

speaking club, in which he mentored young members on how to shake hands, answer two to three minute table topics, improve nose to nose communication, practice skills of vocal variety, mitigate use of filler words, use their hands to maintain audience attention, and take constructive recommendations from peers. He also taught the young men how to "step away from the podium" and "dance your words".

Today, the Crystal City chapter of the club is a healthy, vibrant community of communicators in Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

In a record 4 months, the club grew from near critical to President's Distinguished, the Toastmasters International's highest club ranking.

I salute the Toastmasters Potomac Club for their dedication to living out the values of Toastmasters International's founder Dr. Ralph Chester Smedley.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN C. COUGHLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mr. John C. Coughlin on his retirement after an accomplished career, having served as a federal employee for 28 years.

Mr. Coughlin was born and raised in Bethesda, Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Naval Academy, was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, and served in the Navy's Aviation and Intelligence Office Program as a Command Pilot and Program Manager. After serving his country, Mr. Coughlin joined the Department of Energy in 1989, where he began an impressive career working with the Department's radiological emergency response assets. He served in various prestigious capacities, including the Director of the Office of Emergency Operations and Response, the Special Assistant to the Office of Self-Assessment and Emergency Management, the Director of the Threat Assessment Division for the Department's Programmatic and Nuclear Threat Programs, the first Director of the Office of Emergency Planning Preparedness and Operations here, within the U.S. House of Representatives, and most recently, the Assistant Sergeant at Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives. His work over the past 28 years has greatly benefitted our nation's security and preparedness in the event of an emergency, and we are grateful for all he's done to ensure the safety and readiness of our country.

Mr. Coughlin has had an outstanding career in public service, and I am pleased to recognize him both as an upstanding citizen and an exemplary resident of Maryland's 6th District. I congratulate Mr. Coughlin on a successful and impactful career and wish him all the best during his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JEDH COLBY BARKER

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decorated veteran and a true American hero from New Jersey's Fifth District, Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker. Corporal Barker grew up in Bergen County in New Jersey, and graduated from Park Ridge High School. In 1967, Corporal Barker was assigned to Fox Company in the Marine Corps, where he heroically defended his comrades in the line of fire during Operation Kingfisher. Corporal Barker's actions on this day earned him the most prestigious military decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I am including the Congressional Medal of Honor citation to highlight Corporal Barker's actions:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Company F. During a reconnaissance operation L/Cpl. Barker's squad was suddenly hit by enemy sniper fire. The squad immediately deployed to a combat formation and advanced to a strongly fortified enemy position, when it was again struck by small arms and automatic weapons fire, sustaining numerous casualties. Although wounded by the initial burst of fire, L/Cpl. Barker boldly remained in the open, delivering a devastating volume of accurate fire on the numerically superior force. The enemy was intent upon annihilating the small marine force and, realizing that L/Cpl. Barker was a threat to their position, directed the preponderance of their fire on his position. He was again wounded, this time in the right hand, which prevented him from operating his vitally needed machine gun. Suddenly and without warning, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the few surviving marines. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, L/Cpl. Barker threw himself upon the deadly grenade, absorbing with his body the full and tremendous force of the explosion. In a final act of bravery, he crawled to the side of a wounded comrade and administered first aid before succumbing to his grievous wounds. His bold initiative, intrepid fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of almost certain death undoubtedly saved his comrades from further injury or possible death and reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

