

Sully District: Lady Trudy Harsh and Lord Michael R. Frey

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 2017 Lords and Ladies Fairfax and in expressing our gratitude to these men and women who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of our community. Their efforts provide immeasurable benefits to Fairfax County and its residents, and are truly worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING MASON THOMAS LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mason Thomas Lewis. Mason is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Mason has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Mason rebuilt and stained a bridge at Immacolata Manor in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mason Thomas Lewis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote yesterday on the passage of H.R. 3551, the C-TPAT Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 569), I would have voted "aye." This legislation would reauthorize a program at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that encourages cargo importers, carriers, and other entities involved in international trade to cooperate with CBP to strengthen global supply chain security.

Had I been present for the vote on the passage of S. 504, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 570), I would have voted "aye." This bill would permanently authorize CBP's ability to issue travel cards that provide U.S. business leaders and government officials with short-term entry to APEC countries.

Had I been present for the vote on approving the Journal (Roll Call No. 571), I also would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. JONATHAN L. WEAVER AS PASTOR OF THE GREATER MT. NEBO AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rev. Jonathan Leslie Weaver on his thirtieth pastoral anniversary with the Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bowie, Maryland. Throughout the past three decades, Rev. Weaver has been ministering to a growing community of worshippers in Bowie and the greater Washington metro area. I've been honored to know him, to call him a friend, and to work closely with him to strengthen our communities in Maryland's Fifth District.

Since 1988, Rev. Weaver has overseen both the expansion of his church and a plethora of charitable endeavors through more than fifty ministries serving its members and the wider community. These have included programs to prevent domestic violence, to empower families through economic literacy, and to combat hunger. Under his guidance, Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church members have participated in Christmas in April, Tools for School, and other social service projects. Rev. Weaver has also carried his ministry across the ocean, visiting Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Benin to engage in mission projects there for more than a quarter century.

As National President of the Collective Empowerment Group, Rev. Weaver has helped build a network of churches across seven states and the District of Columbia that host financial literacy seminars, educational programs, health care screenings, and homeownership clinics. The Collective Empowerment Group also partners with banks and local businesses to facilitate wider access to economic opportunities for those living in their communities. I have participated in a number of Collective Empowerment Group programs, and I can attest to the wonderful work the organization performs to help families reach for the American Dream.

Rev. Weaver holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland; and Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When he arrived at Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E., the church had 100 members; today, he has overseen its growth to more than 1,600 members. It is a testament to his vision, his inspiration, and his faith. Rev. Weaver also has overseen the construction of the community's present church building as well as its Christian Academy school and Family Life and Wellness Intergenerational Center assisted-living facility.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Rev. Weaver and his wife, Pamela Lynn Weaver—who have two daughters and four grandchildren—on reaching this milestone. I thank them both for their work and spiritual guidance to so many in Maryland's Fifth District and for their friendship over the years.

HONORING LUCIANO VARELA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Luciano "Lucky" Varela, a hard-working New Mexican who fought for New Mexico families in the state Legislature. Luciano represented Santa Fe in the New Mexico House of Representatives from 1987 to 2016.

Rep. Varela was known for his expertise in government finance and his unwavering support for the employees who deliver services to New Mexicans. He always treated constituents with the utmost dignity and worked for New Mexico families.

Prior to serving in the New Mexico House of Representatives, he was the Director of the State Personnel Office, Chairman of the Board of the Public Employee's Retirement Association, and served on the House Appropriations Committee, in addition to the Legislative Finance Committee.

Rep. Varela was an advocate for fair wages and policies to support low-income families in New Mexico. In 1998, he sponsored legislation to expand the low-income comprehensive tax rebate.

Years later, in 2007, he sponsored a bill for public employee salary increases, which would increase the salaries of public employees including police officers, teachers, and higher education employees.

I will always remember Lucky as someone who was tough and transparent, but always fair. New Mexicans know that he worked hard to provide support for working families. He devoted his career to public service, for which, we are all grateful.

HONORING ZACHARY SCOTT LINARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Scott Linard. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zachary has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Scott Linard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT Q. KREIDER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize President Robert Kreider and his over 20 years of dedication to Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health. President Kreider has been a successful and honorable servant for Devereux in a variety of capacities since joining the company in the mid 90's; first as a consultant and eventually rising to become its President and Chief Executive Officer in 2004. Over this time, Mr. Kreider has worked selflessly to expand the business in a manner consistent with its mission—changing lives by unlocking and nurturing human potential for people living with emotional, behavioral or cognitive differences.

