

IN RECOGNITION OF KATIE
SIMMONS HICKEY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge one of my constituents, Kate Simmons Hickey, for her exemplary leadership and steadfast commitment in her efforts to raise awareness for Leukemia and Lymphoma. She got involved with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2015 when she learned about the Man and Woman of the Year campaign. That year she was named the LLS Woman of the Year for the National Capital Area and the First National Runner Up.

Ms. Hickey, a lifelong resident of Great Falls and Langley High School graduate, was inspired to work with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society after her father-in-law, Marty, passed away and her best friend went into remission from Lymphoma. She became involved in the Man and Woman of the Year campaign, which is a national 10-week fundraising competition, and two years ago, Ms. Hickey raised \$280,000 within that time frame, making her the second highest fundraiser in the nation and the strongest fundraiser in our region. Today, she has assumed a leadership role at the LLS and is responsible for picking Woman and Man of the Year candidates. Each year she aims to raise \$2.5 million in the 10-week period, and I commend her for her leadership and dedication to the LLS.

Along with her efforts with the LLS, Ms. Hickey is also heavily involved in her local community. She currently serves on the Celebrate Great Falls Board of Directors, an organization which for nearly 20 years has been responsible for planning community events and preserving many long time traditions in Great Falls.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest congratulations to Ms. Hickey for all the work she has done for LLS and the Great Falls community. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THEA MEI LEE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE AFL-CIO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, and my colleagues PETER A. DEFazio, DEBBIE DINGELL, MARCY KAPTUR, BARBARA LEE, SANDER M. LEVIN, JAMES P. MCGOVERN, BILL PASCRELL JR., MARK POCAN, and ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT. It is our honor to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues in extending our deepest thanks and appreciation to Thea Mei Lee, as she marks her retirement as Deputy Chief of Staff at the AFL-CIO.

Over the past twenty years, Thea has made an indelible impact on the AFL-CIO, fighting for trade and economic policies for working families that would promote shared prosperity

and sustainable growth. Thea began working for the AFL-CIO in March 1997 as the Assistant Director for the Trade Task Force, and was subsequently promoted to the positions of Director of Public Policy, Chief International Economist and Deputy Chief of Staff.

Thea led the fight against harmful trade agreements and policies negotiated in a manner damaging to working people's interests, including the North American Free Trade agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, the World Trade Organization; the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-China BIT, and many others.

Her work was instrumental to the defeat of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, and the Multilateral Investment Agreement—harmful trade agreements that would have advanced profits over people and the planet.

She has testified on behalf of America's working people before both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. And, she has contributed valued work to the conversation around fair trade, including co-authoring A Field Guide the Global Economy.

She has often made the case for a fair and inclusive economy—eloquently and passionately on the PBS News Hour, CNN, Good Morning America, and NPR's All Things Considered among others. In 2013, she was named a "Top Lobbyist" by The Hill.

Thea has fought to ensure that all workers around the globe are treated with dignity and afforded fundamental labor rights as recognized by the International Labor Organization. And, she has mobilized workers, helping turn out thousands of working people to protest unjust WTO policies at "The Battle in Seattle."

The AFL-CIO sets a national standard in the fight for working Americans, in large part because of Thea's work. She has left her mark on this outstanding organization and a legacy that will continue to inspire others to ensure that fair trade benefits working Americans. Her career should encourage all elected officials to continue to focus on building a better, stronger, more inclusive economy for all the people of the United States.

We are honored to stand today to extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Thea Lee for her outstanding leadership and good work as well as our very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.

HONORING KOLLIN LARS
WILLIAMSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kollin Lars Williamson. Kollin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1333, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kollin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kollin has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kollin has served his troop as the Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Kollin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kollin led a team in restoring a section of trail in the Green Hills of Platte Wildlife Preserve in Parkville, Missouri, laying down mulch for a two hundred foot portion of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kollin Lars Williamson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MAUDY SIMPSON-
WRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Maudy Simpson-Wright.

Maudy Simpson-Wright as born September 22, 1954 to the late Leroy and Annie Bell Simpson in Sumner, MS. She was the first born of twelve children. She faced many challenges in her up-rearing, but thanks to God she had a praying mother and grandparents (Clarence & Maudy Roby) of Minter City, MS. In 1960, she moved to Falcon, MS and lived with her uncle. Later that year, Maudy's mother met an married Lonzo Smith and moved into a new home. Maudy graduated in 1968 from Falcon Elementary School and graduated in 1972 from Quitman County High School. She attended Miller-Hawkins-Business College, Memphis, TN from August 1972–July 1973.

Her mother became sick and she came back home to take care of her. Sadly she passed away in December of 1983; this was heart-breaking for all twelve children left without a mother, but Maudy's grandmother stepped up to the plate.

In August 1973, she was blessed with a job as a secretary at Falcon Elementary School where she remained for 22 years until the school closed. The school then moved to Southside Elementary where she worked five more years and retired. Maud would later hold positions at the Grand Casino, Coahoma Community College, QCDO Daycare, and the Quitman County Sheriff Department. Currently, she is a Parent Coordinator at Quitman County Middle School.

She is a graduate of Coahoma Community College and Mississippi Valley State University. She has also completed coursework at Tougaloo College.

She met and married Mr. Booker Wright, Jr. in 2004. She has one son, Daryl Levon Toles, and one granddaughter, Desiree Orange, whom she loves very much. Together, they have many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and other parent's children. She is a member of New St. John MB Church, Darling, MS under the leadership of Pastor Jimmy Jones.

