

his life to public service through his time as a pastor, his time in Congress and through his time as Mayor of Indianapolis. Bill will be remembered for his amazing compassion, charismatic and warm personality, as well as his unparalleled love for the city he served. I feel fortunate to have known him, and I know that his legacy lives on through the great contributions he made to Indianapolis, to Indiana, and to the country. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth District, I offer my condolences to his wife Beverly, the entire Hudnut family, and all who mourn his loss and cherish his memory.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE LIFE OF CONOR IRWIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Conor Irwin.

The child of Whit and Holly Irwin, Conor was a resident of Ledyard, CT. He graduated from St. Bernard School and was a freshman at Ledyard High School. He was just 14 years old.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting Conor when he visited me to discuss the quality of food served in local schools. He had been a youth representative to the New London County Food Policy Council and was seriously concerned about the effect of poor food quality on health. Wonderfully precocious, he was full of good ideas that might help address this problem.

Like many 14 year-old boys, he loved soccer, playing outdoors, and listening to music. Just this past year, he even earned his first varsity letter for cross country. But those who knew Conor acknowledge something special about him. Even at so young an age, he was already a gentleman and true renaissance man. It may have been his voracious appetite for knowledge, his signature bow ties, or his love of travel and exploration. But mostly, it was his thoughtfulness that set him apart. He was always looking out for the younger kids, helping his mom with groceries, and holding the door for whomever may be passing by.

My thoughts and prayers are with Conor's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing my condolences and honoring a truly special soul, Conor Irwin.

TRIBUTE TO GIGI DENNIS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gigi Dennis, of Alamosa, Colorado, who was recently named Colorado's Administrator of the Year for 2016 by the Association of County Administrators. Administrator Dennis was selected by her peers to receive this honor, and it is clear that through her dedication to public service, she has left a lasting impact on the community of Alamosa and across the state of Colorado.

Throughout her career, Administrator Dennis has served in a variety of state-wide positions, including as Colorado Secretary of State, State Senator, and most recently, Alamosa County Administrator. As a State Senator, she served as Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, was a member of the Legislative Council, and Chair of the Majority Caucus. Administrator Dennis is a quality individual with a truly impressive record of public service.

Mr. Speaker, although this award recognizes individual achievements, Administrator Dennis credits her team for her success. Her modesty, commitment to fiscal responsibility, and passion for improving the lives of others is truly remarkable. I wish Administrator Dennis all the best and am thankful for her continued service.

RECOGNIZING ANGEL MARTINEZ
FOR HIS SECOND NATIONAL
TITLE IN THE U.S. YOUTH AMATEUR
BOXING DIVISION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Angel Martinez, a shining young member of our Rockford community, who has been named a two-time national champion in the U.S. Youth Amateur Boxing Division.

Angel Martinez won his second USA boxing national title, allowing him the chance to attend the Olympic training facility in Colorado in hopes of achieving his Olympic dreams. He has dedicated himself to his sport since the young age of 11, and shows us all the value of perseverance and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Rockford on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, as a former college athlete, I know how important sports are to personal and professional growth. I want to again formally congratulate Angel Martinez on his title, and I join the rest of our community in wishing him every success in the future.

HONORING CLIFFORD A.
SCHULMAN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor South Florida philanthropist, business leader and prominent attorney, Cliff Schulman.

Mr. Schulman has 45 years of wide-ranging legal experience in the environmental and land use field from both the government and private sectors and is well known for his involvement in the community and commitment to charitable causes.

For 13 years, he has served as Chair of the Board of the Aventura Marketing Council and it is on this occasion that we celebrate his retirement from this position.

Under Mr. Schulman's leadership, the Aventura Marketing Council has thrived and grown to be recognized as one of the most re-

spected organizations in Chambers of Commerce representing more than 400 businesses and non-profit organizations, supporting countless educational and regional events in South Florida.

Cliff had the unique ability to blend his sense of humor with his keen business acumen and Marketing Council members will certainly miss his "Cliff's Notes" at the opening of each meeting.

Cliff has also served as Vice Chairman of the Anchors Away Foundation, an Aventura Marketing Council program in cooperation with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, that provides sailing programs for physically and mentally challenged children from schools throughout the County. This program has literally changed the lives of so many kids who gain a sense of pride, independence and accomplishment.

