

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF
BOB VASS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous life of Bob Vass, who was a true public servant to the Hall County community.

Mr. Vass was elected to be the sheriff of Hall County in 1992 and held that position for eight years before becoming a member of the State Board of Pardons and Parole. Our community will remember his dedication to the department and the citizens whom he served for years to come.

When he wasn't enjoying his favorite meal at the Longstreet Café, Sheriff Vass was continuously telling his neighbors stories of his time in law enforcement and his work for the Georgia Olympic Games. During the Atlanta Olympics he was in charge of studying terrorism in preparation for welcoming the centennial games to our great state. No matter the capacity, Bob's contagious smile and great sense of humor made him a bright figure around Hall County.

In addition to his work as a sheriff, he was a member of the Lanier Technical College Advisory Board, Edmonson-Telford Center for Children, and the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors. In each of these roles, he worked selflessly to change the lives of hundreds of individuals in the northeast Georgia community.

Mr. Speaker, while we mourn the loss of Sheriff Vass, we celebrate his many contributions to our state and the life of service that he led.

THE BOSTON CONSERVATORY AT
BERKLEE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boston Conservatory at Berklee on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. The Boston Conservatory, founded by violinist and composer Julius Eichberg in 1867, has a long and rich history of educating undergraduate and graduate students in music, dance and theater. The school has always set itself apart by the strength of its instructors and its distinctive, multidisciplinary structure. Indeed, the Conservatory has trained generations of talented performing artists. Today, the school's highly sought-after instructors are distinguished artists and leading practitioners in their fields, holding positions with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops orchestras, the Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Ballet and a host of other prominent local and national companies.

Founder Julius Eichberg was a former Conservatoire of Geneva professor who immigrated to the United States from Germany, who founded the Boston Conservatory as a professional training academy and a community music school. It was one of the first conservatories to admit African-Americans and

women, and featured in 1873 an opera performance by the first African-American opera company in the U.S., as well as the establishment of the first professional female string quartet in 1878. The Conservatory's commitment to equal opportunity continues through our times: the Conservatory earned the 2015 Commonwealth Award, Massachusetts' highest honor in arts, humanities and sciences in recognition of the school's music programs for students on the autism spectrum and with special needs.

The Boston Conservatory is the oldest performing arts conservatory of its kind in the United States. Its recent merger with the world renowned Berklee College of Music, which fosters unparalleled access to a broad range of academic and creative opportunities for students in both schools, is a final example of the forward looking, progressive approach that the Conservatory has always taken.

I thank the Boston Conservatory at Berklee's faculty, students, administration and alumni for their dedication, commitment and positive impact they have had on American performing arts. I also congratulate the school on 150 years of service and wish them well as they continue their fine traditions.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GAMECOCKS BASKETBALL
TEAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of South Carolina Gamecocks basketball team. It was the thrill of a lifetime to attend the NCAA women's basketball national championship game last Sunday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. The Gamecocks have electrified Columbia and the entire state of South Carolina, and we are all incredibly proud of what these coaches and players have achieved.

For Head Coach Dawn Staley, winning the national championship is the latest in a string of achievements that she has accumulated in her lifetime and in South Carolina over the last nine seasons. Under her leadership, the Gamecocks have made the NCAA Tournament six years in a row and went to the final four in 2015. This year, they finally got over the hump and are national champions. Her coaching staff, Lisa Boyer, Nikki McCray-Penson, Fred Chmiel, Melanie Balcomb, Cynthia Jordan, Freddy Ready, Ariana Moore, Hudson Jacobs, Marcella Shorty, and Katie Fowler have done an impressive job, and I congratulate each of them.

The team Coach Staley has built is an incredible group of young women from South Carolina and around the country. A'ja Wilson, a Junior from Hopkins, South Carolina, won the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four award and was named to the All-SEC First Team this season. Wilson was joined on the All-SEC First Team by Senior Alaina Coates from Irmo, South Carolina. Unfortunately, Coates missed the NCAA tournament with an ankle injury and has concluded a fantastic career with the Gamecocks. In addition to making All-SEC First team this year, she did so

last season as well, and was All-SEC Second team in her first two years in the program. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that she has as much success in the future as she has had with the Gamecocks.

The full roster of this championship team includes: Victoria Patrick, Bianca Cuevas-Moore, Kaela Davis, Doniyah Cliney, Allisha Gray, Araion Bradshaw, Tiffany Davis, Mikiah Herbert Harrigan, A'ja Wilson, Alexis Jennings, Alaina Coates, and Tyasha Harris.

The Gamecocks finished 2017 with a 33-4 record and won their third consecutive Southeastern Conference Championship en route to this national championship. The Gamecocks have developed an incredible fan base. They have led the nation in attendance for women's basketball over the last several years. In addition to their success on the court, these coaches and players are role models off the court.

I especially want to acknowledge Assistant Coach Nikki McCray-Penson. Diagnosed with cancer three years ago, she has been a real inspiration to many. Throughout her treatment she remained totally committed to the team, and never missed a day of work. Thankfully, she is now cancer free.

I also wish to congratulate the Gamecocks Men's team. After winning their first NCAA tournament game in 43 years they reached the final four for the first time in their program's history. Having both men and women from the same school reach the Final Four is pretty uncommon.

