

DTE Energy for his lifetime of distinguished service to our region and state.

A native of Essexville Michigan, Fred graduated from Garber High School in 1969 and attended Western Michigan University where he majored in History and Political Science. After college, Fred started in on a long and distinguished career in public service, working for both Congressman Paul Todd and Congressman Jim O'Hara before beginning a long career of providing gas and power to the State of Michigan.

Fred started at the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company in 1977 as the Assistant Manager of Media Relations. From that point forward, Fred has held a wide variety of positions, in public relations, media relations, public policy, and management at MichCon and G-Tech. In 2001, after the Detroit Edison and MichCon merger, Fred was named Vice President of Corporate and Government Affairs at DTE Energy. In this role, Fred has been a constant in the Michigan Government and Business scene, guiding policy that has improved the lives of Michigan's citizens and improved the environment for job creation in our state; we appreciate all that he has done to keep Michigan moving forward.

Fred has spent many years of his career involved in giving back. In 1998, as a testament to his hard work, he was named as the President of the MichCon Foundation. After the merger in 2001, Fred led the staff team and developed a strategic vision that combined the MichCon and Detroit Edison Foundations into the DTE Energy Foundation. Fred's leadership advanced the DTE Energy Foundation forward to become one of the most important foundations in our state. The foundation has supported a wide range of youth and cultural programming, as well as supporting basic human services. The Foundation's work of providing support to families in need during the great recession exemplified the extraordinary role that this foundation plays in our community, improving the lives of so many of our friends and neighbors.

Fred has personally gone above and beyond in his involvement with a wide variety of community organizations and non-profits. He has served as the president of the Michigan Economic Development Foundation, the Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, as a board member of the Historical Society of Michigan, the Metro Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Michigan Political Leadership Program, and the Right Place of Grand Rapids, just to name a few. Our state has been enriched and advanced by Fred's commitment to volunteerism and community service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Fred Shell for his service to our State. I thank him for his leadership and wish him many years of success.

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#### THE GUARDIANS

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Guardians. All were affected

by morcellation of an occult uterine cancer—and all lost their precious lives prematurely or unnecessarily, because of deadly defect in our medical device regulatory space.

Erica Kaitz, Danusia Bennett-Taber, Patricia Daley, Sally Newton, Sandra Brown, Mary Alyce Dolan, Nancy Lincoln Davis, Margie Miller, Barbara Leary, Lori Kauffman, Elizabeth Jacobson, Jenny Proffer, Linda Interlichia, Brenda Leuzzi, Vivianna Ruschitto, Martha Ariti, Nancy Curtis.

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#### HONORING ANDREW H. STEWART

### 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 Andrew H. Stewart. Andrew 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 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ROSE OBERTI PERACCHI

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Rose Oberti Peracchi, who recently passed away on May 26, 2016, at the age of 100. Rose was an extraordinary person, and she will always be remembered as a woman who lived her life with purpose and great dedication to her family, friends, and community.

Rose Peracchi was born on August 22, 1915 to Giacomo and Mary Nan Oberti on her family farm located near Sanger, California. She fell in love and married her teenage sweetheart, Gene Peracchi, early on in life, and together they worked hard, raised their two sons, Gene and Don, and took care of Rose's father, while remaining faithful to family, and her community.

Rose was a self-taught seamstress, establishing her own drapery business and contracting with West Coast Draperies until her retirement in 1977. As a business owner, she was a trailblazer in the industry, and although difficult at times to run a business and raise a family, her dedication and hard work helped

her accomplish many successes. She will always be remembered for her culinary skills, an art form enjoyed by family and friends. Rose generously shared her skills, teaching first her sons, then her daughters-in-law and eventually her grandchildren in the art of Italian food preparation.

Rose's friendliness and genuine nature built many lasting friendships during her lifetime. Her long and remarkable life is fondly remembered by the countless friends and family who were fortunate to know her. Rose leaves behind her son Don and his wife Judy, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild. It is my honor to join her family in celebrating the life of this amazing woman, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Rose Oberti Peracchi, whose genuine character and her loving commitment to her family and community will be greatly missed.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP ONE—SACRAMENTO

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop One—Sacramento as the scouts, their families, leaders, and former scouts join together to celebrate their centennial anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring BSA Troop One for its dedication to service in our community on the occasion of the troop's "100 of One" celebration.

Troop One was officially formed in Sacramento in 1916, and is the oldest troop in the western United States. It was one of few Boy Scouts of America troops that remained active during World War II. The first Eagle Scout of Troop One, the late Charles "Muddy" Watters, Sr., was recognized in 1932. Since then, over 400 Troop One scouts have ascended to the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop One is active in molding young leaders in the Sacramento area. Through monthly wilderness adventures, service outings, and jamborees, the 88 current scouts of Troop One learn and maintain the troop's founding values: a commitment to ethics, behaving responsibly, and serving one's community.

