

develop community gardens, help elderly residents and are active during the holiday season serving at the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and giveaways.

Bob fulfills his dream of helping as many people as he can by travelling outside of the city to pick up furniture and supplies for those in need, his constant involvement with young adult volunteers at local colleges and his time and effort in the community gardens.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. and Mrs. Kuebler and their admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo and the youth of our community. The Kueblers' commitment to their community is exceptional, and they are most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care and the City of Buffalo.

#### THE WINGMAN ACT (H.R. 244)

### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House on the passage of the WINGMAN Act.

The WINGMAN Act will allow designated Congressional staffers to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to expedite the resolution of veterans' claims and better serve constituents.

The need for this legislation is best illustrated by example. One of my constituents, John Harrison, has been battling with the VA over multiple claims for many years. He has continuously dealt with frustration, stagnation, and complications due to poor communication from the VA.

In November 2016, Mr. Harrison was notified that one of his longstanding claims was closed. The VA claimed it closed the case because Mr. Harrison failed to submit a rebuttal to the VA's decision in an appropriate timeframe.

However, Mr. Harrison did in fact submit the rebuttal, and he did so long before the deadline. Mr. Harrison was denied access to his benefits due to disorganization and miscommunication by the VA.

Unfortunately, lack of transparency and delays in communication are regular occurrences for veterans seeking to resolve claims with the VA. Like many veterans, Mr. Harrison is a captive of the process—There is no way for him to know who is handling his claim or how his claim is being resolved.

The WINGMAN Act will help address problems like those experienced by Mr. Harrison by increasing access to essential documentation for Congressional staffers working on cases, expediting claims' resolution, and providing for better communication regarding claims decisions.

It is critical that we establish policies to process claims more efficiently and provide better care for our veterans. This bill will allow the excellent caseworkers in my office, and others across the country, to help the VA be more efficient, and more importantly, to help veterans access their benefits.

I am proud to support and cosponsor the WINGMAN Act to help ensure veterans across the United States receive timely access to the benefits they earned and deserve.

#### LOCALWORKS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Localworks for being honored with the Nonprofit of the Year Award by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Initially incorporated as Wheat Ridge 2020, the organization was renamed in 2015 to better reflect their purpose. Localworks connects residents and businesses in order to create a vibrant and more engaged community. Through programs like Harvest and Active, Localworks brings residents together to learn about urban farming, attend local fitness classes or learn more about canning fruits and vegetables. In 2016, Localworks held more than 60 events aimed at connecting residents through common interests and activities.

Each year, Localworks hosts seven events to attract people to the Wheat Ridge business district. In 2016, more than 19,000 people attended events on Ridge at 38 such as the Criterion and Brewfest, Ridgefest, Trunk or Treat, Friday Night Live and the Holiday Celebration.

In 2016, the organization also offered bus tours of Wheat Ridge and hauled away more than 1,000 cubic yards of junk from local neighborhoods through a partnership with the Wheat Ridge Police Department. They also provided loans to residents and businesses for property improvements and were recently awarded a very competitive three-year "Active Living Neighborhood" grant through Kaiser Permanente and The Denver Foundation. These contributions to the Wheat Ridge Community are made possible by volunteers who contributed more than 2,000 hours to the organization.

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

#### RECOGNIZING DIANE PESCH-SAVATTERI 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. Diane Pesch-Savatteri, a dedicated volunteer and resident of Buffalo, New York. Diane's tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Diane is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo and is a proud mother and grandmother. She is the president of Concordia Cemetery, a board member of None Like You/We Care Outreach, and a volunteer for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Diane is a developmental Disabilities Program Specialist for the New York State-WNY Developmental Disabilities Services office where she advocates for, and teaches and trains her patients.

As president of Concordia Cemetery, Mrs. Pesch-Savatteri had led a valiant effort to transform the abandoned cemetery into a place of history, beauty and serenity. While serving on the None Like You/We Care Outreach board, she has been a tremendous help in aiding with the organization, preparation and execution of their annual Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners. She also supervises volunteers and uses her experience in social work to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mrs. Diane Pesch-Savatteri and her admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo. Her commitment to the rehabilitation and beautification of the community is exceptional, and she is most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care and the City of Buffalo.

#### DERRICK CRANDALL RECEIVING THE CORPS CHAMPION AWARD

### HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent, Derrick Crandall, on receiving the American Recreation Coalition's Corps Champion Award. Mr. Crandall has diligently supported efforts to bolster the outdoor economy and recreation opportunities for all, including our youth.

Since 1981, Mr. Crandall has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Recreation Coalition. The Washington-based nonprofit organization aims to enhance and preserve outdoor recreational opportunities and protect environmental resources. Upon joining the organization, Mr. Crandall quickly became the national voice of outdoor recreation. He has played an important role in dozens of public policy programs including the National Scenic Byways Program, Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, Recreational Trails Program, Wallop-Breath Program, and the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission.

Mr. Crandall's efforts have been recognized in many respects. He has received several national awards and recognitions such as induction into the RV Hall of Fame, the receipt of the Annual Award of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Chevron Conservation Award. Additionally, he has served as the Chairman of the Take Pride America Advisory Board and as a Founding Director of the National Forest Foundation; in each role he was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture respectively.

