

## TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND JIM LONG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joyce and Jim Long of Essex, Iowa for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They were chosen by fellow members of the Essex Community Club for this honor.

Joyce and Jim have lived in the Essex area for almost six decades. The couple graduated from high school in 1954 and married a year later. Jim served in the military and operated the family farm. Joyce enrolled in nursing school and was employed by the Montgomery County Hospital for 24 years. Joyce and Jim have three children and have been active in the Essex community. Jim served on the city council and on the Page County Landfill Board. Joyce is a member of the quilting crew at St. John's Lutheran Church. Joyce said, "giving back to the community is just something you do. We don't think anything of it." Jim added, "Essex has been a wonderful place for us to live and raise our children. It's an honor and nice to be recognized."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Joyce and Jim Long for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication can affect a community. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Joyce and Jim on receiving this honor, and I wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL  
ALOYSIUS RYAN**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and legacy of Master Sergeant Michael Aloysius Ryan. Born on May 15, 1946, Master Sergeant Ryan dedicated his life to his country through his service with the Armed Forces. Earning his High School GED through the United States Armed Forces Institute, he went on to serve two tours in Vietnam and one in the Persian Gulf.

Throughout his service, Master Sergeant Ryan earned many decorations, medals and commendations, including two Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Rifle MIG Expert Badge.

Returning home to transition into the Air Force Reserve, Master Sergeant Ryan continued to serve his nation as a member of the 106th Rescue Wing of Westhampton Beach, New York. Once again answering the call of

duty, Master Sergeant Ryan stepped up in the immediate aftermath of September 11th as a part of the search and recovery mission at the World Trade Center. Within one week of working the pile at Ground Zero, Master Sergeant Ryan contracted an incurable lung disease, one he would succumb to nearly seventeen years later.

Master Sergeant Ryan was kind, loving, dedicated, funny, intelligent and a passionate sportsman. He was a loving husband, loyal brother, amazing father and caring grandfather, but most of all he was an American hero. Having dedicated centuries of his life to serving his fellow Americans, he did not hesitate to step up even in our nation's darkest moment. For his bravery and heroism, and the sacrifice of his family, our country will be eternally grateful. Let his memory serve as a promise to always care for our nation's veterans, first responders and all those who stepped up in the aftermath of September 11th.

FRANCE RECOGNIZES TEXAS AS  
AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is distinctive in many ways. Texas was an independent nation for nine years. In fact, some Texans still think we're an independent country.

Texas had gained independence from Mexico in 1836 and had immediately set up a republic. The reason for the call for independence was because Mexico had abolished its democracy and set up a dictatorship with Santa Anna as the Supreme Dictator. Texans and Tejanos—Mexican or Spanish person born in Texas—were determined not to live under an imperial dictatorship and went to war with Mexico to gain independence. This was a fight for liberty. Independence was gained on April 21, 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto where General Sam Houston and his boys defeated a superior Mexican army under the leadership of Santa Anna.

After Texas set up a government, it then built an army and a navy. Texas then sought official recognition of the Republic of Texas from other nations.

On this day, September 25, 1839, King Louis Philippe of France formally recognized the Republic of Texas. This was the first country after the United States to recognize the republic. This treaty allowed Texas commerce to be admitted to France on a most favored nation basis. Great Britain soon followed in recognizing Texas as an independent nation. Texas would proceed to engage in commerce with the United States, Mexico, France, and Great Britain.

Dubois De Saligny of France was appointed as chargé d'affaires and soon moved to Austin. He bought 21 acres just east of the Texas Capitol in Austin and began construction of the house known today as the French Legation. Today, there is a similar site where the Texas Legation was in Paris, France. The French residence is now a historical site in Texas. It acts as a reminder that Texas was once a country.

And that's just the way it is.

## HONORING ERIC ACCIME

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Accime, a highly successful executive with more than 20 years of experience in the building and engineering industry and a generous philanthropist, who has had an outsized impact on underserved and impoverished communities around the world.

Mr. Accime, a product of Florida International University, participated in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project I founded to intervene in the lives of at-risk boys of color and steer them onto a pathway to success. I am extremely proud that Mr. Accime has utilized the mentorship and assistance he received as a springboard to personal and professional success while remaining committed to giving back and serving those in need.

After graduating from FIU, Mr. Accime returned to the 5000 Role Models as a staffer and helped mentor other boys and young men of color, working to instill in them the same skills, confidence, and vision that has served him over the course of his career.

Since entering the private sector, Mr. Accime has built an impressive body of work and been recognized for his outstanding contributions. His expertise spans the development and construction management of large multi-use real estate, municipal and commercial projects. To date, he has spearheaded various high-profile projects valued at more than \$600 million. His accolades include the National Award of Excellence for a project built in Tampa, Florida, which was designated one of the two best projects in the United States for fiscal year 2000.

Although remarkably accomplished, Mr. Accime has retained the same values of service and community that drove him as a young staffer with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. His professional and philanthropic endeavors have helped significantly improve conditions, particularly for underserved children, both in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Accime has been integral to numerous relief efforts, having partnered with USAID, Habitat for Humanity, the Breaking Point International Corp., and the National Society of Black Engineers of Alexandria, Virginia, to provide resources and build vital infrastructure.

