

The town did receive financing to create a unique attraction at the Portal 31 exhibition mine. Visitors tour a restored section of an underground mine where workers produced more than 100 million tons of coal from 1917 to the early 1960s.

Recordings and animatronic displays tell the story of mining and the town over decades, covering technology, safety concerns, union organizing, and the rise and fall of Lynch.

'HERE TO HELP PEOPLE'

Residents say Meridzo also is a key resource for the town.

In addition to renovating the building for the coffee shop, the ministry operates a convenience store, a gym, a veterinary clinic, retreat centers and a stable in Harlan and Letcher counties.

Meridzo sees its mission as helping people with practical needs, including jobs, and in the process share the Gospel of Christ, said Lonnie Riley, who founded the ministry with his wife, Belinda, in 1999.

"We're here to help people," Riley said.

Meridzo is working to recruit a chiropractor, and has started a facility to grow shiitake mushrooms in sections of hardwood logs in the old bathhouse where miners cleaned up before going home.

There also is an effort underway to develop a customer-service center to provide jobs locally.

Betsy Shirey, who is developing the project, said her idea is a center where employees would field telephone calls and emails for other companies, and could provide other services, such as bookkeeping and marketing.

Shirey works for Humana, but after visiting Lynch on mission trips coordinated by Meridzo, she felt a spiritual calling to try to bring jobs to the area.

She can do her job from home, so she bought a house in Lynch and moved from Louisville.

Shirey said the lack of jobs in the area has helped create an attitude of entrenched hopelessness for many people.

"We've got to build up some infrastructure of meaningful work for people," Shirey said.

MERGER AHEAD?

Some think merging services for Lynch, Benham and Cumberland—or even merging local governments—would put all three on better footing.

The three lie end to end over a space of a few miles and have been known as the Tri-Cities for decades, but grew up as distinct places, with their own schools and competing sports teams, and have always maintained separate city services.

With all three stretched thin, however, their councils agreed to a merger study proposed by the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce, which said in its application for a grant that with declining populations and tax bases, the three towns "have struggled mightily in their efforts to maintain basic services to their citizens."

The study will focus on how the towns could form one government, how services could be combined, potential savings and how layoffs would be handled if needed.

W. Bruce Ayers, former president of Southeast Community and Technical College in Cumberland and head of the chamber, said many members believe merger is needed.

A merger would reduce costs, increase efficiency and give the unified city a better shot at government grants, Ayers said.

"I really fear for their existence unless they are willing to come together and work as one," Ayers said.

It will probably be next year before the study is done and the towns have to decide on merging.

Even if they do, Lynch won't lose its identity in its second century, said Mary Jo O'Bradovich, who with her husband Mike is involved in the centennial committee.

"After 100 years, I don't think anyone is going to say, 'I am from the Tri-Cities,'" she said. "Lynch will be Lynch."

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ALICE LEE THOMASON WALKUP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 100th birthday of Alice Lee Thomason Walkup.

Alice was born on September 4, 1917 to Dr. James Wiley Thomason and Virginia Land Mizelle Thomason in Bullock County. She had one brother and one sister that she called "Denny" and "Son."

Alice attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama and after Huntingdon attended Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

When she returned to Alabama, she worked as a social worker in Bibb County, Alabama and married Reverend Bob Walkup in 1943. Bob was a Presbyterian minister in Ozark, Alabama. They were blessed with four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As the wife of a minister, she lived in numerous states including Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Alice presently lives in Auburn, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100th birthday of Alice Lee Thomason Walkup.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF VICKIE HALE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to Vickie Hale of New Richmond, OH.

Through her life, Vickie has been an incredible member of our community here in Ohio's Second District. It's people like her who make the world a lot nicer.

A retired school teacher and member of the New Richmond Historical Society, Vickie has spent her life dedicated to the life and improvement of her community and those around her.

Her public service and example to other is admired.

Vickie, as well as her husband John, a World War II veteran, have made New Richmond a better place throughout their lifetime, through their kindness and dedication to all.

