

learning takes place and students must be engaged with exciting instruction, materials, examples, and demonstrations of real world situations to excite their desire to learn and use what they learn for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Elizabeth D. Evans, an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

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RECOGNIZING BRET MANLEY

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**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bret Manley and thank him for his years of dedicated service.

Born and raised in San Dimas, California, Bret went on to attend the University of California, Berkeley Walter A. Haas School of Business. At the University, he served as the President of the Berkeley College Republicans, was a member of Phi Delta Theta, Order of Omega, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Associated Students of the University of California. Bret began his career in public service as an intern in Representative Gary Miller's office, where he was hired shortly after. Always a hard worker, Bret quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a legislative assistant and then a financial services policy advisor for Representative Miller. Prior to leaving Representative Miller's office, Bret was recognized as one of Capitol Hill's 50 Most Beautiful in 2010.

For the last six years, Bret has been a guiding figure in my office as Legislative Director. He has helped introduce 43 individual pieces of legislation, five of which were ushered into law. Thanks to Bret, you can now ride with your pet on AMTRAK and the federal government can more easily sell excess properties, relieving American taxpayers of government waste. He was instrumental in orchestrating the first Congressional hearing at the Old Post Office, which led to a long term lease of the building, eventually becoming the Trump International Hotel.

A champion of conservative values, he's also led the fight to keep the California High Speed Rail project transparent and accountable, while also managing a diverse portfolio of issues including financial services, immigration, economics, and transportation and infrastructure. He has worked tirelessly in his role as my chief advisor during my tenure as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. He was instrumental with policy formulations and the eventual passage of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act, Positive Train Control, and the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act, among many others. In addition, Bret also served as manager and coach at the biennial Congressional Football Game for Charity.

Although it is clear Bret doesn't mind the grueling pace of Capitol Hill, he can often be found on the golf course or singing lead vocals and playing guitar for his band, Full Fifth, self-described as "the most fun you'll have in public." In addition to work and his seemingly endless list of hobbies, Bret is also

a Lieutenant in the US Navy Reserves and has proudly served our country for the last six years.

His departure signifies a great change within my office. As my chief policy advisor, Bret was integral to all aspects of our day-to-day operations, from managing the legislative team to coordinating with the communications staff. Although we will miss him greatly, Team Denham wishes him the best in his next endeavor and I look forward to working with him in his new role at the Association of American Railroads, where he will continue his work in transportation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding Bret Manley for his unrelenting service and recognizing his great achievements during his time here in the House of Representatives.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAUX VINEYARDS

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**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breaux Vineyards of Purcellville, Virginia on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary celebration.

Situated on a 404-acre estate overlooking the beautiful valley between the Blue Ridge and Short Hill Mountains, Breaux Vineyards has for several years been voted Virginia's favorite winery because of its absolute commitment to excellence in the wines it produces and the hospitality that it extends to all of its guests.

Breaux Vineyards wines have a superior international reputation, having placed among the winners in more than 100 regional, national, and international competitions.

While Breaux Vineyards is also recognized as a first-rate venue for weddings and corporate meetings, I am grateful that the warm hospitality of the Breaux family and staff daily extends to my constituents residing in Loudoun County and northern Virginia. Often using the expression "No reservation or RSVP required," the vineyard invites local people and visiting tourists, including children and pets, to regularly enjoy the diverse events that take place there each year, including the Fourth Fridays activities that feature live entertainment, the annual Dog Day celebration, the Cajun Festival that is in its 20th year, and other regularly scheduled events. In addition, Breaux Vineyards offers itself as a venue for various local charity events, including the 3rd Annual Corks for a Cause that on May 19th of this year will be benefitting the Loudoun Child Advocacy Center, a program of the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter.

I am pleased to report that the wine industry in Virginia has grown so rapidly that the Commonwealth is now the fifth largest state for viticulture in the nation, with annual sales of close to \$1 billion. I am also pleased that Loudoun County has contributed to this success as the location of 44 of Virginia's 280 wineries, the most of any county in the Commonwealth, and that Breaux Vineyards, through its commitment to the quality of its wines and its hospitality, has been an extraordinary leader in our wine industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Breaux Vineyards for reaching this 20 year milestone and wish CEO Paul Breaux, Jr., Vice President Jennifer Breaux, and the entire Breaux Vineyard team continued phenomenal success in all of their future endeavors.