For 100 years, Troop One has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to Sacramento's youth and its larger community. From founding Troop One Scoutmaster George W. Spilman, to current scoutmaster Christopher Tileston, Troop One Scoutmasters have dedicated themselves to cultivating scouts into outstanding citizens. In turn, Troop One scouts have worked hard to better Sacramento. Sacramento is a better place thanks to the service and commitment of Troop One's scouts.

Mr. Speaker, as Troop One celebrates its 100th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the troop and its contribution to Sacramento's youth.

## TRIBUTE TO VERNE WELCH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Verne Welch of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County. Verne Welch is a Council Bluffs native who never forgot where he came from.

Verne Welch graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1955. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1968. Upon discharge, he joined a California recruitment firm for overseas contractors. In 1972 he joined Harrah's, Inc. and remained with the company until 1987. He felt a need to help his hometown during some tough economic times so in 1988, Verne Welch returned to Council Bluffs, establishing gaming in Iowa, working tirelessly to develop the industry in Council Bluffs.

Former Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan described Verne as "the guy who came home and changed the face of his hometown community." Tom Schmitt, the publisher of the Daily Nonpareil, said, "Verne Welch's actions to revitalize his hometown have brought a lot of changes to this community. If there was ever a person who could say, 'This is what I have done,' it would be Verne Welch—and he never says that." Because of Verne's active community service, he has created a legacy second to none. Verne Welch's endless dedication, commitment, generosity, and leadership for Council Bluffs has enhanced and improved the quality of life for his community and its citizens.

I commend and congratulate Verne Welch for making a difference in his hometown and influencing the economic future of Council Bluffs and the State of Iowa. I salute his many accomplishments and dedication for serving his community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Verne Welch and wishing him the very best in the future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call 271, H.R. 4904—MEGABYTE Act of 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,220,484,557,364.60. We've added \$8,593,607,508,451.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## RECOGNIZING ADAM KRATT

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Kratt, a Military Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Adam is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Adam and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Adam.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Adam as a Military Appointee for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

## RECOGNIZING DR. VIRGINIA CARSON

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Virginia Carson and her retirement as President of South Georgia State College on June 30.

A graduate of the University of Georgia with Master's and Doctorate degrees from Georgia State University, Dr. Carson is no stranger to success.

During her 8 year tenure as President of South Georgia State College, she showed an unbelievable commitment to fostering her students' ambition and educational growth.

This dedication to her students has been instrumental to the success of the college and has ensured her students' success for years to come.

Dr. Carson prided herself on keeping a tightknit community with small class sizes and encouraging students to engage in extra-curricular activities, which also enhanced campus life.

Although the true importance of Dr. Carson's service cannot be measured, I am honored to congratulate her for her hard work and dedication to higher education.

## TRIBUTE TO TS BANK OF IOWA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate TS Bank of Atlantic,

Iowa, for being selected by the Young Professionals of Atlantic for the Young Professional Choice Workplace Service Award. TS Bank's branch is located in Atlantic with its headquarters in Treynor, Iowa.

TS bank has a reputation for attracting, hiring, retaining, developing, and training young professionals. The bank has a mission to ignite prosperity by working together every day to create a positive impact on their clients and communities that they serve. TS Bank takes great pride in reinvesting in local communities, impacting local initiatives, supporting and sponsoring local community events, providing needed funds and resources for local nonprofits. TS Bank has a history of 80 percent employees volunteering in their communities.

I applaud and congratulate TS Bank for earning this award. TS Bank is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of a community and its businesses. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating TS Bank for its many accomplishments and for the services it provides to Atlantic and southwest Iowa. I wish TS Bank and its employees continued success in all their future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING JAIRAM HATHWAR

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jairam Hathwar on winning the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Jairam was crowned co-champion after correctly spelling Feldenkrais in the final round of the competition.

Jairam is a seventh-grade student at the Alternative School for Math and Science in my hometown of Corning, New York. He participated in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row; after barely missing the finals last year, Jairam outlasted 285 other contestants en route to his first place finish this year.

Jairam's achievement is a testament to his work ethic, dedication to learning, and commitment to reaching his highest potential. After spending countless hours studying complex definitions, parts of speech, and languages of origin, he correctly spelled several of the most challenging words in the English language. Despite the high level of difficulty, Jairam demonstrated confidence and composure throughout the competition. Most importantly, he treated his fellow competitors with respect and showed humility and sportsmanship from the first word to the last.

Jairam Hathwar is a remarkable young man with an incredibly bright future ahead of him. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jairam on this remarkable accomplishment and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.