Throughout his career, Mr. Schulman has been honored by the Anti-Defamation League, South Florida Business Leader Magazine, the South Florida Shomrim Society and countless organizations that have recognized his contributions to bettering our community for all those who call South Florida home.

I am proud to have Mr. Schulman and his wife Lauren as my constituents and am grateful for his years of dedication to Aventura and to South Florida.

It is my honor to pay tribute to his distinguished career and extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on this occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN MOELLER

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryan Moeller, who was recently named to the 2016 First Team All-Pac 12 list. After playing football at Rifle High School, Ryan walked on to the Colorado Buffaloes football team as a special teams player. As a junior on the team this year, he earned nine total tackles on special teams and forced six fair catches on punts.

Ryan also played 391 snaps on defense, recording 36 tackles, with two forced fumbles. His overall play supported the biggest turnaround by a football program in Pac-12 Conference history. After a 1-8 conference record in 2015, the Buffaloes went 8-1 in conference matchups this season. Ryan's accomplishments are the result of dedication, hard work and perseverance, qualities that will serve him well in life.

I am proud that such an outstanding athlete and upstanding young man calls the Third Congressional District of Colorado home, and I congratulate Ryan and the Buffaloes on an exciting and successful season.

REGARDING JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS TO COUNT ELEC-
TORAL BALLOTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the

Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee; Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, I rise today to offer thoughts and reflections on the congressional responsibility to bear witness to the counting of electoral votes to determine formally the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States and on the campaign and election that brought us to this day.

Historians will surely record that the 2016 presidential campaign was one for the ages.

The two leading protagonists could not have been more dissimilar.

The Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton of New York, was widely considered the most qualified person ever nominated for the office, having served as Secretary of State; elected by landslide margins to two terms as U.S. Senator from New York, the nation's only First Lady to win high elective office in her own right; valedictorian of her class at Wellesley University, a graduate of Yale Law School, and the first woman ever to win the presidential nomination of one of the nation's two major political parties.

Republican Donald Trump of New York, the other candidate, was *sui generis* as well, since he is the first person to gain an Electoral College majority with no experience whatsoever in elective or appointed governmental office or public service but possessing a remarkable talent for attracting media attention.

The 2016 was notable also for a number of other unprecedented occurrences.

For example, it was the first time in history that a Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had ever injected himself and his agency, unintentionally or not, in a presidential campaign when FBI Director James Comey held a July 5, 2016 news conference, during which he announced that the FBI had completed its investigation regarding the email server of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and had concluded that no violation of law had been committed but offered unfavorable personal opinions *ex cathedra* regarding Secretary Clinton's conduct.

Compounding the damage inflicted on Secretary Clinton's campaign by his gratuitous commentary, FBI Director Comey exacerbated the damage already done when, a mere eleven days before Election Day, he sent a vaguely worded letter to partisan Congressional Republican opponents of Secretary Clinton allowing them to leak the letter to the media and claim falsely that the FBI had reopened the investigation for the sole purpose of inflicting electoral damage on Secretary Clinton.

These actions were taken in contravention of long-standing Department of Justice policy, practice, and custom enjoining Justice Department officials and employees from engaging any conduct or taking any legal action that could impact the outcome of an election to be held within the ensuing 60 days.

The 2016 presidential election was historic in another respect as well; it is the first American presidential election that the Intelligence Community has confirmed was the subject of cyberattacks and other subversive activities of entities allied with the Government of Russia that were undertaken for the express purpose of influencing the outcome of the 2016 presidential election to secure the election of its preferred candidate, Donald Trump.

It is also worth noting that the 2016 presidential campaign was the first in history in which one of the two leading candidates, Donald Trump, openly invited a hostile foreign power to launch cyberattacks against his political opponent.

In at least one respect, however, the 2016 presidential campaign was not unprecedented.

It was the fifth time in history, and the second in the last 16 years, that the candidate winning an Electoral College majority lost the popular vote.

