

his service and I congratulate them as well on this special occasion. I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Doolin's military career, and as he and his family move to this next chapter of his life, I wish Colonel Doolin "fair winds and following seas" as he embarks on his future endeavors. *Semper Fidelis* Marine.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JAMES BURKUSH AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Granite State first responder for his thirty-nine years of service to the Manchester Fire Department in Manchester, NH.

Chief James Burkush joined the Manchester Fire Department in 1977 and became Chief in 2008. Firefighter Burkush was a standout member of the department and worked through the ranks of the department over the next thirty one years before being appointed Chief on February 19, 2008. Throughout his storied career Chief Burkush responded to many different calls, but it is the efficiency and professionalism with which Chief Burkush handled every situation, no matter how dire, that makes him an exceptional leader and role model. Chief Burkush remains an exemplary public servant, and I applaud his dedication to making his community a better, safer place to live.

On April 29, 2016 Chief Burkush retired from the Manchester Fire Department with thirty nine years of service to the people of Manchester and the Granite State. He will now take on the role of Chief with the Hooksett Fire and Rescue Department. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, I thank him for his dedicated service to the community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARTY MARASCO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND RETIREMENT FROM THE ALTOONA-BLAIR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Martin Marasco's many invaluable contributions to and retirement from the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation.

Mr. Marasco has been the President and CEO of the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, known as ABCD Corp, since 1994. His work has been fundamental in helping the industrial and commercial economic expansion in Blair County. Specifically, under his leadership, ABCD Corp. has facilitated over 800 economic development projects, totaling in excess of \$1.5 billion in total project costs that have resulted in the creation and re-

tention of over 19,000 jobs. Thanks to his hard work, Blair County has seen the growth and introduction of businesses, which in turn have helped improve the standard of living for many families and individuals in Blair County.

Among his many responsibilities, Mr. Marasco was the Executive Director of the Blair County Industrial Authority and Blair County General Authority, which are public agencies that help provide information and pathways for public funding and taxable and tax-exempt financing.

Furthermore, I am happy to highlight that this dedication has not gone unnoticed, as Mr. Marasco has been the recipient of awards from the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), Boy Scouts of America, Kiwanis Club, Italian Heritage Society and others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Mr. Marasco, who has devoted his life to serving Blair County. On behalf of the many people he has positively impacted, I offer our tremendous gratitude. I am proud to serve constituents like Mr. Marasco, and wish him well in retirement.

HONORING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week as National Teacher Appreciation Week. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our heartfelt gratitude to all the exceptional men and women who dedicate their life's work towards the education of our youth. As a former member of the Miami-Dade County's School Board, I know firsthand the commitment and sacrifices our teachers make to ensure that our students have a solid educational foundation. Our teachers are the key to guiding our students in becoming the productive citizens and future leaders of our nation. With each lesson they teach, they bring wisdom, instill growth, inspire love, and enlighten the path for our youth. It is with profound honor and humility that I thank teachers universally for being mentors and motivators.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. GERVAIS OXENDINE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Mr. Gervais Oxendine and to commemorate the legacy of service to North Carolina he left behind.

Mr. Gervais Oxendine ("Mr. Gervais" as he was affectionately referred to by folks in Robeson County) was born on August 18, 1943 in Robeson County. After growing up in the area and attending Pembroke State College (now UNC Pembroke), Gervais was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served his country for four years during the Vietnam War aboard the USS *Forrestal*.

Mr. Gervais' lifetime of service to our country continued even after his enlistment ended. His son, Eric Oxendine, is currently a U.S. Navy Captain. Gervais was also an integral member of the Lumbee Warriors Association, a local non-profit group that helps veterans across the region who are struggling with PTSD. Additionally, Gervais was a lifetime member of VFW Post 2843 in Pembroke.

Gervais was a successful businessman, working more than 32 years in key management positions for Abbott Laboratories. Gervais played an important role in the company's expansion into the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and received Abbott Lab's President's Award on four separate occasions.

More than any of his notable career or military accomplishments, folks across North Carolina knew Gervais as a man who fought fiercely for Robeson County and the Lumbee Native American Tribe. Mr. Gervais served on the UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees for eight years, during which time he worked closely with North Carolina Board of Governors officials to advocate for UNCP. He was also a key leader for issues facing the Lumbee Tribe, and aggressively supported efforts for federal tribal recognition, along with additional state and federal resources for his people.

Mr. Gervais was seen as the go-to-guy in Robeson County when it came to turning political ideas into real policy reforms to help the region. He was one of my first supporters in the area, and I'll never be able to repay the debt of gratitude I owe for his friendship and counsel over the years. I'm going to dearly miss my friend, Gervais Oxendine, but I know his legacy will live on through his wonderful wife, Dr. Olivia Holmes Oxendine, his two sons and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mr. Gervais Oxendine for his service to Robeson County and his commitment to bettering the lives of everyone in our community and state.

HONORING PETER "P-B" BIELAK

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter "P-B" Bielak of Washington, D.C., who recently received the Silver Beaver Award for his outstanding contributions to the Boy Scouts of America here in the District of Columbia.

P-B has dedicated his life to furthering the scouting movement and preserving its storied legacy in the United States. A Scout Historian for over 40 years and enthusiastic vexillologist, P-B is the person scouts go to with questions about old patches, uniforms and flags. A symbol of his dedication to getting more boys involved in scouts, P-B recently helped found the Helping Other Scout Troops Incorporate Needed Gear (HOSTING) program, which collects uniforms, sleeping bags, backpacks, tents, and cooking gear for financially needy youth and adults all over the D.C. area. Due to its overwhelming success, the HOSTING program outgrew its warehouse space and plans to increase its imprint on the community.

