

Specifically, Jack spearheaded several inter-governmental agreements with surrounding cities and school districts, including an agreement with the City of Westminster, which was the first of its kind in Colorado. These agreements helped better coordinate planning in terms of costs, revenue and future growth areas among Thornton's neighboring communities.

In addition, these agreements helped make Thornton's city services more efficient and cost-effective including snow and ice control removal on shared streets, special transit services for seniors and low-moderate income residents, and coordination of transportation planning. The Denver Regional Council of Governments and the Colorado Municipal League have recognized several of these programs virtually every year since 1986.

Jack's vision, leadership, and commitment to public service and his local community has been recognized by a wide variety of organizations and awards including: Metro North Chamber of Commerce's Economic Developer of the Year; Denver Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Local Government Award; and 1986 Man of the Year by the Northglenn-Thornton Sentinel.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Jack Ethridge for his service and commitment to the City of Thornton and I wish him all the best in retirement.

**HONORING HARRISBURG FIRE LIEUTENANT DENNIS DEVOE**

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 20, 2017*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor Harrisburg Fire Lieutenant Dennis DeVoe, and express my deepest condolences to his family, colleagues, and friends.

On March 11, 2017, Lt. DeVoe was on his way to pick up his gear to respond to a house fire when his vehicle was T-boned. Lt. DeVoe sustained fatal injuries in the crash, passing later that night surrounded by his family. This honorable man lost his life while in the process of saving the lives of others, and the people of Harrisburg, along with myself, are forever grateful for the service he provided his community.

Lt. DeVoe graduated from Kennard-Dale High School in 1989 and later attended Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology, earning an Associate's Degree of Applied Science in Automotive Technology. Lt. DeVoe was a 1996 graduate of the 14th Fire Academy at Harrisburg Area Community College and faithfully served the Harrisburg Fire Department Squad 8 in the 21 years since. Additionally, Lt. DeVoe was a member of the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue and a state Fire Instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College as well as the York County Fire School. Lt. DeVoe was actively involved in the community. Lt. DeVoe volunteered with numerous area fire departments and coached local soccer teams. Lt. DeVoe's colleagues described him as a kind and energetic leader who prioritized community, service to others, and his family above all else.

Lt. DeVoe is survived by his wife, Amy DeVoe, and their four children, Carson, Aliza,

Emma, and Jake, his mother, Joyce Webb, and her husband, Robert, and his brother, Brian DeVoe, and his wife, Sheila.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and service of Lt. Dennis DeVoe, for his selfless heroism and dedication to his community and his family.

**CONGRATULATING RYAN HERMAN OF ST. CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE MISSOURI CLASS 2 WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 145 POUND WEIGHT CLASS**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 20, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ryan Herman of the St. Clair High School Bulldogs on winning the Class 2 Wrestling State Championship in the 145 pound weight class.

Ryan and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Ryan Herman for a job well done.

**RECOGNIZING FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH IN SULLIVAN, MISSOURI ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 20, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a church in my district, First Assembly of God in Sullivan, Missouri, on its 100th anniversary. It will be observing this milestone on October 8, 2017.

First Assembly of God was founded on June 4, 1917 by Reverend R.O. Miller with 42 charter members. The church is known for its long-standing history of providing Christian services in the community. Its first building was dedicated on March 18, 1923 which served the congregation until its relocation on September 14, 1969 to its current home on Elmont Road.

The mission statement of First Assembly of God is to "Exalt the Lord through worship, Equip the saints through discipleship, Evangelize the lost through outreach and missions, Embrace each other through fellowship, and Encourage the hurting through ministry." Throughout the past 100 years this mission statement has been the foundation on which the church stands and shares the love of God with those in the community.

There are various programs offered at First Assembly of God for children, men, and women of all ages. Christian enrichment classes that are offered include Sunday School, Nursery, Kingdom Kids, Girls Club, Royal Rangers, Jr. High, Anchor 5.8, Anchor Youth, Late Night, and Women's/Men's Ministry.