But what is unusual is the historic margin of the popular vote defeat produced by the 2016 campaign that saw Hillary Clinton defeat Donald Trump by an astounding 2.86 million votes: 65,844,610 votes to 62,979,636, nearly six times more than Vice-President Al Gore's popular vote win in 2000, the next highest victory margin.

Indeed, Hillary Clinton received more votes for president than any person in history not named Barack Obama, which means that the two greatest vote getters in American political history are an African American male and white female, which in itself is a testament to how far America has travelled on the path to equality and opportunity for all in the past 240 years.

While it is true that a switch of less than 80,000 votes in just three states—Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin—would have secured an Electoral College majority for Hillary Clinton, that fact is of little consolation and practical consequence to the situation and task now before us, which is to count the electoral votes cast for President and Vice-President of the United States and announce the results to the country and the world.

It is, as I noted at the outset, a duty imposed on Members of the House and the Senate by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

But because we are all called upon to bear witness to the counting of electoral votes does not mean our role is to be passive observers.

On the contrary, the Constitution and the law, specifically Section 15 of the Electoral College Act, 3 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, vests in Representatives and Senators the power and responsibility of objecting to the counting of any vote cast by an elector if in their judgment the vote was not "regularly given" or the person casting the vote was not "lawfully certified" as an elector.

The Constitution devolves this solemn duty upon the people's representatives, the Congress, because the linchpin of representative democracy is public confidence in the political system, regime, and community.

That confidence in turn rests upon the extent to which the public has faith that the system employed to select its leaders accurately reflects its preferences.

At bottom, this means that all citizens casting a vote have a fundamental right and reasonable expectation that their votes count and are counted.

This concern is particularly salient when it comes to today's counting of the electoral votes occurring in the aftermath of the unprecedented interference by a hostile foreign power to secure victory for its preferred candidate.

And the salience is heightened by the fact that the November 8, 2016 election is the first presidential election held since the Supreme Court issued the notorious decision in *Shelby*

County v. Holder, which neutered the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act and adversely affected the ability of hundreds of thousands of persons to cast a ballot and have their vote counted.

For these reasons, I owe it to my constituents and to the American people to consider each electoral vote certificate as it is presented and accept those that appear to be meritorious but to oppose those which in my judgment do not appear to satisfy the statutory requirement that the votes reflected on the lists were "regularly given" by "lawfully certified" electors.

I am particularly skeptical that this legal standard is met where there is evidence to support the following conclusions:

1. There is a failure to provide "distinct lists of votes" for the President and Vice President as required by U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1 and Amendment XII; and by 3 U.S.C. § 9;

2. There is a failure of one or more elector to reside in the district from which elected as required under state law;

3. There appears to be a violation of state statutes prohibiting electors from holding multiple governmental offices of trust, honor, or profit;

4. There is compelling evidence that the illegal activities engaged in by individuals and entities allied with the Government of Russia that were undertaken for the purpose of benefitting the candidacy of Donald J. Trump deterred and dissuaded thousands of voters from exercising their franchise; or

5. There is compelling evidence that activities engaged in by state officials violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and disenfranchised thousands of voters and resulted in the unlawful certification of electors.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say for the record that where, as is the case this year, the results in the Electoral College and of the popular vote diverge by the largest and most astounding margin in American history, it is particularly fitting, appropriate, and necessary to examine the electoral vote certificate presented for acceptance as carefully and fairly as possible and for as long as time permits.

The fate of our democracy is at stake. I now submit formal letters to the Vice President regarding objection to certification of Electors in certain states:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2017.

Basis of Objection: Failure of one or more elector to reside in district from which elected.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: We object to the 15 votes from the State of North Carolina for Donald J. Trump for President and Mike Pence for Vice President. Notwithstanding the certification by the Governor of the State of North Carolina, it is the opinion of the undersigned that these 15 votes were not regularly given because at least five electors were not "lawfully certified" and their votes were not "regularly given" since one or more electors does not reside in the district for which he or she was elected as required by state law.

Additionally, several activities engaged in by state officials in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 disenfranchised thousands of North Carolina voters and resulted in the

unlawful certification of electors. Accordingly, no electoral vote of the State of North Carolina should be counted for Donald J. Trump for President or for Mike Pence for Vice President.