September 21, 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of Corporal Barker's remarkable patriotism and valor on the battlefield during the Vietnam War. The Marine Corps motto is, "Semper Fidelis", meaning, "always faithful". Corporal Barker lived and embodied that to the fullest. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker, a true American hero. His family, the Fifth District, and all Americans should be proud of Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker. His memory and heroism in the line of duty will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON HONOR FLIGHT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize 26 Oregon veterans who traveled here today to visit Washington, D.C. These brave men and women risked their lives to protect and defend the United States and have now come to our nation's capital to visit the monuments and memorials they helped inspire. The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Archie Brown, Richard "Dick" Burling, Robert "Bob" Burness, Louis "Caldonia" Caldarelli, Francis Charriere, Harold Engelen, Donald "Red" Eudaly, Wilhelm "Bill" Guttormsen, Jack Hartung, Vidus "Vince" Klune, Robert "Bob" Jewitt, James "Jay" Majors, Glen McCall, Andrew "Andy" McDermaid, Larry D. Miller, Barbara "Jeanne" Moss, Hal Pally, Robert "Bob" Petchell, Robert "Bob" Schug, Sylvester "Pat" Smith Jr, Martin Spellman, Patricia "Patty" Sprigg, John Steigleder, Ralph Thompson, William "Bill" Walker, and Alan Lertzman.

RECOGNIZING B3CG INTERCONNECT IN PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate B3CG Interconnect on the opening of their new plant in Plattsburgh, New York.

B3CG is a world leader in the manufacturing of cable, harnessing and electrical mechanical assembly. In 2009, the owners of B3CG decided to expand their business from its headquarters in Saint-Eustache, Quebec, and open a second plant in Plattsburgh, New York. This move has allowed B3CG to expand their business within the United States, contributing greatly to the North Country economy in the process.

With B3CG now moving into a new facility in Plattsburgh, we can reflect on all of the company's important work in the transportation, medical and industrial sectors, as well as their contributions to the upstate community. By employing state of the art manufacturing technology and a dedicated local workforce, B3CG has built a strong relationship with the people of New York's 21st District, one which we are excited to continue.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank B3CG Interconnect for its contributions to the North Country and wish it the best of luck in its new location.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate South Central Community Action Partnership for making extensive positive impacts on the lives of low-income families in South-Central Idaho and on the occasion of their organization's 50th anniversary.

South Central Community Action Partnership is a highly valued local, charitable, non-profit corporation in Idaho's 2nd Congressional District. Although it began in the 1960s to oversee area Head Start programs, in fifty years it has changed thousands of lives.

Since 1967, SCCAP has developed important Idaho programs such as the Family Development and Families in Transition Program, the Valley House Coalition, a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families, the Twin Falls-based Weatherization Program, and the Boy's & Girl's Club of Magic Valley. Of special note, the Partnership has led efforts to build seniors' centers in the cities of Twin Falls, Buhl, Burley, Jerome, and Kimberly.

In addition, many of SCCAP's projects have been so successful that they have become independent organizations themselves or even parts of Idaho government programs. These include their Regional Housing Council (now the Region IV Housing Coalition), their Youth Challenge Project (which evolved into the Jerome Youth Center), their Family Planning Project (which became part of the District Health Department), their summer Migrant Head Start Programs (now the Idaho Migrant Council), and their invaluable Guardian ad Litem Program (now the Fifth Judicial CASA Guardian ad Litem).

As a small example of their impact, Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 years alone, SCCAP has assisted an average of more than 6,800 families and represented more than 20,000 individuals, helping with weatherization, veteran services, food, transportation, affordable housing, and many other valuable fields in our Idaho communities.

The SCCAP's hardworking administrators have consistently earned the trust of the people of Idaho, from Betty L. Wooten's leadership of the organization in 1967, all the way to Ken J. Robinette's and Joe Herring's leadership today.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank South Central Community Action Partnership for their service and commitment to the residents of South-Central Idaho.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) as

it celebrates 40 years of organizing the people of Oakland into powerful leaders for social change. Founded on May 14, 1977, OCO has united people across diverse communities in order to create positive and permanent change in Oakland neighborhoods, schools, and throughout the city. After forty years of work, OCO continues to be at the forefront of coalition building and organizing to bring about systemic change and improve the quality of life for all families.

