

birthplace of Newport News, Virginia, and I hope that it continues to inspire well beyond her 100th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR DAVID K.
PENDERGRASS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize David Pendergrass, the Mayor of Sand City, on his retirement after serving as mayor for thirty-five years. As an outstanding citizen and public servant, Mayor Pendergrass made a significant impact on the lives of citizens and the business community in Sand City in his four decades of public service.

As Mayor, he has achieved high praise for his accomplishments in the local, regional and business community on the Central Coast. In addition to his time as mayor, David was a professional artist and illustrator. He also had a thirty-two-year tenure working for the United States Army Training Division, in the Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization Support Center.

Mayor Pendergrass entered public service in 1978 and twice served as Chair of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Further, he served on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, the Monterey-Salinas Transit Board of Directors, the Regional Taxi Authority, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority and the Association of Monterey Area Governments.

During his tenure, Mayor Pendergrass has turned Sand City into a hub of economic and commercial activity. The accomplishments he has made to the Central Coast community will be felt for generations. His involvement in local and regional governance has provided a positive economic impact to the local business sector.

As Mayor, he has worked diligently on the challenging issue of water supply quantity and quality for the Monterey Peninsula. He also provided leadership in the community effort to deal with the closure of Fort Ord and establish CSU Monterey Bay. Mayor Pendergrass has deep roots in the community by raising three children, fourteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. I am proud of the mayor's many personal and professional accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedication and hard work Mayor Pendergrass has given to Sand City and the Central Coast region. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Pendergrass and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE BRENT
AKIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to recognize and thank Brent Akin for his selfless commitment to the safety and

well-being of the Montgomery County community.

On April 30th, Detective Akin of the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department will enter a well-deserved retirement after almost thirty years of dedicated public service.

A native Texan, Brent was born and raised in Houston by his parents, JoAnn and Rowland Akin. Together with his five siblings: Joe, Ricky, Bill, Deronda, and Rowland, Brent grew up in the Houston community. In 1983, Brent married the love of his life, Catherine Parada and, two years later, packed their belongings and moved to The Woodlands, TX where they have resided ever since. In 1987, Brent and Catherine welcomed a beautiful daughter, Emily, who has blessed them with a son-in-law, Stephen Richards, and a grandson, Noah.

Brent officially began his career in law enforcement when he graduated from the police academy in 1987. Just one year later, he joined the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, where he has served for nearly thirty years, working under five sheriffs. Most recently, Brent works as a Detective, but during his many years of distinguished service, he held various positions within the department as a Patrol Officer and Internal Affairs Officer.

Throughout his career, Brent has helped countless members of our community conducting criminal investigations, providing security for community events, and patrolling the cities and roads of Montgomery County. Brent has worked to solve many high profile cases, including the 1999 Wanda Pitts murder case. His close attention to detail, perseverance, commitment to the law and serving his community is evident in every case he has worked on.

Brent has honorably dedicated himself to Montgomery County as is evidenced by countless first-hand accounts and the many commendations he has received, such as the Public Safety Hero Award in 2009.

I am pleased to join Brent's family friends, the citizens of Montgomery County, and the entire Eighth Congressional District of Texas to give thanks and wish him well as he begins his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAY
TAMSI

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Jay Tamsi for his dedicated community service and to congratulate him for being selected as the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Delano, California.

Mr. Tamsi was born August 17, 1978 in Bakersfield, California to his parents, Olivia and Jimmy Tamsi. Mr. Tamsi has strong Kern County roots, having attended Cecil Avenue Middle School in Delano, Delano High School, and later the California State University, Bakersfield, where he graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Marketing.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a successful business owner of his own company, Tamsi Consulting Serv-

ices, Jay has been generous in giving back to his local community. A strong man of God, Jay serves as a member at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Delano and was responsible for organizing the induction of rites celebration for Father Loji Pilonas as the new priest of St. Mary's. Jay was an organizer for the St. Mary's Thanksgiving Community Feed, where he helped provide meals for less fortunate families during the holidays.

His community service extends past his parish; Mr. Tamsi works as the Director on several community boards including the Greater Area Delano Youth Foundation and the Philippine Weekend Executive Committee. He is also a Lifetime Member of Delano Harvest Holidays. Mr. Tamsi's love of service and community involvement extended into his creation of the only Filipino Hall in the State of California, which works to promote Filipinos' needs in the community.

Mr. Tamsi is being honored as the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta of his home city of Delano, California, which holds one of the largest and oldest celebrations in the United States. This high honor is being bestowed upon a great man who has spent countless hours helping his community and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Jay Tamsi for his years of community service and congratulating him on being the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Delano.

HONORING MILLS ACADEMY

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 a remarkable organization, Mills Academy.

With Mississippi schools mandating fundamental tests for kindergarten through third grade students to pass in order to advance to the next grade, one woman has made it her mission to help the children in the Greenville Public School District. Airmecia Mills, founder and director of Mills Academy, an after-school tutoring program for students in pre-K all the way through college, has started a free third-grade reading comprehension program in an effort to prepare area children for upcoming state tests. "We're encouraging students to read passages and comprehend what the questions are asking them with the same strategies they will be tested on," Mills said.

Last year, all of Mills' third-graders passed the reading gate and many of her students showed exceptional growth in their star literacy and reading test, she said. Aside from the reading program, Mills Academy provides after-school help for students in pre-k through 12th grade from 4:00-8:00 p.m. every week-day. While helping students to enhance their educational experience, the academy focuses on promoting academic achievement, developing stronger academic skills, test-taking and studying skills. Homework assistance, test prep and tutorials are given to students after school to help eliminate the illiteracy in the community.