Reverend Kyle Phillips currently serves as the Senior Pastor at First Assembly of God. He has served in this capacity for 10 years.

Pastor Phillips serves the church alongside Youth Pastors Reverends Michael and Anna Maschmeyer, Children's Director Cascha Phillips, Executive Assistant and Treasurer Kay and Larry Cunieo, and Maintenance Director Robert Davis.

I ask you to join me in recognizing First Assembly of God Church on its 100th anniversary. The commitment this church has shown to the Lord, its parishioners, and the entire community is acknowledged by this milestone anniversary.

**HONORING THE NAPA JUNIOR GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 20, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Junior Girls Softball League (NJGSL) upon the 50th anniversary of its founding. The NJGSL has been a trailblazing community partner and has supported the success of generations of Napa girls.

The NJGSL is a recreational league that offers girls ages 5-12 the opportunity to learn and play softball in a supportive environment. NJGSL participants learn the importance of staying active and healthy and have fun at the same time.

NJGSL participants also learn valuable life lessons that serve them well both on and off the field. Coaches, organizers, and parents focus on building teamwork and sportsmanship skills which will help girls communicate and maintain positive self-esteem throughout their lives. Furthermore, League alumni have even gone on to excel in collegiate softball careers.

Mr. Speaker, the Napa Junior Girls Softball League has been teaching girls in our community both softball and life skills for an impressive five decades. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the NJGSL here today.

**ARDENT MILLS**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 20, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ardent Mills for receiving the 2017 Commerce City Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a Commerce City company with a pioneer spirit that has shown a history of leadership within its industry and the community. Ardent Mills is the independent joint venture of Cargill, ConAgra and Horizon Milling. The company offers a broad range of flours, mixes, blends, and specialty products along with technical support, customer service and the supply assurance of a coast-to-coast network. Ardent Mills operates a network of more than forty community flour mills and bakery mix facilities in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, including one in Commerce City.

Ardent Mills aims to nurture customers and communities with its innovative grain-based

solutions in order to create a positive impact with employees, customers, communities and partners. In honor of their 80th anniversary in Commerce City, Ardent Mills hosted its first Community Day in May 2016 and hosted mill tours and demonstrations to show their appreciation to local farmers and customers. Ardent Mills' employees donate their time at the Food Bank of the Rockies and Kids First of Commerce City as well as contributing flour donations to organizations in and around Commerce City.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Ardent Mills for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

**BIRKO CORPORATION**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Birko Corporation for receiving the 2017 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Birko Corporation is a female-owned business that manufactures more than 400 concentrated food safety solutions and provides safe chemical formulations, state-of-the-art harvest and dispensing equipment, servicing capabilities, and integrated IT solutions for beef, poultry, pork, produce and brewery applications.

Birko Corporation has been in Commerce City for 25 years, growing their workforce by 10 percent in 2016. Birko is also heavily involved in community service both locally and nationally. Their fundraising efforts include donations to the American Red Cross, Girls on the Run of the Rockies, and several scholarship funds for college students.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Birko Corporation for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

**ASAHI FOOD, INC.**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Asahi Food, Inc. for receiving the 2017 Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Asahi Food was founded six years ago in Commerce City by Owner and President, Paul Guan. The business began with one client, Hapa Sushi in Denver, and today is a leading seafood supplier, delivering fresh-cut fish for more than 200 restaurants in Colorado and surrounding states. Their General Manager is Charlene Thai, founder of the Asian Restaurant Association.

Asahi Food is also extremely involved in the community and is an active member of the

Takayama Sister Cities organization, Japan American Society of Colorado, and other Japanese community groups. They are also active with the local Chinese and Taiwanese communities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Asahi Food, Inc. for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

**TESTIMONY OF SHELTA WILSON  
ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF  
THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I enter the powerful words of my constituent, Shelta Wilson, who supports the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides our most vulnerable citizens.