Since its founding, OCO has consistently exhibited their steadfast support for underserved communities and tackled the obstacles that impede individuals from achieving a greater living standard. During its first 10 years, OCO created Housing Rehab programs to renovate 400 once-vacant houses, developed over 100 affordable housing units for first time homeowners, helped establish the Port of Oakland's minority hiring program, and aided in the implementation of Oakland's "Hire Oakland First Program," which is still in existence today.

In 1985, OCO transitioned from their traditional neighborhood-organizing model to a congregation-based model of organizing, which brought together congregations of all religious denominations. Under its new model, OCO launched a campaign to address Oakland's drug epidemic during the 1980s. Thanks to OCO, the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and the State of California adopted new enforcement, treatment, and prevention measures to address the drug epidemic. In addition, the White House formally recognized OCO for its anti-drug campaign.

In the 1990s, OCO shifted their focus to the root causes of poverty. As a result, they brought a new grocery store to West Oakland, secured \$6.6 million in new street lighting, implemented truancy reductions program, and formed Aviation High School, a pilot school-to-work transition program that prepared high school student for jobs in the transportation field.

At the beginning of 2000, OCO researched and developed one of the only community-driven school reform efforts in the United States, which resulted in the creations of dozens of new schools. Since then, OCO has also been dedicated to defending the rights of immigrant community by organizing legal support forums for thousands of immigrant families seeking citizenship, pushing for family-oriented immigration reform legislation, and connecting at-risk immigrants with emergency deportation defense services.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone. I thank Oakland Community Organizations for all that they do. I wish them continued success in training and organizing future generations of leaders to address the challenges facing the City of Oakland and its neighboring communities.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT SEAN SARGEANT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Sean Sargeant on

the occasion of his retirement from the Marine Corps after 30 years of dedicated service to our country.

Master Sergeant Sargeant's time with the United States Marine Corps first began in 1988. As a trained infantryman, security guard and civil affairs specialist, he served in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan, and was also part of the last crew to serve on the Battleship *New Jersey* from World War II.

In 1996, Master Sergeant Sargeant transitioned from active duty to the Marine Corps Reserve, where he began his career as a probation officer with the county. Working with a wide range of clients and families, Master Sergeant Sargeant's efforts with inter-agency coordination and focused mentoring has changed many lives by helping them re-integrate into the community.

Alongside his work with at risk adults and youth, Master Sergeant Sargeant continued to remain heavily involved with organizations that served veterans. Serving as an Operations Chief for Wounded Warriors, Master Sergeant Sargeant coordinated care for injured Marines and Sailors at Camp Pendleton and managed transitions for veteran families. He also served as a Civil Affairs Operations Chief with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, assisting with G9 operations. In his community, Master Sergeant Sargeant co-organized the very first Orange County Stand Down event, providing temporary relief to homeless veterans and offering medical and hygienic services.

MSgt Sargeant's sense of duty is truly commendable, and he is an example to us all of what it means to be a public servant.

Mr. Speaker and Members, please join me in congratulating Master Sergeant Sargeant on his retirement, and honoring him for his many contributions to the Marine Corps and to our nation. As he embarks on this new chapter, I wish Master Sergeant Sargeant all the best and thank him for his patriotism.

HONORING MR. CELESTINO CORDOVA

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Celestino Cordova for his service in the 65th Infantry Regiment, the "Borinqueneers." The 65th Infantry Regiment was the largest and longest-standing segregated Latino military unit in our country's history, and the Borinqueneers service in the face of discrimination led Congress to award these veterans the well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

The Borinqueneers trace their history to 1898, when Congress authorized the creation of a military unit in Puerto Rico. For more than a century, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment served honorably in our Armed Forces, displaying valor and distinction in World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. In fact, the Borinqueneers are credited with firing the first American shots in the First World War after stopping a German supply ship from leaving San Juan Bay in 1915.

Throughout both World Wars, the Borinqueneers defended the Panama Canal Zone, and some members of the regiment