

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 by 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

could be dedicated to maintain the Williams Prayer Chapel. The small Gothic-style chapel in the center of campus opened in August 2001, and is designed to provide a place of solitude for students to experience a moment of peace with the Lord amidst their busy schedules. Dr. Williams' wife, Ardelia Williams, who taught for many years within the Indiana Wesleyan Art Department, crafted all of the stained glass windows in the small sanctuary.

In addition to Dr. Williams' time as a faculty member at Indiana Wesleyan, he has been active on Indian archaeological digs throughout the United States. He has been even more active on excavations in Israel and North Africa. He dug for over 40 years in such cities as Arad, Aphek, Jerusalem, Carthage, Lachish, Megiddo, Jezreel and Hazor. In September of 2005, at the Indiana-Israel Dinner of State, Israel Bonds bestowed upon Dr. Williams the honor of "Friend of Israel". Governor Mitch Daniels, who was honorary co-chair of the dinner, also presented Williams a "Distinguished Hoosier" award. Altogether Dr. Williams has been to the Bible lands 156 times, nearly all of which have been to Israel. The Israeli Ministry of Tourism honored Dr. Williams for his many trips to the Holy Land, by presenting him with a sterling silver copy of a 1585 world map depicting Jerusalem as the center of the world.

Dr. Williams is an accomplished author who has published many articles and three books: one of poetry titled, "From Sand to Glass"; one on the Ten Commandments titled "How To Find Your Maximum Happiness," and the other a Commentary on the book of Genesis. He is currently writing "God's Grand Design and Satan's Counter Plan".

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Williams for his many years in education, for his contributions to our Hoosier community, our nation, and the resilient nation of Israel. I want to congratulate Dr. Williams on his remarkable career and I wish the very best to Dr. Williams, to his wife Ardelia, and to their children and their families, in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes March 15 and March 16, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, YEA on Roll Call No. 161, YEA on Roll Call No. 162, YEA on Roll Call No. 163, YEA on Roll Call No. 164, NAY on Roll Call No. 165, NAY on Roll Call No. 166, NAY on Roll Call No. 167, YEA on Roll Call No. 168, YEA on Roll Call No. 169.

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET ADAIR QUINN 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, Maggie Quinn, who supports the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides our most vulnerable citizens.

"On December 7, 1991 I fell and broke my back in two places. Fortunately I have regained most of my mobility but at the time it ended my career in the professional theatre. I pulled myself together and with my husband started small business which has kept us afloat. I was doubly fortunate during those years to be able to retain vested beyond COBRA medical insurance for both of us through my union, Actor's Equity Association.

Then, in 2000, my husband was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis—so we both then had "pre-existing conditions."

The ACA insurance covered his treatment and drugs, we kept our business going, and were proud that we were at no time a burden on our state or society as a whole, but by 2013, the last year of my AEA coverage, our combined premiums and co-pays neared 40% of our net income.

After the Affordable Care Act was passed and Connecticut opened its insurance exchange, my union terminated my insurance eligibility and, because I had an ACA option available in Connecticut, and because my premiums were less than the union's costs to cover us. At the time, our premiums alone were over 18,000 a year, a severe financial hardship for two self-employed 58 year olds, and I knew even then that we would not be able to sustain them for much longer.

Because of the ACA and the Connecticut exchange, we were able to enroll in a terrific plan, with a reasonable deductible and, with the tax credit figured in, with premiums less than half of what we had been paying. Every year since 2014, our premiums have decreased (they are about 6,000\$ a year now) and our deductibles have not risen commensurately. We have been well cared for, my husband's drug costs, which at retail would be approximately 5,000 a month, have not crippled us, and we have continued to work at our small business, to pay our federal, state, local and corporate taxes, and contribute to the prosperity of our town, our state, and the economy of our nation. We have been able to put money away for our eventual retirement.

Now, with the impending repeal of the ACA, that is all in jeopardy.

My husband's Great Grandmother also had Rheumatoid arthritis, and her obituary in the Waterbury Republican/American says she spent the last ten years of her life in bed.

Ms. DeLauro, I am, quite frankly, terrified that this is the prospect that awaits my husband without the safeties of the ACA. It will mean the end of our business, and the end of our livelihood, the end of our ability to pay taxes and support our customers, our community, and our state.

At nearly 62, with the medical problems we both have, we are not realistically employable by any company large enough to provide medical insurance. If the ACA tax credits and the mandate that preexisting conditions cannot factor in insurance coverage are done away with, we are likely to end up in a high risk pool at best, and what would those self-pay premiums be now, given inflation? \$25,000 a year? \$30,000? We simply cannot afford it. And without the ACA mandated removal of lifetime caps, my husband will surely cap out given his high drug costs. I cannot really express the depths of my fear that we risk becoming burdens on our state and its already stretched social safety net. The ACA has given us the promise of whole, useful working lives without the fear of penury. Please, Ms. DeLauro, help us keep the ACA."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2017, I missed roll call vote No. 139 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2017 I was absent for recorded vote No. 170 and No. 171, as I was delayed while leading a critical discussion with Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly in my capacity as Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here: On Roll Call No. 170 I would have voted yes. On Roll Call No. 171 I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE CAROLYN WRIGHT

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 that I wish to recognize the significant career of Chief Justice Carolyn Wright, as well as celebrate her recent reception of the 2017 Texas Women Lawyers Pathfinder Award—an honor given to an individual who has championed the advancement of women in the law, and has shown creativity and leadership within that field. Chief Justice Wright has been a trailblazer for women of color working in the legal field; and therefore, I could not think of anyone more deserving of such an honor.

Along with other positions that were historical firsts for women and minorities in Texas, Chief Justice Wright is the first African-American to be appointed to an intermediate court, as well as the first woman to win a multi-county election for any state elected office. Prior to these esteemed positions, Wright has been a judge with more than 30 years experience in civil, family, criminal, and mediation law. Additionally, she has served as a practicing attorney, Dallas County associate judge, state district judge, as well as a Justice on the Court of Appeals, after being appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush in 1995.

Although her resume is quite significant, none of it is as impressive as she is as a community member. For the entire time that I have known her, Carolyn Wright has been an upstanding citizen and proud Dallasite. Those who know her both in and out of the courtroom can attest to her dedication to her work, but at the same time to her thoughtfulness as a leader and a friend. Mr. Speaker, may the