

Born in August of 1934 in Brooklyn, N.Y., Gary joined the Army at the age of 21; eventually earning a place in the U.S. Army band in Louisville, Ky. Gary dedicated his life to playing TAPS to honor fellow veterans at their funerals. After relocating to Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1959, he notified all six of the local funeral homes to let them know he was always available to play TAPS free of charge.

Since moving to Acadiana, Gary has become a fixture of the community. He has played countless funerals, military, veterans, and community events throughout his lifetime of service. Just this past Memorial Day, he played in services at Lafayette Memorial Park, as well as Green Lawn Memorial Park—a tradition he has kept since 1964.

Gary's seven decades of heartfelt dedication to our fallen heroes is an inspiration to us all. In 2013, he earned an induction into the Living Legends Hall of Fame in Erath, La. In 2014, he created the Acadiana Veterans Honor Guard and was instrumental in securing funding to ensure every local veteran will receive full military funeral honors. Beloved by the entire community; Gary Edmondson has enriched the lives of countless families during their darkest hours. I rise to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his lifetime of service, dedicated to providing the final tribute to our fallen heroes as their families lay them to rest.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN
POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw attention to a development that remained largely unnoticed; discontinuation of the Fulbright Congressional Fellowship program run by the American Political Science Association (APSA).

My office has regularly welcomed international fellows. We continue to host these talented professionals from different areas around the world. Between 2004 and 2008, I hosted two APSA-Fulbright Congressional Fellows from India; an academic, Medha Nanivadekar, and a New Delhi journalist, Prasad Venkateswara Kunduri.

These Fellows brought a great deal of depth and perspective to the office at a time when relationship between United States of America and India was expanding like never before. Today, the U.S. and India are engaged across more than 60 fields.

Prasad, in particular came at a time when we in the Congress were deeply engaged and debating the Civil Nuclear Deal with India. I valued his perspective and understanding of the intricacies of discourse within India on the issue as well as the impact the process could have on U.S.-India relations and domestic politics.

During 2007–2008, Prasad spent a year in Washington, D.C. Since his return, he remains in contact with me and my office. He continues to share his experiences as a Fellow with his colleagues to promote a greater understanding of how the U.S. Congress works.

When I have traveled to India he is engaged in events related to my trip. I continue to appreciate his perspective when working on issues related to India.

Since we do not have a regular official delegation-level exchange program between the U.S. Congress and Parliament of India many of us travel to India as part of various programs organized by different groups or Co-Dels which include special events like one that retraced Martin Luther King's journey in India. Events organized by former Fellows like Prasad help bridge the gap between U.S. law-makers and people.

These Fellows who come to Washington, D.C. and spend a year on The Hill, help create a relationship with U.S. law-makers, staff, policy planners, advocacy groups and colleagues in the program. What they take back enriches the United States' relationship with these communities.

The Fulbright-APSA Congressional Fellowship Program was part of APSA's Congressional Fellowship Program. It was established over 60 years ago and remains a highly selective, non-partisan, early-to-mid career program devoted to expanding knowledge and awareness of Congress. The program enjoys a reputation for excellence among those concerned with the quality of government and the ways in which democracies function. The APSA-Congressional Fellowship ended after a five year run.

Appreciating the initiative and contribution of the program, I urge the Fulbright Board to reconsider and fund APSA Congressional Fellowship.

HONORING KAELEN HAGEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaelin Hagen. Kaelin 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaelin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaelin 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, Kaelin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

RECOGNIZING EARLINE ROGERS
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, today it is with profound respect that I take this time to

honor one of Indiana's foremost citizens, State Senator Earline Rogers. A retired public school teacher, Earline has consistently distinguished herself as a pillar of her community, a voice for children, and a selfless public servant. Serving in the Indiana General Assembly for thirty-four years, Senator Rogers will be retiring this year after a truly monumental career.

