

the lives of so many individuals including local job seekers, workers, youth, and employers. I applaud the dedication Cheryl has shown to ensuring Ventura County's workers have the resources and opportunities to obtain gainful employment and achieve professional and personal success.

For these reasons, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Cheryl Moore for her years of distinguished service to the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County. Her countless contributions are immeasurable, but have had a profound impact upon our community as a whole.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Chair, today I rise to recognize and support the Environmental Protection Agency's work on acid rain.

My district is the proud home of the Adirondacks, which for decades were being destroyed by acid rain from the mid-west.

Thanks to the work of the EPA to support efforts to halt this epidemic, we are recovering in spectacular fashion.

Trout populations are returning to once dead lakes, waters and trees are getting healthier, and the park is a booming economic engine for our district.

I've visited a lab in Ray Brook where the water samples collected by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation are tested, and ask that you help me ensure that the grant funding for this important work is renewed.

The EPA's programs and grants have been essential in restoring this ecological gem in my district.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress to support these important programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 14, 2017, I was unfortunately not present for Roll Call votes 516 through 529 in order to attend the memorial service for a dear friend who passed away. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted:

Yay on Roll Call vote 516 on the motion to recommit with instructions;

Nay on Roll Call vote 517 on passage of the Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act (H.R. 3697);

Nay on Roll Call vote 518 on agreeing to the amendment no. 192;

Nay on Roll Call vote 519 on agreeing to the amendment no. 195;

Yay on Roll Call vote 520 on agreeing to the amendment no. 196;

Yay on Roll Call vote 521 on agreeing to the amendment no. 199;

Yay on Roll Call vote 522 on agreeing to the amendment no. 200;

Yay on Roll Call vote 523 on agreeing to the amendment no. 201;

Nay on Roll Call vote 524 on agreeing to the amendment no. 204;

Nay on Roll Call vote 525 on agreeing to the amendment no. 207;

Yay on Roll Call vote 526 on agreeing to the amendment no. 223;

Yay on Roll Call vote 527 on the motion to recommit with instructions;

Nay on Roll Call vote 528 on passage of H.R. 3354; and

Yay on Roll Call vote 529 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act (H.R. 3284) as amended.

LEE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
CENTER (EOC)

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary actions of the Lee County Emergency Management Team. With Hurricane Irma hitting Lee County, the Lee Emergency Operations Center (EOC) took decisive action co-ordinating emergency responses and recovery efforts throughout Lee County.

The employees and volunteers staffing the EOC went above and beyond the call of duty keeping residents informed and sheltered, and are now working to clean up the damage left behind by the hurricane.

I applaud Sheriff Mike Scott, Sheriff Carmine Marcano, County Manager Roger Desjarlais, Director Benjamin Abes, Director Lee Mayfield, Chief Cochran, Chief Diggs, and all city and local officials for their tireless work in keeping our community informed and safe before, during, and after Hurricane Irma.

HONORING LUCY NOLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF END HUNGER CONNECTICUT, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DELAUR

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Ms. DELAUR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today and join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate with Lucy Nolan as she celebrates her retirement as Executive Director of End Hunger Connecticut. Throughout her remarkable career, Lucy has ensured that the issue of hunger and its root causes in our communities has remained at the forefront of public policy discourse, not only in Connecticut but nationally as well.

End Hunger Connecticut is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger across the state and seeks to raise awareness about hunger in Connecticut, promote funding for and access to nutrition assistance programs, and advocate for policies that address the root causes of hunger. Their goal, to help low-income families move beyond the food pantry towards self-sufficiency. Through Lucy's expertise and vision, End Hunger Connecticut has successfully advocated for a number of critical legislative initiatives including increased funding for the school breakfast program that established a pilot program for in-classroom breakfast, increasing food stamp accessibility, and led the effort to pass the country's toughest school nutrition legislation which banned the sale of sugary drinks on school grounds. Lucy's tenure also saw End Hunger Connecticut implement a very successful outreach program for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and create innovative partnerships with community leaders and community-based organizations that have strengthened community efforts to address hunger at its core.

Lucy's expert knowledge and commitment has been recognized on the state and national

HONORING THE CROATIAN SONS
LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its Golden Member banquet, which took place on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

The Croatian Fraternal Union held its gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include the following individuals: Janet C. Ashby, John Karl Bednash, Dianna K. Davis, Kathleen Greenya, Joseph Michael Jandura, Georgene A. Labash, Darlene Lass, Richard Louis Mostak, Judith Ann Murovic, Roberta Ann Nicksich, Sheryl Lee Niksic, Margaret Milos Nye, Linda L. Rayakovich Skafish, Rosemary Spieth, Marilyn Svetanoff, Geraldine M. Toth, Joseph A. Vukovich, Susan L. Wardrip, and Suzanne Wellington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commanding Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

levels. She is a legislatively appointed member to the Connecticut Milk Regulation Board, Connecticut Food Policy Council, the Farmland Preservation Board, and served on the Speaker's Task Force on Children and the Recession, as co-chair of the SustiNet Adult and Child Obesity Task Force and the Task Force on Child Obesity. She has testified before the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Committee on school nutrition programs and currently sits on the steering committee of the Connecticut Coalition Against Childhood Obesity. Under her tenure End Hunger Connecticut has been awarded the Congressional Hunger Center's "Victory Against Hunger" award three times and Lucy was most recently awarded the Raymond Wheeler/Paul Wellstone Award from the Food Research and Advocacy Center.