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RECOGNIZING MOLLY ORTEGA FOR HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE

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**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Ortega who is retiring after almost 35 years of federal service. Ms. Ortega has worked for decades at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to ensure these vital agencies have the resources and staff they need to keep us safe.

Ms. Ortega has utilized her decades of agency experience and insights to improve the safety of civil aviation in our region. She provided support and guidance to the management team in the staffing and training of essential personnel at TSA, and prior to that she was employed at the FAA for nearly two decades, working in multiple positions. I am proud to have such dedicated civil servants in my community that set an example for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Ortega for her dedication to the safety of travelers and passengers in our region. I congratulate her on a well-earned retirement and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

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CONGRATULATING THE 2017 ENLISTEES FROM FLORIDA'S 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 41 high school seniors from Florida's 20th Congressional district, who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these 41 fine young people, 14 have joined the United States Army, to include: William Bethel, Cameron Clayton, Javier Hernandez, Cassidy Anderson, Mack Cromer II, Derly Dorneus, Benjamin Gacel, Clayton Gibson, Ryan Golubovic, Tyler Grove, Ryan Julien, Corey Pritchett, Sean Riley and Julio Alvarez.

Seventeen have joined the United States Marine Corps, to include: Jason Marquez, Cristal Verdugo, Patrick Rhoden, Maikel Suarez, Kathy Sylvestre, Henry Rivera, Albert Londono, Lindel Coffie, Maya Colson, Weston Boyd, Nicolas Franco, Errohl Cruz, John Osegueda, Jonathan Thompson, Caitlin Silva, Melissa Edwards and Pierre Chery.

Five have joined the United States Navy, to include: Jade Apolo-Hecker, Miguel Scott, Brittany Stewart, Shinequah Stone and Ofelia Velasquez.

Four have joined the United States Army National Guard, to include: Cobe Pate,

Adamay Hernandez, Melissa Gutierrez and Moises Fernandez.

Thanks to the dedication of patriots such as these, we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our nation.

On behalf of myself and all my constituents in Florida's 20th Congressional district, I thank them for their service. I wish them the very best of luck now and in their future.

**HONORING JACK WALSH, RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 CHARLES H. FLYNN HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Ms. DELAUBRO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to join the communities of the Naugatuck Valley as they pay tribute to the outstanding and incalculable contributions of Jack Walsh by honoring him with the 47th Annual Charles H. Flynn Humanitarian Award. The oldest award of its kind, this prestigious honor is bestowed each year to a member of the Valley community in recognition of their lifetime commitment to service.

A life-long resident of Derby, Connecticut, Jack dedicated his personal and professional life to enriching the many communities of the Naugatuck Valley and improving the quality of life for all of its residents. Jack began his career as a teacher in Shelton and Derby, a high school basketball coach in Shelton, and the Director of the Derby Recreation Camp. In each of these roles, Jack helped to shape the hearts and minds of the next generations of Valley residents, ensuring that they had access to educational opportunities and provided a strong foundation on which to build their future success.

In 1989, Jack began his tenure as President & CEO of the Valley United Way—a career which spanned nearly thirty years until his retirement just last November. Under his tenure the organization grew as a community resource with the addition of the Youth Leadership Program, the Volunteer Action Center, and the partner Agency Council, which has since expanded to become the Valley Council for Health & Human Services. Jack also helped to spearhead the Valley's successful effort in the All-America City competition.

In addition to his professional contributions, Jack is an active member of the community. His seemingly innumerable titles include Chair of the Electronic Valley project, President of the Board of Directors at the Derby Neck Library, member and past president of both the Derby/Shelton Rotary Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, past President of the Board of Directors for the Derby Historical Society and former member of the board of directors for the Hallock's Landing Senior Housing Project. He served on the Valley Advisory Committee for the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, is a Corporator for Griffin Hospital and a member and past Co-chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Yale/Griffin Prevention Resource Center. Jack is a member of the Board of Directors for the Online Journalism Project, the parent organization for the Valley Independent Sentinel as

well as one of the founders and a committee member for the Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. Past Chair of Derby's Park & Recreation Commission, current Chair of the City's Greenway Committee, as well as co-Chair of the Naugatuck River Greenway Committee, his efforts have changed the very face of the Naugatuck Valley.

