

as established multiple programs addressing poverty, hunger and addiction. Additionally, Rescue Mission received the Eleanor Roosevelt Community Services Award in 1985, New York State's high award for a voluntary agency. Clarence left Rescue Mission in 2000 and continued to fundraise for several community projects, including the creation of the Clarence L. Jordan Vision Center in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me to honor the remarkable life of Clarence Jordan. He was truly a model citizen for the Central New York community and dedicated his life to the well-being of others. His many contributions impacted hundreds of lives and will not be forgotten.

CELEBRATING MATHER FIELD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mather Field as they celebrate their centennial anniversary in Sacramento County.

During World War I the Army activated Mills Air Field, east of Sacramento. It was renamed Mather Field in honor of 2nd Lieutenant Carl Spencer Mather, killed in 1918 during a training flight collision in Texas, at the request of his classmates. Following World War I, Mather was temporarily shut down as a military base but reopened in 1925 and hosted the first annual "Aerial Circus", featuring 90 airplanes demonstrating aerobatic stunts and displays. Two years later, Charles Lindbergh and the famous The Spirit of St. Louis visited Mather Field following his first solo transatlantic flight.

In 1930, Mather was reactivated as a training center for the U.S. Armed Forces and later played an important role preparing the Army for the fight in the Pacific Theater. With an Allied victory in sight, Mather Field's training activities ended in 1944 and it became a major stopover point for troops and aircraft headed to and from the Pacific. Following U.S. victory in the Pacific, Mather returned to its status as a training base and ownership was transferred to the U.S. Air Force as part of the Air Training Command.

The Department of Defense moved all of its navigator training to Mather AFB in 1964 and navigator training became Mather's specialty for several decades. In 1976, the Interservice Undergraduate Navigator Training was established at Mather to serve Navy, Marine and Coast Guard students and trained the first female navigators.

While Mather AFB was decommissioned in 1993, Mather Field continues to support the Sacramento region. The Former base now hosts Sacramento's Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mather Business Park and Mather Airport, which is an important regional cargo hub.

I am incredibly proud to represent Mather and the surrounding community. As Mather Field celebrates its 100th birthday at the 2018 California Capital Airshow, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this historic landmark for all it has provided our region and our country over the last century.

CELEBRATING HONOWAI ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL'S RECOGNITION AS A GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Honowai Elementary School in Waipahu, Hawaii, and all its achievements in being designated a Green Ribbon School by the Department of Education.

As many of my colleagues know, Green Ribbon Schools are awarded for mitigating their environmental impacts, improving health and wellness within their communities, and pursuing effective environmental and sustainability education. The purpose of the award is to inspire schools, districts, and post-secondary institutions to pursue sustainable practices and education for the twenty-first century. State education officials nominate their top schools to be considered for this award. It is important to note that close to half of all Green Ribbon Schools honorees educate majority disadvantaged student populations.

Honowai Elementary has pursued the standards and values of the Green Ribbon Schools award through an interactive, community-oriented process. Not only has Honowai installed solar photovoltaic modules that reduce the school's carbon footprint, but the data collected on this array is used in classrooms to teach students about renewable energy. Students are taught and encouraged to spread green practices that conserve energy and reduce their carbon footprints. Through professional development and new curricula for faculty, the physical improvements to the school, which include aquaponics and hydroponics systems, extend learning beyond the classroom and to the campus and broader community.

At the same time, Honowai Elementary situates traditional and Native Hawaiian practices and concepts of sustainability within our contemporary economy and society. The lo'i patch on campus provides a sustainable source of taro for food while teaching students the unique practices and values of Hawaii's indigenous heritage. Students understand diverse cultures and histories through a curriculum focused on oral history, which in turn helps them forge stronger personal values and identities and connect with their communities.

