

HONORING MITCH LASGOITY FOR  
BEING NAMED THE 2017 SENIOR  
FARMER OF THE YEAR

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mitch Lasgoity, of Madera, California for being recognized as the 2017 Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce. Receiving such an honor is well deserved by this hard working and humble man.

Mitch was born in Madera, California on April 11, 1930. His father, Jean Lasgoity immigrated to the United States from the Basque country of France, where he was a sheep herder. After settling in Madera, Jean married Jennie Ospital in 1928 and they started their sheep livestock business on the plot of land Jennie grew up on.

Growing up on this family farm business, Mitch learned from a very young age, the skills it would take to become a successful farmer. Even as a young boy, Mitch was trusted to help around the farm, from prepping chickens for dinner to raising hogs to sell to a meat company. As he got older, he became more involved in raising ewes into lambs, refining the skills needed in the sheep business. By the age of ten, Mitch could fully operate and drive a tractor and began doing summer work operating a grain harvester at the age of 15.

After graduating from Madera Union High School, Mitch went on to attend Santa Clara University, graduating with a degree in business in 1952. After college, Mitch partnered with his father in the sheep business. Later, at the age of 26, he bought the farm from his father and officially became self-employed.

In 1957, Mitch married Rosemary Mastrofina, who gave birth to their four children, Michel, Monica, James and John. While raising a family, Mitch was determined to expand and refine his business with the help and support of his wife, Rosemary. In no time, Mitch had an outfit of 5,000 ewes and expanded their grazing territory to Joe and Bob Heguy's ranch in Elko County, Nevada. In addition, Mitch partnered with Rosemary's uncle, Herb Buchenau, and together they created Copper Sheep Company in Ely, Nevada, where they had 10,000 ewes and 500 cows. Not stopping there, Mitch bought his first ranch, the Collins Ranch, in 1967 near Eastman Lake. Around this time he also began to farm a 320 acre ranch within Western Madera County. From then on, Mitch decided to expand his agriculture business to the best of his abilities. He has since diversified to producing almonds, grapes, wine and cattle. Now farming 3,500 acres, and owning a cattle operation which grazes over 33,000 acres, Mitch has shown what true hard work and dedication can achieve in the farming and agriculture industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring Mitch Lasgoity for this prestigious award as 2017 Senior Farmer of the Year. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Mitch for his commitment to the farming industry and outstanding accomplishments. I ask that you join me in wishing Mr. Mitch Lasgoity continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RALPH LEE ABRAHAM**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 3, 2017 I was unavoidably detained on Roll Call Vote No. 209 and No. 210. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "AYE" on Roll Call No. 209, and "AYE" on Roll Call No. 210.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EVAN H. JENKINS**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays, I was forced to miss Roll Call Vote Number 209. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes during the week of March 15, 2017 due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On March 15, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 159

YEA for rollcall vote 160

YEA for rollcall vote 161

On March 16, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 162

YEA for rollcall vote 163

YEA for rollcall vote 164

NAY for rollcall vote 165

NAY for rollcall vote 166

NAY for rollcall vote 167

YEA for rollcall vote 168

YEA for rollcall vote 169

On March 17, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 170

YEA for rollcall vote 171

YEA for rollcall vote 172

I was unable to attend votes during the week of March 27, 2017 due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On March 27, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 195

YEA for rollcall vote 196

March 28, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 197

YEA for rollcall vote 198

YEA for rollcall vote 199

YEA for rollcall vote 200

YEA for rollcall vote 201

YEA for rollcall vote 202

On March 29, 2017:

YEA for rollcall vote 203

YEA for rollcall vote 204

NAY for rollcall vote 205

YEA for rollcall vote 206

On March 30, 2017:

NAY for rollcall vote 207

YEA for rollcall vote 208

HONORING TYRONE SURVILLION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable law enforcer Constable Tyrone Survillion.

Mr. Survillion's life began in Marks, MS, where he was born to Claudia M. Survillion and John H. Harris both of Marks, MS. Constable Survillion continued his residence and has resided there for forty-six plus years. He was a graduate of the Quitman County High School and he then attended Coahoma Junior College.

Tyrone Survillion has been in law enforcement since 1997 until the present. He started out as a dispatcher for the Quitman County Sheriff's Department, and later worked his way up to becoming a certified dispatcher in the year 1999. In 2008, Tyrone Survillion was elected for Constable in Quitman County until the present. He states: "Something that I love to do is working for people."

Mr. Survillion has been married to Sharon Survillion for twenty-four years. From that union came two daughters, Au'Kiona Tillman, Ty'shauna Survillion and two god daughters, Mar'Kayla and Maddison.

Constable Survillion's goal is to continue to serve and protect the citizens of Quitman County for many more years to come. Through God and determination, Constable Survillion will continue to make a difference in his community.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constable Tyrone Survillion for his dedication of being an outstanding law enforcer.

PAOLA ANDUJAR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Paola Andujar for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Paola Andujar is a 12th grader at Brighton High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Paola Andujar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Paola Andujar for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STATE  
TROOPER STEVEN MULLER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Virginia State Trooper Steven Muller, for his recognition by the Rotary Club of West Springfield as an Outstanding Virginia State Trooper of the Year for 2016.

