

fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ruth has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ruth in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 101st birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her nothing but the best.

HONORING THE LUFKIN LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS, THE 2017 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a different variety of thunder rolled across Williamsport, Pennsylvania in late August, which provided some respite from the devastating storms which were battering Texas . . . the "Thundering 13" from Angelina County, Texas captured the attention of millions and the title of a lifetime when they emerged victorious as the U.S. National Champions in the 2017 Little League World Series tournament.

The Lufkin All-Stars gained its distinctive nickname of "Thundering 13" during grueling two-a-day practices and games leading up to the tournament, when the young men pounded so many home runs that spectators said it sounded like thunder.

A single loss during the national tournament motivated the team even further, resulting in a rematch where they ultimately emerged victorious against the only team that challenged their bid for the national title.

With the strength of their camaraderie uniting them, and the unwavering support of their family, friends, and fans, this talented, resolute, and relentless national championship team never lost sight of the dream.

This remarkable accomplishment cannot be possible without the determination and hard work of every team member, along with the skill and experience of dedicated Head Coach and Manager Bud Maddux, along with Assistant Coaches Malcolm Deason and Ryan Deaton.

My most enthusiastic praise and congratulations goes to national champions Chip Buchanan, Malcolm Deason, Jr., Charlie Deaton, Hunter Ditsworth, Kolby Kovar, Lance Modisette, Christian Mumpherly, Zach Phipps, Mark Requena, Collin Ross, Chandler Spencer, Blake Slaga, and Clayton Wigley.

The path to a championship title can be long and arduous, but the Lufkin All-Stars met the challenge sustained by the solid and enthusiastic encouragement of a fiercely loyal network of community support which provided the foundation upon which a national championship emerged.

These young men bear witness to the fact that anything is achievable though focus, hard work and determination. These are guiding life principles that lead to success not only on the

field, but will undoubtedly resonate through every endeavor these valiant championship players undertake in their entire lifetimes.

May God continue to bless these young people, along with their families, friends and neighbors in east Texas and beyond. It is an extraordinary privilege to recognize the Lufkin All-Stars, 2017 Little League World Series U.S. National Champions.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2017 graduating class of the Fairfax County High School Firefighter Program. Last year, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools created its High School Firefighter Program to provide training to students who are considering a career as a firefighter.

Students who participate in this program attend courses taught by qualified instructors at the Fairfax County Fire Academy. In fact, they receive some of the same training as new professional and volunteer firefighters. The course is grueling but upon successful completion, the students will receive six college credits. Should these students decide to apply to the Fairfax County Fire Academy, successful completion of this program will make them very competitive candidates and in fact, a few slots at the Academy are reserved specifically for the top student graduates.

This year, thirteen seniors are graduating as the inaugural class of the High School Firefighter Program. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following graduates:

Crisol Alvis Rodriguez, Nicholas Arko, Anna Fuentes, Joshua Hone, Alex Hurd, Henry Jimenez-Reyes, Nathan Leite, Gillian Mudge, Michael Murn, Jarod Rambo, Ben Rothwell, Richard Verrier, Leah Walters.

Mr. Speaker, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best fire departments in the country and in the world. I commend the department as well as the public school system for partnering in the creation of this program. I also applaud these young people for their desire to learn more about the department and for their interest in protecting our community. Northern Virginia is fortunate to have such dedicated young citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students on their successful completion of this program and in wishing them great future success.

CONGRATULATING DR. PAUL COREIL

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Paul Coreil. Dr.

Paul Coreil, born and raised in Ville Platte, Louisiana, has enjoyed a distinguished career with the 4H Program—the most recent achievement being his induction into the 4H National Hall of Fame. Honored as one of only 16 inducted across the nation, Dr. Coreil has played a major role in the program for more than 34 years and currently serves as the Director and Vice Chancellor Emeritus for the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. His work on the Marsh Maneuvers and the Louisiana 4H Foundation Squirrel Hunt has helped raise thousands of dollars to benefit Louisiana 4H programs. Dr. Coreil has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions 4H and to the great state of Louisiana. I applaud Dr. Coreil for his work and commend him on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY KARG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Henry Karg of Clarinda, Iowa on the occasion of his 104th birthday. Henry was born on October 29, 1913.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Henry's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Henry has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Henry in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 104th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Henry on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing him nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BERNARD FULLER

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent—Mr. Bernard Fuller. I am honored to congratulate Mr. Bernard Fuller, a teacher at Graham Middle School in Alamance County, North Carolina. Mr. Bernard Fuller is a 2016–2017 recipient of the Outstanding Special Education Teacher of the Year Award by the National Association of Special Education Teachers. This award was presented to 16 teachers across the nation and Mr. Fuller is the only teacher to earn the honor from North Carolina. Mr. Fuller has demonstrated a passionate commitment by developing special skills and going the extra mile for his remarkable students. He is an exceptional example for his

colleagues in Graham and teachers everywhere. I join with his friends, family, and the Sixth District in congratulating Bernard Fuller on this excellent accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE RESIDENCE INN FAIR LAKES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Residence Inn Fair Lakes on its 20th anniversary. Each year, the Residence Inn provides exemplary service to those living in and visiting the Northern Virginia region. Countless numbers of great reviews and ratings have ensured its reputation as one of the premier hotels in the region. It is an honor to recognize the Residence Inn on its 20th anniversary and celebrate this extraordinary accomplishment.

