

TRIBUTE TO DALE K. JOHNSON,
RANDALL KAHLE, AND RONNIE
BENNETT

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize three members of our community, Mr. Dale K. Johnson, Mr. Randall Kahle, and Mr. Ronnie Bennett for being selected by the St. Petersburg Civitan Club as citizens of Pinellas whose work for the community exemplifies the club's pillars of service, fellowship, and knowledge.

Civitan International is an association of volunteer service clubs that started in 1917 and now has more than 40,000 members across the country and internationally. The mission of this collection of groups is to build good citizenship by creating a volunteer network of service clubs that address individual and community needs. They specialize in serving people with developmental disabilities.

The St. Petersburg chapter was established on April 12, 1921, and for the past 95 years it has been a part of many efforts to support children and adults who require extra assistance due to a disability.

Since 1986, the St. Petersburg chapter has honored and recognized outstanding members of the Police and Fire departments of the area. This year, the three honorees are: Police Field Training Officer Dale K. Johnson, Fire Officer Randall Kahle, and Firefighter Ronnie Bennett. These three have exemplified the high standards of the Civitan Club, serving people across Pinellas who are especially in need of assistance. I am very happy to have them as my neighbors here in Pinellas County.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge these three exceptional individuals for their hard work. They are most deserving of this recognition from the Civitan Club and I hope they continue to support those in need within Pinellas County. I ask that this body join me in thanking these three exceptional individuals for their exceptional service.

HONORING THE SHEPHERD'S
CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers support older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year was a particularly successful year for SCOV, whose volunteer drivers provided

more than 1,400 round-trip rides for medical reasons and other errands. Volunteers also made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings.

All told, SCOV served more than 3,000 individuals in 2015. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. In 2014, SCOV was recognized for these efforts as an Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use and share their experience, training, and skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREA
P. THAU, AMERICAN OPTO-
METRIC ASSOCIATION PRESI-
DENT-ELECT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Andrea P. Thau, a physician whose practice is located in the district I represent. Dr. Thau has been elected the 94th President of the American Optometric Association, AOA, and will begin her term during the AOA 119th annual meeting on July 2, 2016, in Boston.

Dr. Thau is a graduate of the SUNY College of Optometry and is the owner of a private practice in Manhattan. She was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and elected President-Elect at the 118th Annual AOA Congress & 45th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting in June 2015. In addition to her leadership in this national organization, Dr. Thau has made great contributions in service to her state and local community. Dr. Thau was the first woman president of the New York State Optometric Association, the New York Academy of Optometry, and the Optometric Society of the City of New York.

Along with her many leadership roles, Dr. Thau is also an advocate and educator in the field. A champion for children's vision, Dr. Thau has advocated on their behalf both statewide and nationally. She is also a founding member and former vice president of the New York Children's Vision Coalition. As a spokesperson for the American Optometric

Association, she has been featured on television, radio and in print to educate the public about eye and vision care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Andrea Thau as she begins her term as President of the American Optometric Association. I am proud to join her friends and colleagues in congratulating her on this outstanding professional achievement.

TRIBUTE TO EVA NEWSOME

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, one hundred years ago a virtuous woman of God, Eva Bell Hicks Newsome was born in Reynolds, Taylor County, Georgia on April 16, 1916 to Mr. Ezekiel and Mrs. Mahalia Hicks; and

Whereas, she grew up in Reynolds, Georgia and was married to Mr. LB Newsome, Sr. for 76 years; their union has blessed our district and nation with four children and a host of grand, great, great-great and great-great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a wife, mother and friend, becoming a Georgia citizen of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all by always advancing the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Newsome has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Newsome is celebrating a remarkable milestone; her 100th Birthday. Her family and friends are pausing to acknowledge a woman who has been revered by many as a pillar of her community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and extend well wishes to Mrs. Newsome on her birthday and recognize her for an exemplary life that has been an inspiration to all; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim April 16, 2016 as Mrs. Eva Bell Hicks Newsome Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 16th day of April, 2016.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE
AND RESCUE RECRUIT CLASS
2015-02

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2015-02 Prince William County Public Safety Training Center graduates. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, which is celebrating its 50th year, I encourage the 21 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served to protect our community for the last half century.

Each member of recruit class 2015–02 has successfully completed a rigorous application process followed by 1,248 hours of exhaustive academic and physical training over the course of 26 weeks. Upon successful completion of this program, each recruit is eligible to graduate and become a Fire and Rescue Technician I with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue.

A Technician I is trained in emergency medical services, fire prevention, and countless other public safety measures. The certifications required for reaching the status of a Technician I cannot be accomplished without dedication and hard work. The graduates have completed the requisite coursework for certification in CPR, Infection Control, CISM, EMTB, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EVOC 2, EVOC 3, Flashover Simulation, RIT, Mayday, Hazmat Awareness/Operations, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, LPG with Simulation, Rural Water Supply, BLS Protocols, Rope Rescue Awareness, Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Seat Installation.

