

Kevin Riggs, NYS Army National Guard; Kayla Thompson, NYS Army National Guard; Alexander J. Leggett, U.S. Army; Sayre P. Palmer, U.S. Navy; Joseph S. Podhayski, U.S. Army; Nicolas Tarbox, NYS Army National Guard; Justin Mallory, U.S. Army National Guard; Johnathan D. Sbarra, U.S. Air Force; James L. Wachter III, U.S. Air Force; Kristian R. Woolston, U.S. Air Force; Corey Mies, U.S. Marines; Joseph M. Maerkl, U.S. Air Force; Garrett M. Miller, U.S. Air Force; Tyler M. Thorick, U.S. Air Force; Kaitlin R. Johnson, U.S. Air Force; Gabriel Woods, NYS Army National Guard; Joshua M. Ledford, U.S. Army; Zaccary A. King, U.S. Navy.

Marissa Urban, NYS Army National Guard; Joshua P. Cortes, U.S. Navy; Monique M. Szczpanski, U.S. Marines; Timothy J. Thompson, U.S. Air Force; Nathan S. Gibson, U.S. Air Force; Nicholas V. Scherrer, U.S. Army; Briana Tillotson, NYS Army National Guard; Jarret Gates, U.S. Marines; Ethan M. Parker, U.S. Army; Jason M. Spear, U.S. Army; Rachel M. Van Alstine, U.S. Navy; Talia A. Jones, U.S. Army; Morgan R. Vymislicky, U.S. Air Force; Krystal Doane, U.S. Army; Seth A. Dickson, U.S. Navy; Gunnar C. Ford, U.S. Air Force; Thomas J. Fuimo III, U.S. Air Force.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN ALVERIO

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Susan Alverio of Norwalk, Iowa, for earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Established in 1979 by the United States Congress, the Congressional Award was created to recognize outstanding achievements made by young people who dedicate themselves to public service, physical fitness and personal development. Overall, there are two levels of achievement that must be earned before obtaining the Gold Congressional Award Medal. Before achieving the third and final level, participants must contribute 400 hours to voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development and physical fitness, and a four consecutive night expedition or exploration.

Susan has had great success in all areas of achievement on her journey towards ultimately earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal. She volunteered at the Blank Park Zoo, learned how to read music as well as play the piano and the guitar, and dedicated herself to physical fitness through long-distance running. Overall, Susan said, "I grew as a person while working towards the Gold Congressional Award."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Susan for earning this outstanding award. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on this momentous occasion and in wishing her nothing but continued success in all of her endeavors.

ANTHONY MONROY-SANCE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anthony Monroy-Sance for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Anthony Monroy-Sance is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anthony Monroy-Sance 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 Anthony Monroy-Sance for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

STEVEN BAKOTIC

### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Steven Bakotic as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2017.

Steven graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science and he was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 26, 2017.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Steven's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation.

The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

South Mississippi is proud of Steven and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Steven embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Naval Academy.

I would like to send Steven my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. JUNE MARIE ROBERSON FOR HER WORK IN THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Ms. June Marie

Roberson. Ms. Roberson was accomplished and well-known for her work in the local Baptist community.

Ms. Roberson moved to Ypsilanti at a young age and became known for her work and activism in the community. She began her career as a dietitian with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and then moved to University of Michigan Hospital. She then took a new position as an assembler at Ford Motor Company. She was also active with several Baptist churches in the area throughout her life. Ms. June was a member of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church, where she served as the congregation's Baptist Youth Fellowship and was a member of the church choir. She eventually moved to Second Baptist Church when her husband was named as the church's Deacon, where she continued her work with children by teaching Sunday School. She then moved to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where she championed several initiatives, including serving as Director of the Children's Mission and President of the Mission Department.

Ms. Roberson was a kind and dedicated member of the Ypsilanti community who was committed to helping others and working on behalf of the community's children. She was strongly supportive of the children in the Baptist congregations in which she was a member, and was well-regarded in the community for her involvement with the church. She also attended the National Baptists Congress of Christian Education and National Baptist Convention, and her involvement with these religious forums underscores her commitment to the well-being of others. As a committed mother of three children, Ms. Roberson was active in their lives and supportive of her grandchildren. Her kindness, commitment to the community, and support of those in need will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. June Marie Roberson. Ms. Roberson was a pillar of the Ypsilanti community whose life had a tremendous impact.

AVERY NOEL

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

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

Avery Noel is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Avery Noel 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 Avery Noel 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.