Trooper Muller is a credit to his unit and uniform and the long tradition of our Commonwealth's State Police Force. Trooper Muller has been nominated for this Rotary award by his superiors, who note that in August of 2015 he was dispatched to a vehicle crash on the Capital Beltway. Upon arriving at the scene he found two citizens who were trying to aid an individual lying near the wreckage on a very busy and dangerous stretch of I-495. Trooper Muller checked the victim for signs of breathing and a pulse and found the victim unresponsive. Immediately after, he began special rescue breathing and CPR. Trooper Kress Adamson arrived a few minutes later to aid Trooper Muller. A Fairfax County Rescue team then arrived and asked the two troopers to continue their life-saving efforts until the Rescue team could apply an automated external defibrillator. After several minutes of these combined advanced lifesaving techniques, they were able to regain a pulse in the victim. The victim was then transported to INOVA Alexandria Hospital where he remained in critical condition until his recovery. Due to the initial valiant efforts of both civilians and these two troopers, the victim has a better chance of recovery from this life-threatening accident.

Trooper Muller has served with the Virginia State Police for five years. After graduating from the State Police Academy, he was assigned to Springfield (Area 48), where he currently serves. Originally from Brocton, New York, he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Fredonia State University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trooper Muller and in thanking him for his years of service to Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has demonstrated exceptional dedication to public safety and the mission of law enforcement, and for that, we owe him a special debt of gratitude.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING  
NEW YORK STATE YELLOW RIBBON DAY

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate New York State Yellow Ribbon Day.

On April 9th, the State of New York will observe Yellow Ribbon Day to honor current and former members of the United States Armed Forces. Yellow Ribbon Day has occurred on April 9th each year since 2006 following unanimous support for resolutions by the New York State Legislature, and Proclamations by New York's governors.

New York State Yellow Ribbon Day, which was originally held at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks, and now takes place at the Halfmoon Town Hall, truly represents the spirit of the New York's 20th Congressional District and its commitment to supporting and recognizing our service men and women.

Yellow Ribbon Day is championed each year by Carol Hotaling, a resident of New York's 20th Congressional District, who began making yellow ribbons to donate to the family members of troops deployed during Operation Desert Storm. Ms. Hotaling stands as a beacon of goodwill and an outstanding member of our community by virtue of her dedication to creating a meaningful occasion to honor our troops.

Ms. Hotaling chose the date of April 9 in honor of Matt Maupin, a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant who was captured while serving in Iraq on that date in 2004. Staff Sergeant Maupin was the first U.S. military service member who went Missing-In-Action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It is an honor and privilege to recognize our troops on this solemn occasion, and always, for their example of honor, sacrifice, strength, sense of duty, and leadership. On behalf of New York's 20th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for their service in defense of our freedom, security, and way of life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE  
TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT  
REVIEW ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Police Training and Independent Review Act, a bill I introduced earlier today with colleague LACY CLAY of Missouri, and with Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois.

If enacted, the Police Training and Independent Review Act would help ensure the independent investigation and prosecution of law enforcement officers in cases involving their use of deadly force. It would also help ensure that law enforcement officers receive appropriate training.

America received a wakeup call in Ferguson, Missouri. We received another in Staten Island, New York.

We received yet another in Ohio, South Carolina, Illinois, Minnesota, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Our nation faces sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. And we face sobering questions about race. These questions simply cannot be ignored.

For too many, for too long, justice has seemed too lacking.

Nearly 2 years ago, President Obama's Commission on 21st Century Policing suggested several common sense reforms, including the use of independent prosecutors for police-involved civilian deaths, as well as additional training for law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, Congress has not yet acted on these recommendations.

We need to stop asking local prosecutors to investigate the same law enforcement officers

with whom they work so closely, and whose relationships they rely upon to perform their daily responsibilities. Prosecutors also often seek the support of their local police when they run for reelection.

This is an inherent conflict of interest, and if we are serious about restoring a sense of fairness and justice, we must remove this conflict immediately.

To be sure, the vast majority of prosecutors and law enforcement officers are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. And they have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains that some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. When it comes to investigating, and potentially prosecuting, these actions, there is often a perception of unfairness, and that perception poisons the public trust.

That is bad for law enforcement as well as citizens, making their work more dangerous.

The Police Training and Independent Review Act would give states an incentive to use independent prosecutors when police use of deadly force results in a civilian death. It would also give states an incentive to provide training to police to help them better understand the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, as well as how best to work with individuals who are disabled or mentally ill.

If states refuse to use independent prosecutors or provide appropriate training, they would begin to lose a portion of their federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation quickly, and help restore some much needed faith in our criminal justice system.

I want to thank my colleague LACY CLAY for his partnership on this bill. He is a tireless advocate on these issues, and I am honored to work with him. I also want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH for her leadership on this bill in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DR.

JOAN L. VORIS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Joan L. Voris, who passed away on February 11, 2017. Joan was an incredibly hard worker who dedicated her life to bettering the lives of others. Through her leadership as Associate Dean of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program she touched the lives of many that had the pleasure of knowing her. The passing of Dr. Voris has left a void in the Central Valley.

Dr. Voris was born on August 5, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York, and lived much of her young life in Belmont, California. She then went on to earn her undergraduate and medical degree at Stanford University. She moved to Fresno in 1971, with her late husband Zirmo Bezmalinovic, and dedicated the rest of her life to improving the central San Joaquin Valley.

In 1980, Dr. Voris started her career at the Children's Clinic at Valley Medical Center. This center cared for children who were predominately low income. Coinciding, Dr. Voris