

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,

and one sawmill, along with some building materials. Local rumor has it that George Washington once passed down the main road of this Washington County town, and two centuries later, Bentleyville has blossomed into a borough with unique character and beauty—a place I am proud to have in Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District.

The borough of Bentleyville has benefitted greatly from its location in a strong coal mining region, and as such I am proud to highlight the borough's contribution to the rich history and heritage associated with coal mining. Over the past 200 years, Bentleyville has produced many generations of exceptional citizens, all adding their unique spirit, character, and successes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It is thus with great pride that I represent the remarkable citizens of past and present of the Bentleyville Borough and congratulate them on this significant milestone.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF ROGER E. MILLER

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and legacy of service of Mr. Roger E. Miller, who is celebrating his retirement from the post as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Healthcare Programs. After 26 years of tirelessly serving the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, he leaves a legacy of incomparable dedication to communities across the country.

Roger Miller began his career as HUD's first staff member with a background in healthcare, holding a Master of Hospital Administration degree from the University of Minnesota. Prior to his role at HUD, Miller was Senior Vice President of York Hospital, a large teaching hospital where patient care costs were among the lowest in the nation.

Throughout his career, Roger E. Miller has maintained his devotion to healthcare through assisting in the expansion of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, and the construction of multiple healthcare facilities around Western New York, such as the Gates Vascular Institute, HighPointe on Michigan and the new Oishei Children's Hospital.

Roger Miller has been an integral part of the HUD Office of Healthcare Programs which administers the Section 232 Residential Care Facilities Program and the Section 242 Hospitals Program, together comprising a \$31 billion FHA portfolio of insured mortgages. Miller has led the OHP to improve its abilities to serve more communities across the nation while maintaining very low claim rates in both programs. In recent years, he has spearheaded a vigorous effort to implement Office-wide Lean Processing quality improvements and process reengineering, enabling OHP to better respond to emergent industry needs. Other notable career and personal achievements by Roger Miller include the launch of a large assisted living facility, a system of community health centers, a preferred provider health insurance company, and becoming a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Additionally, Roger has chaired state hospital association

committees and served as an adjunct faculty member at York College.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the career of Roger E. Miller. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations on an accomplished career and to commend his dedication to his profession and improving the health of our communities.

#### RECOGNIZING CAN DO UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Community Area New Development Organization (CAN DO) upon the occasion of its 60th Anniversary. CAN DO is a private, non-profit, industrial and economic development corporation operating in Northeastern Pennsylvania. CAN DO has been doing great work in my hometown of Hazleton, and in fact my office back home is in the CAN DO building at 1 South Church Street. With a mission of improving the quality of life in the Greater Hazleton area through the creation and retention of employment opportunities, CAN DO's presence in Northeastern Pennsylvania has provided my constituents with the resources they need to secure meaningful employment and engagement in their communities.

In 1956, a small group of merchants and professional men believed that they could turn the tide on Hazleton's post-coal mining economic troubles. It was this spirit that fueled Dr. Edgar L. Dessen, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and a group of local civic and business leaders to create a community economic development organization, known as CAN DO. The organization's first fundraising initiative encouraged residents to donate a "dime-a-week," which they hoped would raise enough money to invest in new industries across the city. Growing up, I remember hearing stories of red lunch pails displayed around town to promote their fundraising effort, as well as the "Miles of Dimes" event, which saw men, women, and children place their dimes onto a strip of tape on Broad Street in downtown Hazleton. After this successful fundraiser and starting with the purchase of one industrial park, CAN DO now operates one corporate center and three industrial parks in Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Humboldt Industrial Park, which is one of the largest parks in Pennsylvania and an employer for over 10,000 constituents in my district. As mayor, I saw firsthand how CAN DO continued to grow throughout the region. They now offer a wide range of services to the community, such as infrastructure development, financial assistance, and resources for entrepreneurs.

CAN DO's commitment to the community in which they operate is evident through their receipt of numerous awards throughout the years. In 2006, CAN DO won a Best of Class Award for its 50th Anniversary video and commemorative book, and an Excellence Award for the marketing department's print advertisement placed in *Attaché* magazine. Also in

2006, CAN DO won the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Award for a property in the CAN DO Corporate Center. In 2008, CAN DO was named Large Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. These various accolades exemplify the superior service and community advancement provided by CAN DO, and I am confident that their continued engagement will be recognized for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude and admiration that I honor the Community Area New Development Organization (CAN DO) upon the occasion of its 60th Anniversary. Time and again, CAN DO has exemplified the bond between private enterprise and community service through targeted initiatives and a commitment to excellence in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I wish to congratulate CAN DO on 60 years of meaningful community engagement, and look forward to witnessing the continued service provided by such a selfless and strategic organization.

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI MARVIN M. GROSS

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Marvin M. (Marv) Gross, who will be retiring as Chief Executive Officer of Union Station Homeless Services in June 2016.

Born in 1947, Marvin M. Gross was raised in Evanston, Illinois. He received his education from Amherst College, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

In the late 1960's, Marv began his lifelong service to the community by volunteering at the dairy of Kibbutz Givat Chaim, Israel for one year. He worked as an organizer for various political campaigns and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and as an organizer for the Jewish Council of Urban Affairs in Chicago, where he organized a ground-breaking conference on the mortgage and insurance industry and low-income and minority neighborhoods.

Mr. Gross began his studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in the 1970's to become a Reform rabbi, and after his graduation, moved to California. He began serving as a congregational rabbi, leading congregations at Temple Sherith Israel in San Francisco, and later at Temple Sinai of Glendale. In his volunteer capacity, Rabbi Gross served as Social Action Chair of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, as Co-Chair of Clergy United for Prophetic Action, a Black-Jewish clergy alliance, and played a key role in the organization of religious congregations in California to support California's Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative. In addition, Marv was asked by the Government of Israel, along with a fellow rabbinical student, to visit the Soviet Union for one month in an effort to promote solidarity and contact with Soviet Jews who had submitted applications to emigrate to Israel.

In 1995, Marv Gross accepted the position of Executive Director of Union Station (now