It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015–02 recruit class graduates of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue:

Matthew Baker, Zachary Burnette, John Campbell, Matthew Cone, Nathan Eppley, Tyler Fable, Jason Guimond, Patrick McKinnon, Nicholas Ntinos, Brian Pelletier, Zachary Ramey, Dontrell Royal, Andrew Ruddie, Daniel Sawyer, Joshua Servais, Brian Smith, James Spengler, Andrew Turner, Chase Walton, Daniel Worrell, Austin Wing

As the newest members of the Department of Fire and Rescue, the 2015–02 recruit class graduates join the department as integral parts of the emergency response and community safety team. Just as the current and past Prince William County public safety officers have done, I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Prince William County with honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I thank them in advance for their dedication to protecting the lives and property of the county's residents. In the tradition of their new firefighting family I say: "Stay safe."

HONORING BAKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER TIM KERNS FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Commissioner Tim Kerns for his many years of dedicated public service in Baker County. Tim is set to retire at the end of his term after serving 15 years as Baker County Commissioner, and I would like to pay tribute to his leadership for the people of Baker County.

Born in Baker City, Tim was raised with an appreciation for agriculture on his family farm which led him to attend Oregon State University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Engineering at a notable pace, completing 206 credit hours in just four years. But probably

the best part of his time at Oregon State was meeting Jan—his wife of 52 years. Upon completing their degrees, Tim and Jan returned to ranching in Baker County.

As his operation grew, so did Tim's desire to serve his community. His ability to provide innovative solutions to the problems that Baker County faced proved invaluable in a number of leadership roles, including serving on the school district budget board, as president of both the Baker County Livestock Growers and Farm Bureau, and as Regional Vice President of the Oregon Cattleman's Association.

Tim's familiarity with the agricultural industry and community leadership experience next led him to become a major figure in the national farm lending system. Between 1975 and 1994 he was a board member of a number of farm lenders, including the Baker Production Credit Association, Spokane Farm Credit Services, and Inter State Production Credit Association. Following success in those roles, he was appointed to a three year term as Director of the national Federal Farm Credit Funding Corporation. After completing his dual term with the Ag America Farm Credit Bank and the Farm Credit Funding Corporation, Tim was appointed to fill a vacant seat with the county commission, a seat which he has held for the past 15 years.

With federal lands making up more than 51% of Baker County, plenty of hurdles exist in the path to economic growth. Despite these hurdles, I know I can count on Tim's work ethic and knowledge of Baker County to help work through these issues and make sure that the needs of the local communities will not be ignored by the federal government. Whether it was stopping the EPA from regulating a local cement plant out of existence and killing hundreds of jobs, or some of the ongoing problems such as the red tape cutting off Baker County miners from being a part of a rich local mining history, or attempts to limit local access to national forests, I knew I could count on Tim to provide valuable input as we craft solutions.

As Tim begins his transition into retirement, I know he and Jan will look forward to more time with their two sons and three grandchildren, as well as plenty of time on the ranch and volunteering in various Baker County activities.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Commissioner Tim Kerns for his many years of leadership and service to Baker County.

RECOGNIZING THE LOUISIANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS' (VFW) 2016 STATE CONVENTION IN ALEXANDRIA, LA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Louisiana Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for a successful 2016 State Convention in Alexandria, LA.

Our veterans are a national treasure. These men and women have sacrificed tremendously, many continuing to live with service-

connected disabilities, in service to our country. Without their courageous decision to answer the call of duty, our nation would not be the shining beacon of hope and freedom we are today. As we continue working to improve healthcare delivery and expand healthcare services for our veterans, the VFW will continue to be an important partner in organizing and advocating for our veterans across the country.

I also want to express my pride and congratulations that Louisiana was selected to host the 2017 VFW National Convention in New Orleans, LA. I am confident those attending next year's convention will experience the rich culture and hospitality during their stay that makes us proud to call Louisiana home.

I remain committed to working with the Louisiana VFW to ensure they are represented on the local and national levels. Their tireless efforts and advocacy in support of veterans in Louisiana and across the country are tremendously appreciated.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the Northern Virginia Veterans Association.

The Northern Virginia Veterans Association (NOVA Vets) officially launched on May 16, 2015, Armed Forces Day. With a diverse membership comprised of veterans, active military, service connected family members, community residents, and businesses, NOVA Vets' mission is to provide veterans with a comprehensive network of local resources by providing a continuum of services. Specifically, NOVA Vets provides care and support in the areas of reintegration, healthcare, employment, education, family/caregiver support, legal services, housing assistance, and community engagement.

Signature programs include offering reintegration programs at Fort Belvoir and Marine Corps Base Quantico, military care and resource training for civilian medical/healthcare providers, suicide awareness, and Veterans Helping Veterans.

Reintegration Program: Each reintegration program provides 24 months of comprehensive support to service members and their families relocating to or staying in Northern Virginia to ease the transition from activity duty. Over the course of the two-year cycle, data collection is used to determine what areas of support are needed to ensure comprehensive support and quality of life.

Military Care and Healthcare Resource Training Program: The in-person training provides insight and details needed to effectively treat and communicate with the veteran and military population. In addition, civilian health care providers are educated on health resources available at the local, state, and federal levels for veterans and service-connected members of the community.

Suicide Awareness Program: Throughout the year, NOVA Vets offer suicide prevention initiatives to include the screening of military