Born in Gary, Indiana, Earline Rogers was inspired at an early age to be a force for positive change by her father, Earl Smith Sr., and her mother, Robbie. Employed as a steelworker, Earl worked tirelessly alongside his wife to support Earline and her four siblings, Gerry, Bobby, Earl Jr., and Denice. Taking on two part-time jobs in addition to his full-time position at the steel mill, Earl was determined to see his children graduate high school and attend college. Earline fulfilled her parents' dream and graduated as senior class president with honors from Roosevelt High School in Gary, and went on to earn Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Education from Indiana University. Following her undergraduate studies, Earline began her career teaching in the Gary Community School Corporation, and soon became active in the American Federation of Teachers union, working to provide teachers with the best resources to educate their students and provide them with pathways to success. Senator Rogers was elected to the Gary Common Council in 1980, and broke barriers serving as the Council's first female president. In 1982, Senator Rogers was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, and in 1990, she became a member of the Indiana Senate where she has served for the past twenty-six years representing Indiana Senate District 3.

In particular, Senator Rogers has most recently served as the Indiana Senate Minority Whip, and as the Ranking Minority Member on the Education and Career Development Committee as well as the Family and Children Services Committee. Senator Rogers had also served on the Appropriations, Homeland Security and Transportation, Veterans Affairs and the Military, and Pensions and Labor Committees, and as a member of the Indiana Education Roundtable.

Since entering public service, Senator Rogers has established herself as one of Indiana's most accomplished and effective legislators, working across the aisle with her colleagues to improve the lives of all Hoosiers, notably to protect the safety, rights, and educational opportunities of our youngest citizens. In particular, Senator Rogers authored Jojo's Law, which mandates that all vehicles for ten or more passengers utilized by public schools, preschools, or licensed day care centers must meet the same safety standards as school buses. Senator Rogers also created Heather's Law, which requires the Indiana Department of Education to develop programs for Indiana schools to better educate students about dating violence. Moreover, she has led efforts to increase anti-bullying education statewide and safeguard our students from forms of harassment outside the classroom, such as cyberbullying. In addition, Earline Rogers was instrumental in the passage of legislation that raised the minimum age of the death penalty to 18 years of age in Indiana. Finally, Senator Rogers wrote Indiana's first bilingual-literacy program and successfully provided funding for Northwest Indiana school repair and prospective teacher training. Earline's record as an

advocate for our community's most vulnerable, and for preparing our next generation of leaders, has and will continue to leave an immeasurable impact on Northwest Indiana, our state, and our country.

In addition to her achievements in the realm of children and education, Senator Rogers' legislative accomplishments include filing the first bill to legalize casino and riverboat gaming in Indiana, spearheading efforts to increase job growth, and most recently, gaining legislative approval to relocate docked riverboat casinos to adjacent land. Thanks to the efforts of Senator Rogers, this industry has generated significant economic investment throughout our state. Furthermore, Senator Rogers was a leader and integral to the creation of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, an entity that currently works with local, state, and federal partners to spur regional economic development. These projects include the enrichment of the Gary/Chicago International Airport, improving access to our historic lakeshore through the Marquette Plan, investment in the recapitalization and expansion of the South Shore Rail Line, and the development of a regional bus system. Senator Rogers has fought to bring economic prosperity and opportunities to all of her constituents, and has been a transformational figure and the epitome of a public servant.

Earline is married to Chuck Rogers, a retired Gary firefighter, and together they have two children, Keith Sr. and Dara, as well as a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Earline plans to spend her retirement staying active in the Gary community, including in Saint Timothy Community Church, where she has been a member for over fifty years, and looks forward to spending winters visiting her family in Arizona.

I am especially proud to note that the relationship between the Smith/Rogers and Visclosky families spans four generations. As mentioned earlier in my remarks, Earline's father worked two part-time jobs in addition to his full-time employment. One of those part-time positions was working with my father in the Calumet Township Trustee's office in the 1940s and 1950s. There they began a friendship based on a profound respect for each other. To this day, my 100-year-old father, John, is proud that he attended Earline's high school graduation open house and was able to witness the beginning of her distinguished academic and professional career. That friendship has continued through my relationship with Earline and Chuck, and now spans a fourth generation with her grandson, Keith, who is currently serving in my Washington, DC, Congressional office. The Visclosky family has been blessed to have experienced such a long standing and strong relationship with individuals imbued with integrity, selflessness, and with whom we have had countless good laughs.

