

The Gary Crusader, as the company celebrates its 55th anniversary, 55 Years Highlighting our Past and Crusading for our Future. In honor of this special occasion, an anniversary gala will be held in the Hangar at B. Coleman Aviation, located at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, on June 3, 2016. The keynote speaker for the event is critically acclaimed author and renowned scholar, Michael Eric Dyson.

The Gary Crusader is a weekly publication serving the City of Gary and the community of Northwest Indiana. Since its founding in 1961, by the late Balm L. Leavell Jr. and Joseph H. Jefferson, at the invitation of Kelly and Samuel Polk, the Crusader successfully upheld its mission, using its news pages to reflect on justice and equality for all people. In 1968, Mrs. Dorothy Leavell took over as editor and publisher of The Gary Crusader, after the passing of her husband, Balm Leavell. Throughout the years, Dorothy has been a strong, accomplished, and innovative business leader. The Gary Crusader is an active member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a federation of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers throughout the United States. In 1995, Dorothy became the second female in history to become president of the NNPA for a two-year term and served at its president from 1995 to 1999. She also served as chairperson of the NNPA Foundation from 2006 to 2011. In August 2016, Mrs. Leavell will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists. For her dedication to the City of Gary and the community of Northwest Indiana, Dorothy is worthy of the highest praise.

I would like to take the time to mention some of the inspiring leaders in Northwest Indiana who have worked with The Gary Crusader to bring about positive change and to inspire the community. They include former mayor of Gary Richard Hatcher, the late Lake County Commissioner Roosevelt Allen, The Gary Crusader's first female editor, the late Dolly Millender, State Senator Earline Rogers, and Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, who is the honorary chairperson of the 55th anniversary gala. I would also be remiss if I do not mention the respect my father John Visclosky had for Balm Leavell and the importance he attached to their wonderful friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating The Gary Crusader on its 55th anniversary. For the past 55 years, the staff and leadership have touched the lives of countless individuals through their unwavering commitment to the community of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana.

JACK KNIGHT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jack Knight for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jack Knight is a 9th grader at Stanley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jack Knight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jack Knight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH (LISA) JOYCE FREEMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the hard work and dedication of Lisa Freeman who retires today after many years of service to our nation's veterans.

For the last five years Lisa Freeman served as the Director of the Veterans Health Care System in Palo Alto, one of the largest, busiest veterans health centers in our country. She did the job with enthusiasm, efficiency and compassion. As director she was responsible for overseeing the complex needs of thousands of veterans, administering an annual budget of more than \$1 billion, a capital budget of \$2.67 billion, and organizing upwards of 7,000 staff and volunteers. She was so expert in doing her job that when the sad news of mismanagement at the veterans system in Arizona became public, it was Lisa Freeman that the Secretary of the VA tapped to make corrections in reforming the Arizona shortfalls. In the end, the entire VA health care system learned from her competence and management prowess.

But I best know Lisa Freeman from the yeoman's work she did to help create the first from-the-ground-up joint DOD-VA health clinic in my district.

For years the military community—veterans, active and retired military and their families—all knew options for health care were limited on the Central Coast in general and on the Monterey Peninsula, where there are numerous military installations, in particular. Under the leadership of the late Maj. Gen. William "Bill" Gourley, slowly a plan took shape to create a clinic that would serve the dual purposes of our active and retired military servicemen as well as our veterans. Lisa Freeman became an integral part of this effort and took over leadership of the effort as time went along, helping to coordinate the many federal sub-agencies necessary to make the dream of this clinic a reality.

I am happy to say the ribbon cutting for that clinic will be this October, in no short measure due to the perseverance of Lisa Freeman.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Freeman will be missed by all of us who interact with the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System. I am especially grateful to her for all she's done for the veterans in my district and across all of Cali-

fornia. I commend her to you and to our colleagues in the House and hope you will all wish her well as she leaves government service for a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ERIN HURLEY

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erin Hurley of Marin County, California, for her selection as the Classified Employee of the Year at the 2016 Golden Bell Awards Ceremony, presented by the Marin County Office of Education in collaboration with the Marin County School Board Association and other local civic organizations. An occupational therapist, Ms. Hurley has dedicated more than two decades to improving the health and welfare of students in Marin County.

For the past 15 years, Ms. Hurley has worked at Marindale Early Intervention, where she serves more than 100 students facing a critical time in their development. A student-centered professional, she advocates for appropriate placements and the implementation of strategies specific for each child. She also works to educate staff and parents on body mechanics and ergonomics for themselves and for their students and children.

Ms. Hurley works hard to develop relationships with each of the young people she works with. Along with understanding students' specific motor abilities and behavioral and communication goals, she makes an effort to create a comfortable and safe environment where students feel comfortable challenging themselves.

The Golden Bell Awards celebrate public education in Marin County by recognizing outstanding teachers and supportive community partners. Each year, they select an exemplary educator, classified employee, teacher, and trustee for recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Erin Hurley for her contributions to students and public education in Marin County and California.

VALERIE GRASSO

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Valerie Bailey Grasso. Ms. Grasso retired earlier this year, concluding a remarkable 32 years of federal civil service with the Department of the Navy, the Library of Congress, and the Congressional Research Service (CRS). For the last 18 years, she has served as a defense acquisition policy analyst in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the CRS, rising to Specialist, the highest grade attainable. While at the CRS, she supplied Members of Congress, their personal staffs, and the staffs of congressional committees with consistently high quality insights, policy analysis, and historical context. I personally relied on reports she authored on topics

including rare earth elements, veterans employment, and surplus military equipment.

