

Please join me in acknowledging the immense contribution Indian Americans make to the United States, and in recognizing the importance of continuing to strengthen ties between our two nations.

RECOGNIZING THE SISTERS OF
MERCY OF THE AMERICAS CON-
GREGATIONAL CHAPTER MEET-
ING IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK
JUNE 19–JUNE 29, 2017

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas as they have gathered in my hometown of Buffalo, New York for their Congregational Chapter meeting from June 19–June 29. More than 300 Sisters of Mercy from various parts of the continental United States as well as from the Philippines, Guam and Latin America will elect an Institute president and leadership team, determine priorities, renew their vision and respond to the changing needs in their mission during this two-week summit.

Inspired by the life of Jesus and its founder Catherine McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy are women of faith who have committed their lives to God and use their resources to serve, advocate and pray for those in need throughout the world. Arriving from Ireland at the invitation of the Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1843, the women originally dedicated themselves to the service of people who were poor, sick, and uneducated. As membership grew throughout the United States, the organization's influence expanded to issues in education, health care, and social services.

The work of the Sisters of Mercy is inherently woven into the historic fabric of the growth of Buffalo and Western New York as these devoted women taught in numerous Catholic schools. They opened, led and cared for others in our Catholic hospitals as well as being highly engaged in numerous charitable organizations. The Sisters' profound influence on those they taught, those they tended to who were suffering physically, mentally, spiritually, those they helped bring into this world, and those they comforted as the end drew near has deepened across generations.

Today, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas operate under the core values of Spirituality, Community, Service, and Social Justice focusing on the critical concerns of the earth, immigration, nonviolence, anti-racism, and women. They sponsor or co-sponsor 77 schools from early childhood education to the collegiate level and partnered with the Global Catholic Climate Movement to urge world leaders to commit to climate action.

This commitment to action on climate change is one I strongly share and support. For decades, the United States set the world's public policy standard on critical environmental issues; a tradition that ended when this Administration backed away from the Paris Climate Accord—a pledge joined by more than 190 countries to reduce emissions toward the goal of cleaner air and a healthy planet. This reversal does not demonstrate the leadership that is characteristic of America, nor does it

protect the health and safety of people today or those for generations to come.

In solidarity with the communities in which they minister, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' commitment to everyone's right to clean water will take another strong, steady and significant step forward; actually many hundreds of steps forward, as the Sisters will participate in a Contemplative Walk down Main Street to Canalside, the center of Buffalo's resurgent waterfront, where the Buffalo River flows into Lake Erie. The "Walk for Water" on Friday, June 23 will be led by representatives from the Native American community who will add their voices and vital historical perspective to the urgent need to protect and preserve our natural environment.

As the Congressional Representative who secured the funding for the infrastructure needed to make public access at our water's edge a reality, this ceremony is especially significant as we find ourselves, inexplicably, fighting to ensure the federal dollars used to restore our Great Lakes remains in place.

The Great Lakes contain 95 percent of America's fresh surface water and drinking water supply to more than 40 million people in North America. Currently under threat of drastic cuts, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a joint effort between the U.S. and Canada to restore the Great Lakes by cleaning up pollution, promoting shoreline health, combating invasive species and protecting fish and wildlife. Over the last decade the federal government has invested \$32.38 million in Great Lakes funding in and around the Buffalo River Area of Concern and is credited with the ecological and economic turnaround of the Buffalo River.

Now more than ever, we need to demonstrate the value both environmentally and economically of Great Lakes investments, and come together to fight for the continuation of this program and others that enhance the quality of life for this and future generations. And so, joined by the Interfaith Climate Justice Community, Climate Justice Coalition and like-minded public officials, the Sisters will add water from their regions to one container. This blended water will be sprinkled over the Sisters, over the land and then poured out into Lake Erie.

Once again, with humility and humanity, these valiant women are leading by example. This symbolic mixing of waters from lands served by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas represents active and unified engagement in this crucial crusade to protect, promote and preserve our natural assets for all people. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas for adding another historic milestone to the legacy of the Buffalo waterfront. And to extend immeasurable gratitude for all they have sacrificed, shared and stood for in the past, and for all they will continue to stand up for today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

A TRIBUTE TO TESSA SHIELDS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tessa

Shields, a graduate of Mount Ayr High School in Mount Ayr, Iowa. Tessa was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Fifteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 30, 2017.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic achievement. Not only are recipients academically gifted, but the selected students are also those who have had success in extra-curricular activities and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Tessa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and in wishing her nothing but the best.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES C.
BRENNAN III, USMC

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Colonel James C. Brennan III, for his thirty-three years of selfless service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Brennan's extensive career started in 1984 with the completion of entry level training at Parris Island, South Carolina. He received his commission through the Platoon Leaders Class in 1988 after graduating from Lynchburg College.

Colonel Brennan began as a field artillery officer serving with the 10th, 11th and 12th Marine Regiments. He held every major position from forward observer to battalion commander. His command of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, however, is particularly noteworthy. During this time, he deployed his artillery battalion as a civil affairs group in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in al Anbar province, finally completing the efforts that Marines had started over five years earlier. His efforts resulted in the smooth transition of civil works projects, education projects and local governance over to the Iraqi people.