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Mr. Accime worked to help design and build a new National Campus of Health and Sciences there in collaboration with USAID. The project utilized cutting-edge design and delivery techniques to ensure the facility's sustainability, which was vital to Haiti's recovery and was estimated to produce approximately 1,500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health practitioners over a 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Accime for his exceptional achievements and humanitarian contributions. I am proud to call Mr. Accime a friend and can personally testify to his generous and hardworking spirit.

## TRIBUTE TO LAURA WATTS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laura Watts of Winterset, Iowa for being honored as the Rotarian of the Year by the Winterset Rotary Club.

Ms. Watts has been a member of this club for 35 years and has earned her Paul Harris Award and Paul Harris Plus pin. She has also been incredibly active, volunteering with events such as Husky Help Day, Birthday in a Bag project and assisted with the rotary Youth Exchange program.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Laura demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with her community. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Laura Watts for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF SARAH AND ROBERT  
WILKINSON**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the loving generosity of a family, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson, as the 2018 Angels in Adoption from the Tenth Congressional District of Virginia.

Earlier this year, the Wilkinson family was recognized by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors as the 2018 Loudoun County Foster Parents of the Year and, as a member of Congress, I am very pleased that the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, through its national public awareness campaign, has given me the opportunity to recognize this family for their demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

The Angels in Adoption tradition is well established in the Wilkinson family. When Sarah was six, her parents began fostering children who would eventually become her brothers and sisters. Within a year of their wedding in 2005, Sarah and Robert became foster parents to a teenager. Since then, the Wilkinson family have served as foster parents for nine children, and they have provided respite services for countless others. Sarah and Robert have four birth children, have adopted two children, and are currently in the process of adopting another child.

In addition to setting a stellar example for others by creating a beautiful family of fostered, adopted and birthed children, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson spend countless hours supporting other foster and adoptive parents. They lead a monthly support group for foster parents in Loudoun County, and Sarah leads a support group of moms living in the greater Northern Virginia area. The Wilkinsons also take part in the final session of the Loudoun

County's foster parent training program, offering practical ideas and encouragement to people who are about to embark on their new lives as foster parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to count among my constituents, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating them for being recognized as the 2018 Angels in Adoption from the Tenth Congressional District of Virginia.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the 70th anniversary of one of Ohio's premiere educational institutions: Ohio Christian University.

The true story of this University is growth. From its humble beginnings on East Ohio Street in Circleville in September of 1948, the University quickly grew beyond its location, and moved to its current, 40-acre home on U.S. Route 22. In recent years, that growth has continued, with adult degree programs offered online, and satellite campuses in Chillicothe, Columbus, Dublin, Lancaster, Washington Court House, and Wilmington.

While its consistent expansion is impressive, the most important "growth" is the growth of the students who attend Ohio Christian University. With a Christ-centered, biblically-based, ministry-motivated curriculum, University students grow into capable and well-rounded leaders who are ready and able to "serve effectively in the church and society."

As Ohio Christian University enters this new decade, there are already ambitious plans in place to continue its growth. From fostering "an academic and community environment" to preparing "world-impact societal leaders," this is an institution that is not content with the status quo, and I applaud the continued efforts of Dr. Jon S. Kulaga, Dr. Hank Kelly, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students.

Ohio Christian University is an essential thread in our Ohio tapestry, and I am grateful to have it as a committed partner in our community. I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ohio Christian University on its 70th anniversary, as well as wishing the entire community a happy Homecoming.

## HONORING ELIZABETH GLIDDEN

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Glidden's 12 years of service as a Minneapolis Councilmember. She has served as a distinguished leader on the Council, including as the Council Vice President, and Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Ms. Glidden has an extensive list of accomplishments from her time in office. She has

been an advocate for workers' protection, helping lead the push for a \$15 municipal minimum wage and for paid sick and safe leave to provide job protections to up to 100,000 Minneapolis workers during illness. She is a champion for affordable housing, and was the chief author of the 2017 Minneapolis ordinance that prohibited discrimination against the 5,000 Minneapolis holders of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

Ms. Glidden led the pioneering effort to bring ranked choice voting to Minneapolis in 2006 to help avoid plurality outcomes and elect majority winners. It has since been used successfully in three Minneapolis elections.

A proponent of clean energy, she created the first-in-the-nation Clean Energy Partnership between Minneapolis and energy utilities to help promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in support of the city's Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Glidden helped direct city efforts on racial equity, including the development of One Minneapolis One Read, a reading program to encourage family and friends to have conversations about race, family relationships, and neighborhood history.

In addition to her contributions on the Council, she previously worked for ten years as an attorney practicing employment and civil rights law. Ms. Glidden has been a Board Member of Local Progress, a Board Member of Gender Justice, and serves on the Alumni Board of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Ms. Glidden is set to continue her advocacy on behalf of the residents of Minneapolis and Minnesota as the new Director of Strategic Initiatives and Policy for the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

On behalf of her Ward 8 constituents and the broader community, I want to congratulate Elizabeth Glidden on her many years advancing creative change for the City of Minneapolis, and on her tireless activism as a voice for equity, justice, and economic opportunity.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY AND JIM  
LENTS**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Betty and Jim Lents of Greenfield, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 7, 2018.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.