

lives, proven through the quick thinking that saved Marie Boyer's life. She has truly proven to be a role model and the true essence of a model citizen.

CONGRATULATING THE LATINA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Latina Leadership Institute (LLI) in San Antonio, Texas, for the good work they are doing in San Antonio to train, educate, and encourage the next generation of Hispanic women who aspire to public office.

LLI's mission is to increase the number and influence of Hispanic Women in elected and appointed office positions in the United States. This is a noble and worthwhile mission and I am proud that this organization is located in my hometown of San Antonio.

The LLI program is highly personalized to each woman's individual goals and endeavors. Program participants are encouraged to get outside their comfort zones and build key leadership skills and experiences that will equip them for public office in the future. It is an excellent model for other cities around the country to emulate as they seek to elevate young women into political leadership roles.

The local governments of San Antonio and Texas, as well as the federal government, will benefit from the aspiring leaders being trained and encouraged by the Latina Leadership Institute.

NDAA SUPPORTS GOLD STAR WIDOWS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee and a conferee for the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act, I am grateful for the continued support of Gold Star Widows included in the FY2018 NDAA. The bill includes a permanent extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance under the Survivor Benefit Plan. The more than 60,000 Americans whose spouses died either on active duty or during retirement will continue to receive \$310 per month plus a Cost of Living Allowance indefinitely. My predecessor, the late Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Floyd Spence, championed this kind of relief for our military families, and I have continued that fight because our military personnel risk their lives to defend our nation and they should be able to trust that the benefits they designate for their spouses and families will always be there.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Monday, November 13. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 623, 624, and 625.

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—KEITH S. PARKER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Keith S. Parker—public servant, fierce education advocate, public servant, and community leader, after 36 years of service.

Keith began his career with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1981 and has held numerous positions since that time including Senior Consultant in the Staff Affirmative Action Officer, Staff Affirmative Action Officer, and Executive Officer in the Administrative Services division. He has held the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor, Government & Community Relations since 1998 and has devoted his career to advocating for important issues for UCLA. Keith is the true embodiment of a public servant.

During his impressive career that spans over three-and-a-half decades, he has worked on many important issues affecting students and faculty, including building relationships with community leaders, organizations, and elected officials at the local, state and federal government throughout the Greater Los Angeles area, integrating community service projects into advocacy activities, and UC systemwide Advocacy Days in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Prior to his service with UCLA, Keith worked at the Minnesota Department of Education in the area of staff development and as an Instructor in the Afro-America Studies Department at the University of Minnesota. Keith has truly been a champion for UCLA and has devoted his life to helping others and the greater Los Angeles community.

UCLA has been extremely fortunate to benefit from his experience, leadership and kindness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Keith's 36 years of distinguished service to the University of California, Los Angeles and wish him peace, happiness, and joy in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 646, No. 647, No. 648, and No. 649. Had I been present to

vote on Roll Call No. 646, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 647, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 648, I would have voted NO; and had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 649, I would have voted YEA.

BICENTENNIAL OF PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the bicentennial of Perry County, Ohio. Since German settlers first made their way to Southeastern Ohio from Pennsylvania, Perry County has exemplified many of our nation's core values.

From its foundation, Perry County has preserved our proud tradition of military service, its first residents choosing to name the area for Oliver H. Perry, a hero of the War of 1812. Today, there are over 2,700 veterans living in Perry County, all of whom have made tremendous sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

For the past 200 years, the overwhelming characteristic of the people of Perry County is the compassion they hold for one another and their determination to do what is right and just. In the 19th century, residents worked diligently in support of the Underground Railroad. Today, the people of Perry County refuse to have their communities destroyed by the opioid epidemic, and are uniting to support their neighbors and find paths to healthy, productive lives.

Much like the kindness of its citizens, the natural beauty of Perry County is unparalleled. From the picturesque landmark of Buckeye Lake, to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, there is a steep appreciation for the scenic landscape of the County, as described in Clement L. Martzloff's poem, "The Beauty of Our Hills."

There is beauty in these hills of ours for him with eyes to see;
There is beauty smiling at us from the meadows broad and free;
There is beauty in the woodlands; there is beauty 'long the brooks;
There's beauty in the violet light as it gleams through leafy nooks.
And a beauty out of heaven over all the landscape rills
When the sun shines down upon these Perry county hills.

Today, Perry County remains a beautiful place to work, live, and raise a family. I am grateful for the leadership of the County Commissioners, James O'Brien, Ben Carpenter, and Dave Freriks, and all of the neighbors and friends who have maintained Perry County's beauty and history.

I am honored to represent this county, where community, faith, and freedom are celebrated not just in recognition of the 200th anniversary of its founding, but each and every day.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) MELVIN LEE HENLEY, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Specialist (SPC) Melvin Lee Henley, Jr. who gave his life while in service to our nation on November 21, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Henley died at Camp Striker in Baghdad, Iraq of injuries sustained in a non-combat related incident. SPC Henley was assigned to the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

SPC Henley, a Jackson, Mississippi native, joined the U.S. Army after graduating from Provine High School in 1999. According to the Associated Press, he was among the top 10 students in his class.

