

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

Freeman and his wife the best during retirement.

Mr. Speaker, the retirement of one of America's first and finest, one of Dallas' own, is worthy of placing these sentiments in the permanent record of the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Nos. 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, and 299 I was absent due to personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted yes. On roll call No. 293 I was also absent due to personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT JOHNSON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott Johnson, 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. Scott 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.

Scott has proven himself to be an outstanding athlete, earning a variety of awards for his many achievements, including the Navy Outstanding Titan Award as well as the Underclassmen Athlete of the Year Award. He also served as captain of his school's Cross Country and Track and Field teams. Additionally, Scott was elected Vice President and President of his class during his freshman and senior years of high school, respectively, demonstrating his commitment to leadership and passion for public service.

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

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

ANGELA SIERRA

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 Angela Sierra

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Angela Sierra is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angela Sierra 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 Angela Sierra 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.

HONORING JIM VOLZ

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Jim Volz, a public servant widely admired and respected, who retired on June 9, 2017, after 32 years of public service for the people of the State of Vermont.

Jim served as Chair of the Vermont Public Service Board, a challenging and demanding role, guiding Vermont through a period of dramatic change in the State's energy policy. His reputation as thorough and fair, considerate and wise, was essential to the progress Vermont made during challenging times.

As evidence of the high esteem Jim enjoys, he was first appointed by a Republican governor and then reappointed by a Democratic governor. Jim was seen by all as nonpartisan and scrupulously fair, with an incisive mind, even temperament, and gracious disposition.

Before being appointed Chair of the Public Service Board, Jim served 20 years at the Vermont Department of Public Service—sixteen of those as Director of Public Advocacy. That totals 32 consequential years in the regulatory arena.

Vermont's good fortune began in 1981 when Jim came to Vermont to clerk for Justice Franklin Billings on the Vermont Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the grateful State of Vermont, I say thank you to Jim Volz for his career of dedicated service to the people of Vermont.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARIS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the president announced that he would withdraw from the non-binding Paris Agreement, undermining the credibility of the United States and displaying a complete disregard for the effects of climate change. This is unacceptable.

Climate change is real. We are already experiencing rising sea levels and harsher storms at an accelerated pace, and without action, they are only going to get worse. Poll after poll show that the majority of American people support staying in the Paris Agreement, and the scientific community has reached a clear consensus that climate change is largely caused by human activity. In the face of these facts, the president continues to undermine environmental protections and reject the science of climate change.

The American people should not be responsible for bailing out leaders who ignore science to gain political points, while subjecting the United States—and the rest of the world—to the catastrophic effects of climate change. That's why today I am introducing the Prohibiting Aid for Recipients Ignoring Science Act, or the PARIS Act, to ensure that any president has a stake in the catastrophic consequences of ignoring climate science.

The PARIS Act would prevent properties owned by the president's family from receiving federally subsidized flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program. The president should not be able to shift costs to taxpayers as he does business in flood-prone areas while withdrawing from efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to give the president a stake in this fight and to take serious action on addressing climate change. The fate of our children, our grandchildren, and the planet depends on it.

RECOGNIZING GIANNI ORLANDO

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gianni Orlando, 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. Gianni 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.

Gianni has demonstrated excellent leadership and athleticism serving as captain of his school's lacrosse team, and helping lead both the football and lacrosse teams to victory in the Colorado State Championships. Additionally, he was inducted into his school's chapter of the National Honor Society and earned summa cum laude as a junior, showing his dedication 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 Gianni and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Gianni.

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