On a more personal note, I cannot thank Lucy enough for many years of friendship and support. Since our first meeting, we have been sisters-in-arms—kindred spirits—in the battle against hunger. From protecting SNAP benefits to growing the summer meals program to bringing the Witness to Hunger event to New Haven, she has been the staunchest of advocates and always just a phone call away. I will be forever grateful to her for all the help and guidance she has given to me and my staff over the years. I am honored beyond measure to be fortunate enough to call her my friend.

Lucy's passion, expertise, and unwavering advocacy has made all the difference at End Hunger Connecticut but most importantly in the lives of the individuals, children and families she has served every day throughout her career. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Lucy Nolan for her invaluable contributions to the fight against hunger in Connecticut and across the nation. Though she will be missed, I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness as she begins this next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO GREENWOOD VILLAGE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT 4 THOMAS BISHOP

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to Greenwood Village City Council Member for District 4 Thomas Bishop for his many years of hard work and dedication to the City of Greenwood Village. Council Member Bishop's leadership and vision has, amongst other accomplishments, contributed to Greenwood Village's reputation as one of the best in Colorado.

Council Member Bishop has consistently and effectively guided city council policy towards improving the quality of life at a time of growth and expansion. He has continually provided his guidance and leadership as a member of the Greenwood Village Citizens Budget Committee, the Autumn Hills Homeowners Association, and as the Vice-Chairman of the Greenwood Village Planning and Zoning Commission.

Outside of his service on the Greenwood Village City Council, Council Member Bishop has also dedicated his time making our com-

munity and the State of Colorado a better place. He served as the President and as the Secretary of the Denver Southeast Rotary Club and as a member of the Colorado Municipal Bond Supervision Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, City Council Member Thomas Bishop represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I offer my sincere appreciation for his unyielding dedication to public service and I wish him the very best of luck as he leaves the Greenwood Village City Council and moves on to future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO RAINBOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. As 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of this important organization, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for its commitment to promoting LGBTQ-run businesses in the Greater Sacramento Region.

For the past 15 years the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has been a tireless advocate for LGBTQ-owned businesses through advocacy, facilitation, business development, education, access to procurement opportunities and supplier diversity channels, and community support. The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has been crucial in the transformation of the Greater Sacramento Region into a prosperous and business-friendly environment that is inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender business owners and professionals. I applaud their focus on creating opportunities for their membership to grow their businesses in the Sacramento region.

In addition to their advocacy work for local businesses, the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's Rainbow Chamber Foundation has contributed more than \$40,000 in scholarships for LGBTQ youth. They have also focused on fundraising for other non-profit organizations that help support LGBTQ youth, and collaborated with other community groups, including the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center and the National Suicide Prevention Program Trevor Project among others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for their fifteen years of service to their members and the community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their exemplary activism on behalf of and in support of businesses run by members of the LGBTQ community.

RECOGNIZING ARTURO N. BENAVIDES, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.

Mr. Benavides was born on February 26, 1938 to Anita and Carlos Y. Benavides, Sr. He graduated from St. Joseph's Academy before eventually attending Fordham University and the University of Dallas. He would go on to start several successful business ventures in a variety of fields including ranching, real estate, land development, oil and gas, and the hotel industry. He would also serve in the Texas National Guard.

Despite his busy and successful business career, he was actively involved in several causes for the benefit of his community. He understood the importance of a good education and helped fund several college scholarships for students in Laredo, TX. A generous supporter of the South Texas Food Bank, Mr. Benavides helped establish three Kids Cafés where meals would be served for low-income kids.

Due to his philanthropy and service over the course of several decades, he would receive many honors. His recognitions and awards include: being the honoree at the Empty Bowls Gala sponsored by the South Texas Food Bank, representing the United States as LULAC 12's Señor Internacional and Tejano Achiever, and serving as Honorary President of the Republic of the Rio Grande.

Mr. Benavides' legacy will live on in the countless people that he helped during his remarkable life. He will be remembered not only for his success in business but also by how much he cared for those around him. He remained humble and was never one to boast about his accomplishments. He was focused on creating results not on receiving recognition. His life serves as an example to us all.

He is survived by his daughter, Anna (John) Galo; his son, Arturo N. Benavides, Jr.; two grandchildren, John Roman Galo and Zoe Zelin Benavides; his brother, Carlos Y. (Leticia) Benavides, Jr.; his cousin, Arturo Tomás (Leslie) Benavides; nieces and nephews, Carlos Y. Benavides III, Guillermo D. Benavides, and Linda Cristina (Patrick) Alexander; and the mother of his children, Gloria Casso Benavides.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to my need to be back in my district to help my community recover from Hurricane Irma, I was unable to be present for Roll Call Votes 516 through 529.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 516; YEA on Roll Call No. 517; YEA on Roll Call No. 518; YEA on