

successful term as AFS President, for his strong commitment and dedication to Eagle Alloy and to the growth and prospering of the metalcasting industry.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF SECRETARY WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and career of William T. Coleman, Jr., a fellow Pennsylvanian, who passed away on March 31, 2017 at the age of 96.

Coleman served our Nation as the fourth Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, from March 7, 1975 to January 20, 1977. He was nominated by and served under President Gerald R. Ford.

Ironically, just one day after the passing of Secretary Coleman, the Department he once led marked its 50th anniversary of operation.

President Ford nominated Coleman, a fellow Republican, to serve as Secretary based in part on his expertise in transportation law. During his tenure at the Department, he worked to strengthen the long-term viability of the U.S. rail industry, oversaw the opening of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's automobile test facility at East Liberty, Ohio, established the Materials Transportation Bureau to address pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety, and opened the United States to flights of the Concorde aircraft.

As Transportation Secretary, William Coleman was beloved by Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. My father served on the Public Works and Transportation Committee during Secretary Coleman's tenure. The two were good friends, even though they didn't agree on every issue. On one occasion, the previous Congressman Shuster gave the Secretary a particularly difficult time during a committee hearing. Afterwards, my father received a bottle of wine from the Secretary and a note that said, "I hope we're still friends." Although it never crossed my father's mind that they wouldn't be, Secretary Coleman's gesture is one small example of why he was so well respected.

By the time William Coleman was sworn in as the Secretary of Transportation, he had already made his important and indelible mark on U.S. history.

Coleman was the second African American to serve in a cabinet-level post, following Robert Weaver, who served as housing secretary under President Johnson. Appropriately enough, his oath of office was administered by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, with whom Coleman had previously worked alongside to help end discrimination and secure greater equality for all Americans.

For example, they worked together—Coleman writing legal briefs for Marshall—on *Brown v. Board of Education*, the case which ultimately ended the doctrine of "separate but equal" and segregation in our public school system. This alone would have been an exceptional achievement for an African American from the Germantown area of Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, who attended a segregated elementary school.

However, Coleman also later argued against a law that prohibited interracial couples from living together, and soon after, the Supreme Court ended all prohibitions against interracial marriage in the United States.

Coleman was the first African American to serve as law clerk to a Supreme Court Justice, worked to defend civil rights activists, and served as president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He also served as a lawyer on the Warren Commission, charged with investigating President Kennedy's assassination. During his career, Coleman served in the military, argued 19 cases before the Supreme Court, co-chaired the White House Conference on Civil Rights, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

Able serving as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation would have been a notable enough accomplishment, but William T. Coleman, Jr. achieved much more than that. He will be remembered as a thoughtful, dedicated, and just man who helped spearhead the fight for equal rights for all Americans.

HONORING SUSAN K. WRIGHT
AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
WRIGHT CITY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mrs. Susan K. Wright, who will be retiring on May 17, 2017 after 40 years teaching biology and coaching track and field at Wright City High School.

Mrs. Wright was influenced by several teachers throughout her childhood that positively affected her decision to dedicate her life to educating America's youth. For example, her 1st grade teacher taught her the importance of caring, her high school biology teacher introduced her to an interest in the sciences, and a college professor showed her that everyone can become great even without being the best. The enthusiasm Mrs. Wright has shown over the past four decades has been appreciated by her colleagues and students. She has truly made the classroom and track field a fun learning environment.

While growing up in St. Louis County, Mrs. Wright attended Webster Groves High School. After spending her youth in such a big district, she was instilled with the desire to spend her teaching years in a smaller school. After receiving her bachelor's degree in education from Missouri State University, she began her teaching career at Wright City High School. Mrs. Wright started the track and field program at Wright City High School and the track now bears her name. Throughout the years, she has been a motivational mentor to numerous students and has always been willing to give a few extra moments to those who might need a listening ear.

Mrs. Wright is involved with the National Science Teachers Association and is active in her local community. She is passionate about volunteering and teaching her students to have that same giving spirit. Mrs. Wright has contributed many hours to the Blue and Gold

Scholarship Dinner, the Christmas celebration Strassenbash, and the local Easter egg hunt.

The love Mrs. Wright has for teaching and coaching has never waned over the years. As Mrs. Wright puts it, "to be a great teacher is to know your subject matter and be willing to grow as education grows, to care about those that you work with and especially the students you teach, to set your goals high and work diligently to reach each goal." Her understanding, passion and mentality are something that all teachers should strive to attain.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Susan Wright on her retirement after 40 years of improving the lives of all who walk the halls at Wright City High School.

TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE
LOMBARDO—28TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Camille Lombardo of Pasadena, California.

Camille has a Bachelor of Arts in Theology degree from Pitzer College and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

For twenty-five years, Camille has admirably served as Executive Director of the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO), the non-profit organization that supports the world-renowned Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. During this time, Ms. Lombardo has not only raised tens of millions of dollars for the Observatory, but has also been a leader in assisting with the development, planning and execution of key Observatory initiatives. During her tenure, she spearheaded the funding effort of the public-private partnership with the City of Los Angeles for the observatory's ninety-three million dollar expansion and renovation project, raising over twenty-five million dollars of that in private funding and working with local, state and federal agencies to secure public funding.