Respectfully,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
U.S. Representative, State of Texas.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2017.

Basis of Objection: Violation of state statutes prohibiting dual-office holding.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN,

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: We object to the 20 votes from the State of Pennsylvania for Donald J. Trump for President and Mike Pence for Vice President. Notwithstanding the certification by the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, it is the opinion of the undersigned that these 20 votes were not regularly given because they were cast by electors not lawfully certified since they are in violation of state law prohibiting dual-office holding.

Additionally, it appears that illegal activities engaged in by individuals and entities allied with the Government of Russia that were undertaken for the purpose to benefiting the candidacy of Donald J. Trump deterred and dissuaded thousands of voters from exercising their franchise and resulted in votes not regularly given by electors not lawfully certified. Accordingly, no electoral vote of the State of Pennsylvania should be counted for Donald J. Trump for President or for Mike Pence for Vice President.

Respectfully,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
U.S. Representative, State of Texas.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2017.

Basis of Objection: Failure to provide "distinct lists of votes" for the President and Vice President.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN,

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: We object to the 10 votes from the State of Wisconsin for Donald J. Trump for President and Mike Pence for Vice President. Notwithstanding the certification by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, it is the opinion of the undersigned that these 10 votes were not regularly given because they fail to comply with 3 U.S.C. §9, which requires that "elec-

tors shall make and sign six certificates of all the votes given by them, each of which certificates shall contain two distinct lists, one of the votes for President and the other of the votes for Vice President[.]"

Additionally, it appears that illegal activities engaged in by individuals and entities allied with the Government of Russia that were undertaken for the purpose to benefiting the candidacy of Donald J. Trump deterred and dissuaded thousands of voters from exercising their franchise and resulted in votes not regularly given by electors not lawfully certified. Accordingly, no electoral vote of the State of Wisconsin should be counted for Donald J. Trump for President or for Mike Pence for Vice President.

Respectfully,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
U.S. Representative, State of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANET POLINSKY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of Janet Polinsky who passed away on September 26, 2016. Janet had a long and colorful career in the Connecticut General Assembly, serving as a State Representative for the 38th District for eight straight terms, from 1977 to 1993.

Janet was a 1953 graduate of the University of Connecticut, where she was the president of the Panhellenic Association. Her political career began on the Waterford Board of Education, followed by a stint on the Waterford Planning and Zoning Commission, of which she was the chairwoman. She then became the 38th District's State Representative.

During her time in the General Assembly, Janet was a mentor and inspiration to many and a true giant of state politics. She was the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, and the first female to serve as Deputy Speaker of the House. I was honored to serve alongside her during my time as a State Representative from 1987 until she retired in 1993. Janet's career in public service continued as the commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services from 1993 to 1995, and later the Public Utilities Control Commission from 1995 to 1999. Observing her perform her du-

ties in committee and on the floor of the General Assembly was a great inspiration for all on how to act as a public servant. She was smart, funny, honest, decent and ethical. She left a huge footprint on the state of Connecticut, raising the salaries of public school teachers, originating a prescription drug benefit for seniors, and at the same time balancing the state's finances. It was an extraordinary record.

The Waterford community and our entire state will miss Janet deeply. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to her husband, Alexander, and the rest of her family as they mourn her passing. She was one of the greats.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL MUNDT

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Mundt of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Known in Southern Colorado as KRDO's Paul Richards, he passed away on December 11, 2016. Paul leaves behind five children and his wife, Julie Halling, along with a lasting legacy.

Paul was the voice on five radio stations in Colorado Springs during his broadcasting career. Most recently, he was at KRDO where I had the privilege of getting to know him. After hearing of his passing, Paul's listeners immediately took to social media to share their memories of the man who played such a big part of their days and grieve with his family.

Paul was known to so many around the community as a morning broadcaster, but he will be especially missed for his volunteer work outside of the recording studio. Paul never missed a moment to help others.

Mr. Speaker, Paul's life ended much too early, but he truly lived it to the fullest while he was with us. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Paul's work, service to his community, dedication to helping others and commitment to his family and friends. On behalf of Southern Colorado, and to the family and friends of Paul Mundt, I offer my condolences for the loss of their husband, father, and friend.