CONGRATULATING TURNING NATURAL, INC. AND CELEBRATING D.C. SMALL BUSINESSES

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jerri Evans and her company, Turning Natural, Inc., this year's D.C. Small Business of the Year. This unique honor is part of our annual Small Business Fair, which we are holding today at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor Small Business of the Year Turning Natural, Inc., a juice bar located in the Southeast part of the city. Turning Natural has been a welcome fixture in the neighborhood for almost a decade. Growing up, Evans witnessed her family's difficulty accessing healthy foods. Neighborhoods where Evans grew up in Southeast were considered food deserts, and, sadly, many still are today. With the juice bar, Evans provides her neighbors a healthy alternative to fast food, carry-outs and corner stores. Today, she keeps things fresh with creative juice names like "Green Latifah," "Swizz Beets" and "Mi'Kale Jackson," and by adding a variety of new juice types to her menu, including the increasingly popular cold-press juices. Evans' mother, Annette Turner, founded Turning Natural after surviving a bout with Stage II breast cancer. Sadly, when the cancer returned in 2010, she lost that fight. Jerri continued the business and her mother's legacy, and, today, continues to run the company and to advocate for healthy living among Washingtonians.

This is the 20th time we are hosting our Small Business Fair to highlight the importance of small businesses in the District. The Fair provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. business owners. Small businesses are an essential lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of their success. I thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year; the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to small businesses; and, of course, all of the small businesses who participate this year.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the D.C. Small Business of the Year, Turning Natural, Inc., as well as in celebrating our small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, we know the social, cultural and economic importance of small businesses.

STAFFORD TEACHER RETIRES

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Norma Menchaca of Stafford, TX, for her outstanding contributions as a teacher the past 38 years.

Norma began her teaching career with the Stafford Municipal School District as a kindergarten teacher in 1983. After graduating from the University of Texas-Pan American, she worked for the Brownsville Independent School District, but moved to Houston after her husband became a Houston Firefighter. Norma loves the small town atmosphere of the school district and looks forward to high school graduation ceremonies so she can see her former students graduate. Today she's the longest serving teacher in the school district and said her retirement will be bittersweet. She will be missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Norma again for her time teaching our children. She has been an important and influential member of our community shaping the minds of generations of students. We wish her a happy retirement.

AUGUSTA MAE PENN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

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

Augusta Mae Penn is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Augusta Mae Penn 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 Augusta Mae Penn 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.

U.S.S. "HOBSON"

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's been over 66 years since the sinking of the USS *Hobson*. However, for those involved, that fateful day feels like it was just yesterday. The *Hobson* was a Destroyer as well as a mine-sweeping ship that survived multiple battles during World War II, including the invasion of Normandy and the assault on Okinawa. Yet, it was not an enemy ship or plane that took the *Hobson* down, but a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Late in the night of April 26, 1952, the *Hobson* was participating in a naval exercise with the carriers *Wasp* and *Rodman*. The USS *Wasp*, in preparation for airplanes to land on its deck, turned into the wind. In order to avoid

the *Wasp's* new position, the *Hobson* needed to maneuver out of its path. Instead of slowing down and passing behind the *Wasp*, the *Hobson* cut across the *Wasp's* bow. This proved to be a fatal mistake.

The *Wasp* struck the *Hobson* in its middle. The impact caused the *Hobson* to split in two. Within four minutes, the ship had sunk to the bottom of the ocean, taking 176 crew members with it. Most of the crew was asleep at the time of the accident, thus having no chance at surviving the crash. Fortunately, sixty-one crew members were able to be rescued from the sea by the *Wasp* and the *Rodman*.

The sinking of the USS *Hobson* and its crew members was a terrible tragedy for our country. The crew members who lost their lives that night will forever be remembered for their bravery and dedication. We must do our best to keep our heroes safe, both in and out of war.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. WILLIE SPAN

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Willie Span of Tamarac, Florida. Willie was a constituent of mine, who tragically passed away on October 2, 2014, after being struck by a vehicle while on his way to the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic in Sunrise, Florida.

Since this heartbreaking accident, Willie became a symbol for pedestrian safety and for veterans in our community. Veterans had advocated long and hard for a crosswalk and traffic light to the Bill Kling Clinic, yet they were told that there were not enough pedestrians crossing the street to warrant the changes. In the time since the accident, Willie's wife, Doris Span, has continued to push for a safer way for veterans to cross the street from the bus stop to get to the clinic.

The bus stop has been temporarily removed and replaced with paratransit service for veterans, and we are all anticipating a lasting solution to avoid future tragedies. We must do everything we can to create safe places for pedestrians through the placements of crosswalks and lights. Too often, this does not happen until a terrible accident occurs.

Mr. Speaker, Willie Span was a veteran of the war in Vietnam, having served as a private in the United States Army, 8th Infantry Division. He and his wife had been married for eight years before purchasing their first home together, something that had always been his dream.

On Monday, June 19, 2017, Willie's family, friends, and representatives of the U.S. Army, the Miami VA Healthcare System, the William "Bill" Kling Veterans Clinic, the Broward County Veterans Coalition, and Broward County Transit will gather at the location of the accident to honor his memory and place a memorial plaque. He is remembered as a soft-spoken and honorable man, beloved by his family and friends. I am very pleased to honor his life and legacy.