

degree from the University of Southern California in 1981 and was a Fellow of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 1988. In 2005, he completed a rigorous evaluation process and became a Credentialed Manager under the auspices of the International City/County Management Association.

Howard eventually served 34 years as Lakewood City Manager, retiring in 2011. However, within a year, the city council asked him to return to the role. He returned in 2012 and remained until his retirement this year. In total, his 41 years as city manager represent nearly two-thirds of the 63-year-old city's entire existence. It is safe to say that the vast majority of the city's 80,000 residents have known no one but Howard as city manager.

During his tenure as Lakewood city manager, Howard managed the city's largest public works project in its first 50 years: the \$16 million improvement of the Lakewood Civic Center and construction of The Centre at Sycamore Plaza. He later oversaw the \$21-million expansion and modernization of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, the largest single project in the city's history. The sheriff's station expansion project was completed without a new tax, tax increase, or special assessment.

None of this has gone unnoticed and on his watch, Lakewood has deservedly earned many awards for the quality of its services, its commitment to responsive government, and its innovations.

Over his record-setting 40 years behind the city manager's desk, Howard has become a respected leader among area city managers, always willing to take the time to share his professional experience with his colleagues on issues affecting Southern California, its residents, and its infrastructure.

Howard has also worked tirelessly and effectively on ad hoc committees and coalitions to address federal, state, and local issues, and has never shied away from a principled battle. As a long-term member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Chairman of the Southeast Los Angeles County Municipal Management Group, the California Contract Cities Association, and a member of the League of California Cities' City Managers Division, Howard has worked with elected and appointed city officials, legislators, regulators, the business community, residents, and others to achieve solutions to the critical issues affecting local governments.

In addition to his public service, Howard has made community service a priority. His involvement includes the Lakewood Rotary Club, the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA, Lakewood Special Olympics, the American Heart Association, Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence, Lakewood Regional Hospital, Kris Kringle Charity Golf Tournament, and Project Shepherd.

For his sustained excellence, he has been recognized throughout his career by a variety of organizations including ICMA, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, California Jaycees, YMCA, Lakewood City Council, Lakewood City Employees Association, and Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence.

Howard is considered a legend in the city management profession and is known for his ability to build working relationships with city staffers, civic leaders, and state legislators. He

also is a role model for his peers. Known for his "teachable moments," he has become a mentor and teacher to an entire generation of new city managers. He has been and will continue to be passionate about local government, and his involvement in community activities and achievements in public service have resulted in significant benefits to Lakewood and surrounding communities.

I have truly appreciated the time I have spent working with Howard. He has a great sense of humor and even when we have disagreed, he is respectful and thoughtful. I will miss Howard's leadership and his guidance.

MARKUS HAMRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

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

Markus Hamre is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Markus Hamre 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 Markus Hamre 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) Sacramento Center. As 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of this vital center for political thought, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring PPIC for its leadership and commitment in the community to providing nonpartisan, well-formulated opinions and data for the benefit of California's policymakers.

The Public Policy Institute of California was founded in San Francisco in 1994 by a trio of California visionaries seeking to provide our state with a world-class political think tank. Since then, PPIC has lived up to its mission of "informing and improving public policy through independent, objective, non-partisan research." By 2007, PPIC had opened a second office in Sacramento, enabling its team of experts to operate in the heart of California's state government.

PPIC boasts a staff of 75 people, including experts in economics, demography, political

science, sociology, and environmental resources. It focuses on a wide range of concerns and opportunities facing our state, including higher education, water issues, and government investment strategies. Additionally, PPIC conducts surveys of voters and constituents to provide lawmakers with election statistics, approval ratings, and public opinion. Utilizing its unparalleled access to survey data and predictive analytics, PPIC seeks to understand the forces that drive societal change in the long term, which helps inform the political short term.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Public Policy Institute of California's Sacramento Center as it celebrates the 10th anniversary of its founding. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring PPIC's dedication to providing California's government with information and illumination.

COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR THE ISMAILI MUSLIM COMMUNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the beginning of the Diamond Jubilee for the North Texas Ismaili Muslim community, and the broader Ismaili Muslim community across the world.

On July 11, 1957, The Aga Khan became the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Nizari Ismaili Muslims. In these past six decades, the Aga Khan has guided the world's 15 million Ismaili Muslims in both their spiritual and material lives, providing religious interpretation, ensuring their safety, and improving the quality of life for the community.

While serving as the leader of the Ismaili Muslims, the Aga Khan has also played a major role in the philanthropic arena. The Aga Khan Foundation, established by the Aga Khan in 1967, works on projects such as disaster relief and historical restoration of cities and artifacts through the various programs in the Aga Khan Development Network. The AKDN along with its partners across the globe provides quality education and healthcare, along with promoting social and economic development to some of the world's most impoverished and isolated communities.

