In 1989, Judy Singleton, an Indiana businesswoman and volunteer on Senator Lugar's campaign, shared her dream of seeing more women in key roles in our government and in the Republican Party with Senator Lugar. She told him about her idea to start a program to educate women on the ins-and-outs of getting involved with public service. He was immediately enthusiastic and from there the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series was born. Senator Lugar, Judy, and fellow co-founders Teresa Lubbers, Melissa Martin, Barbara Mayes, and Sue Ann Gilroy put this idea into action and in 1990 the Lugar Series graduated their first class of 12 women.

Since its creation, 449 women have graduated from the Lugar Series. Women who are accepted in this program have demonstrated long-term success and leadership ability in their careers or in community service and have a keen interest in participating in public service. Hundreds of these women have gone on to serve in an elected or appointed office. They have served on and led numerous boards and commissions, served as staff members in various political and governmental offices, and/or been elected mayors, state legislators, county clerks and treasurers, school board members, city and town councilors, county commissioners, superior court judges, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Lt. Governor of Indiana. Additionally, the success of the Lugar Series in Indiana led to the implementation of 19 similar programs across the country. To date, there are over 2,000 graduates nationwide.

As a long-time advocate for women in public service and a current Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am familiar with the history of women in politics and the barriers to entry women face. When the Lugar Series was founded in 1990, there were 29 women serving in Congress out of 535 members, with only 13 being Republican. Today, there are 104 women serving in Congress, including 28 Republicans. State legislatures, local offices, and other elected and appointed positions see similar trends. We have made small strides, but there is still much work to be done.

As part of their program, the Lugar Series selects one outstanding Hoosier woman each year to receive the Nancy Maloley Outstanding Public Servant Award. Recipients have served in the public sector for a minimum of 5 years and display dedication to public service, a creative approach to problem solving, intellectual competency, and effective management and leadership. I was humbled and honored to receive this award in 2014. While there is still progress to be made, I am thrilled at the Lugar Series continued growth and success and look forward to seeing more women leaders emerge.

On behalf of all women, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Judy, Teresa, Melissa, Barbara, Sue Ann, and particularly Senator Lugar for recognizing the importance of educating and empowering women to enter public service and starting this exemplary organization. The Lugar Series has experienced