

CONGRATULATING THE PASCUA  
YAQUI TRIBE ON ITS 40TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on its 40th year anniversary of being federally-recognized.

The Pascua Yaqui tribe descended from the Uto-Aztecan people, who occupied a large area of the Southwest regions and west coast of Mexico. Yaqui culture and spirituality are important elements to the tribe. The Pascua Yaqui tribe is best known for the deer dancer and Pascola, along other cultural ceremonies and Yaqui symbols such as "Our Father Sun;" the Tribe has successfully preserved its cultural relations through valued oral lore throughout the years. Today, the tribe has communities spanning across Southern Arizona surrounded by richly vegetated and scenic desert lands.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe provides unique insight that adds diverse cultural heritage to Arizona's desert community. The tribe is well-known for its design and manufacture ceremonial paraphernalia such as artistic Baskets, reed crowns, wood mask carving, rattles, stuffed-deer heads, and notable arts unique to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. At present, there are about one hundred hamlets and villages within the Yaqui territory, assigned for political, religious, and ritual purposes. The linguistic classification of the Tribe is a surviving language derived from the Cahita ethnicity, one that the Yaqui and Mayo people still preserve. The Yaqui were, and part still remain, settled agriculturists, depending on summer rainfall due to the desert lowlands.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Arizona's Third Congressional District in expressing our sincerest congratulations to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on their 40th anniversary as a Federally-recognized tribe. I am grateful for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's dedication to their culture and representation of the Southwest Native American roots.

MR. RAY FITZGERALD'S REMARK-  
ABLE SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

**HON. MO BROOKS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the remarkable career of a great American, Mr. Ray Fitzgerald, a distinguished member of the Senior Executive Service, upon the occasion of his retirement after 46 years of selfless service to our nation. A highly respected leader, Ray Fitzgerald has made immeasurable contributions to the warfighter and the military community as a whole.

Mr. Fitzgerald had an exemplary military career. Upon graduating from the University of Alabama in 1972, he entered the U.S. Army.

Rising to the rank of Colonel, his assignments included; Chief of Staff of the deployed 101st Airborne Division Task Force in Kosovo; Commander of the 101st Airborne Division Garrison at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.; senior brigade observer/controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC); and Commander of U.S. Forces in the Balkans (Bosnia). Mr. Fitzgerald also commanded the 1st Battalion, 50 8th Infantry (Airborne) during Operation Just Cause.

Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed to the Senior Executive Service after 30 years of Active Duty service as an Army Infantry Officer. He has led organizations at every level, culminating in his assignment as the Vice Director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO).

Mr. Fitzgerald served with distinction as the Deputy Director for Interagency and Interdepartmental Cooperation at the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) and was the Department of Defense Executive Manager detailed to the FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC), Quantico, VA. There he supported TEDAC's mission to eradicate the IED threat by providing scientific and technical exploitation, actionable intelligence, timely responses to requests and forecasting worldwide threats. While assigned to JIEDDO and JIDO, Mr. Fitzgerald has deployed multiple times to both Iraq and Afghanistan. His most recent deployment to Iraq in 2016 was as the Senior Coalition Advisor for the security of Baghdad. His 2014 deployment to Afghanistan was as the Senior Coalition Advisor/Mentor to the Afghanistan National Security Advisor.

Prior to JIDO, Mr. Fitzgerald served at the Department of State, where he was the Chief of Staff for the Bureau of Resource Management. His State Department duties also included two 18 month tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, where he served as the senior State Department representative responsible for Afghanistan Police Reform and as the political advisor (POLAD) to Task Force 714.

Ray Fitzgerald is the best friend a Warfighter ever had. He is a passionate, selfless leader who has devoted his life and energies to ensuring Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines receive the best possible training, equipment, intelligence, and tactical support. While serving with JIDO, he has applied his extensive military background and knowledge to a myriad of material and non-material problem sets. His tenure spanned some of the most dangerous and critical periods in our Nation's fight against terrorism. As an aside, Mr. Fitzgerald never avoided a difficult task or assignment, tackled every complex problem, and consistently made a difference for deployed Warfighters.

Our Nation's history is grounded in the efforts of those like Ray Fitzgerald, who have served this nation with great distinction. He exemplifies what it means to commit one's life to his country and has more than earned our admiration and respect. Mr. Fitzgerald leaves a legacy of service that will most certainly serve as an inspiration to others for years to come.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Ray Fitzgerald as he enters the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO MIGUEL  
NEGRON RODRIGUEZ

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Fernando Miguel Negron Rodriguez, as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Fernando Miguel Negron Rodriguez, was born and raised in the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico. He is the father of Fernando M. Negron Santos and Karina Isabella Negron Santos. He is the son of the legendary TV personality and radio icon, Miguel Angel Negron.

As one of the most popular radio hosts in the Hispanic community in Central Florida. To say that through his veins runs radio, it's an understatement.

For the last 20 years, he has been the host to *Quédate con Miguel Radio*, he is known to many as a great communicator but also as someone very passionate about the Hispanic community and educating voters in our region. Fernando M. Negron has become an influential and respected personality in local politics as well as national politics. Every day he uses his experience to shine light at problems that affect the Hispanic diaspora in Central and South Florida.

IN MEMORY OF VAIL JOHNSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and memory of Vail Johnson, a young girl from my district who passed away unexpectedly on August 31, 2016 from a heart condition.

Two years after her death, the North Texas community is continuing to honor her life through the work of Friends of Vail. This foundation, established by Vail's parents Susan and Chad Chance, has dedicated a new outdoor classroom at the Pilot Point intermediate school in her memory. Through the Friends of Vail foundation, her family has donated funds to other community needs both large and small.

