

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.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAPLEWOOD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS A 2018  
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Maplewood Elementary School for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018. Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized public and private schools for academic excellence. This year marks the third time the Maplewood Local School District has been awarded this honorable distinction. Maplewood Elementary School holds high academic standards for each and every student. The Blue Ribbon recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students, teachers, and administrators of this outstanding school. There is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. As a father, I know the amount of trust parents put into the hands of our educators. I am proud to have this example of academic excellence in Ohio's 14th Congressional District and I congratulate Maplewood Elementary School on this well-deserved recognition.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON  
SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues about the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018 on the issue of sober living homes. I had the privilege of testifying at that hearing in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of that testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the first group of these constituent letters below:

Generally speaking, Mr. Rohrabacher, you're not someone I feel represents me as a constituent. However, this is one topic I agree with you on, and I never thought I'd say that. I've seen the sober living home industry firsthand. They exploit the desperation of addicts and their families, offer no real help, and when the addict relapses, they are kicked to the curb the same day and don't get prorated their rent money. If they paid for a month and get kicked out 3 days later, they lose all that money. It's actually more profitable for sober livings to have high failure rates because when the next person moves in, they effectively get paid twice for the bed; the forfeited rent and the new person's. The sober living home doesn't concern itself with whether or not the people they evict have somewhere to go. It's not surprising that many end up on the streets. Many sober living homes are poorly maintained, have bug infestations, are overcrowded, and residents regularly experience

theft and violence. If the purpose of a sober living is to give someone a fresh start and chance at redemption, which it should be, then the sober living home industry has failed miserably, and that failure has proven lucrative for those who profit from human suffering. More accountability is needed, addicts are people like everyone else, and deserve better.

STEPHANIE ASHLEY LARCOME,  
Westminster, California.

About a year ago my small block of mostly retirees was introduced to "sober living homes". We were also introduced to loss of parking due to various vehicles with out of state plates, frequent local police responses, discarded needles, altercations both verbal and physical and loud music in the wee hours of the morning. Then the non-sober behavior escalated to the overdose and death of 24-year-old Mark Vallas of Chicago on February 24th, 2018. In March 2018, Tim Flinn, the co-owner of New Existence Recovery, which managed the sober living home where Mark Vallas died also overdosed and also died. On July 23rd, four squad cars, a fire truck and ambulance responded to yet another overdose at the same house. Last week a house three houses down from the initial sober living home converted to a sober living home. Last week, police responded to a call regarding the new sober living home. And two days later the Huntington Beach Police Department responded yet again. The current scenario of unregulated and unsupervised residences for addicts is not working. How many more addicts must die as local governments are threatened with lawsuits in an attempt to protect the health and welfare of all? Please take action and support corrective legislation. Thank you.

PATRICIA ANNE QUINTANA,  
Huntington Beach, California.

We were the unfortunate neighbors of a sober-living home a few years ago. The occupants were a source of constant nuisance and criminal activity. My children couldn't play outside in our backyard due to the constant, heavy cigarette smoke and loud profanity coming from the residents. These homes don't belong in residential neighborhoods.

ANNE DEBIE,  
Costa Mesa, California.

I have lived at this address for 12 years. I have lived in this neighborhood for 27 years. In that time, I have seen cars be broken into at night. If cars are left unlocked, they are ransacked and items taken such as electronic devices. This is routine and typical. Clearly it has increased over the years as more and more people come to the area for treatment and fail. This is a residential neighborhood and not a treatment/medical facility designated area. These homes are not normal by housing multiple adults that would typically have one or two residents in the same space otherwise. We need to stop encouraging such a huge influx of individuals into the community that don't have jobs, family or a productive reason for being here. It creates a huge burden on the city and its residents.

SHEILA CIMINI,  
Costa Mesa, California.

I am a physician in Laguna Beach and my area and many others around me are inundated with sober living homes. Unscrupulous property owners are making a fortune housing these individuals, many recruited from out of state. I am sympathetic to these people and their problems, (as I have experienced the pain of addiction in my own family). However, many of these individuals seem largely unsupervised, hang out in

groups around local businesses and our beautiful beaches smoking and making these areas less desirable for children, locals and tourists. Once their coverage ends, (if they have not overdosed in these homes) they are dumped onto the street in my area and continue on as homeless. I very much would like to see out of state addicts stay out of state and the rapacious profits these homeowners make destroying my neighborhood ended.

JAMES RUSSELL, M.D.,  
Laguna Beach, California.

A detox/sober living home went in across the street from me over 3 years ago. At the time my boys were 7 and 10. Too young to learn about drugs and inappropriate adult behavior. Since then, there have and continues to be: puking, fighting, patient dumping in front of my house, drugs being delivered to my house, medical supplies in front of my house, intimidation of residents and staff towards my children, we've almost been hit 3 times by staff and delivery persons while in my driveway, ambulances and firetrucks all hours of day and night, my house has been entered 3 times, my car broken into 2 times, my children cannot play out front from the amount of cars, over 20 or more all day and night, drug deliveries on a regular basis including 2 a.m., parking issues, women walking around naked, cars parked with strangers watching my children, blocking of street, residents coming back with knives and kept outside endangering all the neighbors, house not being taken care of and endangering others with hanging roof parts in howling wind, U-turns 24 hours a day aimed at my house, my children and me, parking in front of my driveway blocking my cars, enormous trash with all the vermin that goes with it, blocking of fire hydrant every day, screaming arguing women out front with foul language in front of my children, unknown amounts of addicts visiting residents and house while using my driveway and staring at my children, runaway cars with no drivers, drug dealers approaching me after school with children, men leaving the house through side doors in the middle of the night, volatile women coming and going scaring my children, boyfriends of staff coming and going all hours of the night, the residents have no air conditioning in extreme weather, no backup generator for power outages in cold weather, a regular hole in the front door, broken windows from storms, fire and rattlesnake hazard by not having regular yard maintenance, code violations from the city, drinking. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week businesses that cater to convicted criminals do not belong in residential neighborhoods just doors down from a middle school, a most vulnerable population. Businesses do not belong in neighborhoods at all. We moved here and paid millions to keep our children away from drugs, not to have them enter our house and have us living in fear. Have you ever had someone just walk into your home while you are with your family enjoying your Sunday afternoon or having Sunday dinner to the sound of puking out your front door? The fear that someone can walk into your home on drugs and fully high is paralyzing. Police cannot handle people high on drugs and they are trained and have weapons. Not once, not twice, but 3 times my house has been entered by a drug addict, a very scary staff person and a man trying to deliver dangerous meds in front of my children who would have died if ingested. I was told by the owner that they had insurance for that type of thing. Can you imagine losing your child or having them permanently injured but they have insurance? All in what was a safe neighborhood. No one locked their doors now we spend hundreds on security