

uniform. Nolan is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Nolan and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Nolan.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Nolan Laufenberg as an appointee to the Air Force Academy for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

ALEYNA RENEAU

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

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

Aleyna Reneau is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aleyna Reneau 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 Aleyna Reneau 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on June 7th and June 8th, 2017, I missed the following votes due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call Number 292, To Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 293, On Agreeing to the Michelle Lujan Grisham Amendment to H.R. 2213, I would have voted Aye.

On Roll Call Number 294, On Final Passage of H.R. 2213, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 295, On Agreeing to the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 10, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 296, On Agreeing to the Hollingsworth Amendment to H.R. 10, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 297, On Agreeing to the Faso Amendment to H.R. 10, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 298, On Agreeing to the Buck Amendment to H.R. 10, I would have voted No.

On Roll Call Number 299, On Final Passage of H.R. 10, I would have voted No.

ACKNOWLEDGING REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES SARGENT FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, public service is not just a career path, it is a way of life. Many aspire to this role but very few fulfill this profession devoutly. These diligent leaders seek and strive to empower their constituency. They understand the pulse and the needs of their community and give the people their voice. Today, I would like to acknowledge Representative Charles Sargent for his service to our community, state, and nation.

Service is not a foreign term to Representative Sargent. He faithfully served in the United States Navy. His time in the military and as a business leader created the foundation of his life's work as a strong conservative leader in the Tennessee State House. His leadership in business and the insurance industry served as an asset which made him an outstanding and excellent leader as the chairman of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee. Representative Sargent is also generous with his time, energy, and resources. He dedicates himself to multiple charities throughout our state. True leadership is not as it appears but as it performs. His admirable service in making the tough decisions today will make a brighter future for millions of Tennesseans tomorrow. His insight will continue to impact our state and we look forward to his leadership in the future.

RECOGNIZING SHAINA SMIDT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shaina Smidt, an Air Force Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Shaina is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for her service. It is with great pleasure that I give her my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Shaina served as the Captain of her school's Varsity Basketball team for most of her high school years, and also worked as a student basketball coach, demonstrating a real gift of leadership and heart for service. Additionally, Shaina received a variety of academic awards and was a member of her high school's chapter of the National Honor Society, showing her commitment to and passion for education.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Shaina and her family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Shaina.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Shaina Smidt as an appointee to the Air Force Academy for her commitment to protect and serve our nation.

ANAIIS RIVERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

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

Anais Rivera is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anais Rivera 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 Anais Rivera 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.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT ELKS LODGES

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Northeast District Elks Lodges in Wisconsin's 8th Congressional district for their strong support of patriotism in their communities. In 1907, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks designated Flag Day as June 14th. The Elks have paired their traditions and culture with that of our Country and made the American Flag a symbol of self-dedication to God, to Country, and to Fellowmen.

I would like to call attention to their dedication and passion to this nation and the flag that represents it. This year, members of Green Bay Elks Lodge 259 will be celebrating Flag Day for the 108th consecutive year. Members of Appleton Elks Lodge 337 are celebrating their chapter founding the oldest Flag Day parade since 1950.

Citizens from Oconto, Kaukauna, and Marinette are also given the chance to celebrate this important day. Oconto Elks Lodge 887, Kaukauna Elks Lodge 962, and Marinette Elks Lodge 1313 give Americans this opportunity.

Flag Day is a day honoring the symbolism the flag provides to all American citizens. It is my honor to report this type of patriotism displayed by constituents in northeastern Wisconsin.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIERRA CLUB OF MICHIGAN FOR 50 YEARS OF SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sierra Club of Michigan on the organization's 50th Anniversary. The Sierra Club has played a pivotal role in helping protect Michigan's environmental heritage.

Originally founded in 1967 as an all-volunteer organization, the Sierra Club of Michigan is today comprised of 10 different branches that further its mission of grassroots activism in defense of the state's environment. Through its advocacy and efforts, the Sierra Club has secured important protections and environmental safeguards that protect some of Michigan's most well-known landmarks and natural spaces, including the Pictured Rocks and the Sleeping Bear Dunes. Additionally, the organization has been instrumental in spurring Congress to ban drilling for oil under the Great Lakes and promoting environmentally sound resource management of the state's forests and fisheries. The Sierra Club has also played a key role in passing legislation to mandate the use of renewable energy and establish strong energy efficiency standards for the State of Michigan. These policy solutions have had a positive impact on the public health of Michigan's residents and the environment.