P-B is also the founder of the History Of Scouting Trail (H.O.S.T.), located in Washington, D.C. This set of four interactive hikes allows scouts and leaders to learn about the founders of the Boy Scouts of America while exploring the nation's capital.

As Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with P-B on a number of occasions to promote scouting on a national level. P-B embodies the twelve points of the Scout Law, so I know he is always prepared and doing his best in every aspect of life.

A role model for young scouts, P-B is a tireless advocate for the D.C. scouting community. His receipt of the Silver Beaver Award is certainly well-deserved. I congratulate him on this honor and look forward to working with him to increase the positive impact scouting can have on our nation's young men.

WILLIAM P. THOMAS

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of William P. Thomas, of the Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones he has left behind, and to recognize his service, as well as his career and community engagement.

William, a resident of Stafford Township, New Jersey, was a graduate of Cardinal Hayes Memorial High School in New York City and attended Princeton University before he enlisted in the U.S. Army to defend our country during World War II as part of the Fifth Ranger Battalion. For his honorable service, he received five medals, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. When he returned home from the war, determined to provide for his family, he started his own company, William P. Thomas Builders. The company was successful and completed projects, which included 500 homes, motels, a 55-unit oceanfront condominium in Ship Bottom and work on the Ocean County Courthouse. He also developed Deer Lake Park in Stafford.

William began selling real estate in 1953 and was extremely prosperous, eventually becoming president of the New Jersey Association of Realtors and the New Jersey Shore Multiple Listing. Thomas ultimately became the broker-owner of Prudential Zack Shore Properties in Toms River, which recently became Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Zack Shore Realtors, a business now overseen by his son and sister.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have had William P. Thomas as a hardworking and dedicated member of their community. It is with a heavy heart that I commemorate his honorable service to our country, as well as his fruitful career and life, and recognize the lasting legacy that he has left behind, before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING
SCHWARTZE ON RECEIVING THE
MISSOURI 9-1-1 DIRECTOR OF
THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Springfield-Greene County, Missouri, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Director Zim Schwartz on receiving the Missouri 9-1-1 Director of the Year Award.

The 9-1-1 Director of the Year award is given annually at the Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference, and honors a director who has performed in an exceptional manner for that year. The winner is chosen by a combination of Missouri Chapters of Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Emergency Number Association and the Missouri 9-1-1 Directors Association.

Schwartz retired as a captain in the Columbia Police Department before her current role as emergency communications director. She had previously served as director for the Boone County Joint Communications 9-1-1 and in the Office of Energy Management. In addition to her primary job, she is also an adjunct professor at the Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia and the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, the treasurer of the Missouri 9-1-1 Directors Association, and has volunteered for the Missouri Special Olympics for over 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, Zim Schwartz has dedicated her life to serving the Missouri community. In addition to her immense service through her police work, her leadership and organization of the Missouri emergency services has been invaluable. She is the model of an ideal public servant, and I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude for all she has done for Missouri. On behalf of the 7th district, I thank Zim for her service and extend my congratulations on this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE HARTVILLE
EAGLES BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hartville Eagles Boys Basketball team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship to finish their already impressive season. Coach Brett Reed led the team to a dominant 64-37 win over Iberia in the championship game at Mizzou Arena earlier this spring.

The final victory came at the end of an 18 game win streak, concluding the best boys basketball season in Hartville history. In addition to winning the first Class 2 Missouri State Championship for Hartville, the team also won the Clever Tournament, the Mountain Grove Tournament, the Summit Conference, and became the Class 2 District 9 Champions for the fourth straight year. Ending with an overall

record of 29-4, the team showed its ability to compete on a statewide level, with their only losses coming from opponents in higher classes.

The Missouri Basketball Coaches Association recognized the outstanding success of the Eagles' season by naming Brett Reed the Class 2 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year as well as naming Ryan Ward the Class 2 Boys Basketball Player of the Year. In addition, Ryan Ward and Deric Jones were both named members of the All-State Class 2 Boys Basketball Team.

For these exceptional achievements, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Hartville Eagles Boys Basketball Team before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RABBI NORTON D.
SHARGEL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my fellow congregant, Rabbi Emeritus Norton Shargel, who is celebrating the 70th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 14th.

I have had the great pleasure of knowing Rabbi Shargel since moving to Westchester County and joining his congregation. He has served as a spiritual leader for the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (JCCH) since 1970. Throughout his time as Rabbi, he has enriched our community with his insight and warm demeanor, and his dedication to his congregation is unflinching.

Throughout his life, Rabbi Shargel has committed himself to his rabbinical studies. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Semitics from Johns Hopkins University, and a degree in Religious Education from Baltimore Hebrew College. He first entered the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1954 and studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem before earning his Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinical Degree in 1959. He also holds a degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Beyond his impressive academic resume, the Rabbi has worked as a spiritual leader in various communities. In 1959, Rabbi Shargel served as an army chaplain at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was an active member of the local Jewish community. He then moved to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he served as leader of the Bnai Abraham Synagogue. During his time in Easton he founded "ProJect," an interfaith, interracial group devoted to improving the community.

Since 1970, Rabbi Shargel has served JCCH and has worked to improve interfaith cooperation in the community. He organized an interfaith Bible Study Group and has developed an ongoing dialogue with local clergy. He has served as President of the Westchester Board of Rabbis and helped create the first Westchester Clergy Institute, a seminar for clergy of all faiths. Since 1998, Rabbi Shargel has served as an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, teaching courses in Judaism and Holocaust Studies.