The Ismaili Muslim community has contributed greatly to the cultural diversification and economic development in North Texas. Their volunteers have served the North Texas community by participating in local cleanups efforts after severe weather. The volunteers have also worked alongside other faith based groups and local nonprofits to provide meals to those who are less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, the Diamond Jubilee presents an opportunity to the Ismaili Muslim community to reaffirm their faith and serve the communities in which they live through various programs established by the Aga Khan. I congratulate the Aga Khan and the Ismaili Muslim community on this momentous milestone.

HONORING THE CENTRAL HEIGHTS
BLUE DEVILS, 2017 CLASS 3-A
TEXAS STATE BASEBALL CHAM-
PIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a great honor to recognize the Central Heights Blue Devils baseball team, which completed a stellar season culminating with the capture of the 2017 Class 3-A State Baseball Championship title.

This exceptionally talented team from just north of Nacogdoches rolled to victory with a 10-0 shutout against an aggressive challenge from the Wall High School Hawks of San Angelo, Texas.

With the support of coaches, teachers, administrators and their entire community, these young men bear witness that anything is achievable through hard work and determination. These are guiding principles that lead to success not only on the field, but will undoubtedly resonate through every endeavor these valiant championship players undertake in their lifetimes.

Among the individual team members to be congratulated are: Matthew Taylor, Cade McCarty, Clayton Ray, Sam Nortch, Wyatt Allen, Ryan McClellan, Cade Watson, Will Haley, Braden Thomas, Dillon Burris, Cole Reneau, Tyler Burris, Michael Badders, Devin Yates, Grayson Rodriguez, J'Kolvin Wallace, Rowan Arrant, and Jacob Miller.

Their sportsmanship, humility, determination, hard work, and skill are to be commended, admired, and emulated.

The talented Blue Devils team was led to victory by an outstanding coaching and administrative staff, including: Travis Jackson, Head Coach; Brett Thornell, Collin Wallace, & Nathan Williams, Assistant Coaches; Temple Rodriguez, Statistician; Kevin Herron, Athletic Director; David Russell, Principal; and Bryan Lee, Superintendent.

Accolades must also be given to the players' families and the entire community of supporters who reside in Nacogdoches County, who embraced the fighting spirit which was evident in every team member throughout the season. Without these devoted fans' support and encouragement, the Blue Devils' road to the championship would have undoubtedly been much more arduous.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2017 Class 3-A Champion Central Heights Baseball Team.

Their legacy will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

LUKAS KNIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lukas Knight

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

Lukas Knight is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lukas Knight 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 Lukas Knight 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.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST ATH-
LETIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR MEYERSDALE AREA HIGH
SCHOOL—A HISTORIC WIN FOR
THE RED RAIDER BASEBALL
TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of the Meyersdale Area High School Varsity Baseball team of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. The Red Raiders baseball team brought home the long awaited PIAA Class A State Championship on Thursday, June 15. This is a monumental moment for the school; it is the first state championship the school has won in any sport since its opening in the late 1940's. In fact, this was the first PIAA crown earned by any team in the Somerset County school district. The Red Raiders defeated the Clarion Bobcats 2-0, finishing their season with a record of 21-6.

Baseball is a team sport, Mr. Speaker, and this championship is a team championship. The Red Raiders were led to victory against the Bobcats by their five seniors and captains, Riley Christner, Zach Hotchkiss, Max Caton, Cody Welker, and David Swank, and head coach Wayne Miller. This headlining win gave Wayne Miller an overall record of 183-44 during his ten years of coaching the Red Raiders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the players, coaches, and families of the Meyersdale Area High School Varsity Baseball team on their state championship. The passion, commitment, and teamwork shown by these young men will surely follow them in their future endeavors as well as inspire the Meyersdale community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 26, 2017, Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Wednes-

day, June 28, 2017, Thursday, June 29, 2017, and Friday, June 30, 2017, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures due to having surgery on my foot. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Roll No. 323, On passage of H.R. 2547—Veterans Expanded Trucking Opportunities Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 324, On passage of H.R. 2258—ADVANCE Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 325, On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 326, On adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 327, On approval of the journal, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 328, On passage of H. Res. 397—Solemnly reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's principle of collective defense as enumerated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 329, On passage of H.R. 497—Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 330, On passage of H.R. 220—to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 331, On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of H.R. 3003—the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 332, On adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3003—the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 333, On approval of the journal, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 334, On agreeing to the amendment of Mr. Hudson of North Carolina No. 4 to H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 335, On agreeing to the amendment of Mr. Barr of Kentucky No. 5 to H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted no;

Roll No. 336, On motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted no;

Roll No. 337, On passage of H.R. 1215—the Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 338, On passage of H.R. 1500—the Robert Emmet Park Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 339, On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of H.R. 3004—Kate's Law, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 340, On adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3004—Kate's Law, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 341, On motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 3003—the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, I would have voted no;

Roll No. 342, On passage of H.R. 3003—the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, I would have voted yes;

Roll No. 343, On motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 3004—Kate's Law, I would have voted no; and

Roll No. 344, On passage of H.R. 3004—Kate's Law, I would have voted yes.