Opening their doors in 1997, the Residence Inn Fair Lakes filled a need in the community for high quality yet affordable accommodations. Being located in a prime location, the Residence Inn attracts a wide variety of travelers from short stay tourists to longer-term business professionals. Its proximity to Dulles and National Airports, the thriving high-tech region of the Dulles corridor, Fair Oaks Mall, George Mason University, countless restaurants, and of course Washington, D.C., has made the Residence Inn Fair Lakes a premier destination.

In 20 years, the Fair Lakes region of our country has witnessed explosive growth and expansion in residential as well as corporate development. Residence Inn Fair Lakes has positioned itself to give business travelers, both domestic and international, a place to stay that is like a home away from home.

In addition to providing exceptional accommodations to business and leisure travelers, Residence Inn Fair Lakes also offers extensive event planning services. Corporate meetings, conferences and training sessions are frequently scheduled at the Residence Inn Fair Lakes. Social events including engagement parties, showers, and family reunions are made even more special through the outstanding customer service provided by the facility and its staff. And of course, the wedding services and receptions held at the Residence Inn are meticulously planned. No detail is overlooked and the beautiful setting makes the event even more memorable.

The motto of the Commonwealth of Virginia is: "Virginia is for Lovers." The management and staff of the Residence Inn embodies that motto through its hospitality, generosity, kindness, exemplary customer service, and reliability. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Residence Inn Fair Lakes on its 20th anniversary and in wishing it continued success.

BARBARA A. ZDRAVECKY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career

and leadership of "one of country's most influential advocates for women's rights," Barbara A. Zdravecky. She is retiring after serving 24 years as the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. I am honored to recognize her selfless service and valuable contributions during these challenging times for the health rights of women.

A Pennsylvania native, Barbara graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned her nursing degree from Manatee County's State College of Florida. Barbara served as head nurse of Manatee Memorial Hospital's Psychiatric Program and later served as the Patient Care Coordinator of the First Hospice Program in Key West, primarily caring for HIV/AIDS patients. In 1993, Barbara accepted the offer to lead Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida as its Chief Executive Officer where she continues to serve and live by their mission to provide comprehensive health care, education, and advocacy for women of all walks of life.

Throughout her career, Barbara advocated to ensure that women have the information and care they need to live strong, healthy lives and fulfill their dreams—no ceilings, no limits. She successfully fought countless legislative battles and then brought legal challenges when the legislative body overreached, such as Florida's House Bill 1411, the Termination of Pregnancies and Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida v. Celeste Philip, that would have blocked access to health care for women and their families. She kept up the good fight on all attempts to protect against attempts to cut funding for or defund Planned Parenthood altogether.

Under Barbara's leadership, Planned Parenthood grew in stature into the Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida in 2015. Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida now covers 22 counties with 11 health centers serving over 45,000 patients in Florida.

Barbara was also instrumental in engineering regional headquarters in Sarasota and constructing the new building at 736 Central Avenue where the health care provider has expanded its services. In September, it became the first in Florida to offer hormone therapy for transgender patients.

Barbara has received numerous awards and accolades for her dedicated service. In 2006, Barbara was honored with the Ruth Green Award as the top Planned Parenthood CEO in the country by Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Equality Florida presented her with the "2014 Voice for Equality Award" and in 2015, she was named "Wonder Woman" by the Women's Resource Center of Manatee County.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Florida, my neighbors in the Tampa Bay community and women everywhere, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the great champions of women's health and equal rights, Barbara A. Zdravecky, for her many years of service and contributions fighting for the rights of women and their families. It is with great honor and joy to congratulate Barbara on her new endeavor as well as the many accomplishments she has had throughout her career, and I know together we will keep up the good fight.

TRIBUTE TO COLLETTA GILLET

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colletta Gillett of Clarinda, Iowa on the occasion of her 103rd birthday. Colletta was born on November 11, 1914.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Colletta's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Colletta has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Colletta in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 105TH
BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE N. LEIGHTON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable George N. Leighton, who turns 105 years young on October 22nd.

George was born in New Bedford to Anna Silva Garcia and Antonio Neves Leitao, who emigrated from the Cape Verde Islands. During his childhood, George and his siblings helped their parents who worked as agricultural laborers, and they only attended school for a few months a year. It was while working as a cranberry bog weeder that George first decided to pursue a career in law.

George finished school after the 7th grade and, while working in restaurant kitchens, started taking night classes. He then pursued a degree at Howard University, after he was able to prove he could complete college level work. This was the first time he would use English as his primary language. In 1940, George graduated magna cum laude from Howard University and held a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves Officer Training Corps.

An aspiring lawyer, George would stop at nothing and entered Harvard Law School with a scholarship later that year. As the United States entered World War II, George served in the Pacific Theater for almost three years and was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Bronze Star. Discharged as a Captain in 1945, George reentered Harvard Law School. He then passed the Massachusetts bar in 1946 and established his law practice in Chicago.