These accomplishments cannot be understated for a community consisting of single family and low-income housing and in which sixty-six percent of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Through its efforts, not only has Honowai Elementary given much to the local community and all its members, but the school has also represented Hawaii well on the national stage. I am proud of what the students, parents, faculty, and staff have come together to accomplish, and I look forward to their continued success as a school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Honowai Elementary School, its students, faculty, and staff for their achievements, as well as all Green Ribbon Schools for what they contribute to our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. ASCHLEY SCHILLER, PROFESSIONAL STAFF, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashley Schiller, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, who plans to pursue other opportunities after eight outstanding years of Federal government service.

Aschley started her Federal career in 2010 as a Presidential Management Fellow after receiving a bachelor's degree in history from Texas A&M University in 2008 and a Master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan's Gerald Ford School of Public Policy in 2010. The Presidential Management Fellows program is a highly selective, prestigious two-year training and development program for recent graduates with advanced degrees.

As a Presidential Management Fellow, she worked for the Small Business Administration to improve its acquisition processes and for the Office of Management and Budget analyzing proposed business loan subsidy rates and agency activities for inclusion in the yearly President's budget request.

After completing her fellowship, Aschley worked as a strategic advisor to the Chief Financial Officer of the Small Business Administration. There, she evaluated government-wide budget and procurement policy changes and reviewed agency budgets, programs and performance.

Aschley came to the House Appropriations Committee in 2013 where she worked as an analyst for the Surveys and Investigations office conducting oversight of military construction and veterans affairs programs. She conducted reviews of several multi-billion dollar programs to identify weaknesses and recommending changes in program funding levels, policies and reporting requirements. In addition, Aschley helped improve the operations of the Surveys and Investigations office by reducing the time required to issue reports and improving communications with subcommittee staff.

I met Aschley in 2015 when she became a professional staff member of the Commerce, Justice, Science House Appropriations Subcommittee. Since that time she has done an outstanding job supporting the Subcommittee, the Federal government and the American people. Aschley is expert in the operations of the Departments of Commerce and Justice. She has provided me with analysis of their activities and budget requests, prepared me for hearings with agency heads and Cabinet secretaries, advised me on how to respond to funding and reorganizations proposals, and provided constant oversight of agency activities. Aschley has written several Appropriations bills, advised me how to respond to amendments during Full Committee meetings and House Floor consideration, and she has negotiated several Appropriations bills with the Senate and the Minority party.

Aschley should be proud that her intelligent and hard work for the House Appropriations

Committee has improved our nation's ability to forecast the weather, study the ocean, support the nation's fishing industry, protect intellectual property rights, respond to natural disasters, and improve the course of justice.

Aschley will be missed by the Committee. We wish her well, thank her for her years of service, and know that she will excel at whatever future endeavors she pursues.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELINDA DYE
FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mindy Dye, one of the winners of the 25th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Mindy has earned that distinction.

Mindy suffered a major stroke in December 2017 that affected her speech and body. She could not walk, talk and lost all muscle control on her right side. Every day was a struggle in therapy as she tried to regain her strength, balance, ability to walk and her ability to speak. Another setback occurred a few months later during her cranium replacement surgery when she ended up with an infection that required an emergency procedure and several months of antibiotics. Ultimately, Mindy resumed her therapy, was always willing to do her best, maintained a positive attitude, and was motivated to get better.

Today, Mindy has made an amazing recovery through her hard work and determination. Her extremity strength, balance and functional mobility have returned, and she continues to make progress in therapy. She is now able to enjoy gardening, hiking and spending time with her family.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Mindy has made. Her strength and positivity in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Mindy the best as she continues to reclaim her health and life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 394, 395, and 396.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF IAFF LOCAL 3886

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3886 of Spotsylvania, a brave group of men and women who every day put their service to the community above self. Additionally, I would like to recognize that this year is the 100th anniversary of the IAFF: celebrating a century of progress through unity.