Careful stewardship of the environment is critical to the future of Michigan, and the Sierra Club of Michigan's efforts over the past 50 years have helped institute safeguards that protect health and safety for future generations. As the home of the Great Lakes and a wide variety of wildlife, Michigan's environmental legacy is fundamental to its economy and the well-being of its citizens, and it is critical that we continue to protect this important part of our state's identity. Sierra Club of Michigan's actions have been key to raising awareness and driving action to prevent harm to public health and the state's nature resources, and it is my hope that the organization continues its great work in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sierra Club of Michigan on the 50th Anniversary of its founding. The group and its members have helped safeguard Michigan's environment and wildlife for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEAM MATHIAS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituents, Roya and Chris Giordano, and Team Mathias, an extraordinary non-profit organization located in Loudoun County, Virginia, for their work to increase awareness about pediatric cancer and also to support families whose loved ones are struggling with the disease. Team Mathias is

named after Mathias Giordano, whose determination to make a difference in the lives of other pediatric cancer patients resulted in the establishment of the organization, even as he struggled with bone cancer himself. Thirteen year old Mathias Giordano was a radiant light in this world whose optimism and valor gave assurance to young patients and their families that they are not alone in fighting the tragic disease of pediatric cancer that yearly afflicts over 10,000 children and remains the leading cause of death from disease among children in our nation.

Team Mathias, led by Roya and Chris Giordano and in collaboration with enthusiastic and diligent volunteers, annually hosts the Team Mathias Golf Tournament, and the Annual Team Mathias 5k Trail and Family Run that is taking place this year at the Evergreen Sportsplex in Leesburg. The proceeds from these events are used to increase awareness of all childhood cancers, raise funds for research, and make a donation to Special Love, a local non-profit that provides cancer families a community of support, made up of patients and families. In fulfillment of his own wishes, Team Mathias sends wonderful care packages to pediatric patients and their siblings, just as Mathias had specified.

Since my time in the Virginia General Assembly, advocating for those with pediatric cancer and working to find cures have been priorities of mine, and I take great pride in the number of family and community based organizations in Virginia's 10th District, like Team Mathias, that go above and beyond to spread awareness for those suffering from these illnesses. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Roya and Chris Giordano and their team of volunteers, for the incredibly compassionate work of supporting families with loved ones who are fighting pediatric cancer. I also ask my colleagues that we remember Mathias, who faced his battle with cancer with fearless courage, grace, and dignity.

AIDE (IDALY) SABINAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aide (Idaly) Sabinas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Idaly Sabinas is a student at Arvada K-8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Idaly Sabinas 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 Idaly Sabinas 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.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER ROHLWING

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spencer Rohlwing, an Air Force Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Spencer is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Spencer has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, graduating Maxima Cum Laude and receiving a variety of awards during high school, including Highest Honors and the Gold Cross Award, both of which are given only to students who attain a GPA of 4.0 or higher. Additionally, Spencer was captain of both the Varsity Soccer team and the Varsity Track and Field team, showing his excellence in leadership and service.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Spencer and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Spencer.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Spencer Rohlwing as an appointee to the Air Force Academy for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES' FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHIEF PILOT LOUIS "LOU" FREEMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Southwest Airlines' first African-American Chief Pilot Lou Freeman. On June 8, 2017, after 37 years of service, Captain Freeman announced his retirement. Captain Freeman will forever be remembered as the first African-American chief pilot for any airline.

Captain Freeman served our amazing country in the Air Force for six years, and will forever be the model of a modern Chief Pilot. His desire to be perfect was personified by his unwavering commitment to the skies and his passengers. His most famous trip might have been when he flew Rosa Parks' remains to her funeral, but the one that meant the most was his last which was full of family and friends.

Today, Captain Freeman is set to celebrate his 65th birthday, and he deserves to be honored for his dedication to our country. Since joining Southwest in 1980, Captain Freeman has been an example for so many Americans. In life, there are many successes and failures, but to strive for perfection and to do so every day is what separated Captain Freeman from his contemporaries.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Captain Freeman on such a groundbreaking as well as barrier breaking career. More so, I wish Captain