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The Abo Group is a full service architectural firm providing design, project management, construction documentation and administration, historic preservation, space planning, master planning and facility assessments. Earning wide recognition for sustainable design, the firm incorporates the highest possible energy efficiency technologies in their designs.

For more than 20 years, The Abo Group has designed highly specialized laboratories to meet LEED "Gold" standards at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, CO. In 1999, the Thermal Test Facility at NREL won the ASHRAE Award of Excellence for Energy Efficient Design. The firm has also completed a Master Plan for the ultimate buildout of NREL's South Table Mountain Campus in Golden.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Abo Group for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT GARCIA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a good friend and colleague, Mr. Robert Garcia, better known as "Bobby," who passed away on January 25, 2017. Bobby was an influential leader and trailblazer in New York, first serving the people of the South Bronx as a representative in the New York State Assembly and as the first Puerto Rican in the New York State Senate. His decade-long career in the U.S. House of Representatives began when he was elected to Congress in a special election on February 14, 1978 on the Republican and Liberal tickets to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Congressman Herman Badillo. He took his seat on February 21, 1978 as a Democrat.

Bobby played an instrumental role in several local, national, and international initiatives and served New York for more than 25 years. His legacy of public service will not be forgotten.

Bobby was born in the Bronx in 1933 to Puerto Rican parents. His dedication to serving his country was demonstrated at a young age when he served overseas during the Korean War in the U.S. Army's Third Infantry, earning two Bronze stars. He attended college under the GI Bill, and then began a career in public service.

Bobby's political career is highlighted by his dedication to fight against inequality, intolerance and injustice. He worked on issues such as immigration reform, voting rights, Puerto Rico, economic opportunities, and U.S. policy towards Central America. Representing the South Bronx, Bobby is remembered as a significant reformer and a leader for those whose voices were too often lost. While in Congress, Bobby served on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. He also sat on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, where he championed the Garcia Amendment to the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 to ensure the recruitment of minorities for the civil service.

During his time in Congress, Bobby was a co-founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which allowed the Hispanic community to gain national recognition in Congress and helped develop young Latinos to be the next generation of leaders in America. In addition, he co-sponsored the bill establishing a national holiday to commemorate the life of civil rights hero Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bobby also advocated to transform the South Bronx district through federal funding, jobs and projects. He co-authored the Kemp-Garcia Enterprise Free Zone Bill as an initiative to attract businesses to areas faced with severe depression, unemployment, and poverty.

Bobby also had a profound respect for and a deep understanding of religious and spiritual development for others, and was active in several Christian organizations.

Bobby received numerous awards and recognition for his pioneering work and was an outstanding citizen, a transformational leader in New York, and an important voice for the Hispanic community. Garcia was a pioneer and a legend in the Latino community, and those that knew him will never forget him. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our former colleague, Robert Garcia, for his service, leadership, and accomplishments. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GORITY ON RECEIVING THE 2017 RESPECTED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna GORITY on receiving the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission's (CBRC) Respected Citizen Award for 2017.

This is not the first time I have had the honor to congratulate Mrs. GORITY. I had the privilege of congratulating her on her retirement in 2012 for 28 accomplished years in public office. Mrs. GORITY, the first female member of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, is well known in central Pennsylvania for her extensive track record of dedicated service, advocating strongly for children and human services, and being a loud voice for the citizens of Blair County on all community issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Donna, in her usual manner, has not slowed down. In fact, Mike Hofer, the Executive Director of the CBRC, said that it is possible Donna may be busier now since before her retirement in 2012. This example set by Donna is one we all should strive for. Her willingness to serve her community and Pennsylvania, especially as a private citizen, sets her apart as an outstanding individual and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

Mrs. GORITY will be honored February 25, 2017 with the Respected Citizen Award by the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission at the 8th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona. I congratulate Donna and her family on this recognition, and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the community. I ask that all of

my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donna for this achievement and wishing her nothing but continued success.

EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support to H.R. 387, the Email Privacy Act.

Enacting the amendments outlined in this bill will provide a much needed update to the Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA). ECPA paved the way for protecting the rapidly advancing field of electronic communications. Although this law made headway in assuring the privacy of the telecommunications of Americans, electronic communications have far outpaced the current regulation.

The provisions of the Email Privacy Act reaffirm the rights granted Americans by the Fourth Amendment. Citizens should not be subjected to unlawful search and seizure of their private property. The communications of Americans are personal and private and must be treated as such by our government. H.R. 387, however, recognizes that circumstances may require law enforcement to move quickly and require access to electronic communications. Preserving law enforcement's ability to preserve records, to delay notification to subscribers that a warrant is out for their data, and by requiring timely responses to warrants reflects the security concerns expressed during the Judiciary Committee markup. Ensuring law enforcement has probable cause in order to access stored email, texts, and photos, while also providing the above exceptions and flexibility to the rule balancing the needs of law enforcement and public safety with the right to individual privacy.