Coach Frank Martin and his assistants and staff consisting of: Matt Figger, Perry Clark, Bruce Shingler, Andy Assaley, Scott Greenawalt, Doug Edwards, Mark Rodger, Jay Gibbons, Dushawn Davis, Jarett Gerald, Brian Steele, and Ryan McIntyre recruited and molded an incredible group of young men including TeMarcus Blanton, Tommy Corchiani, PJ Dozier, Rakym Felder, Hassani Gravett, Khadim Gueye, Evan Hinson, Kory Holden, Jarrell Holliman, Sedee Keita, Maik Kotsar, Justin McKie, Duane Notice, John Ragin, Christian Schmitt, Chris Silva, Sindarius Thornwell, and Ran Tut. Although they came up five points short of a victory in the semi-championship game they proved themselves a team of champions.

Mr. Speaker, although representing the University of South Carolina in this august body is a singular honor for me, I feel certain that the 2017 NCAA Final Four appearances by these young men and women are the beginnings of many more to come. Coach Frank Martin and Coach Dawn Staley are truly a dynamic duo.

STACEY TEJADA-SANDOVAL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stacey Tejada-Sandoval for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Stacey Tejada-Sandoval is an 8th grader at Shaw Heights Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stacey Tejada-Sandoval 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 Stacey Tejada-Sandoval 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.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY LOONAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy Loonan, of Loonan Stock Farm in Corning, Iowa, for being named Iowa's Seedstock Producer of the Year.

This award is sponsored by the Iowa Beef Breeds Council and was presented at the Iowa Beef Expo Kick-Off Program. This award is given to honor outstanding cattle producers in the seedstock industry. Judy has been in the cattle business for 42 years, raising Red Angus, Simmental and Red SimAngus Cattle.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Judy demonstrates the rewards of hard-work and determination. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Judy for her achievements and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING AND JOINING AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT) IN CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guam's Autism Community Together (ACT) as they join Autism Speaks and the international community in celebrating the month of April as Autism Awareness Month to shine a light on autism. I also join the pledge to "Light It Up Blue" throughout the month of April to support autism awareness and autism acceptance.

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) was established by the United Nations in 2007 to raise awareness of the issues surrounding people, particularly children with autism worldwide. World Autism Awareness Day has since been commemorated throughout the world by communities wearing blue. Autism Community Together is Guam's local organization leading the efforts to increase autism awareness and promoting World Autism Awareness Day. Autism Community Together is an organization based in Guam as a support group for families

with autistic children. Though we have made great strides as a nation to improve services and opportunities for peoples with disabilities, there are still improvements that can be made. ACT is dedicated to helping individuals and parents find resources, support, and training while making diligent strides to increase the awareness of autism spectrum disorders and advocating for effective services and the unique needs of individuals with autism and their families.

During the month of April, I also encourage those throughout the Guam community and the nation to participate and pledge to "Light It Up Blue." Individuals and organizations can show their support by asking friends, family, and colleagues to wear blue or accessorize with blue; light up homes and businesses with blue lights and decorations; and turn social media pictures blue. These are just small acts that we can do as a community to show our support for autism awareness and acceptance.

Additionally, I commend Autism Community Together as it hosts the 10th Annual Autism Awareness Fair "Acceptance in Action" to coincide with World Autism Day. The Autism Awareness Fair is the largest outreach event hosted by ACT throughout the year and brings together government agencies, non-profit organizations, service providers, support vendors with the intent to provide information and resources on the various disability related programs and services available on Guam.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I thank the Autism Community Together organization and all government agencies and community partners for their assistance to spread autism awareness and acceptance. I join ACT in pledging to light up the island of Guam blue throughout the month of April and look forward to their future contributions in opening more opportunities to those in our community living with autism.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY DURING ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American community during Arab American Heritage Month. Arab Americans embody the core values of our country through their initiative, work ethic and dedication to faith and family, and their contributions to the United States are worthy of commendation.

April is widely recognized as Arab American Heritage Month, and it is important that we acknowledge the vital role that this community plays in our country's civic life. According to the Arab American Institute, almost four million Arab Americans live and work through the United States, with a variety of backgrounds and cultures. These individuals have made vital contributions across a variety of fields, including medicine, business and government. Arab Americans represent individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life, and their family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy.

I am fortunate to represent one of the largest Arab American communities in the country in Dearborn, Michigan. Dearborn is a diverse blue-collar city that is home to a branch of the world-class University of Michigan and an iconic American auto company in Ford Motor Company, and the Arab American community continues to play a key role in their successes and other endeavors in the city. These hard-working individuals exemplify the values that make America great, and we must continue to recognize the heritage and contributions of the Arab American community to the United States. During Arab American Heritage Month, it is my hope that the contributions of Arab Americans throughout the country will be given the recognition and acclaim that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Arab American community and their accomplishments during Arab American Heritage Month. Their positive impact on the United States' civic life is deserving of recognition.

HONORING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURETY BONDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP). Formed in 1942, NASBP is a national trade organization representing firms employing licensed surety bond producers and allied professionals. NASBP producers specialize in providing surety bonds for construction contracts and for other purposes to companies and individuals needing the assurance offered by surety bonds. The NASBP bond producer stands as the bridge between the construction firm and the surety company and works closely with the construction business to position the business to meet underwriting requirements to obtain surety credit for bonded work. Surety bonds are a time-honored, vital component of federal and state procurement systems, where a furnished surety bond evidences a contractor's qualifications to undertake the contract sought and taxpayer funds are protected through the surety bond's guarantee of performance. Mr. Speaker, I want to again extend my good wishes and recognize NASBP on its 75th Anniversary, and I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to do the same.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO COMBAT AND MONITOR ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2017

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced the bipartisan Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 (H.R. 1911), along with my colleagues and lead