

American homes and commercial buildings consume 71 percent of our nation's electricity, 54 percent of its natural gas, and 42 percent of all its energy. The model residential and commercial building energy codes developed by the International Code Council and ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, have the potential to benefit both consumers and the environment. The Department of Energy's Building Energy Codes Program participates in this process by researching, further developing, and implementing these codes. A study of this program by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory found that model energy codes saved consumers roughly \$44 billion and cut greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 3.9 billion metric tons over the past 20 years. In addition, the energy efficiency gained by updating building energy codes stands to stabilize the U.S. demand for electricity and decrease the need to construct more power plants.

The economic and environmental benefits of model building codes are also appreciated by homebuyers. According to a 2013 survey conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 9 out of 10 Americans will pay 2 to 3 percent more for a new home with energy efficient features. Homeowners understand that having an energy efficient home reduces monthly utility bills and provides long-lasting savings. Additionally, many homebuyers are aware that energy efficient features make their homes quieter and more comfortable, while also raising their resale values.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear from all of the benefits gained from building energy codes that we should continue to support upgrading model codes, adopting the codes in state and local jurisdictions, and improving compliance. This will save Americans money, contribute to our nation's energy security, and help protect our environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEPTUNE HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Long Branch Fire Department's Neptune Hose Company No. 1 on the 150th anniversary of its founding. Neptune Hose Company No. 1 continues to live up to its motto "Semper Paratus" ("Always Ready") to ensure the safety of Long Branch residents and its dedication is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The first organized fire company in Monmouth County, Neptune Hose Company No. 1, originally known as the Neptune Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, was founded by Dr. James O. Green in 1866. The name was changed in September 1877 to reflect Long Branch's new public water system and fire hydrants. Initially maintained by share and stock holders, the company chartered as Neptune Hose Company No. 1 on November 10, 1877. Over the years, the company was housed at different locations, finally settling at its current property in January 1906. It underwent renovations from 1974 until 1975 to update and

expand the structure and again in 2007 to repair and restore the second floor.

Neptune Hose Company No. 1 was one of the three fire companies, along with Oceanic Fire Engine Company No. 1 and the Atlantic Fire Engine and Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, to organize the Long Branch Fire Department on November 2, 1878. Since the inception of the department, sixteen members of Neptune Hose Company No. 1 have served as Chief.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of Neptune Hose Company No. 1 and thanking its members for upholding the duty to serve and protect the community.

GORDON CENTRAL MARCHING BAND

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gordon Central High School Blue Wave Marching Band on being selected to perform in the 2016 National Memorial Day Parade.

The Blue Wave Marching Band was established in 1985 and has a long tradition of superior performances which have taken them all across our great country.

This year the Blue Wave Band will be marching in honor of Lance Corporal Cody Kristopher Warren, a saxophone player and drum major for the Blue Wave Band who joined the Marines upon graduation.

In 2006, Cody made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq.

I am proud and excited that the Blue Wave Marching Band is performing in his honor in this year's National Memorial Day Parade.

I wish them the best of luck as they bring a piece of Georgia to our nation's capital.

RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church is celebrating 50 years of faithful service to the people of the Central Bucks County and Warrington area. Congratulations. This is a milestone for a church that has at its heart, faith and spirituality and a mission to fulfill the needs of all congregants. Devoted church leaders and pastors have overseen this spiritual task throughout St. Paul's 50-year history and continue on this same path, today. Since 1966, the church has grown to include more than one generation of faithful Christian families who care about each other and their neighbors. And for your 50 years of spiritual guidance, we extend our heartiest congratulations on this Golden Jubilee with sincere wishes for continued growth and service in the coming years.

PEARLAND ISD PARAPROFessionALS OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following paraprofessionals of Pearland Independent School District for being named Paraprofessionals of the Year.

Each school year, principals, teachers and staff members are recognized by the school district with various awards as a reflection of their hard work and dedication to their students and the school as a whole. This year 23 paraprofessionals were awarded with the title "Paraprofessionals of the Year": Tara Randall from Carlestone Elementary, Julie Putnam from Challenger Elementary, Sharleen Escobar from Cockrell Elementary, Jacob Chavarria from C.J. Harris Elementary, Laura Lemmon from Lawhon Elementary, Sherry Schluntz from Magnolia Elementary, Tara Pitre from Massey Ranch Elementary, Suzan Kimball from Rustic Oak Elementary, Kim Phillips from Shadycrest Elementary, Lawonza Hampton from Silvercrest Elementary, Mindy Bitner from Silverlake Elementary, Christine Coleman from Alexander Middle School, Kenneth Martin II from Jamison Middle School, Reginald Mitchell from Rogers Middle School, Aurelia Montes from Sablatura Middle School, Deborah Cooks from Berry Miller Junior High, Beth Powell from Pearland Junior High East, Armando Torres from Pearland Junior High South, Maria Salais from Pearland Junior High West, Rebecca Moreno from Dawson High School, April Shecterle from Pearland High School, Jure Mejia from Turner College and Career High School, and Maria Fogarty from the PACE Center. These paraprofessionals go above and beyond to inspire their students and create a supportive educational environment. We are grateful for their commitment to education and providing a safe, inspirational learning environment for our students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to these dedicated Pearland paraprofessionals for being named Paraprofessionals of the Year. We thank them for all that they do.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE DOG MEAT FESTIVAL IN YULIN, GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION, CHINA, AND URGING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO END THE DOG MEAT TRADE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important resolution condemning the dog meat festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, and urging the Chinese Government to end their dog meat trade.