George Watkins, SPC Henley's uncle, said his nephew always wanted to be a soldier. "He wanted to make a difference in other people's lives," Mr. Watkins said. "He had other relatives who had done the same. His grandfather fought in World War II, so he was following in those footsteps."

Amber Henley, SPC Henley's wife, said they were married less than two years when her husband was assigned to Fort Stewart. Three months later, SPC Henley received his deployment orders. "He hated to be away from us," Mrs. Henley said. "We were everything to each other." SPC Henley previously served one tour of duty in Iraq from November 2003 to November 2004.

In 2008, seven fallen soldiers were honored at a tree dedication ceremony held at Cotrell Field, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Members of the 92nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division planted an Eastern Redbud tree along Warriors Walk to honor the soldiers who have died fighting in America's global war on terrorism. SPC Henley was one of the soldiers honored at the ceremony.

SPC Henley was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism (Service) Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Overseas Service Ribbon.

SPC Henley is survived by his mother, Maria Marquis; his wife, Amber Henley; and his uncle, George Watkins.

SPC Henley proudly served America and fought to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACTFUL CAREER OF ED BONACH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ed Bonach's retirement from an illustrious business career. Ed is a native of Minnesota who went to St. John's College, an all-male Catholic college in

Collegeville, Minnesota. Ed has had a 41-year career in life and health insurance, and most recently served as chief executive officer of CNO Financial in Carmel, Indiana. Ed joined CNO Financial Group as Chief Financial Officer in 2007 from National Life Group, where he served as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Upon Ed's arrival, CNO Financial found itself in a time of severe economic struggle. Following the recession, CNO stock had plummeted to under 30 cents a share. Today, CNO stock trades at more than \$25 dollars a share. Additionally, in his time at CNO Financial, the company saw enhanced shareholder value, extended customer reach, and delivered strong financial and operational performance. Specifically, Ed oversaw 17 ratings upgrades as CEO/CFO, a total shareholder return of over 350 percent, increased gender and ethnic diversity to the board at CNO Financial, and the implementation of a common stock dividend in 2012, which resulted in five subsequent increases.

Ed's professional accomplishments are second only to his positive influence on our community. After relocating to Carmel from Vermont, he immediately set out to find organizations to support—along the way making connections with key community leaders to reassure them about the company's future and make himself accessible. Specific achievements include helping launch the Boys Scout's Growing Future Leaders capital campaign to fundraise for scouting and using the CNO Indy Monumental Marathon as a pipeline for shoe donations to the Boy Scouts's Soles 4 Souls program for needy children. Ed also served as Board and Executive Committee Member for Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, Board Member and President of Boy Scouts of America—Crossroads of America Council, and a Board Member for Marion University to name a few.

CNO Financial prides itself on being a valued financial security partner of middle-income America, and Ed embodied that to the fullest. He understood that he didn't just oversee an insurance company, he and the thousands of employees at CNO Financial provided clients and their families services and products that provide peace of mind. I want to extend my best wishes to Ed, his wife of 40 years, Peggy, his two children, and five grandchildren on this next step in their lives. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I thank Ed for his professional contributions as well as his exemplary service and leadership in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable and missed Roll Call Vote 647.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY of Roll Call No. 647.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call vote 642 on Thursday, November 30, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 642.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METHODIST DALLAS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Methodist Dallas Medical Center for its 90 years of service in the Dallas community. The medical services provided by the United Methodist Church in the greater North Texas region have played a major role as our community continues to grow.

In 1924, a group of Methodist ministers and civic leaders came together to bring quality healthcare to the city of Dallas. With the help of many donations from the Methodist Church, local congregations, and others, the Methodist Dallas Medical Center, a 100-bed facility, was opened in 1927.

The hospital persevered through the Great Depression and started to thrive in the middle of the century. The construction of new facilities, including a three-story student nurse's residence provided classroom space for nursing education and community programs. Additionally, the hospital itself grew to include 420 beds, expanding to more than four times its original size.

In 1995, Methodist hospitals expanded to opening the Family Health Centers. Currently there are 24 centers located across north Texas including locations in Arlington, Cedar Hill, Grand Prairie, Mansfield, Midlothian, Richardson, Waxahachie, and Wylie.

The Methodist Dallas Medical Center is now the main teaching and referral center for the Methodist Health System and one of the leading teaching and referral hospitals in all of Texas. The Medical Center now features 585 beds and 250 physicians that specialize in more than 60 medical specialties. It has been recognized among the top performers on key quality measures by The Joint Commission because of its evidence-based clinical processes that have been shown to improve care for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and strokes.

Its presence in the community is grounded in faith, and the hospital's ties to the United Methodist Church is strengthened by the presence of Methodist ministers and church members on governing boards, and its commitment to pastoral education, 24-hour chaplain services, and health ministries at local churches. Additionally, its wide variety of outreach activities, including mobile health screenings and local clinics help bring its services even closer to the community. I want to recognize the Methodist Health System, specifically the