The foundation's work is a testament to an extraordinary child. As a fourth-grade student at Pilot Point Elementary School, Vail was known for kindness and generosity. She loved horses, softball, and the color green. A bright student and writer, Vail also competed nationally as an equestrian and began playing softball.

Two years after her loss, Vail Johnson is remembered as a girl who brought love and joy to others wherever she went. She is deeply missed, and her generous spirit will not be forgotten. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, and all who knew and loved her.

CONGRATULATING DAVID ROLF  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, David Rolf for his years of dedicated work as founding president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 775. After 15 years of impressive work, David is handing off the presidency of SEIU 775. In the years since David has led the union, he has been an indispensable force for labor issues in the State of Washington, and has been recognized nationally. I am certain he will continue to be in the years to come.

David started his union career as an SEIU organizer where he worked hard and, over the years, rose through the ranks to become the Vice-President of SEIU International. There are few in my community who don't admire the work he has done, and it is not hard to see why. David and SEIU 775 are a strong force motivated by the interests of the workers they represent.

Whether it be winning raises for the caregivers his union represents, expanding SEIU 775 to represent more workers, or leading the movement for a fifteen dollar living wage in the cities of SeaTac and Seattle—a movement that spread throughout the nation, David's passion for helping members of his community is astounding. His contribution to the fight for working people has changed the lives of so many, and earned the respect of many more.

David will still be active and remain president of Working WA and the Fair Work Center. I look forward to hearing about his upcoming achievements.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize David Rolf for his diligent work representing working Americans. I congratulate him on all of his success, and wish him all the luck in his future endeavors.

DR. THORNE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne II's accomplishments over the past six decades are truly inspirational—exuding tremendous dedication towards making a difference to the wellness of our planet by educating children about the importance of environmental consciousness. In 1954, Thorne founded the Thorne's Nature Experience, which serves to environmentally educate adults and children about the importance of ecology, and its impacts on our economy, our social institutions and structures, and the planet. Additionally, Thorne helped found the Environmental Studies Department at Naropa University here in Boulder.

Thorne's passion for protecting the environment has driven him to defend and participate in over fifteen programs and boards that pre-

serve open space within Boulder, Aspen, Keystone, Denver, and even Wyoming. Thorne has also raised money for programs to prevent infrastructure from building on lands, and has even made personal investments in owning property to preserve the beauty of our natural landscapes. Today, Thorne works with two different programs at Yale University: the External Board of the Yale Institute for Biosphere Studies and the Leadership Council for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Dr. Oakleigh Thorne's contributions to environmental protections and education are more than anyone would hope to accomplish in three lifetimes. We could not wish you a happy 90th birthday without acknowledging all you've done thus far. Thank you for all you've done for the City of Boulder, the state Colorado, and the world at large. Happy 90th Birthday.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF  
BESSEMER, MICHIGAN, FOR RECEIVING  
REDEVELOPMENT  
READY COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION  
FROM THE MICHIGAN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the city of Bessemer for receiving certification under the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program. Through more than 130 years of community investment and success, Bessemer has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan.

The Redevelopment Ready Communities program was first launched to assist Detroit suburbs in need of redevelopment by offering technical assistance, promoting best practices, and recognizing when improvements to local governance have been made. After seeing the success of the program, the initiative was expanded statewide by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). This certification is a formal recognition that the city of Bessemer has gone above and beyond what is required of them in order to improve its operations and be more competitive in today's economy.

Since its founding in 1887, Bessemer has played a vital role in forming the rich history of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. From its roots in the iron industry, the city has transformed into a strong community, a premier destination for lovers of the outdoors, and the home of one of the best Fourth of July celebrations in the state—an event that culminates in the famous "Thunder on the Mountain" fireworks show. Through the city government's capital improvement plan, zoning amendments, innovative marketing strategy, and emphasis on public participation, Bessemer has shown that it is dedicated to improving its community and promoting the livelihoods of its citizens and small businesses. By being certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community, the city of Bessemer has shown that it is pre-

pared to continue and expand upon this success. This accomplishment will be recognized by the MEDC on October 9 at Bessemer City Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Speaker, day after day, the city of Bessemer continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good. It's my honor to congratulate them for receiving RRC certification. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bessemer all the best as it ventures into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OSWEGO ELKS LODGE NO. 271

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271, an American fraternity that is commemorating its 125th anniversary in Central New York.

The Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271 was founded in 1893 with an inaugural initiation class of 30 members. The following year, the lodge received its official charter at the annual Grand Lodge Convention. When the lodge opened its new home in 1900, the group was the only civic or fraternal organization in Oswego that owned its meeting place. The Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271 would continue to convene at this building until the group purchased its current home in 1922, where they have held their meetings and events ever since.

Since its inception, the Oswego Elks Lodge has found itself at the center of the Elks organization in New York State. In 1932, member James H. Macklin was installed as State President at that year's state convention in Rochester. Member Daniel J. Capella would later be installed as State President in 1987. Still an active member in the Elk community today, Capella was named a member of the Government Relations Committee at the national convention in San Antonio, Texas earlier this year.

Throughout its 125 year history, the Lodge has provided a number of valuable services to the Oswego community. Each year, the fraternity hosts annual Soccer and Hoop Shoot contests for youth as well as a number of different dinners and dances. A participant in the Elks National Foundation Scholarships program, the Lodge has worked to give generous amounts of funding to deserving recipients each year. In addition, the group delivers supplies to the Syracuse VA Hospital, as well as the Oswego VA Clinic, and uses its Disabled American Veterans van to help transport veterans to and from appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the Oswego Elks Lodge's 125 years of service to Oswego and the greater community of Central New York. As one of the region's leading civic and social fraternities, the Lodge deserves acknowledgement and praise for its countless years of charitable service.