Ms. Lombardo has continued to raise millions of dollars for upgrades in the ten years to the observatory. These include the planetarium show production capability, theater projection and sound systems, and the ability to record and broadcast live astronomical observations and special events, thus greatly expanding its audience both world-wide and at the observatory itself. In addition, Camille raises funds for the observatory's school program for fifth-graders which serves 25,000 mostly public school students annually, and Bus Scholarship program for disadvantaged schools, resulting in free school programs.

A consummate professional, Ms. Lombardo capably guides FOTO with its thousands of members and many activities, and works effortlessly with the City of Los Angeles and the observatory staff on policy issues, building improvements, and major events organization and implementation.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Camille Lombardo.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. WATTS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. W. David Watts on his distinguished tenure at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Watts has served as the President of UTPB. Under his leadership, UTPB has seen an unprecedented growth and the university's reputation has grown exponentially. Since 2001, the university enrollment increased from 2,200 to 6,315 students and the availability of student housing has increased from just six buildings with 96 beds to 37 buildings with 1,197. These additions have significantly impacted the local economy and transformed UTPB to an established university community.

Early into his presidency, Dr. Watts made a commitment to expand educational opportunities by investing in online programs to allow students to earn a degree from a distance and allow for the development of career opportunities throughout the region. These efforts have led UTPB to be recognized by numerous outlets, such as BestColleges.com and U.S. News and World Report, as one of the most affordable online programs in the nation. In addition, Dr. Watts' vision of expanding access to quality education has also led to the creation of Texas' first entirely virtual Early College High School network. This network allows universities and colleges to partner with local school districts to offer at risk high school students to earn a high school diploma and up to sixty college credits at no cost. These accelerated courses reduce the barriers to college access and increased college readiness with these students. This program has allowed thousands of students to set out on their path to achieve their professional goals.

Dr. Watts' commitment to quality education has allowed UTPB to be the first school in Texas to offer a \$10,000 bachelor's degree in select majors and is recognized as the least expensive Texas public, four-year institution. Under his leadership, UTPB has received national accreditation in Art, Business, Education, Mechanical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering, Social Work, Music, Nursing, and Athletic Training Education. These initiatives have allowed UTPB to leave its imprint on the workforce, and it could not have been accomplished without Dr. Watt's leadership.

Over the last few years, Dr. Watts spearheaded efforts to write a new chapter in UTPB's history by bringing college football to the university. Prior to this, UTPB was the only public university west of I-35 that did not participate in football. Now UTPB is in a more competitive position to attract new students to the Permian Basin. Last year, the Falcons kicked off the inaugural season and set the foundation for the program. The team looks to build off of that progress as they begin to prepare for next season.

Dr. Watts' contributions to UTPB will always be remembered and his impact will surely be

felt by generations to come. As he and his wife Denise embark on a new chapter in their life, I wish them all my best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House Floor on Monday, April 3, 2017. Weather across the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, D.C. until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 92 and H.R. 479.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bipartisan resolution I introduced earlier today with my colleague JOHN SHIMKUS expressing strong support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This resolution reaffirms the importance of harmony and stability rather than war and conflict and acknowledges the NATO's pivotal role in achieving such goals.

NATO remains the most important and critical security link between the United States and Europe.

The incorporation of Eastern European countries into NATO has contributed towards a vision of a stable and united Europe. NATO allies and partners in both Central and Eastern Europe have stood alongside the United States in joint peace operations in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.

Our resolution emphasizes the United States' strong commitment to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic development of the countries that have emerged from the former Soviet Union, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. During the past three decades, many of these countries have undertaken considerable political and economic reforms necessary to achieve aspirations for European integration and Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

I want to thank Congressman SHIMKUS for his partnership on this resolution and urge my colleagues to pass it swiftly to reaffirm the United States' commitment to our NATO allies.

TRIBUTE TO NOEMI TORRES—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year,

we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Noemi Torres of West Hollywood, California.

Noemi Torres immigrated to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico at the age of 13. After some time in Seattle, Washington, she came to Los Angeles and now calls West Hollywood home. Ms. Torres came to California, as many do, to pursue her dreams. While she has a passion for photography and acting, she found herself working with a successful startup telecommunications company, and it was while at that company, that she was exposed to the real estate industry. Now Noemi is on the Modern Living LA team of the John Aaroe Group Sunset, where she uses her considerable talents to help her clients with their real estate needs.

Along with her incredible professional accomplishments, Ms. Torres has also shown herself to be an astoundingly capable community leader. She volunteers for Project Angel Food, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, the Revlon Run/Walk, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Heal the Bay, and the Downtown Women's Center. Noemi especially shines in her advocacy in her two terms on the City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board, which she currently chairs.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Noemi Torres.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GUS MACHADO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Gus Machado and celebrate his career.

Gus moved to the United States from Cuba with his family in 1949, and has become a symbol of the American dream for many. Through hard work and determination, Gus has built several successful car dealerships. He has managed to stay in business through a recession that had a significant impact on car sales, and worked diligently to avoid downsizing his workforce and keep others employed. Throughout his career in car sales, Gus has acted as an honorable man with the best interests of the community at heart.

For the past seven years, Gus Machado's businesses have received the Blue Oval Certification status from Ford Motor Company. Additionally, in 2013, one dealership received Ford Motor Company's highest honor, the President's Award.

Gus has proved himself to be dedicated to improving his community. In 2008, he founded the Gus Machado Family Foundation, which provides children with backpacks full of school supplies. The Foundation also works to keep children healthy by providing them with immunizations.

Gus is deeply involved with the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC, an organization dedicated to promoting freedom and democratic ideals in the communist country of Cuba. Although he