His dedication to improving and preserving outdoor recreational activities is evident through his illustrious career of dedication and accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Crandall on receiving the American Recreation Coalition's Corps Champion Award. It is a privilege to represent him and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present and voting in the House of Representatives on February 13, 2017 due to weather conditions in my home state of Maine that prevented me from travel. If I had been present and voting, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call vote 86 and Aye on Roll Call vote 87 to H.R. 244 and H.R. 974 respectively.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) ON ITS 108TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for its 108th Anniversary after the organization was first founded on February 12, 1909. The NAACP is a prominent African-American civil rights organization in the centuries-old fight for social, economic, and political equality under the law for all Americans.

The NAACP is an organization that is deeply rooted in our nation's history. It is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. The NAACP is founded on the noble pillars of equality, non-discrimination, and morality, and has historically been successful in achieving its goals through non-violent protest, education, and legal and moral persuasion. The NAACP was pivotal in the passage of historic pieces of legislation such as the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and countless other legal victories in our nation's history.

As a member of the African-American community, fighting for the rights of African-Americans, and other minority populations across the country, is of personal significance. Our desire to bring equal treatment and rights to all Americans has helped fuel the diversity and strengths that we as a country enjoy today. It is through our differences that we are able to see value in many different perspectives. However, it was not without struggle to arrive at this point and we have organizations such as the NAACP, in part, to thank for the reconciliation of past harms while having the tools to address new challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the contributions and struggles of the people behind organizations such as the NAACP so that we can learn from our past and avoid making the same mistakes again in the future. The NAACP continues to be a leader in raising awareness around social issues facing our country today, such as threats to voting rights. We owe it to future generations to continue the legacy of the NAACP, so that we can continue to build a stronger and better nation for our children.

ADWEST CONSULTING, INC. NANCY CREGO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize AdWest Consulting, Inc. for being honored as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year by the West Chamber of Commerce.

AdWest Consulting was founded in Jefferson County in 1986 by Nancy Crego. AdWest delivers multi-media branding, community marketing and publications through video, film and magazines. The AdWest team is local and collaborates with more than 400 Colorado clients to promote their businesses and messages. It currently publishes the West Chamber's Best of Business magazine and the award-winning Wellness Living Magazine. AdWest also publishes the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce directory and magazine.

Nancy's career spans four decades of serving her community and understanding the needs of women who own companies as they balance family and career. She has worked with dozens of nonprofit associations and business groups. Currently, she volunteers for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra Guild, Plan Jeffco, and Mount Vernon County Club Metro District Financial Planning Committee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to AdWest Consulting for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. MONTANA BYERS TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND CALIFORNIA'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE SPRING OF 2017

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman who is spending the spring semester interning in my Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Montana Byers came to our office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP), and has been a valuable contributor to our efforts on behalf of California's Eleventh Congressional District.

Since 2000, UCWIP has worked with congressional offices to foster strong ties and understanding between the United States and Australian governments by bringing the best and the brightest from top Australian universities to intern on Capitol Hill. I am proud to be involved in this wonderful program for the second year in a row.

Montana Byers, a student from the University of Wollongong, has worked in our office since January and quickly proved herself to be a highly valuable member of our team. She has drafted legislative requests, attended briefings, written constituent mail, and researched important issues, among many other duties. She consistently displays a deep desire to learn and treats everyone that she encounters with respect. Her hard work and

dedication is a tremendous asset to our office and the Eleventh Congressional District.

My team has learned a great deal from Montana about her native country as she has learned about the United States and the U.S. Congress. She is an absolute pleasure to have in the office and I offer her my thanks for a job well done. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARK AND CYNTHIA CRAIG FOR THEIR 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. and Mrs. Mark and Cynthia Craig, dedicated volunteers and residents of Buffalo, New York. Their tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/ We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Mark is a Buffalo native, a University at Buffalo graduate and was employed by County Lime Stone in Akron for 36 years. Cynthia moved to Buffalo in 1984 and began work with the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Funeral Directing. Since 1987 she has worked in the New York State Department of Cemeteries and is a New York State Licensed Funeral Director.

The Craigs are a great team who have been a part of None Like You/We Care Outreach program since 2000. They have served on the board, worked on the reorganization and rehabilitation of the Concordia Cemetery and have served thousands over the past 15 years at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with None Like You/ We Care Outreach.

Mark and Cynthia have been instrumental in the reconstruction of abandoned houses in the City of Buffalo and have helped supervise summer and student volunteers who help to clean up empty lots and build community gardens.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. and Mrs. Craig and their admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo. The Craig's commitment to their community is exceptional, and they are most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/ We Care and the City of Buffalo.

CONGRATULATING THE HOTEL CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF USA ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hotel Chinese Association (HCA) of USA on their 10th Anniversary Gala.

Over the past decade, the Hotel Chinese Association of USA has been a leader in the New York City immigrant community. By providing assistance to workers in the Hospitality industry, the HCA has helped thousands of hotel workers in their 10 year history.