

text messages to do the same thing. And in 2005, the Macomb County Clerk's office was recognized for providing free bus rides to jurors, while in 2016, they received an award for providing jurors with Uber rides to the court.

Those who know Carmella Sabaugh well, as I do, know that her excellence in public service is matched by the quality of her friendship. In the many years I have known her, I have deeply appreciated her warmth, kindness, and generosity of spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Carmella Sabaugh provided the people of Macomb County with truly outstanding service for 40 years. I encourage my colleagues to join me in expressing deep appreciation for all she has done, and in wishing her well in retirement.

#### HONORING JERRY THATCHER

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very special Kentuckian, Mr. Jerry Thatcher.

Mr. Thatcher spent 34 years as an educator in Bath County, Kentucky. He taught at Bethel Elementary and Bath County Middle School. He served as assistant principal at Owingsville Elementary School and as principal at Crossroads Elementary School. Mr. Thatcher also coached soccer, basketball, and tennis and sponsored the Beta Club and many science fairs. He was passionate about education and was a lasting influence on countless lives.

Following his retirement in 2016, Mr. Thatcher became involved in the Kentucky Patriot Guard Riders. While returning from his third mission, he tragically lost his life in an accident. He is survived by his wife Melanie, two sons, and two grandchildren. In memory of his exemplary life, a stretch of US 60 between two of the schools he served is being named the "Jerry Thatcher Memorial Highway."

Mr. Thatcher was a passionate educator, dedicated family man, follower of Christ, and patriotic American. I am honored to recognize the life of Mr. Jerry Thatcher before the United States House of Representatives.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MEREDITH SHARP

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Meredith Sharp of Springfield has just been named one of the top honorees in Missouri by The 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Sharp is being recognized for raising over \$13,000 to provide new athletic shoes for all 311 students at a local elementary school in a low-income area of Springfield. She cre-

ated a nonprofit organization called "Just for Kicks," then began seeking donations in person and by mail from relatives, neighbors and business leaders. While she had hoped to collect enough money to buy shoes for one class of kids, she had collected enough for an entire school in just a matter of months.

It's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. Young volunteers like Ms. Sharp are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 22 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 115,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Sharp should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I wish Ms. Sharp luck with all her future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this momentous achievement.

#### VICTORIA MCCOLLUM

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria McCollum for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Victoria McCollum is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria McCollum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria McCollum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### LT. COL. AND STAFF

#### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Molly Nelson and her entire Veterans Affairs staff. Lt. Col. Nelson is a Doctor in the Missouri VA Clinic and has dedicated

her life to healing and helping veterans who have risked their lives for our country.

Lt. Col. Nelson and her staff continuously go the extra mile for our veterans to make sure they get immediate and effective care. I am honored to share my gratitude and respect for this Missouri Clinic and their dedication and compassion are an inspiration to us all.

#### 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

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, PETER A. DEFazio, DEBBIE DINGELL, KEITH ELLISON, 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 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 to 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.

COMMEMORATING THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, June 6, marks the 73rd anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil and aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For nearly seventy years, from April 4, 1949 to January 20, 2017, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Mr. Speaker, "Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

They fight not for the lust of conquest.

They fight to end conquest.

They fight to liberate.

They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high; U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians. German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day plus 5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the world could remain free.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLUTONIC HARMONICS FLUTE STUDIO

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a local flute studio and flute choir in my district, Flutonic Harmonics, for their hard work, dedication to the arts, and immense achievements for which they have attained national recognition over the past year. Local choirs and organizations, like Flutonic Harmonics, are vital to engaging our youth and expanding their educational experience beyond the classroom.

Flutonic Harmonics is led by my constituent, Michelle Rubis, of Purcellville, Virginia, and under her leadership they have experienced tremendous success. Last year, the flute choir performed before the entire Purcellville Town Council and subsequently at the Universal STARS Performance Program. This annual event takes place at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, and gives some of the nation's most prestigious marching bands, concert bands, dance teams, choirs, or other performing groups the opportunity to showcase their talents on a national stage in front of thousands of Universal Studios visitors. Additionally, this program allows for these young musicians to interact with other talented artists around the country.

This coming June, Flutonic Harmonics will be recording their recital and sending it to several famous venues in New York, Boston, and even Italy for consideration. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Flutonic Harmonics and Michelle Rubis for their participation in Universal STARS Performance Program and for their exemplary