

world. I encourage them to join me in recognizing the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 159, 160, and 161. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on roll call numbers 159, 160 and nay on roll call vote 161.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BARNS AT HAMILTON STATION VINE- YARDS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commend my constituents, Andrew and Maryann Fialdini, and their winery, the Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, on receiving the Governor's Cup in the 2017 Governor's Cup Wine Competition. This win not only speaks to the hard work, entrepreneurship and expertise of Andrew and Maryann, but also the growing and transforming Loudoun County wine industry.

Since opening 8 years ago, their hard work has certainly come to fruition. Andrew, Maryann, and the vineyard's Wine Maker, Michael Shaps, have worked diligently to produce local, yet authentic-tasting, French-style wines on their eleven acre vineyard located in Hamilton, Virginia. And this year, two of their wines, the 2014 Meritage and 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, were named gold medalists in the Governor's Cup Wine Competition.

The judges of this year's competition reviewed 494 bottles from 102 different wineries, and only 23 bottles were named gold medalists. Impressively of those 23 bottles, Andrew and Maryann's 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon was named the best wine and awarded the Governor's Cup—a recognition that a Loudoun winery has never before received in the 37 years of this stringent and prestigious competition.

Risk-taking small businesses have always been the life blood of the Loudoun County economy and our national economy and entrepreneurial families like the Fialdini's have been leaders in fostering strong, local economies that will continue to thrive and grow for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Andrew and Maryann Fialdini and Michael Shaps for their successful small business and their special awards at the 2017 Governor's Cup Wine Competition. I also wish them and their family the best in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHARLES HUNNICUTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Hunnicutt for his outstanding work and to congratulate him on his retirement after 45 years of dedicated public service.

Charles began his career with the United States Air Force, honorably serving his country from June 1972 to June 1976. He was then hired to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Criminal Investigations and Collections Officer from 1976 to 1987.

In 1988, Charles joined the Fresno County Department of Social Services and remained there until 2005. That same year, he was offered the position as Fresno County Veterans Service Officer. In 2010, Charles was asked to also serve as the Madera County Veterans Service Officer. Charles has remained with both counties and has served Fresno County Veterans and Madera County Veterans with great passion and honor.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud Charles Hunnicutt for his many years of tireless work on behalf of veterans and our community. His ongoing dedication to public service is extremely commendable.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to veterans and our community, Charles has been a true champion for my constituents where he serves on my 16th District Veterans Advisory Board and has assisted my staff with service academy nominations. In my office, a majority of our constituent casework involves assisting veterans. These are sensitive cases that can sometimes take a great deal of time to resolve. Charles is someone that my staff and I can always count on to work together on behalf of veterans.

I have personally worked with Charles for over 13 years in my capacity as a Member of Congress and I can proudly call him my friend. In his capacity as Veterans Service Officer, Charles is always available to discuss cases and work together on issues of concern. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Charles Hunnicutt and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week commemorates Brain Awareness Week, which presents an important opportunity to educate lawmakers, students, and the broader public about brain science, and its many impacts and benefits. This is critical when you consider that brain disorders and diseases affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans—from Alzheimer's to ALS to mental illness.

Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders are among the leading causes of disability in the United States and around the

world—greater than heart disease and cancer put together. As society ages, this number will increase exponentially as will the cost to the healthcare system and to the economy. Yet, the underlying causes of most neurological diseases remain unknown.

Neuroscience is the next great frontier. Research and work being done in this field needs to be front and center in both the private world and Congress.

The bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus' mission is to build awareness of the intrinsic role brain research plays in understanding ourselves and our society. As the Co-Founder and Co-Chair, I am committed to working on these important issues and hope my colleagues will join our efforts as members of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus.

MR. JOSEPH ROBERGE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Philip Roberge. Immediately following his graduation from High School in 1942, Joseph enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a Navigator on a B-17 bomber with the 398th Bomb Group located at Nuthampstead Air Base in England.

Joseph flew 35 missions over Europe, including being part of air support at Omaha Beach on D-Day. Throughout his time in service, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, European Theater of Operations Ribbon, two Bronze Stars, and Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Joseph for his selfless actions taken to protect his homeland. It is important we honor these types of individuals as best we can and I hope that many will follow in his footsteps and give back to our country as graciously as he did. People like him are a rare breed and they help make not only our country, but our world a much safer and better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays caused by Winter Storm Stella, I was unable to attend votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, and YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

TRAVELING WALL THAT HEALS IN MENA, ARKANSAS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening ceremonies of the Traveling Wall That Heals in Mena, Arkansas.

