

her friendship as I started my congressional career. Her advice, counsel and assistance were invaluable.

Jean was preceded in death by her siblings; Gerald Lee Williams, Marjorie (Daisy) Williams, George Earl (Bob) Williams, and Melvin (BoBo) Williams.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Leon A. Edwards; her son, Reginald Edwards (Sherry); her daughter, Tiana Edwards; two sisters, Dorothy Clark (Washington, D.C.); Sabrina Hickman (Greenville, NC); two grandchildren, Reggie (Chaz), and Miesha; two great-grandchildren, Miayah-Joy Keith and Somer-Hope Keith; two God-children, Julia Chaney (Winston) and Malika Taylor-Phillips; and a host of relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join my wife, Vivian, and me in extending our deepest sympathies to Jean's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ZACH BARNES

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#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Barnes of Southeast Polk High School for winning the Class 3A, 145 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning state championships is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Zach, but also his parents, his family, coaches and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Zach demonstrates the rewards of dedication, and perseverance. I am proud to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of November 7, 2017, a series of votes were held. Had I been present for the first of these roll call votes, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 613—I vote YES.

#### VETERAN URGENT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT

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SPEECH OF

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 918, the Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act.

As Veterans Day approaches, we remember the debt of gratitude we owe our nation's veterans, who have sacrificed greatly to protect our freedoms.

Tragically, about 11 to 20 out of every 100 veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year. As researchers work diligently to understand the increase in veteran suicides—now at a troubling 22 veterans per day—it is important to understand that service-related mental stress is not limited to veterans who receive honorable discharges.

The Army has released at least 22,000 combat veterans diagnosed with mental health conditions or traumatic brain injuries since 2009 for alleged misconduct—meaning that many who have served in uniform may fall through the VA's cracks as they attempt to access mental health services.

The Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act recognizes this issue and expands the boundaries of mental health care covered by the VA to better serve those who serve us—including those with PTSD that affects their service.

The lack of access to mental health care remains an unfortunate reality for too many veterans. This bill would extend a helping hand to combat veterans struggling with the effects that their service has on their mental health. It would ensure that a population at a high-risk for suicide receives the care and support its men and women deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank veterans across the country for their service.

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#### CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2017*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Keweenaw National Historical Park upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Through committed preservation and community engagement, the Keweenaw National Historical Park has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

For over 7,000 years, the Keweenaw area has been a source of natural resources and cultural enrichment. Native peoples first utilized its easily accessible and workable copper to create tools and items for trade. Later, copper became the center of growing industries and cosmopolitan communities in the Keweenaw. This rich history is preserved through the hard work of the rangers and volunteers at the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

The celebration of the park's anniversary is the perfect recognition of efforts to preserve our history, culture, and beautiful landscapes. Today, the park continues to raise the bar of innovation through programs and partnerships with state and local governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Its steadfast work has helped give the people of the Keweenaw Peninsula and all of the Upper Peninsula a sense of unity and common heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Keweenaw National Historical Park for its 25 years of success and community investment. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important institution of historical, cultural, and environmental preservation. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Keweenaw National Historical Park all the best in its future endeavors.

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#### COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT ON GRIFFIN NOMINATION

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#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2017*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend President Trump for nominating Michael D. Griffin to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(ATL)).

There is a saying that a person was made for a certain job. In the case of Dr. Griffin, this is true.

We currently have a convergence of space and national security factors which are matched only by a handful of circumstances in the past.

I am thinking of Russia placing Sputnik in space, and President Kennedy refusing to accept missiles in Cuba, and of President Reagan's placement of Pershing missiles in Europe and starting the SDI, or Strategic Defense Initiative Office.

With the nomination of Mike Griffin, we have a person with the experience of working in SDI yet also being the initiator of new ideas, such as the commercial cargo resupply program for NASA's ISS (International Space Station).

For this particular job at the Pentagon, that is what we need—a person who knows how to utilize best practices of the past, combined with the openness and boldness to recommend to the Secretary of Defense the decisive actions which will keep America pre-eminent in technology, and give America the edge, when and if we must engage in armed conflict.

Dr. Griffin holds degrees from six separate universities, his management experience in business and as former Administrator at NASA, as well as his work serving as a professor and as a consultant on Department of Defense review panels such as the Mitchell Commission (rocket launch engines), all prepare him well for this assignment and for the rising challenges facing our military around the world.

After his confirmation, I look forward to working with him and the rest of our Department of Defense to help provide what is necessary for our national security.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST (SPC) JAMES ANDERSON CHANCE, III

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army National Guard Specialist (SPC) James Anderson Chance, III, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 6, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Chance was killed when his vehicle struck a landmine in Husaybah, Iraq. SPC Chance was assigned to C Company, 890th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, based in Columbia, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, SPC Chance volunteered to lead his convoy. He did not want his comrades to risk their lives if they had spouses or children. SPC Chance, a Kokomo, Mississippi native, was close to his parents, James and Patricia Ann Chance. Allen Chance, SPC Chance's brother, said he always lived close to his parents so he could look after them. "He was worried and he was trying to get it where he could come home for a few days to see her," Allen said. Mrs. Chance recently said her son was a good man who always made her laugh.