IAFF Local 3886 is made up of over 125 full-time members who help to keep and protect the citizens of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. To accomplish this incredible task, Local 3886 operates 24/7 out of six fire stations throughout the county and 13/5 at an additional four. With advanced life support and specialty equipment, the men and women of this proud organization provide a service for which mere thanks is never enough. As professional firefighters, they are true to the name; professionalism, dependability, and distinction underlies the entirety of their work.

The IAFF as a whole provides firefighters for many different operations, including to help protect the men and women of our armed forces. The services of the IAFF extend to firefighting crews for military bases throughout the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the IAFF and IAFF Local 3886. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless the operations of the IAFF and Local 3886, and I look forward to seeing their excellence for many years into the future.

REVIEWING CURRENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing at the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair.

Our first order of business was to note that today many Ethiopians are celebrating the start of the New Year under the Ethiopian calendar. To our Ethiopian friends who observe the new year, I wish to say "Enkutatash"—Happy New Year.

Many of the hearings that this subcommittee holds are hearings of condemnation—for abuses of human rights, for failures of governance, and for holding accountable those who betray the public trust.

Yesterday's hearing, however, struck a different tone—one not of condemnation, but of commendation for the great strides Ethiopia has made since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed assumed authority in April of this year.

Consider where we were just over a year ago. A State of Emergency existed, and thousands of political prisoners languished in jail. A cold war standoff existed between Ethiopia and its neighbor Eritrea.

As this subcommittee pointed out in a hearing we held in March of 2017, "increasingly repressive policies have diminished political space and threaten to radicalize not only the political opposition but also civil society by frustrating their ability to exercise their rights under law."

In response to this, I introduced, along with original cosponsors KAREN BASS and MIKE COFFMAN, H. Res. 128, a resolution "Supporting Respect for Human Rights and Encouraging Inclusive Governance in Ethiopia." The resolution set forth milestones which needed to be met, and passed thanks to the leadership of many—including Chairman ED ROYCE who guided the Resolution through Foreign Affairs Committee markup and Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, who scheduled a vote on H. Res. 128 that passed the House unopposed and sent a clear message of Congressional resolve on the need for civil and political reform in Ethiopia.

But success of this measure was due in largest part to the efforts of the Ethiopian diaspora community in the United States, which came together to demand that egregious human rights abuses immediately cease, and that fundamental human rights must be promoted and protected for all in Ethiopia.

Indeed, one of the greatest collateral benefits brought about by passage of H. Res. 128 is the political effectiveness of the Ethiopian American community, which provided a textbook civics lesson for all of us to admire. It is thanks to their tireless efforts of contacting your congressional representatives, of making your case in a persistent and respectful manner that helped spur Congress to action.

Since assuming office, Prime Minister Abiy has begun to implement some of the very reforms that H. Res. 128 called for. He has released thousands of political prisoners, and lifted the state of emergency, for example.

But he has also reached out to the diaspora community, catalyzed an end to a schism that had plagued the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and initiated an historic peace deal between Ethiopia and Eritrea this past July. Indeed, it is hoped that his domestic reforms will also inspire Eritrea, which remains a repressive regime, to undertake similar internal reforms.

Just a few weeks ago, Ranking Member KAREN BASS and I visited the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, where we met with Prime Minister Abiy and a broad array of individuals and groups, including His Holiness, Abune Mathias I. One impression I had—was of a profound feeling of change and optimism.

For what he has accomplished in less than half a year, Prime Minister deserves praise and encouragement. Yet we still must keep in mind that expectations have been raised, and the reforms he has begun must continue.

For example, the notorious Charities and Society Proclamation and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, both passed in 2009, remain on the books and thus retain the potential to stifle legitimate civil society organizations and political speech.

Many former prisoners and torture victims still demand justice. Ranking Member BASS and I met with a group of torture victims in Addis Ababa, and what they described as having been done to them was horrific. One refrain we heard, including from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, is that there is a need for Truth and Reconciliation in order for the country to move forward.