Jack's incredible service has been recognized by many over the years with a myriad of awards and commendations. He is recipient of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce's Gold Seal Award, the Lewis Savitsky Staff Excellence Award, the Hazel Knapp Award for regional leadership as well as the Derby Historical Society's Dr. John I. Howe Award just to name a few. He was named to the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Alumni Association Hall of Fame and honored by the Lower Naugatuck Valley Bar Association with their Liberty Bell Award. The YMCA presented him with their Strong Community Builder Award and the Women and Heart Disease Committee at Griffin Hospital presented him with their "Caring Heart" Award.

Tonight, marking his lifetime of service, Jack Walsh is presented with the Charles H. Flynn Humanitarian Award—and I cannot think of a more deserving individual to recognize for their commitment, dedication, and extraordinary good work. I am honored to join the communities of the Naugatuck Valley in thanking Jack for his unparalleled public service—his is a legacy that will not soon be matched and most certainly will continue to inspire service in others for generations to come.

**HONORING RAYMOND RANGERS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Raymond Rangers Boys Basketball Team, from my District, on the victory over Leake Central Boys Basketball Team in the Mississippi Boys Class 4A Championship Game (52–46).

I would like to recognize the team beginning with the coaching staff; Head Coach Robert Green, and the Assistant Coach, Terrell Anderson. Because of their hard work and dedication, the Rangers' 23–5 record has captured their second state championship in the school's history, and first state title (2017 District 3–4A Champions), since 1999.

The players' teamwork and athletic abilities are also evident with this victory. The players are: Keyundrea Downs, Tremayne Watts, Keivonte Watts, Tavian Coleman, Cameron Woodall, Jiris Killingsworth, DeMarius Daniels, SharDarrison Allen, TraDavis Thompson, JeKeivious Williams, Girrod Harris, Jared Keyes, Alvin Brown and Jakorie Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating one of the basketball teams in my district, Raymond Rangers Boys Basketball Team.

**RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER G. BARADAT ON RECEIVING THE AIR FORCE CROSS**

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Christopher G. Baradat upon being awarded the Air Force Cross, the service's highest combat medal of valor.

During his third deployment, Staff Sergeant Baradat called in close air support from A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter jets and AC-130 gunships while exposing himself directly to enemy gunfire. His efforts resulted in the safety and rescue of 150 troops and the destruction of 50 enemy and 13 separate fighting positions.

The courage shown by this dedicated Special Tactics Airman is a true testament of his character. Staff Sergeant Baradat embodies the selfless commitment to service, sacrifice, and exceptional skill of our Nation's service members.

The entire Northwest Florida community is immensely proud of our areas tradition of military service and support for those who wear the uniform. It is a true honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Baradat upon this most notable distinction.

**HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLA FITZGERALD**

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor "The First Lady of Song", Ella Fitzgerald on her 100th birthday.

Born on April 25, 1917 in Newport News, Virginia, Ella Jane Fitzgerald went on to define Jazz music for more than half a century. Fitzgerald's career first began when she performed at an amateur night contest at the Apollo Theater in 1934. She was just 17 years old and received first place. After overcoming a tumultuous childhood, Fitzgerald recorded her first major hit, "A-Tisket A-Tasket," in 1938 just four short years after her appearance at the Apollo Theater.

In 1958, during the inaugural Grammy Awards, Fitzgerald won best jazz performance and best female vocal performance. Remembered for her humble demeanor, effortless stage presence, and inventive voice, Fitzgerald recorded more than 200 albums in her lifetime and sold over 40 million records. During her impressive and lengthy career, Fitzgerald worked with many other great jazz artists of the time including Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and Dizzy Gillespie.

Ella Fitzgerald won 13 Grammy's during her lifetime, and was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, although Ella Fitzgerald is no longer here with us, her music is still celebrated throughout the world, especially in her