The Traveling Wall is a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington and brings the names of the fallen to cities across our great nation. According to Mena VFW Post 4451 Commander Linda Johnson, "Bringing the Wall to communities across the country spreads its healing legacy to millions."

I want to thank Commander Johnson, members of VFW Post 4451, and the citizens of Mena for their leadership in bringing this important piece of history to the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas. May the lives of those killed during the Vietnam War never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. JIM
PARDINI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Jim Pardini of Pardini's Banquet and Catering for being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Central California Restaurant Association—Fresno Chapter. For the past thirty-six years, Pardini's Banquet and Catering has dedicated their facility to providing the utmost exquisite food service to all in the community. Jim is a pillar in the Central Valley, known not only for his success as a restaurateur, but also for his generous and giving spirit.

Jim was born to Albert and Mary Jane Pardini in Santa Cruz, California. The Pardinis would make Fresno their home in 1952. Jim graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1964 and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Social Science from Fresno State in 1968. Following in the hard working footsteps of his father, Jim carried on the family restaurant business started in 1948 by Al. By 1981, Jim and his wife Marie opened Pardini's Banquet and Catering and went on to acquire a Rubio's and four Tony Roma restaurants. Over time, Pardini's Catering has become the well-respected caterer of the Big Fresno Fair, the Fresno Convention Center and Fresno State's Bulldog Stadium.

To further his statewide impact in the restaurant industry, Jim helped to create the restaurant Political Action Committee. Then, as the president of the California Restaurant Association, he aided in developing the Grassroots Program. Jim's accomplishments created new ways for restaurant owners to truly connect with law makers in California.

In addition to his impact on the restaurant industry, Jim has dedicated his time to philanthropy work within the community. He is a longtime supporter of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, he was presented with the honor of the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Muscular Dystrophy Association. With his many accomplishments thus far, Jim's success was fittingly recognized when he was inducted into the California Restaurant Association Foundation Hall of Fame. Through relentless hard work and dedication, Jim Pardini continues to leave a substantial mark in the restaurant industry and within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong achievements of Jim

Pardini. I congratulate Mr. Pardini for this great achievement and ask that you join me in wishing him and his family continued success.

IN HONOR OF GARY SCHNIEDERS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable teacher and citizen from Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Gary Schnieders has taught History, Social Studies, and Economics at Waterloo Columbus Catholic High School for 39 years. Over those 39 years, Mr. Schnieders has made an enormous impact on the lives of his students and members of the community.

Mr. Schnieders's devotion goes beyond the classroom with his annual trip to the hallowed ground of Europe's battlefields. This trip is no European vacation. Students walk the trenches of the Western Front and explore battlefields with a twelve-mile hike one day and twenty-mile bike ride another day. Prior to their departure, students are given reading assignments and must complete a 20-page essay. While in Europe, the students have nightly homework assignments. This annual trip is highly anticipated and one that many Waterloo Columbus students work toward their entire high school career.

The itinerary also includes visits to several American cemeteries and memorials honoring our fallen heroes, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. On the final day, the students visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where they clean the grave markers, plant an American flag, and lay a rose on the grave of every Iowan. At the end of the day, students lay their final wreath of the trip at Normandy as Taps sounds in the background.

Upon their return to Iowa, the students give presentations to their families, fellow students, and residents of Waterloo and Cedar Falls, with a special invitation extended to the local Veteran community.

Over the past 39 years, Mr. Schnieders has shown his students what cannot be taught in a classroom—the meaning of sacrifice and love of country. Today, we honor his devotion that extends far beyond the classroom and helps to ensure the preservation of American values for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ANDEWEG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Andeweg of Urbandale, Iowa, for being named the 2017 Forty under 40 Alumnus of the Year.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age

are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. Robert was a member of the 2002 class and has not only continued being an active member of his community but he has expanded upon it since being honored in 2002.

Robert is known for being a leader within his community, which is why in 2005 he was elected Mayor of the City of Urbandale. He has been committed to overseeing the economic growth and development of Des Moines' largest suburb. When Robert isn't busy leading his community, he works as a lawyer at Nyemaster Goode P.C. He also works to improve his community by dedicating his time and serving on the Greater Des Moines Partnership Board, the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Bravo Greater Des Moines Board and the Metropolitan Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Robert in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert on receiving this outstanding award and wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on March 10, 2017, I was not able to cast my vote on final passage of H.R. 720. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted NO on H.R. 720—Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, and YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BRETT
FRENCH

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to recognize Mr. Brett French as this year's individual recipient of the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). The Lake Superior Community Partnership's Distinguished Service Award is extended to businesses and individuals who support economic development in Marquette County.