As a field grade officer, Colonel Brennan served in diverse ways, including multiple tours of duty outside his primary field. In 1998, he was assigned to Officer Candidate School, where his efforts resulted in the first complete revision of the school's curriculum in over a decade, as well as material changes, which reduced injuries significantly. In 2001, he first served outside of the Marine Corps as the Deputy Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives during both the 107th and 108th Congresses. In 2004, he was assigned to Marine Forces Pacific where he served as a planner while simultaneously serving the U.S. Pacific Command as a crisis action planner. During this time, he was successful in planning operations in support of crises across the Pacific Rim from the Philippines to Indonesia, and all across the Indian Ocean. He was later deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a planner for Multi-National

Force—West, where he was responsible for planning the first national election and constitutional referendum in Iraq's history. His efforts allowed every voter to cast their vote in a safe and secure environment.

In 2009, Colonel Brennan was promoted to Colonel, and served as the Commanding Officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion at Quantico, Virginia. This battalion has the distinction of being the largest battalion level formation in the Marine Corps with over 3,200 members. His efforts ensured that each of the 26 major commands he led received the same consistency of form and effort in managing their training, education, administration and legal matters to allow them to focus on their primary missions.

A few years later, in 2013, Colonel Brennan again moved outside the Marine Corps to support operations at the combatant command level. He was assigned to the U.S. Northern Command as its liaison to the U.S. Southern Command. During this period, he was assigned to support the training and execution of domestic disaster relief operations in the great states of Washington, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Mississippi and New York. His knowledge and expertise in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations assisted each state's joint task force in smoothly incorporating the active military forces within the legal constraints for operations on domestic soil.

During his decades of service, Colonel Brennan served with distinction in support of anti-terrorism operations, including Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He aided in support of crisis response missions around the globe including tsunami relief operations in Thailand, Indonesia and the Maldives, Haitian refugee operations, and multiple typhoon relief operations in the Philippines, as well as in the United States. He commanded at all levels, the battery, battalion and regimental, and has supported operations both domestically and overseas.

Colonel Brennan's career is distinguished by his willingness and desire to serve our nation, the Marine Corps, and the brave marines and sailors he has had the privilege to lead each and every day. He is a man who served faithfully and to the best of his abilities in all positions to which he was assigned, which has made him invaluable to the Marine Corps and to our nation. He successfully used his skills as a commander, leader and mentor, both in the field and in garrison. It is likely that much of Colonel Brennan's service will never fully be recognized, but his leadership will be remembered for years to come.

In addition, over the three and a half decades Colonel Brennan served our nation, Mrs. Laura Brennan, his wife, has been avidly dedicated to serving the people of the United States. Noted as a counselor and leader, Mrs. Brennan serves as an assistant town attorney for the Town of Islip in New York, while maintaining a private practice. She is also active in the fight for autism awareness, both in her community and at the national level. Her greatest professional accomplishment has been helping advocate for military children on the spectrum to gain better access to appropriate care.

Mrs. Brennan continues to be involved in a multitude of organizations in West Islip, NY area while also raising their two school-aged children. I am fortunate to have known the

Brennan family since 2001, and I am extraordinarily proud of the work they have done for our nation and will continue to do in the future.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Colonel Brennan's outstanding accomplishments, courageous attitude, and his past and present devotion to our nation. I want to congratulate him, his wife Laura, and their children, Caroline and Charlotte on the completion of a long and highly distinguished career.

In closing, may God continue to bless the Brennans and may they have "fair winds and a following sea" as they embark on a new journey of service to our beloved nation.

Semper Fidelis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2017, I was not present for the recorded votes on Roll Call Nos. 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair; NAY on the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule for providing consideration of both H.R. 1873 and H.R. 1654; NO on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1873; AYE on agreeing to the Carbajal of California Part A Amendment and; NO on the passage of the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BABCOCK & WILCOX

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Babcock & Wilcox, a power generation company which employs hundreds of Ohioans in Ohio's 16th District. B&W celebrates its 150th Anniversary on June 22, 2017, and since its founding, it has become a global leader in energy and environmental technologies, as well as services for power and industrial markets.

In its 150 years, B&W produced a number of historic firsts. It supplied energy for the first electric street lights. It powered New York's first subway. It built components for the USS *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear-powered sub. It also pioneered emissions control technologies that allowed utilities to comply with the Clean Air Act.

As B&W celebrates 150 years in business, I would like to congratulate them on their storied achievements and wish them success in their next 150.

HONORING J. MICHAEL GILLILAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize J. Michael Gilliland. Michael 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 692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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, Michael has led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a member of the Order of the Arrow. Michael has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Michael constructed a round rail fence around an underground shelter at the Rotary Youth Camp in Lee's Summit, Missouri, making it safer for wheel-chair bound campers to access the shelter in an emergency situation.

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

HONORING MS. LYNN BUSH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a tireless public servant in Bucks County. Ms. Lynn Bush, the Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission and Chief Clerk of the County, retired last week after more than eighteen years serving her friends and neighbors. The work Ms. Bush has done throughout her career has helped the businesses of Bucks County to flourish, and oversaw the preservation of Bucks County's 200th farm, as part of her passionate work protecting open space in the county. Her service stands as a reminder that we make a life by what we give others.

A TRIBUTE TO LIVY GREEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Livy Green, a graduate of Nodaway Valley High School in Greenfield, Iowa. Livy was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Fifteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 30, 2017.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School