“Let me introduce myself. My name is Shelta Wilson. I am 37 years old, and I operate a home daycare business in New Haven, Connecticut. It would be my pleasure to tell you why affordable healthcare is important to me. A couple of years ago, I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. At that time, I have no health insurance, and my health was seriously declining. It was impossible for me to run my business with these health issues.

Through networking, I was informed on where to go for affordable healthcare. It is called Access Health Exchange, and I was approved by them immediately. I was able to get the supplies and medication I needed to run my business. As of right now, I am 100% free of diabetes and the medication that went with it. I feel good and truly know that without Access Health Exchange and the Affordable Care Act, I would not be able to stand here and talk to you guys today about how important it is to have affordable health care. Having health insurance truly saved my life.”

**RECOGNIZING DIRK NOWITZKI'S  
30,000 POINT MILESTONE**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride for my hometown Dallas Mavericks and my good friend Dirk Nowitzki that I celebrate his 30,000th career point. On March 7th, 2017, with a baseline jump shot we have seen so many times, Dirk Nowitzki joined the ranks of NBA legends Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain in the 30K points club. I could not be happier for my friend.

In 1998, Dirk Nowitzki, who was born in Germany, was drafted into the NBA and immediately traded to the Dallas Mavericks. Since then, he has played 19 seasons with the same team, and in that time won an MVP award, a national championship, and touched the minds and hearts of so many Dallasites, basketball fans and not. His professional dedication to our city is unmatched these days in professional sports, and so is his charm and sense of humor.

But even more important than any basketball achievement, Dirk Nowitzki is a kind and good-natured person. He has made Dallas his home, and does not rest until all of its citizens enjoy better opportunities in their lives. He impresses me on the basketball court, but off the court, with people, is where his true splendor is showcased. Mr. Speaker, may the record celebrate this historic accomplishment for a man who will be destined for history no matter what he does.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILBUR WILLIAMS FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Wilbur Williams from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. Dr. Williams is a beloved member of the Indiana Wesleyan community, as well as the greater Marion community. Through his 50 years of teaching, he has taught over 17,000 students, led over a hundred trips to the Bible lands, and is an accomplished author. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Dr. Wilbur Williams' commitment to educating the next generation of Indiana students to be knowledgeable, passionate, and active members of their community and the world.

Born in Gas City, Indiana to William and Idelta Williams, Dr. Williams is a life-long Hoosier. He graduated from Fairmount High School and later attended Marion College, now Indiana Wesleyan, for his undergraduate studies. He married Ardelia Lee Williams, another beloved faculty member of Indiana Wesleyan, in 1953. After his undergraduate studies, Dr. Williams was a pastor at Sheridan Wesleyan Church in Sheridan, Indiana from 1953 to 1958. In 1957, during his time as pastor, Dr. Williams earned a Master of Science from Butler University. He then went on to become the Assistant General Manager of the Higley Press and Publishing Company from 1959 to 1960 then Plant Manager at the Economy Printing Concern from 1960 to 1961. Dr. Williams was then the Circulation Manager of the Christian Freedom Foundation from 1961 to 1966 as well as was the Editor of the Evangelical Sunday School commentary from 1960 through 1973. He earned his Master of Arts from New York University in 1965 and shortly thereafter, he came back home to Indiana and began his long career as an associate professor, teaching Old Testament and Archaeology, for Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. Williams earned his Doctorate of Divinity from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 1992.

Dr. Williams is perhaps one of the most well-known professors in Indiana Wesleyan history. Many students have taken his course, Old Testament Survey, where he has been known to incorporate his 40 plus years' experience in Israel Archeological excavations into the material he teaches. Not only is he a long serving professor, he is beloved by his students. He has been elected “Professor of the Year” eight times, most recently in 2009 and 2010. Dr. Williams for many years taught for only a \$1 annual salary, so that the money