Happy Birthday Vickie.

HONORING RICK PANZAR ON RETIREMENT FROM MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to my constituent, Rick Panzar, on his upcoming retirement after more than 24 years of service to the United States Air Force.

Since he began his service to our Nation, Mr. Panzar has been assigned to the 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho; the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota; and since 2002, the 193rd Special Operations Wing in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He's deployed to Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, Italy and Afghanistan. His numerous commendations and awards, including the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal and others, are a testament to his courage, tireless work ethic and character. His enduring legacy of service to our Nation truly is commendable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Rick Panzar upon his retirement and for his service to the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HANNAH ADAMS

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, honor and thank Ms. Hannah Adams, a young constituent from my district, for her exemplary service as a National Youth Ambassador for the Hyundai Hope On Wheels foundation to fight pediatric cancer.

Ms. Adams, a 14-year-old childhood cancer survivor from Middleburg, Florida, was selected to serve as a Hyundai Hope On Wheels National Youth Ambassador in March 2016.

Since that time, Ms. Adams has traveled across the country to share her story of courage and hope and to inspire others to join in the fight against cancer.

Ms. Adams joined Hyundai Hope On Wheels in its mission to educate people about pediatric cancer and to raise money—over \$130 million since 1998—to find a cure.

Over the last two years, Ms. Adams visited many children's hospitals and attended events to stand in solidarity with other children and families who are battling cancer or who have been impacted by the disease.

Ms. Adams was only five years old when she was diagnosed with a Stage 3 Wilms tumor that enveloped her kidney, and she has become one tough cancer survivor.

Ms. Adams is an inspiring example of bravery for all of us, and I am exceptionally proud of her for giving others hope. It is critical that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young woman has made.

Ms. Adams gives me hope for a better tomorrow and a future where no child has to hear the words, "You have cancer."

I wish Ms. Adams the best of luck with all her future endeavors, and I urge my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her as she completes her service as a 2016–2017 Hyundai Hope On Wheels National Youth Ambassador.

TRIBUTE TO TRUDY CALDWELL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring best wishes and birthday greetings to Trudy Caldwell as she celebrates her 50th Birthday.

She is an inspirational role model for those who aspire to accomplish goals that may seem impossible. She has shown a passion for public service as demonstrated through her committed and dedicated military career of 20 years. Further, Trudy has continued service to our country as a civilian employee in the Department of the Army. Trudy is one of the few individuals to have served both as an enlisted soldier and an Officer, ultimately retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This is quite an achievement; she has no doubt, overcome barriers to realize these accomplishments as both an African American and a woman. Trudy's academic achievements include completing both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree. Additionally, she has been awarded numerous civic honors.

Trudy Caldwell's military assignments have taken her all over the United States and the world. She has taken command on various levels including teaching newly commissioned officers at the Quartermaster Center and School, served on the Joint Staff which is the highest level staff in the Defense Department, served with a team of staff officers to work directly with members of the Joint Staff 9–11 Commission, and served on the staff of the Army's Congressional Liaison Office. I am pleased to say this is where I met Trudy Caldwell during my first term in office. Shortly afterward while Trudy was attending graduate school at Georgetown University, I was fortunate enough to have Trudy spend a few days a week as a "Graduate Intern" working in my Washington, D.C. Office.

I am proud to call Trudy Caldwell my friend and I am proud that she originally comes from my district where her mother and other family members still reside. I know that this is only the beginning for Trudy; she has a prosperous life ahead of her. I know that she will continue to enrich the lives of future generations by bringing new experiences and renewed hope for those who aspire and dream of a better tomorrow through the nonprofit she has formed to assist youth.

May Trudy continue to bring joy to the countless lives she has touched throughout her life. She has been a true blessing to the 4th Congressional District and this nation. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I rise to give tribute to Trudy Caldwell. I wish her a wonderful celebration on her birthday and many more years filled with good health and happiness. It is a privilege to have this opportunity to celebrate and congratulate her on this special day.

TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, members of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), founded in December of 1941, have honorably served our country for 76 years;

Whereas, CAP has moved its Illinois Wing Headquarters to the Illinois Second Congressional District at Bult Field in Will County;

Whereas, in all 50 states, as well as in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, CAP serves the American Air Force in times of need;

Whereas, CAP's 57,000 members not only protect the American people, but build and support American's next generation of leaders through scholarships, education, and training;

Whereas, CAP diligently strives toward its three main initiatives: aerospace education, cadet training, and emergency services for the U.S. Air Force. Through state and local offices, CAP fosters an ethos of civil aviation and public service in local communities;

Whereas, the Civil Air Patrol volunteers perform 90 percent of the country's inland search and rescue missions;

Whereas, CAP's Illinois Wing received an overall "excellent" rating in its biannual U.S. Air Force evaluation and rescue mission;

Whereas, the Illinois Wing operates out of 35 locations statewide, and hosts 622 adult volunteer members, 543 cadets, 686 voting-age members, 673 emergency responders and 124 aircrew members;

Whereas, the Illinois Wing's volunteer members conducted 2,147 hours flown in 2015;

Whereas, the Illinois Wing flew 399 real-world sorties and conducted 71 ground sorties during 2015. In addition, its members led two missing aircraft finds, four tornado or flooding disaster relief missions, and 20 counterdrug reconnaissance missions;

Whereas, the Illinois Wing hosts the Johnson Flight Academy, which attracts aspiring pilots from all corners of this country; and

Whereas, the Illinois Wing conducted 62 training missions in 2015, which consisted of 357 flights and 229 ground sorties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the United States of America, That the contributions of the Illinois Civil Air Patrol be recognized and honored.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE UNVEILING OF PONSIE B. HILLMAN WAY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the newly-christened Ponsie B. Hillman Way in Manhattan's Upper West Side celebrates a woman who dedicated her life to social justice. This well-deserving recognition will honor the indelible impact Mrs. Hillman left on New York and underserved communities around the country.

Having faced personal discrimination as a young African-American teacher in Maryland, Mrs. Hillman's earliest activism in the 1940s and 1950s focused on education equity. After Prince Edward County, Virginia closed its schools in an attempt to evade desegregation orders following the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, Mrs. Hillman traveled to Virginia with the American Federation of Teachers to teach students without pay.

After moving to New York City in 1965, Mrs. Hillman immediately stepped into multiple community organizing roles. She was elected to the Executive Board of the NAACP in Manhattan, and worked on affordable housing, education, and health projects. Mrs. Hillman also served as a leader of the local labor movement. As a member of the New York City Central Labor Council's Black Trade Unionist Leader Committee, Mrs. Hillman dedicated many years of hard work to increasing leadership opportunities for African-Americans in their union branches. Over the course of her life, Mrs. Hillman was recognized for her activism by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, American Federation of Teachers, and the New York City Central Labor Council, among others.

I am incredibly proud to represent so many institutions and community groups that were the recipients of Mrs. Hillman's service. The renaming of West 71st Street and Columbus Avenue on the Upper West Side, Mrs. Hillman's long-time neighborhood, will stand as a testament to her important work as an educator, civil rights activist, and New York communal leader. I wish her family heartfelt congratulations on this special occasion.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DEBORAH HEARN SMITH AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deborah Hearn Smith of the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. For over four decades Smith facilitated the opportunity for our daughters in Central Indiana to become confident young leaders through engaging the world around them and building positive relationships with their peers and themselves. Smith's exemplary leadership and dedication to the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana has enriched the lives of over one million young women in our community, building generations of confident, courageous, and principled Hoosiers. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Deborah Hearn Smith's commitment to making Central Indiana, a welcoming place of opportunity for our young women.

A life-long Hoosier from Indianapolis, Smith attended IPS 60, then went on to Shortridge High School. She graduated in the class of 1966. And she was later inducted into the IPS Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015 for her outstanding leadership. Following graduation from high school she attended Kentucky State University to study English, History, and Political Science. There she met her husband Ebenezer Smith. She went on to later earn her