Under his leadership, Devereux survived the most serious economic recession since the Great Depression, experienced \$310 million growth in annual revenue, and has increasingly become a nationally influential company. The work its employees do impact the lives of countless individuals across the United States and I commend President Kreider for positioning the company in a place where they can do the most good.

Mr. Kreider has always been dedicated to both the field and to the employees who advance it. He even facilitates the learning of others through lectures he presents at health care institutes like the National Health Lawyers Association and the Leonard Davis Institute of the University of Pennsylvania.

The United States remains a hot bed for innovation and progress through the hard work and dedication of individuals like Robert Kreider. I thank him for his years of service and wish him well in his next endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 3rd Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating Our Global Community" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents is foreign born. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2017 Annual Dinner honorees:

Ms. Diana Katz—Ms. Katz is a co-founder of the Giving Circle of Hope which provides grants to area non-profits with budgets below \$2 million. She also co-founded NoVIE, a member driven, CEO-level forum that brings together ideas, knowledge and support to benefit the health and viability of social good organizations. She was the driving force behind the NV Rides program that provides transportation for the elderly, and has recently co-founded the Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. The Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund will be awarding its first grant this year.

Mr. Mukit Hossain (posthumously)—Mr. Hossain was a telecommunications executive in northern Virginia who became a grass-roots activist following the September 11 terrorist attacks. He was instrumental in encouraging fellow Muslims to become more politically engaged through his role as president of the Virginia Muslim Political Action Committee. In 2006, he joined with Jewish leaders to push successfully for a Virginia state law that made it illegal to falsely label kosher and halal foods. He started Food Source, an organization to feed the homeless in Fairfax, and used his organizing skills on behalf of undocumented workers—particularly as immigration became a defining political issue in Prince William and Loudoun counties. Prior to his sudden death in 2010 he was named Herndon Citizen of the Year and recognized for his community efforts in a joint resolution from the Virginia General Assembly.

Mr. Kofi Dennis—A Master Teaching Artist with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through Arts since 1998, Mr. Dennis has shared his skills in drumming and story-telling with children and adults of all ages. He provides Arts integrated classroom residencies and professional development workshops in music and creative drama for early childhood educators locally, nationally and internationally. He has also brought drumming and story-telling to juveniles and prisoners in area jails. This past summer, he was part of a team of Wolf Trap master teaching artists and administrators who spent three weeks in Singapore. In collaboration with the National Arts Council and Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), this team led programs to train, facilitate workshops, and conduct STEM residencies in arts integration for teachers, administrators and artists.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING JEREMIAH JOSEPH MORGAN, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Joseph Morgan, Jr. Jeremiah is a very special young

man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1417, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jeremiah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jeremiah built a maintenance shed that houses lawn-care and other equipment that will be used to help maintain the grounds of the Eight Witches Monument in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Joseph Morgan, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF RONALD A. RUSSO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Ronald A. Russo, a dedicated father, husband, brother, and grandpa who passed away on Friday, October 20, 2017.

Ron was born on June 16, 1953, in Youngstown, Ohio to Rocco and Anna (Sikusha) Russo. He graduated from Chaney High School in 1971 and worked for the Youngstown Fire Department for the past 37 years. He was currently serving as Battalion Chief. Prior to becoming a chief, he spent the majority of his career on Squad 33. Ron earned several lifesaving valor and crew awards during his career, and he was always willing to help anyone in need. He was a member of I.A.F.F., O.A.P.F.F., and Y.P.F.F. Local No. 312. He especially enjoyed working with his father and former Youngstown Fire Chief Rocco Russo, and his twin brother, retired Youngstown Fire Department Battalion Chief Rich Russo.

Outside of work, Ron spent a great deal of time watching his son coach hockey. As soon as Ron found out he was going to be a grandfather, he put a swimming pool in his backyard. He had devoted the last eight years of his life to his grandchildren. Everything from family vacations, crabbing on the beach, teaching them to cook, and that every animal says "moo." He also enjoyed cooking and hosting family gatherings with his loving wife Joann. Their home was always open to everyone. The family motto was "La Familia E'Tutto," family is everything.

He will always be remembered lovingly by his wife, the former Joann Booher, whom he married Dec. 31, 2004; four children, Rocco Russo (Melissa Singleton), Margaret (Michael) DeNiro, Marie (Jared) Rupert, and Melissa Russo; two stepchildren, Tristan (Kolt) Codner, and Justine (Corey) Keller; twin brother, Richard (Janet) Russo; brother Robert (Debbie) Russo; seven grandchildren, Gavin and Logan Rupert, Dominic, Carmen, Julianna DeNiro, Gianna Russo, and Andrew Codner; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.