The Dog Meat Festival begins on June 21st. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported in cages under horrific conditions, and slaughtered every year for this

Dog Meat festival, for human consumption, which poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. In addition, more than 10 million dogs are killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. This festival epitomizes the cruelty of the industry. Many of these dogs are stolen from their owners and are still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouses. Many die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones.

The festival takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. It is a spectacle of extreme animal cruelty for commercial purposes. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government.

Tens of millions of people around the world have called upon the Government of China, the Governor of the Guangxi Autonomous Region, and the Mayor of Yulin to officially end the Dog Meat Festival and stop the mass slaughter of dogs all year round in Yulin. In addition, it is often wrongly assumed to be a Chinese tradition, however, the majority of people in China do not consume dog meat and dog meat is not a part of mainstream Chinese culinary practice. Millions of Chinese citizens recently voted in support of a legislative proposal by Zhen Xiaohu, a deputy to the National People's Congress of China, to ban the dog meat trade. Alongside these voices, I have already written a letter to the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee urging him to draft legislation to prohibit this festival from taking place ever again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and sincerely hope that the House Republican Leadership will bring this critically important measure to the floor without delay.

LIVING IN A WORLD OF MAKE BELIEVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the VA is not the "Happiest Place on Earth." It is not Disneyland, and our veterans are not living in a world of make-believe. Secretary McDonald should be ashamed of himself for belittling our veterans. Dying in line waiting for medical services is not the same as waiting for Mickey Mouse.

Disneyland wait times are a matter of hours—not months. Reports find that nearly half of vets never see a doctor because of failure of VA staff to schedule an appointment. The VA owes our veterans an apology. Veterans should be allowed to get vouchers for private physicians.

Next week we observe Memorial Day—honoring our warriors who died for America. We also will honor those who fought in faraway distant lands just to come home and be a casualty of the VA's incompetence.

Secretary McDonald should be replaced with someone who respects America's heroes and ensures that no one else dies in line waiting for care at the fault of the VA.

And that's just the way it is.

PHELAN RESIDENT NATHANIEL STOCKS RECEIVES AWARD FOR BRAVERY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathaniel Stocks of Phelan, California. On Friday, May 13, 2016, Nathaniel was awarded the "Hope and Courage Award" from the Fire & Burn Foundation.

Nathaniel was selected to receive this award because of his heroic actions during the early morning hours of November 7, 2015. A fire started in his bedroom and awoke five-year-old Nathaniel from his sleep. Fearing for the safety of his grandmother, young Nathaniel crawled below the smoke to her bedroom and alerted her. Both Nathaniel and his grandmother escaped from the home without injury.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department also deserves recognition for their role during this incident. Just two days prior to the fire, Nathaniel attended a school tour of County Fire Station 10 where the students were given fire safety lessons. Without a doubt, the firefighters at Station 10 gave Nathaniel the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure this positive outcome.

I would like to congratulate Nathaniel Stocks for this momentous achievement. It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROBERT AND ELLEN MULFORD

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert & Ellen Mulford of Versailles, Indiana, and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Dr. Robert and Ellen Mulford have enrolled over 238 acres into six different CRP practices that focused on wildlife habitat and environmental preservation by creating wetlands and planting trees.

CRP is an important program that helps preserve wild life habitats by reducing soil erosion and encouraging the planting of native species that will improve environmental quality. In five years, with the help of CRP, Robert and Ellen Mulford have been able to completely change the landscape of their farm. The Mulfords plan to continue to showcase and improve the Capability Farm as a commitment to nature and hope to share it in as many different ways as possible.

As the CRP marks this important milestone, I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Robert & Ellen Mulford. We can all appreciate and learn from their deep commitment to the environment and their community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF J.B. ROBERTS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff J.B. Roberts who served the people of Cabarrus County, North Carolina from 1956 to 1982. He passed away on Monday, May 9, 2016 after complications from an injury he sustained while working on the family farm. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his entire family as they celebrate the life of this extraordinary man.

Except for his time at Mars Hill College and a stint in the Navy during WWII, Sheriff Roberts spent his entire life living and working on his farm in Midland, NC. During the war, he served his nation on the U.S.S. *Yorktown* as a trainer on one of the ship's five-inch guns. Roberts' service took him to several major engagements in the Pacific theater including the Battle of Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway where he spent several hours in the water before his rescue when the *Yorktown* was sunk.

As Sheriff of Cabarrus County, Roberts earned the respect of everyone he worked with. Never one to sweat the little things, he was known as a selfless, humble, and incredibly hardworking man. He continued to serve as a mentor and role model for the next generation of public servants even after his retirement. Almost everyone that knew Sheriff Roberts could share a story of how he impacted their life in one way or another. You would be hard pressed to find a man who was more admired by the people he served than Sheriff Roberts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sheriff J.B. Roberts for his service to God, country and his community.

PEARLAND ISD CAMPUS GLENDA DAWSON FIRST-YEAR TEACHERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following teachers of Pearland Independent School District for being named Campus Glenda Dawson Teachers of the Year.

Each school year, principals, teachers and staff members are recognized by the school district with various awards as a reflection of their hard work and dedication to their students and the school as a whole. This year 20 teachers were awarded with the title "Campus Glenda Dawson Teachers of the Year": Elandrea McMillan from Carlestone Elementary, Caitlin Walsh from Challenger Elementary, Page Madison from Cockrell Elementary, Holly Martinez from C.J. Harris Elementary, KellyAnn Walker from Lawhon Elementary, Joanna Kelley from Magnolia Elementary, Amanda Delgado from Massey Ranch Elementary, Jennifer Rayner from Shadycrest Elementary, Laura Kessler from Silvercrest Elementary, Amy Klepper from Silverlake Elementary, Britany Suarez from Alexander Middle School,