

JOHN COBEAGA

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say goodbye and Godspeed to a longtime friend, John Mitchell Cobeaga. Mitch, his wife Sylvia, and their children have lived next door to us for some thirty years. We often hid the "presents from Santa" in our garage until Christmas morning when the children could be surprised by shiny new bikes. His law office was also next to my congressional office in downtown Las Vegas and I often visited with him there.

Mitch was well respected for his advocacy work for fellow veterans. Mitch graduated from the U.S. Airforce Academy and was a proud member of the 20th Cadet Squadron, "Tough Twenty Trolls." He became a Wild Weasel fighter pilot and flew over 100 combat missions in Vietnam. After his military service, he founded the Veterans Ask-a-Lawyer program, a free legal program to help vets in need.

Mitch also had a reputation as a hero for the little guy in the courtroom where he had a commanding presence. He contributed to many of Nevada's largest cases, including the one involving the 1988 perchlorate explosion at the Pacific Engineering and Production Company which killed two people and caused billions of dollars in damage throughout the Henderson area. His colleague Robert Murdock noted that "he had a hand in mentoring most of the lawyers in Southern Nevada at one point or another" and should be honored by having a courtroom named for him.

Sylvia said that Mitch will be remembered for his intelligence, sense of morality, and the importance he placed on family. And he never took himself seriously, she said. He always had time for everyone he passed in the courtroom, office, and around town. We will all miss his warm laughter, his kind words, and his sage counsel very much.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH CENTRALIA

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of First Baptist Church Centralia, founded in 1867 in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Originally Salem African Baptist Church, the African American congregation held its first 30 years of services under an arbor made of brush on a modest one-acre plot. The first building was officially erected in 1897 under the leadership of the Reverend T. H. Johnson, incorporating Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival style elements.

Later this building was remodeled by Reverend William Thomas into the historic building we know today as Centralia, featuring its signature twin towers. Under the leadership of Reverend Samuel Carter and Dr. Wilson E. Brown Shannon the church grew as a congregation and as a spiritual beacon for its members. Dr. Shannon extended the reach of the church by expanding the Samuel Moss

Carter Family Life Center to accommodate up to 150 preschool children, banquet amenities to accommodate 750 occupants, and other family life ministry facilities including an indoor Olympic sized swimming pool.

Shortly after the groundbreaking of this highly anticipated Family Life Center, the Historic First Baptist Church Centralia was destroyed by fire on April 16, 1996. Rebuilt to original specifications in 1997 following the arson attack, a rededication ceremony was held in celebration. On November 22, 2014, the Historic First Baptist Church Centralia was designated a Chesterfield County Historic Landmark. A Virginia Historical Highway Marker was also erected in recognition of its historical and architectural significance in November 2015.

As First Baptist Church Centralia celebrates its 150th year anniversary, may your efforts and continued courage to spread the gospel of God through oratory teachings, community involvement and leadership be commended.

HONORING LOUIS FARINELLA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sorrow at the loss of my friend Louis Farinella. Lou was one of the most dynamic men I know.

He worked his way up from the bottom of the Philadelphia Electric Company to the post of Administration Manager. That was a sign of his talent.

He was a Democratic Committeeman in the Ward 66 B for 45 years. He was also Chairman of the Parkwood Civic Association Zoning Committee. Those were signs of his commitment to his community.

He worked for me at the Philadelphia Democratic City Committee for 22 years. That was a sign of his loyalty.

But most of all, Lou was Florence's loving husband for 56 years. They had two children, Louis III and John and four grandchildren, John, Ryan, Tyler and Angela. He loved and was loved by his sister, Marie. Those were all signs of his heart.

Mr. Speaker, Lou probably never knew how important he was to me. But, I know it. I miss him and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in giving the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family.

KATY PRINCIPAL NAMED DISTINGUISHED
PRINCIPAL FINALIST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kwabena Mensah of Katy, for being named as a Texas National Distinguished Principal finalist by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).

Out of 123 nominations, only eight were selected as finalists for this prestigious honor. The National Distinguished Principal is the

highest honor a principal can achieve, with the winner receiving \$10,000 and a trip to Washington, DC, in the fall. Kwabena is the principal at Polly Ann McRoberts Elementary School and was chosen as a finalist for being an engaging leader who's created a unique learning environment. This year, Kwabena was named Principal of the Year at Katy Independent School District and the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators. Way to go.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kwabena Mensah for earning this distinction. Our children benefit from his commitment to education and we thank him for his hard work.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
SHAFFER ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Shaffer of Hicksville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Elizabeth's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2021. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Elizabeth brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2021. While attending Hicksville High School in Hicksville, Ohio, Elizabeth was a member of the National Honor Society and class president.

Throughout high school, Elizabeth served as team captain on the basketball, track, and volleyball teams, and participated in the marching band. I am confident that Elizabeth will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elizabeth Shaffer on the offer of her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Elizabeth will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the

Girls of Steel Robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration Award at the 2017 Greater Pittsburgh Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in California, PA. This award celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community, and it qualified them to attend Championships in St. Louis April 26–29, 2017 for the seventh year in a row. This was their best year at Championships, where they ranked 28 out of 68, with 6 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie match.

