

## 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.

Founded in 2007, the HCA's mission is to promote the understanding of the rights and responsibilities of hotel employees, primarily immigrant workers, who have language and cultural barriers. HCA coordinates with hotel unions and management, as well as recruiting and training immigrants, many of whom aim to have a career in the hospitality industry in New York City.

The HCA has become an important anchor in New York's Chinese community by offering communication assistance and vocational training to Chinese employees. Whether it is providing networking and job opportunities, education, or cultural activities, the HCA aims to assist and lift up striving employees and give them the tools they need for success.

I thank and congratulate the HCA for their 10 years of continuous service to our community and hope they continue to be a fixture in New York City.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED WAY OF  
CENTRAL IOWA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate United Way of Central Iowa on celebrating their 100th year in service to the communities of Central Iowa.

Over the last 100 years, United Way of Central Iowa has brought together non-profits, local organizations, elected officials and a whole host of others to make a long-lasting impact on the central Iowa community. Because of their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of others, they have tackled some of the most challenging issues their

community faces. With the unique ability to bring together people and organizations from all walks of life, United Way of Central Iowa has championed vast and noticeable improvements throughout central Iowa. By focusing on education, families and healthy living they have impacted the lives of so many and left a lasting mark on central Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate United Way of Central Iowa for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to central Iowa. They have made a difference by serving others and it is with great honor that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this historic milestone and in wishing them nothing but continues success.