Maudy loves Psalms 23, because of what it states: "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maudy Simpson-Wright, because she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELITE
PUREED MEALS

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elite Pureed Meals of Broomall, Pennsylvania for earning a Chester and Delaware County SCORE 2017 Small Business Award.

SCORE is a non-profit organization that helps small businesses by providing them with mentorship and educational workshops. Small businesses that earn a SCORE award "have demonstrated unique vision, innovation and achievement in support of America's economy and small business community."

Elite Pureed Meals deserves this designation. Colleen McCloskey was inspired to create Elite Pureed Meals while she operated an in-home care service. She witnessed a client lose a dangerous amount of weight due to swallowing difficulties and the unappealing food prepared for someone with that symptom. Colleen knew how important it was for him to have access to nutritious and appealing meals. She dedicated her small business to securing that access. Elite Pureed Meals prepares and delivers frozen pureed meals to those with swallowing disorders, helping them maintain a balanced diet and stay healthy.

I congratulate Elite Pureed Meals on their award. I am proud to serve them and the other small businesses in Pennsylvania's 7th District.

SULLIVAN COUNTY VETERANS
CEMETERY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a speech I delivered at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery on May 29, 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished hosts, our Gold Star Mothers, and all honored guests: Thank you for gathering here with us on this observance of Memorial Day. It is my great privilege and distinct honor to speak to you today.

Memorial Day. A day of remembrance to our fallen soldiers. A day when all Americans are reminded of those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms. This is perhaps best honored by the phrase uttered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. They gave to the cause of liberty, he said, "their last full measure of devotion."

Here in the 19th Congressional District, the history of our Sullivan County neighbors has made an everlasting contribution to the principles of self-sacrifice, patriotism and freedom we commemorate each Memorial Day.

Sullivan County is the namesake of Major General John Sullivan, an officer of the Revolutionary War. Sullivan was a lawyer, poli-

tician, prisoner of war and military tactician who was selected by George Washington to carry out a difficult campaign against British forces and Loyalists in what was then the borderlands of New York and Pennsylvania. Sullivan was a towering figure who believed in the American experiment and rejected the entreaties of the British to lure him to their side. He had his feet planted firmly in the soil of this continent.

During the Civil War, New York provided more men and munitions to the Union cause than any other state. But it was Sullivan County that let the men march. Over 80 percent of all the leather goods used by the Union side where conditioned in the tanning vats of Sullivan County, including Monticello's 143rd Infantry Regiment. It has been said with justification that "the Civil War was won with boots tanned in Sullivan County." Each step of the journey to preserve the Union and destroy the evil of slavery began here.

Here at the Veterans Cemetery, we have a visual reminder in the form of Sgt. Kenneth Von Ronn's M60A3 tank. Sgt. Von Ronn was killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was laid to rest in this place, downhill from his tank, fittingly inscribed on the marker as a "trooper and his mount." The vehicle today stands guard for all those here, opposing America's enemies for all eternity.

At Arlington National Cemetery, the 3rd US Infantry, the Old Guard, adorns thousands upon thousands of rows of headstones with American flags each Memorial Day. Each austere monument stands in perfect symmetry with the next. This is an act of gratitude to each individual warrior and the nation as a whole.

Memorial Day is an enduring reminder of those who gave their lives for our nation. We live in a time when only a small percentage of American families have someone who is serving on either active duty or in the reserves. As such, it is all the more important that we gather together on this solemn day to honor their sacrifice.

So too on this day, our obligation is not just to remember. It is also to teach our children and grandchildren that our liberty is more than just the words of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Those documents are the foundation stones of our system of government and the truth that governments derive their powers from the people and not the other way around. And further that the inalienable rights we enjoy as a free people come from God and not from government.

But none of this would be possible without the sacrifice of those we remember today. Inscribed on statuary at the National Archives building in Washington is the phrase "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." We need to constantly remind ourselves that freedom is not free. Our liberties are guaranteed us by our Constitution and Bill of Rights; but they were also made possible by the determination of multiple generations of Americans who answered their nation's call and who defended our liberties to the last breath on the fields of battle.

We stand on the shoulders of the fallen today. We owe them our eternal gratitude; our respect; and that their collective sacrifice is forever etched onto our collective memories.

I recently read a quote attributed to the son of a U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan. He said of his father: "His life was not taken: It was given, to his country."

His life was not taken: it was given, so that others can live in freedom and liberty. That truly sums up what we should always remember about those we honor on Memorial Day. May God bless our fallen soldiers and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING JACK SCHLEETER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Schleeter. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jack has served his troop as an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become a member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jack has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jack constructed two 8 x 12 foot planters outside St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Liberty, Missouri, filling the planters with 6 bushes and 24 perennials.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack Schleeter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for its efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CECILIA
LAIDEMITT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Cecilia Laidemitt, the Associate Superintendent of Personnel and Administrative Services for the South Whittier School District. After a dedicated and impactful 52 years with the district, Mrs. Laidemitt is retiring at the end of this school year.

Mrs. Laidemitt is appreciated and admired by many in this community, and has set a high bar for those to follow her. From a young age, Mrs. Laidemitt knew teaching was her dream. She attended Whittier College, and later received her teaching credentials and began her career at Los Altos Elementary School.

Over the years she has served in a number of roles including teacher, principal, and Director of Curriculum. In each position she has brought her inspiring attitude and passion for learning. Mrs. Laidemitt often stated how she "loved seeing the light go on for students." And it's this passion that has made her successful and cherished.

Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed in the community; she is beloved by all she encounters. A truly admirable public servant, I wish Mrs. Laidemitt a happy and well-deserved retirement. You are an inspiration to us all, and your wisdom and kindness will be greatly missed.