

preserve the natural and cultural resources of over 50,000 acres of land. Mike also helped found the Evergreen Center for the Arts in 1976, establishing an outlet for local artists to pursue their creative endeavors. In 1988, Mike helped found Culture Jeffco and promoted the formation of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. A year later he was appointed as the founding chairman of the Jefferson County Cultural Council, the governing board of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District that was responsible for distributing the county's annual share of Tier III funds for art, music, theater, dance, zoology, botany, natural history, or cultural history.

Mike's civic achievements include recognition from the Jefferson County League of Women Voters as well as the Rex Morgan Citizen Volunteer Award. In his five decades in the Jefferson County area, Mike has worked tirelessly to improve the City of Evergreen and Jefferson County through public service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mike Moore for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County.

THANKING KEVIN CHAMBERS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my thanks to Kevin Chambers for over thirty-five years of dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives. Kevin will be retiring this Friday, September 29. He is a constituent in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, living in Calvert County, and I am proud to represent him and his family in Congress.

Kevin has been the very definition of exceptional customer service that all Chief Administrative Office (CAO) employees strive to provide to the House community. His thorough leadership and oversight in assisting Members with setting up their offices and with relocations during numerous Congressional transitions has provided a template for success for many years to come. Kevin's extensive knowledge of House furniture and its history and his mastery of building and sustaining relationships with Members and staff has resulted in cohesiveness and joint partnerships throughout the House campus. He has also maintained strong relationships over the years with colleagues from the CAO and Architect of the Capitol offices. For all who have had the pleasure of working with him, Kevin has been an invaluable asset and will be greatly missed.

Kevin began his career with the House CAO on December 12, 1980 as a Laborer. In March 1987 he advanced to Assistant Warehouse Manager and became Warehouse Manager in 1990. In that capacity, he served as a point of contact between CAO staff and Members of Congress regarding service orders for office furnishings. In 2001, the CAO called upon Kevin to offer his expertise to the newly developed First Call customer service center as a Senior Customer Solutions Consultant. There, he provided guidance, advice, and assistance to House offices regarding the selection and purchase of office furniture, equipment, and supplies. Later, Kevin became a Senior Team

Lead with the Modular-Transition office. In 2016, Kevin moved to the Manager role and led the team on House-wide projects, including the Cannon House Office Building Renewal Relocations effort. Over many years, Kevin has provided guidance to management as a subject-matter expert on House operations, and he has been an integral part of the CAO.

Among his many accomplishments over the years, Kevin supervised the CAO's Transition Office staff over the past eight Congressional transitions. He was always the first to arrive and last to leave. He provided the transitional move coordinators with the knowledge and support necessary to assist incoming freshman Members and participating returning Members effectively and efficiently. Not only has Kevin been thoroughly involved with Congressional Transitions, his extensive CAO and House knowledge put him in a position to become the Clerk's Office's main point of contact for all Congressional special elections.

Furthermore, Kevin has dedicated his career to making the CAO and the House of Representatives a better place to work and a place that runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible. He has passed along his many years of project management and customer service experience to staff and coworkers so they can continue the extremely high standards of quality service expected by the CAO. On behalf of the entire House, I extend congratulations to Kevin for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing him and his wife Cynthia many happy years together in retirement.

HONORING CSM (RET.) SIDNEY BROWN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today we honor retired Army Command Sergeant Major Sidney Brown, decorated combat soldier, passionate community leader, and tireless advocate for the Clarksville-Montgomery County area and its veterans.

During 30 years of active military duty, CSM Brown deployed with the 101st Airborne Division, serving two tours in Vietnam, Germany, and Korea, earning distinction as a member of the Triple Nickle—555th Parachute Infantry Association. For his outstanding service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and multiple medals and badges.

Upon retirement, he was elected as a Montgomery County Commissioner. Within one year of appointment as Chairman of the Clarksville-Montgomery Veterans' Home Board, he gathered support from city council members, county commissioners, and state and federal officials to build a much-needed nursing home for veterans to "give back to them what they sacrificed to give us." In spite of many obstacles in fundraising and land acquisition, the Veterans' Home opened in 2016—due in large part to CSM Brown's steadfast mission. His ever-present enthusiasm, determination and devotion make him an inspirational model for the active-duty soldiers, veteran students and ROTC cadets he

has championed for decades. He has dedicated his life to our nation's military, and we are truly humbled to honor him.

Leadership is not as it appears, but as it performs. We join his family and friends in dedicating the Sidney Brown Bistro to CSM Brown, who ensured our veterans' sacrifices are revered and repaid.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for the record on roll call votes cast on September 25, 2017.

On Roll Call Vote Number 530, on consideration of H.R. 3823 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "No."

On Roll Call Vote Number 531, on consideration of H.R. 2061 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

GREG STEVINSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Greg Stevinson for receiving the West Chamber's 2017 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

As a resident of Jefferson County for over fifty years, Greg has used his leadership and business insight to help shape our community. Greg was instrumental in the creation of the Colorado Mills Mall and the Denver West Office Park in Lakewood. For these efforts he received the honor of being named businessperson of the year by the Rocky Mountain News. Greg has also been an ardent supporter of open space in Jefferson County. He served on committees including Jefferson County Open Space, Save Open Space and Jeffco Outdoors Foundation.

Greg has served on several boards including the Colorado Baseball Stadium District, Red Rocks Community College Foundation and Craig Hospital. He is known for his personal drive, public service, and cultural contributions, which have made a tremendous impact on this county.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Greg Stevinson for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our friend, Taiwan, as it commemorates the 106th anniversary of its National Day on October 10th.