Calls for reform have come from both sides of the aisle. Upholding the Fourth Amendment is not a partisan issue and I am overjoyed to see my colleagues from both parties standing by this bill. Failing to pass the Email Privacy Act endangers the principal values of our Republic. Our constituents have entrusted us, not only as their Representatives, but as defenders of the Constitution and the rights of all Americans.

The passage of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act will engender confidence in both law enforcement and privacy laws as Americans will know their emails will only be accessed if there is cause. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote Yes on the resolution.

RECOGNIZING YURI HRESHCHYSHYN FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Yuri Hreshchysyn,

a friend and a dedicated volunteer and resident of Buffalo, New York. Yuri's tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/ We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Yuri is a South Buffalo resident who has been a committeeman for the Erie County Democratic Committee, a member of the Buffalo Cooperative Federal Credit Union and the Buffalo Central Terminal, and has worked for the Erie County Department of Social Services.

Mr. Hreshchyshyn has worked with multiple community partners including None Like You/ We Care Outreach, Buffalo State College, the University at Buffalo and Canisius College. He worked on many projects in the West Side and East Side communities planting trees, helping to build community gardens and cleaning city lots. Yuri has given his time and talents to the community youth by teaching them how to cut grass and trim trees and bushes. Yuri has dedicated much of his time to maintain the building and grounds of the Buffalo Central Terminal. During the holiday season, Yuri has been a tremendous help with the Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas giveaway for over 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Yuri Hreshchyshyn and his admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo and the aesthetics of our community. Yuri's commitment to his City is exceptional, and he is most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care and the City of Buffalo.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call votes 86 and 87 on Monday, February 13, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 86 and 87.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2017, I missed the voting session. If present, I would have voted as follows:

YES—H.R. 244—HIRE Vets Act, as amended

YES—H.R. 974—BRAVE Act

JIM AND KATHLEEN CURTIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim and Kathleen Curtis for being honored by the West Chamber of Commerce with the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

Both Colorado natives, Jim and Kathleen (Kate) met at Colorado National Bank and

went on to marry in 1972. After leaving the bank in 1994, the couple purchased The Village Roaster, a specialty coffee business in Lakewood. At the time, it was the only store in the Colorado area that roasted specialty coffee in-house. Today that tradition continues with roasted whole bean coffee as their number one selling product. They also provide catering services and have a mobile espresso bar they can set up for any type of event in the Denver metro area. In addition, The Village Roaster strives to make sustainability a focus and preserving the environment a priority.

Jim and Kate support the community that supports them. Jim served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the West Chamber in 2013, is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, is a sponsor for the Catch a Calf program with the National Western Stock Show, and volunteers for the Lakewood Police Department. Jim was selected for the Real Men Who Wear Pink recognition by the American Cancer Society in 2016.

Kate serves as the Foundation Chair for St. Anthony Hospital, sits on the board for the Alameda Gateway, and as the Secretary for the Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District. She was recognized at the West Chamber's Celebrate Women event in 2011. Both Jim and Kate serve as deacons for St. James Presbyterian Church.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jim and Kathleen Curtis for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed roll call vote No. 86 and 87 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on both bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on roll calls No. 86 and No. 87. Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 86, I would have voted Aye. Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 87, I would have voted Aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote 77 to H.J. Res 40 which took place on February 2, 2017, I was not present. It was my intention to vote No on that resolution.

DANIEL D. BIGANDT AGENCY WITH AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Daniel D. Bigandt Agency with American Family Insurance for being honored as the Small Business of the Year by the West Chamber of Commerce.

The Daniel D. Bigandt Agency with American Family Insurance was established in 2002 in Lakewood. The agency now serves more than 2,000 households in the Denver metro area, with a majority in Jefferson and Denver counties.

At the beginning of 2016, the agency started the year with one full-time employee and 4 part-time employees at one location in Lakewood. At the end of 2016, the agency had grown to 4 full-time and several part-time staff members with two locations, one in Lakewood and one in Englewood. Over the last 15 months, the agency has been awarded many sales and service awards.

Dan Bigandt is deeply involved in the community and has been an active member of the West Chamber for the last nine years. Dan is also involved in the leadership of other organizations in Jefferson County, serving as the Board Vice Chair for the Sooper Credit Union and as a Board Member of the Panorama Ridge Homeowners Association. Recently, Dan finished serving for 12 years on the Board of Directors for Front Range Christian School in Littleton.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Daniel D. Bigandt Agency with American Family Insurance for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING MARY ROSS FOR HER COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Mary Ross, a dedicated volunteer and resident of Buffalo, New York. Mary's tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo. Mary is the proud mother of six children and four grandchildren who reside in Buffalo.

Mary has worked as a counselor for eleven years for the Buffalo Public Schools. She is also an active member of the Women and Children's Foundation Board, Bison Fund Board, Olmstead Parks Conservancy Board, None Like You/We Care Outreach and the Bison's Children's Scholarship Fund. Mary is instrumental in various projects throughout the city of Buffalo including Thanksgiving Dinners, Christmas Giveaways and community garden projects.

Mary has a strong passion for the youth of Buffalo and is always willing to help them in regards to furthering their education, athletics, and employment. She is always eager to help