

and, at great personal risk, traveled to the Soviet Union. Inspired by that journey, he attended rabbinical school in Israel, where he immersed himself in Jewish traditions and developed a personal connection to the Jewish faith.

In 1979, the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College ordained Rabbi Kahn. He then served as the executive director of George Washington University Hillel. In 1981, Rabbi Kahn returned to San Francisco and joined JCRC as assistant director.

During the Soviet Jewry exodus, Rabbi Kahn fought for the freedom of Soviet Jews. Influenced by his two mentors, legends in our community, then-JCRC Director Earl Raab and Associate Director Rita Semel, Rabbi Kahn helped mobilize the community.

In 1987, Rabbi Kahn and a cheering crowd welcomed to San Francisco "refusenik" Natan Sharansky, who had been freed from a Soviet prison.

Later that year, Rabbi Kahn was promoted to Associate Director of JCRC and in 1999, he became Executive Director following the retirements of Raab and Semel. Rabbi Kahn has built strong interfaith and interethnic relationships with African American, Asian American, Latino and Muslim American communities championing civil rights, employment, housing, equality in education, immigration, nuclear nonproliferation, domestic violence prevention, marriage equality and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

In the face of crises and tragedy, Rabbi Kahn built bridges. From standing on the pulpit at San Francisco's Third Baptist Church in affirmation of a strong African American-Jewish alliance after the Rodney King verdict to performing outreach to the local Bosnian Muslim community after the brutal human rights violations against Bosnians in the 1992-95 civil war, and more recently, standing in solidarity with Muslim Americans threatened by Islamophobia, Rabbi Kahn and the JCRC have made our communities stronger.

Although Rabbi Kahn is leaving JCRC, he will continue to offer his wisdom and superb skills for JCRC's values and priorities.

My colleagues and I hope his departure from JCRC will allow Rabbi Kahn to spend more time with Ellen, his beloved wife, and their two sons, Joey and Daniel.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the House of Representatives to join us in celebrating the outstanding contributions our good friend Rabbi Doug Kahn has made to the Bay Area and beyond. His moral compass, eternal optimism, unwavering dedication and perseverance have profoundly strengthened our communities.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE HEFTY

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Wayne Hefty for his service to Pinellas County.

Mr. Hefty has worked in Pinellas for many years. In 1975, he worked in Gulfport as a park supervisor landscaping and designing green spaces. In 1979, he opened up his own business where he designed and installed parks and playgrounds all over the community.

In 1992, he applied to be the Director of Public Works in Indian Rocks Beach, and among sixty applicants, Mr. Hefty was chosen for the job. His first task was to fix up the city for the annual Art in the Park show in 1992 which he completed successfully. From there, he finished dozens of projects including the city's Nature Park and Beach Access walkovers. Mr. Hefty was also involved in Keep Pinellas Beautiful, an organization formed in 1996. He was an active member of the board for ten years and served as a treasurer.

In 1998, Mr. Hefty became a consultant for the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County Utilities. His first assignment was to find out the energy usage for 140 different school buildings in eleven different municipalities. He also worked with the county's water management and created the energy team to manage the county's water, recycling, and trash programs. This project saved the city twelve million dollars. In 2004, he joined the Energy Systems Group which proposed energy saving strategies across thirteen states.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Wayne Hefty for his hard work for Pinellas County. He has shown exceptional dedication to the community and it has been a pleasure having him as a neighbor. I ask that this body rise to recognize Mr. Hefty for his years of service.

ON THE TRAGIC ORLANDO PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the victims, as well as their families and friends, all of whom have been devastated by the senseless carnage at the Orlando, Florida Pulse Nightclub, which took place on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

As of June 14, 2016, 49 innocent people have lost their lives and many more were wounded in the brutal slaughter, as they sought to enjoy their weekend. We must not allow the hatred of LGBTQ Equality by a bastard to define their lives. We must remember and respect each of the victims for their individuality and the joy they brought to the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, especially since this month is LGBTQ Pride Month, we should mourn their passing with deep sorrow and celebrate their lives with an abundance of love.

Mr. Speaker, we must also do more than speak heartfelt words of love and condolences. We must speak through legislation that may not save all lives but can save some lives.

We cannot allow history to record that when all was said and done, more was said than done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MITCHELL ALEXANDER WINEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sorrow and great respect that I rise to remember United States Military Academy (USMA) Cadet Mitchell Alexander Winey for his patriotism and dedication to serving his country. His untimely death occurred on June 2, 2016, at Fort Hood, Texas, while participating in Cadet Troop Leader Training. Cadet Winey was a member of the USMA Class of 2018, B Company, First Regiment.

Mitchell Winey, born in Valparaiso, Indiana, graduated from Chesterton High School in 2014, where he served as class president for four years. Mitchell excelled in his studies and was an honor roll student who belonged to the National Honor Society. In addition, he was nominated by his peers to participate in the Natural Helpers Program during his high school tenure, which was a testament to his helpfulness and kind-hearted spirit when it came to serving others in his community. An accomplished athlete, Mitchell was also the captain of his high school soccer team and enjoyed skiing and hiking. Later, at West Point, Cadet Winey went on to become a founding member of the newly-formed free-style ski team.

On July 2, 2014, Mitchell reported to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was a rising leader in his class and had an exemplary academic record as an engineering management major. Cadet Winey's outstanding academic performance earned him recognition on the Dean's List for four semesters, and he also earned the Army Physical Fitness Badge three times while participating on his company's soccer and ultimate Frisbee teams.

Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr., Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, depicted Winey as immensely proud to be a cadet and one who exemplified the ideals and values of West Point in all he set out to do. For his service, Cadet Winey received the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

Friends and teachers describe Mitchell as a gracious and enthusiastic young man who excelled as a student leader. His friends will remember him as talented, intelligent, hard-working, and adventurous. Residents in the community are remembering Cadet Winey as a dedicated American hero.

Mitchell leaves behind a beloved host of family and friends. He is survived by his loving mother, Margo, and proud father, Tim. Mitchell also leaves to cherish his memory his dear sister, Paige. He will be greatly missed by his grandparents, Shirley Winey and Ronald Groff, and by many other friends and family members, as well as an appreciative, yet profoundly saddened, community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, USMA Cadet Mitchell Winey. Cadet Winey sacrificed his life during training for service to his country, and his death comes as a great tragedy to our nation. Cadet Mitchell Alexander Winey will forever endure as a hero in the eyes of his family, his

community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the ultimate sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of our country as a free and democratic society.

COMMENDING THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RURAL AMERICA AND THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend the Farm Credit System for 100 years of service to rural America and the agriculture industry.

The importance of the Farm Credit System is largely unknown to those outside of agriculture, often leaving it prone to political attacks. However, its importance to those it serves has never been greater, as declining commodity prices have led to a sharp downturn in the farm economy. Thankfully, the Farm Credit System and its members have been there to help lessen the burden.

To understand the Farm Credit System, it's important to look back to its roots. In the early 1900s, credit was largely unavailable or unaffordable in rural areas, and lenders avoided agricultural loans due to their associated risks. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a commission to explore the problem and ultimately found a need to develop more cooperatives and a cooperative credit system for farmers.

From that idea, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, eventually resulting in the establishment of the Farm Credit System—a system created to provide a permanent, reliable source of credit to American agriculture.

The Farm Credit System's mission has evolved over time. For example, in 1980, Congress empowered the Farm Credit System to provide valuable capital for infrastructure necessary for communities to thrive.

But since its inception, the Farm Credit System has never wavered in its mission of providing lines of credit to our rural communities in good times and in bad. During the late 1980's, our farmers and ranchers faced particularly difficult times. Fortunately, the agriculture industry and the Farm Credit System were able to weather the storm together and emerged even more prepared for the years to come. Today, I believe that the Farm Credit System is fundamentally safe and sound and in a position to endure the challenges that it will inevitably face.

To acknowledge and celebrate a century of dedicated service to rural America, I was proud to sponsor House Resolution 591, com-

memorating Farm Credit's 100th anniversary. Providing more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers, the Farm Credit System has worked tirelessly in all 50 states to ensure a vibrant rural economy, and I am proud to congratulate them today.

DR. ROBERT E. WITT, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Dr. Robert E. Witt for his academic career and the impact he had on higher education. As Dr. Witt closes another successful chapter of his life as the Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, I believe it is important to recognize a few of his numerous accomplishments and his service to the nation and to the great State of Alabama.

Dr. Robert Witt began his educational endeavors at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1962. In 1964, Witt received his MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College, and his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Penn State in 1968. Over the next 35 years, he established a career of excellence in higher education. Dr. Witt served in various positions at The University of Texas, including serving as dean of the Business School at the University of Texas at Austin and president of the University of Texas at Arlington.

In March of 2003, Dr. Witt was appointed President of The University of Alabama. During his nine-year tenure as President, Witt led an ambitious plan for academic growth and achievement that has positioned UA as one of America's fastest growing public universities. In 2012, he was appointed by the University's Board of Directors to serve as the Chancellor of the University of Alabama System. The University of Alabama System is comprised of the universities in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Huntsville as well as the University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System.

Dr. Witt has held several important roles aside from his leadership at the University of Alabama, including serving as the chairman of the Council of Presidents of Alabama's public colleges and universities. Dr. Witt has played a leadership role in various organizations during his time in Alabama which include the Governor's College & Career Ready Task Force; the American Cast Iron Pipe Company Board of Directors; the Alexis deTocqueville Executive Committee; the Advisory Board, Elizabeth Project Care Board. He is past chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, a past member of the Tuscaloosa County IDA Board and the Black Warrior

Council Boy Scouts of America. In 2011 he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, which is comprised of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

I want to commend Dr. Witt for his success and his dedication to higher education. While Dr. Witt's career may be coming to a close over the next few months, the impact he has left on students and faculty will echo for several generations to come. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YELLOW RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH IN BAKER, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 176th anniversary of the Yellow River Baptist Church in Baker, Florida.

For 176 years, the Yellow River Baptist Church has served the citizens of the Gulf Coast, and today it stands as a pillar of the Northwest Florida community as the first Baptist church in Walton and Escambia counties and one of the oldest Baptist churches in the State of Florida.

The Yellow River Baptist Church was established on Sunday, June 14, 1840 with the assistance of two representatives of the Bethlehem Baptist Association of Alabama, nearly five years before Florida entered its statehood. What started with a small handful of congregants residing along the upper Yellow River just south of the Alabama line has grown over the years, and throughout the course of its history, the church family has consisted of members including from the Baggett, Barrow, Blackman, Campbell, Carver, Clary, Cobb, Collingsworth, Cook, Danelly, Gartman, Gaskins, George, Hart, Helms, Howell, King, Madden, Milligan, Parker, Peaden, Richbourg, Senterfitt, Stegall, Steele, Stewart and Wilkinson families.

The success of the Yellow River Baptist Church, without question, is a true testament to the congregation's strong faith in the Lord and strength of its community, and it is my privilege to honor them on this important occasion.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vicki joins me in congratulating this small but faithful congregation for its 176 years of service and dedication to God and to the Northwest Florida community. May God grant the congregants of Yellow River Baptist Church many more years to come and may His blessings continue to shine down on them.