I think that placing so high nationally and winning the Engineering Inspiration award at the regional competition speaks volumes about the dedication these young women have demonstrated in pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math careers, sustaining their team, and collectively spending thousands of hours doing outreach in the community. Girls of Steel are often referred to as the hometown favorite robotics group and continue to be featured in videos, print media, and blog posts. In October 2016, they were represented at The White House Frontiers Conference in Pittsburgh where President Obama recognized the Girls of Steel teams.

George Kantor, Senior Systems Scientist at Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, won the prestigious Woodie Flowers Finalist Award at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competition. This award is presented to mentors in the robotics competition who best lead, inspire, and empower their teams using excellent communication skills.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in the participants. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experience through FIRST every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are important tools for helping young people to explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the remarkable economic growth and job creation that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. I want to commend organizations like FIRST for the important work they do in encouraging young people to pursue STEM careers.

Sixty-three young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around Pittsburgh represent this year's Girls of Steel program, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Alexandria Adams, Abhi Ajay, Aeryn Anderson, Peyton Balkovec, Arushi Bandi, Emilia Bianchini, Emma Burnett, Rosy Chen, Maya Cranor, Maansi Dasari, Hope DiGioia, Riley Doyle, Sofia Heller, Kristina Hilko, Madelyn Human, Rozie Fero, Corinne Hartman, Anna Jablonowski, Caroline Kenney, Isabelle Kowenhoven, Mary Laird, Jisue Lee, Agathe Legault, Rosie Li, Alice Liu, Sally Liu, Gayathri Manchella, Eve Mango, Jordan Martinez, Maia McCabe, Svea McCann, Sree Mekala, Cheyenne Meyers, Abbey Murcek, Anna Nesbitt,

Anne Kailin Northam, Jimin Oh, Helen Paulini, Lehka Pendyala, Ananya Rao, Priya Ray, Maité Sadeh, Rachel Sadeh, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Swathi Senthil, Kriti Shah, Vivian Shao, Lauren Shovlin, Makayla Shreve, Amari Smith, Imani Smith, Kavya Soman, Ace Song, Adison Staskiewicz, JeanMarie Trichel, Mikayla Trost, Langley Turcsanyi, Anja Vogt, Janet Wang, Rebecca Wettergreen, and Ziya Xu.

Additionally, I want to convey my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. Because of their efforts, more young women experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving such problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future, no matter what careers they eventually choose to pursue.

I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

HONORING KATHY KRUSE

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathleen Kruse, a long-time member of Senator Ted Kennedy's staff and a tireless advocate for arts and cultural policy. Kathy is stepping down from her role as Vice President of Institutional Affairs and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she has served with distinction for the past seven years.

Kathy had a long and accomplished career in the Senate as the Cultural Policy Advisor and Senior Counselor for Senator Kennedy for 30 years. In this capacity and throughout her tenure, she was the staff liaison for Senator Kennedy to the Kennedy Center's Board of Trustees. During her time in the Senate, she was a fierce advocate for arts organizations nationally, authored key Kennedy Center legislation and served as a trusted liaison to and friend of the Kennedy family.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Kathy's daughter, Sasha, who has supported her mother's work in public service, and shared her with us during her many late nights in the Senate and at the Kennedy Center.

Kathy is a fixture in the arts and cultural landscape in Washington, DC and across the country, and she will be dearly missed. We are certain that she will find tremendous success in her next professional ventures and that she will enjoy spending more time with her family. On behalf of the Kennedy Center's Board of Trustees, I offer my sincere gratitude to Kathy for her many contributions to the United States Congress, the Kennedy Center and our nation.

REMEMBERING FORMER BOULDER CITY MAYOR ROBERT STANLEY FERRARO

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and commemorate the life of Robert Stanley Ferraro, a pillar in our community and one of the longest-serving public officials in Nevada history, who passed away last week at the age of 81.

Robert Ferraro served on the Boulder City Council for 31 years and was Boulder City's first elected mayor, and successfully stood for election nine times. He knocked on every voter's door, and provided leadership to one of the most unique communities in our state.

Bob led the effort to maintain Boulder City's character as a special community, and to be the "Clean, Green Boulder City" that many of my constituents call home, and thousands visit each year.

He was named Nevada Public Official of the Year in 1986, Community Leader of the Year in 2001, and led a life that was a true American success story, coming from humble beginnings to be one of the great civic leaders in our state. He will be greatly missed, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

PIMA COUNCIL ON AGING—50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Pima Council on Aging on its 50th anniversary of service to older adults and their families in Congressional District Three.

As one of the nation's oldest Area Agencies on Aging, Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) has advocated on behalf of older adults since the days when 30 percent of Americans aged 60 and older lived in poverty. That number has been reduced by nearly two-thirds over the past five decades, but there is much work still to be done. PCOA's efforts are tireless and they continue to be at the forefront of advocacy and services to older adults in Pima County.

The work done by PCOA and the aging services network is more critical now than ever before. Each day, up to 10,000 baby boomers are turning 65 and over the next twenty years, 75 million baby boomers will reach retirement age. In Pima County, older adults are the fastest growing portion of the population. Continuing to work towards solutions and support systems to combat pressing concerns like the fear of falling and understanding the Medicare system are paramount to PCOA's success and our communal success.

Over the years, I've come to know the organization well. Since the beginning, Marian Lupu was the zealous driving force behind better care and programs for older adults in Pima County, the State of Arizona, nationally,