I am proud to call Earline my friend, and I wish her the very best in this new chapter of her life. Earline has always served the citizens of Gary, Northwest Indiana, and our entire state as a passionate and compassionate public servant. For this she is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Senator Earline Rogers for her life of public service, and for teaching generations of young Hoosiers to be a force for

positive change, both in and out of the classroom. Senator Rogers' life has truly been a gift to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ACTION POTENTIAL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Action Potential on winning SCORE's 2016 Small Business Achievement Award.

SCORE is a national nonprofit that provides free business mentoring and educational workshops to entrepreneurs and small business owners across the country. I am grateful for the services local SCORE chapters provide for our region's innovative entrepreneurs. And I commend the Chester County Chapter on being named "2015 Chapter of the Year," edging out over 300 other chapters around the country.

Kathy Dixon and Kristen Wilson founded Action Potential in 2011 to provide innovative, high-customized rehabilitation services to senior, neurological and amputee clients. Action Potential is the first outpatient therapy provider to offer these specialized services in Delaware and Chester Counties. In just three years the business more than quadrupled its number of patients.

Kathy and Kristen have been involved with SCORE since they were first considering starting their own business, attending workshops that helped them develop a business plan and working with a SCORE counselor.

Action Potential is actively involved in and giving back to its community, hosting educational luncheon sessions for physicians and charity events like their National Amputee Golf Association First Swing Seminar and Annual Turkey Trot.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kathy Dixon and Kristen Wilson on their success. It is small businesses like Action Potential that form the backbone of our local economy.

H.R. 5055, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2017

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deep concerns about the proactive management practices displayed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, in regard to their management of West Point Dam and Lake water levels. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should use all appropriated funds to implement and carry out the best practices. For many years, my office and the stakeholders of West Point Lake have worked with the Mobile District to discuss proactive policies and what it will take to put adaptive management practices in place. Upon hearing the announcement that West Point Lake will not remain at full pool this summer as a direct result of the Mobile Dis-

trict's decision to draw down the lake, I once again am concerned that best practices are not being utilized. The construction of the West Point Dam was authorized by Congress through the Flood Control Act of 1962 and completed later in 1975. Of the five intended purposes for the West Point Dam and Lake, general recreation is chief among them. West Point Lake has served this historical purpose for over 40 years, contributing anywhere from \$153 million to \$710 million in annual economic impact. However, the economic impact depends heavily on the lake's water levels. West Point Lake guests enjoy fishing, boating, and other water sports, as well as many other outdoor activities centrally located around the lake. There can be no doubt that recreational activities on West Point Lake are the life-blood of the area. The threat of low water levels will have substantial impacts on recreation. I urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District to use all appropriated funds to implement adaptive management practices according to the general recreation purpose of West Point Dam and Lake.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN BREITSMAN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. John Breitsman on the occasion of his retirement as the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture after 34 years of devoted service. Working every day to provide the best possible service to the consumers and producers of Pennsylvania's agriculture, John challenges his team to instill excellence and leadership in meeting the state's agricultural needs. Comprehensive oversight under John's leadership has improved agriculture significantly in my district and throughout Pennsylvania, ensuring a diverse and healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Beginning his service to the state in 1982, John quickly advanced from an Agricultural Products Inspector to Agronomic Specialist, eventually holding the titles of Chief of the Division of Agronomic and Regional Services and Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. His leadership and expertise have earned him positions with state, regional, national, and international organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration, the American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) where he served as president, and the FBI. John has also worked closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Rapid Response Team, which is responsible for creating a Best Practices Manual for food and feed related emergency responses. His service and involvement with such diverse organizations has instilled a sense of security in my constituents' food supply and helped my district's farmers meet today's most daunting challenges.

John has always understood the value in surrounding himself with an elite team, mentoring his employees, and providing them with the support needed to fulfill the Bureau's mission of protecting Pennsylvania agriculture and