Mills started this program towards the end of 2015 and her family was super supportive

of her. Mills is a graduate of Greenville Weston High School and Alcorn State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a special education and reading endorsement.

She was an educator in the public school district and realized there was a need for extra help for students in the after-school extended program.

With more than 20 students enrolled, Mills said she hopes to continue the growth of the academy and wants to be able to make a bigger impact. "I really believe I can make an impact in children's lives and I want to see growth in them. One of my main goals is to see how I helped that child. I am very passionate about education because it's the key to success," Mills said.

While Mills' focus right now is on the third-grade reading test, she also helps students prepare for the ACT. "I had one student to go from a 16 to an 18, and he was preparing to get into nursing school and that was his main focus," she said.

Parents in the community have been very supportive of her mission and have participated in many of the Mills Academy events, which include: fundraisers, paint classes, movie nights for the kids and even an event for Dr. Seuss' birthday that the parents and community supports," she said.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mills Academy for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ELKHART ON CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart on celebrating 100 years of service.

In 1917, the 36th Kiwanis Club was formed in Elkhart, Indiana. Since then, this incredible unit of volunteers and local leaders has been dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world and right here at home.

Kiwanis Clubs around the country and across the globe aim to encourage, support, and inspire local youth to make a difference in their communities. From rebuilding schools to hosting food drives, Kiwanians are serving others while learning to work together and find positive solutions to society's most challenging problems.

The commitment of Elkhart Kiwanis to serving our community is demonstrated by its signature program, Knowledge is Dynamite—or KID—Day. Twice a year, they honor a group of local fourth grade students who have demonstrated perseverance and personal growth. Over the last 30 years, they have recognized the achievements of more than 1,300 students and inspired countless more to set and strive toward meaningful goals.

The longstanding tradition of volunteerism and leadership runs strong in the Kiwanis members in Elkhart. I am incredibly grateful for the positive role this organization has played in making our community a better place. When children are empowered to break through obstacles and help those in need,

anything is possible. Children are safer, healthier, and happier because of the hard work and determination of Kiwanians. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club, our future is in good hands.

The impressive growth and charitable reach of the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart is a true reflection of the hardworking Hoosier spirit its members embody.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart for continuing to provide such a remarkable opportunity for children and young adults to challenge themselves and fight for worthy causes in their own neighborhoods and on the global stage.

IN RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANT WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Portuguese Immigrant Week. As members of the Portuguese community in the Sacramento region celebrate and gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them and their long history and contributions to our region and country.

California was discovered by Portuguese explorer Joao Rodrigues Cabrillo in 1542. Centuries later, in the mid-1800s, Portuguese immigrants made new roots for their families setting in our state—many owned, operated, or worked on a dairy farm or in the dairy-related industry. Throughout the many decades, the Portuguese communities in California have made a great effort to preserve their culture and identity. The Portuguese communities and their members contribute many services to the local community and they are always striving to uphold the values that the Portuguese community holds dear. Fifty years ago, recognizing their contributions, then Governor Ronald Reagan declared the second week of March as "Portuguese Immigrant Week". We celebrate the long history of the Portuguese community in our region. The community in Sacramento continues to share their rich and beautiful heritage and we will continue to celebrate their influence in our region.

Mr. Speaker, as members of our community gather to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our Portuguese families, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication.

BEN DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to offer a word of congratulations to the Ben Davis High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team. The Giants captured the Division 4A Indiana State Boys Basketball Championship on March 25, 2017 at Bankers Life Field House in Indianapolis after a 55–52 win over Fort Wayne North Side.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without, Head Coach Mark James, who is in his 35th year coaching the Giants and boasted that "it's been a team effort all year." The entire team, including the players, coaches, managers and fans should be proud of their record, including a 14 game winning streak, and for bringing their school a third championship.

Winning a state championship is reaching the pinnacle of basketball and the entire Indianapolis community is proud to celebrate their accomplishments this season.

RECOGNIZING THE PENSACOLA BLUE WAHOOS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Baseball Team, in Northwest Florida. In 2016, the Southern League of Professional Baseball Clubs announced the Wahoos as the winners of the "Community Service Award".

In addition, the Director of Sports Turf Management for the Blue Wahoos, Ray Sayre, was named the "Groundskeeper of the Year" for the fourth consecutive season.

The team members have demonstrated a profound dedication to their community by participating in activities that directly benefit and uplift the Pensacola area.

The Wahoos' outreach has helped such organizations as the Epilepsy Foundation of Northwest Florida, Autism Pensacola, the United Way, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, and many more.

Working with the Studer Community Institute, through such programs as "Kazoo's Grand Slam Reading Program", the team has highlighted the priority of Early Childhood Education; this program reached over 9,000 students and parents in 2016.

The Blue Wahoos have a long history of taking an active role in their community. In 2012, their unwavering support and involvement resulted in them being named the "Southern League Organization of the Year", "Ballpark Digest's Organization of the Year", and "Ballpark of the Year" by Baseballparks.com.

The tradition of excellence has continued since 2013, when the team was named "Stadium Journey's Best Minor League Ballpark Experience"; and again, awarded the "Southern League Community Service Award". Since then, the Blue Wahoos have won many awards from a multitude of organizations because of their selfless contributions to the Pensacola area.

I would like to personally thank all of the past and present members of the Blue Wahoos, as well as all of the employees who participate and provide support for the team and community events. I would also like to thank Quint Studer and his team for providing the leadership that supports this remarkable cooperative contribution.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Baseball Team for their continuous devotion to enhancing their community and for their contribution to an immeasurable positive