Ms. Grasso joined the CRS as a permanent staff member in 1998. She is the author or co-author of more than 30 CRS reports on a wide array of defense-related topics associated with weapon systems acquisition, defense contracting, the evolving defense industrial base, outsourcing of defense functions, contract competition, domestic material sourcing, and sealfit. Her works were widely read by congressional clients and contributed directly to the CRS' mission of informing the legislative debate. I served as co-chair on the House Armed Services Committee's 2012 Panel on Business Challenges within the Defense Industry. Valerie provided direct support to that panel and her insights and analysis were essential to the panel's work.

Valerie was also a long-time member and officer of the Congressional Research Employee Association (CREA), the collective bargaining organization representing the interests of those working at the CRS. She served on the CREA board for nearly a decade, from 2004–2013, where she was a member of the telework committee and the CREA bargaining team. In 2013, she was elected Vice-President of CREA, and for the last two years of her career she served as CREA's President. She has also been recognized for her work with the Library of Congress chapter of Blacks in Government.

I ask my fellow Members to join me in applauding Valerie Bailey Grasso for her lifelong commitment to supporting the nation and this body and in wishing her a long and enjoyable retirement.

#### HONORING LGBTQ LEADERS IN THE TWIN CITIES

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the transgender, queer, lesbian, bisexual, and gay members of my community as we begin celebrating Pride. Every year, Twin Cities Pride selects outstanding leaders to helm the celebration. The 2016 Grand Marshals are Roxanne Anderson and D Rojas, and the Lifetime Champions of Pride are Minnesota Representative Karen Clark and Minnesota Senator Scott Dibble.

Both Grand Marshals have a long history of LGBTQ advocacy in the Twin Cities. Roxanne's dedication spans four organizations noted for their dedication to the most underserved segments of the community. Through providing healthcare access to trans individuals at the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, leading trans and racial justice initiatives at OutFront Minnesota, organizing trans and queer musicians of color at RARE Productions, and employing and serving the queer community at Café SouthSide Roxanne is one of the hardest-working and most effective trans advocates anywhere in the country. D Rojas is the president of Dykes on Bikes Minneapolis, a lesbian motorcycle club noted for its inclusivity. The group hosts dozen of events throughout the Twin Cities annually, attracting hundreds of LGBTQ participants. In recent years, D has escorted Minneapolis

Mayors Betsy Hodges and R.T. Rybak on her motorcycle at the Pride Parade.

The 2016 Lifetime Champions of Pride are highly effective leaders in the Minnesota Legislature who have worked extensively on equality. When Representative Karen Clark was first elected to the Legislature in 1980, there were only a few out elected officials nation-wide. Throughout her time in office, she has achieved countless successes for the LGBTQ community: including "Sexual Orientation" in the Minnesota Human Rights Act, expanding housing and healthcare for HIV positive individuals, and promoting social and economic justice. She is the longest-serving lesbian legislator in the U.S. Senator Scott Dibble became involved in politics in the mid-1980s, inspired to fight for the civil rights of the LGBTQ community. Since his election to the Senate in 2002, Senator Dibble has helped pass the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, and numerous transportation and transit plans. Representative Clark and Senator Dibble were instrumental in gathering popular support to defeat the anti-marriage ballot amendment in 2012. Their tireless advocacy to engage Minnesotans culminated in the successful effort to legalize marriage equality statewide in 2013.

Twin Cities Pride also recognizes the contributions of organizations that are creating a more equitable and inclusive world. The Community Champions of Pride are the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, TransForming Families, and Out & Sober Minnesota.

Since marriage equality has become the law statewide and nationwide, some people hung up their coats and thought, "We're done!" As almost anyone in the community can tell you, that is absolutely not the case. LGBTQ individuals, and especially trans folks and people of color, face disproportionately high rates of homelessness, health issues, discrimination, and income insecurity. In order to achieve true LGBTQ equality, we need to continue focusing on the intersections of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, income, immigration status, and other identities that highlight the despicable disparities in our state. I am proud these honorees have continued to fight on behalf of communities routinely excluded from advocacy or glossed over in public policy. They each demonstrate that when we stay engaged, when we turn out—we win. In the era of bathroom bills and legalized discrimination, it's more important than ever to make our voices heard—in the ballot boxes, in the halls of Congress, and beyond.

#### HONORING MR. GARY HARRISON FREER

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Gary Harrison Freer for his courageous service to our country. Commander Gary Harrison Freer joined the United States Navy on March 12, 1967 after graduating from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

After completing Aviation Officer Candidate School and earning the Navy "Wings of Gold,"

Commander Freer was designated a naval aviator and qualified pilot of military aircraft. He requested training in the A-4 Skyhawk and in August of 1969 joined the attack squadron, VA-22, also known as the Fighting Redcocks aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Bonhomme Richard*. Commander Freer had an impressive flight record that logged 2,397 hours of military flight, carried out 103 missions in Vietnam and recorded 212 day and night carrier takeoffs and landings. Commander Freer finished his active duty in April of 1972, but served fifteen more years in the Reserves before transferring to Retired Reserves in December of 1989. Commander Freer was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea) and the Vietnam Campaign Air Medal S/F-9.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Commander Gary Harrison Freer for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

#### KIYLEE VALDEZ

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kiyilee Valdez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kiyilee Valdez is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kiyilee Valdez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kiyilee Valdez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### CELEBRATING BENTLEYVILLE BOROUGH'S BICENTENNIAL

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bentleyville Borough in Pennsylvania on its momentous achievement of reaching 200 years of existence.

Beginnings were humble for Bentleyville 200 years ago, when Sheshbazzar Bentley started selling lots of land in the beautiful Monongahela Valley for as little as 45 dollars. His original posting advertised "Bentleysville" as being surrounded by rich country, and having on site three wool machines, one gristmill,