SPC Chance was remembered in a post on a memorial website. "SPC Chance, a true soldier, never complained, and moved out at a moment's notice," First Lieutenant (ILT) Robert Enochs of Saucier, Mississippi, wrote. "Thanks for your love, dedication, and sacrifice for our country. I wish there were many more like you. We love and miss you dearly. We will never forget you."

SPC Chance joined the U.S. Army in 1997 after he graduated from Kokomo High School. He served one tour of duty in the Army. In 2002, he joined the Mississippi Army National Guard to pursue higher education opportunities.

A memorial service was held for SPC Chance at the Kokomo United Methodist Church which is located across the street from his childhood home. He was laid to rest at the Kokomo Community Cemetery.

SPC Chance is survived by his mother, Patricia Ann Chance; his brother, John Allen Chance; and his nephew, Samuel Chance.

SPC Chance will always be remembered for the sacrifice he made to protect America. He made his family and our nation proud.

**TRIBUTE TO ROBERT THOMPSON**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Thompson, of Afton, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 East Union's Military Service Recognition Award.

The Afton Star Enterprise reported that "Robert Thompson was a 1957 Afton High School graduate who enlisted in the U.S.

Army, serving from 1957 to 1979. He had two assignment periods in Viet Nam during the Viet Nam War, and while there received two Bronze Star Awards and a Silver Star for his action in combat and a Purple Heart for a combat-related injury." In addition to his service in Vietnam, Robert was stationed in other locations, like Iceland and Panama, before returning home to Afton with his family. He retired from the Army in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent Iowans like Robert in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert for receiving this outstanding designation and in wishing him nothing but the best.

**RECOGNIZING BILL STANLEY**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend Mr. Bill Stanley on being named this year's William Crawford Distinguished Service Award winner by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

A native of Norwich, CT, Bill began his outstanding public service career in journalism, writing for local publications like the Norwich Bulletin and the New London Day. He then transitioned to government, working briefly as a campaign press secretary for Governor O'Neill before spending the next six years at Rome, Frankel & Kennelly. In 1996, Bill became Director of Corporate Communications for the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, where he worked until 1999. He currently serves as vice president of Development and Community Relations at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital. On a personal note, I have known Bill since my days as a rookie state legislator at the Connecticut General Assembly. He is deeply involved in the politics and community of his beloved Southeastern Connecticut, willing to throw himself into any cause that improves the region. Although passionate in his beliefs, he is a true gentleman and respectful of any and all people he interacts with, which is a lot.

Throughout his full and prestigious career, Bill has always found time to volunteer for numerous causes across Eastern CT. Currently he is Board Chairman of his alma mater's foundation, the Three Rivers Community College Foundation. He also sits on the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut's board of directors. Bill served nearly 20 years on the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, including two terms as chairman. He previously served as chairman of the New London Redevelopment Agency and was a board member at St. Jude Common and the USS Connecticut Commissioning Committee. From 1996 to 1999, he was Chairman of the American Heart Association's Southeastern Connecticut Heart Walk and continues to serve on its Executive Leadership Team.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my dear friend Bill on receiving this noble recognition. May others always look to

him for a great example of leadership and service.

**TRIBUTE TO DIWALI**

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the India Association of Indianapolis (IAI). The IAI is a non-profit organization that unites Indian-Americans located in the central Indiana area. It has become a vital cultural bridge between Indian-Hoosiers and the community.

The IAI was founded in 1968 by fifteen families living in the Indianapolis area. Today, the IAI has a membership that exceeds 2,000 families and continues to climb. There are over 30,000 Indian-Americans living in the Indiana. The IAI has been a valuable voice for all Indian-Hoosiers and has increased understanding of India, Indian people, and Indian culture in central Indiana.

The mission of the IAI is to promote the cultural activities of India, to foster cultural exchange between people of India and the USA, and to carry out educational and charitable activities. Over the course of the last 50 years, the IAI has performed its mission admirably and has enriched the community immeasurably. It has played a crucial role to protecting, preserving, and promoting Indian traditions and has showcased the beauty of India to the Indianapolis community.

Whether it's the annual Diwali celebration, the Holi Festival, the yearly marking of India's independence, or a cricket game meant to foster friendship between the Indian and Pakistani-American community, the IAI has been a constant force of goodwill in Central Indiana. The IAI has grown exponentially since it was founded and is destined to do bigger and better things in the future. Indiana is lucky to have such an organization in its midst and I acknowledge the IAI, its leadership, and all its members.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I would like to salute the India Association of Indianapolis.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT (SGT) COURTLAND ANSHUN KENNARD**

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army (SGT) Sergeant Courtland Anshun Kennard who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 9, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Kennard was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Also killed was Staff Sergeant (SSG) Gregory W.G. McCoy of Webberville, Michigan. SGT Kennard was assigned to the 410th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.