The United States and Taiwan have always had a strong relationship, even in the absence of formal diplomatic ties. This relationship has led to cooperation in many areas such as matters of international security, trade and investment, cultural exchange and education, etc. Taiwan is also a great friend in times of need. When Hurricane Harvey recently wrought destruction and wreaked havoc in areas of Texas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Taiwan made a generous contribution of \$800,000 to help the hurricane's victims. Taiwan's President, Tsai Ing-wen, repeatedly expressed concern for our country's hurricane victims, and the people of Taiwan have, once again, demonstrated their friendship with the United States.

We need to continue to give Taiwan all the support it needs. Taiwan is a democracy and deserves our friendship and best wishes.

It is my privilege today to rise to congratulate Taiwan as it celebrates its 106th National Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal conflict, I was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 530, and YEA on Roll Call No. 531.

RECOGNIZING AIR EVAC LIFETEAM

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, more than 46 million Americans and tens of thousands of Tennesseans live over an hour away from Level 1 or 2 trauma centers, making them twice as likely to die from an accident or medical condition. Rapid, sophisticated, air transportation is their only option for complex, time-dependent care.

That is why today we recognize Air Evac Lifeteam for its critical service to rural, medically-underserved communities. Five bases in Lawrenceburg, Parsons, Savannah, Waverly, and Waynesboro, Tennessee, serve all 19 contiguous counties in the 7th Congressional District through advanced helicopter ambulances and personnel.

Their crews of 65 pilots, nurses, paramedics, and mechanics maintain a patient-first focus on high-tech, fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft. Many pilots, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan on military air assaults and medivac missions, use those same skills to save thousands of lives every year in Tennessee. Many crews are regularly deployed for disaster relief nationwide. Their service is invaluable.

Air medical transportation will ensure access to emergency health care for the people who need it most, and Air Evac Lifeteam puts the journey in experienced, cutting-edged, compassionate hands

HONORING THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR ROLE IN HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Texas Military Department for their outstanding response and service to the state in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The Texas Military Department is a unique force comprised of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard and the Domestic Operations Task Force. With little notice, Texas National and State Guard forces mobilized to participate in search and rescue missions, provide vital first aid, and assist in transportation and distribution support to the storm-ravaged areas of the Lone Star State. The 12,000 soldiers of the Texas National Guard are fully mobilized and completely engaged in operations serving Texans in need.

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall, the Texas National Guard has performed more than 16,000 rescues and evacuated more than 7,400 people and 1,000 animals. They also ensured that the immediate needs of Texas residents were met by setting up over 30 points of distribution for food, water, and other vital commodities between Beaumont and Corpus Christi. There are 35 active Texas State Guard Shelter teams sheltering more than 8,000 evacuees at 13 shelters across the state and the Texas National Guard assisted in setting up three evacuation hubs. Rescue efforts have involved over 400 vehicles ranging from Humvees and troop transport vehicles to re-fuelers and wreckers. The Texas National Guard also deployed its 16 aircraft fleet to support rescue operations all along the coast, including numerous Blackhawk, Lakota, and Chinook helicopters.

Not only have Texas' military forces proved crucial during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth located in my district continues to play a critical role in the relief effort. The base housed a massive influx of aircraft that was evacuated ahead of the storm in order to avoid damage to critical military weaponry. It also became a rallying point for military and other first responders from all over the country to organize recovery efforts. I cannot stress enough the importance of this strategic base and its role in providing a swift response during the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

The Texas Military Department's dedication to working around the clock in incredibly challenging conditions and its demonstrated ability to integrate seamlessly with active duty military troops, first responders, and the myriad of volunteers in the midst of one of the worst natural disasters to affect Texas is truly an embodiment of their motto of "Texans Serving Texas."

The Texas Military Department's response to Hurricane Harvey complimented federal efforts and the countless Texans who rose to the challenge of helping their fellow Texans during their time of need. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a native Texan, I could not be more proud of my state's response during one of the worst natural disasters to ever affect Texas.

I honor the Texas Military Department and the countless first responders who answered the call for help from their fellow Texans.

HONORING ST. MICHAEL PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all of the parishioners and clergy—past and present—of St. Michael Parish in Orland Park, Illinois, as they celebrate the 150th anniversary of their parish.

Established shortly after the end of the Civil War, St. Michael Parish began with a simple wooden church, twenty feet long and thirty feet wide. The first Mass was held on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel on September 29, 1867. After World War II, the parish began construction of a grade school which opened in September, 1949, to better serve the growing parish. As growth continued a new church needed to be built and was dedicated in 1969, followed by a Parish Activities Center in 1981.

What has remained constant through all of the changes is the commitment of St. Michael's parishioners to be a gathering of Catholic people believing in God's love, manifested by His Son Jesus, and working to fulfill His mission on earth. I have experienced the daily manifestation of this commitment during my visits to St. Michael Parish, whether for worship or to visit the school. St. Michael School is an exemplary Catholic elementary school that has won a National Blue Ribbon Award and emphasizes academics, moral values, and discipline. The spirit of the school really shined through during my visit for Catholic Schools Week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize Father Paul Burak and all the parishioners of St. Michael, and congratulate them on the 150th anniversary of their parish. May their community continue to thrive and grow in God's love.

WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is World Contraception Day, which provides us an opportunity to talk about the importance of access to contraceptives.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called contraception one of the greatest public health interventions of the 20th Century.

They improve overall health and well-being, reduce maternal mortality, and allow women to have greater control over their bodies and their lives.

The Affordable Care Act mandated contraception coverage with no co-pays, and the evidence of the value of this protection is clear.

We should build on this success and ensure all women—both here at home and across the globe—have access to affordable, live-changing contraception.