

they gather for their 50-year high school reunion.

I am proud to congratulate all of this class as they bring old friends together and celebrate everything they have accomplished since their graduation 50 years ago.

As students at M.B. Smiley, these individuals were instilled with the values of a strong work ethic, leadership, and service which enabled them to succeed in whatever endeavor they chose later in life. This has been made evident by the many educators, doctors, lawyers, community leaders, and elected officials that have gone on to excel in their personal and professional lives. Through their dedication and commitment, many have left a lasting impact on their communities and the people around them—ensuring the preservation of the strong legacy of M.B. Smiley High School.

After graduation, numerous young men and women from the class of '68 went on to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War—with some paying the ultimate sacrifice for our country. These great individuals selflessly fulfilled their duty and defended our Nation in a time of war, and we thank them for their steadfast service and dedication to country.

As this group of former students once again joins together to meet with their fellow classmates from the class of 1968, I am proud to recognize this momentous occasion and wish them the best as they celebrate their 50-year reunion.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JACOB RUIZ

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Major Jacob Ruiz as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Major Jacob Ruiz raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and moved to the mainland U.S. at 12 years old. He is a former Marine, who began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts.

He later relocated to South Florida where he worked for the Broward Sheriff's Office and then as a Police Officer with the Lauderhill Police Department. In 2003, Major Ruiz relocated to Central Florida where he began his career with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

Major Ruiz has worked as a Patrol Deputy, School Resource Officer, Persons Crimes detective and SWAT team operator. Major Ruiz attained the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and in 2017, he was promoted to Captain by Sheriff Russell Gibson and later that year to Major.

Major Ruiz oversees the administration of the School Safety Division, Court Services Division and is the director of Media and Public Relations for the sheriff's office. He is the father of four children; Sara, Jaylin, Ellie and Jacob Jr. and they are his proudest and most important part of his life.

Major Ruiz holds degrees in Homeland Security, History and currently attends Rollins College's Executive MBA program. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course from the University of Louisville and a board member of the Osceola Hispanic Business Council and the Osceola Boys and Girls Club.

Major Ruiz has been instrumental in uniting and engaging the community with their local sheriff's office. Major Ruiz works to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the Hispanic Community that may exist from time to time, through communication, education and community service, in efforts of reinforcing the greatness of our Central FL Community.

Major Ruiz is intentional in celebrating inclusion and diversity throughout our community and does this while also being committed to public service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREW TORGET

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Andrew Torget, a history professor at the University of North Texas, on his record-breaking accomplishment. This summer, he set out to teach the entire history of Texas in one continuous lecture. Dr. Torget's passion for the Portal to Texas History motivated him to use his world record lecture to raise money for the preservation of historic documents.

During this very long lecture, Dr. Torget taught the history of the Lone Star State, from prehistoric times to present day. Speaking for 26 hours straight, Dr. Torget raised nearly \$20,000 to help chronicle and preserve the history of Texas. Through social media coverage and a live-stream of the event, people as far away as Ireland heard the stories of our great State.

As an alum of the University of North Texas, I am particularly honored to congratulate him on this world-renowned achievement. It is an honor to represent Dr. Torget and the University of North Texas, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OL' BILL—MR. BILL CARTER

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, way out west, Texas that is, where one can always find a back road and porch with a rocking chair, are towns like Spring, Texas and Laredo, Texas. Here, one could always find Mr. Bill Carter telling stories about how he grew up, sharing past hunting adventures, and explaining how he started Carter's Country.

Ol' Bill in his starched jeans, crisp shirt, and worn boots was a fine businessman, hunter, husband, father, and devoted family man. He spent his entire life building his family business, enjoying the outdoors, and serving his community. Spring, Texas and the entire state of Texas lost a legend of a man on October 2, 2018.

Bill was born in 1934, in a small town in North Carolina. As a child, his love for firearms began at the age of eleven when he bought a used Winchester 22 pump. During this time, his love of the outdoors grew. And

at an early age he began delivering papers, he was an entrepreneur in the making.

During high school years, Bill joined the North Carolina National Guard. After graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps. His lifelong passion for firearms deepened. He considered a career with the Marine Corps, but decided to leave in 1956 to continue his education.

After returning from the Korean War, Bill realized college was not for him. He became a seaman on a merchant ship. While sailing routes from Houston to New Jersey, he discovered a love for the Houston area. At the end of his shipping route, he met his future wife, Ellen, in New Jersey.

Bill and Ellen married and soon talked her into moving to Houston. He got a job as an ironworker, and Ellen worked in the emergency room as a registered nurse at Hermann Hospital. He soon started doing custom gun work in his garage for his ironworker friends. His wide-ranging knowledge of guns made him well known in the Houston area. Through Bill and Ellen's hard work and dedication, they purchased 15 acres of land and a gun club on Aldine Westfield near FM 1960.

In 1969, business was booming so they purchased a larger piece of property off Treaschwig in Spring, Texas. This location is currently Carter's Country headquarters. Ellen retired from nursing and helped with everyday business. They had two kids, Billy and Lori. Billy and Lori took over many Carter responsibilities and both play an important role in the Carter legacy.

Bill's love of outdoors and passion for hunting brought him to ranching. In the late 70s, he purchased Sombrero Ranch in South Texas. He treasured managing a 100% native South Texas deer herd. His bucks have the famous 10-point genes. His 11,000 acre ranch was originally part of the Spanish land grant, and now it is known for producing some of the best trophy bucks in North America.

Today, the Carter's have four retail stores, a gun range, and elk and whitetail hunting ranches. It is my hope that Bill's legacy will be remembered and folks will see if a humble southern boy with modest beginnings can achieve his American dream, they can too. Of course—with hard work, perseverance, passion and dedication. I consider it an honor to have known this true Texas cowboy and have him as a friend.

My thoughts are with the love of his life, Ellen, and their two children. They all share the same passion for the great Texas outdoors. His memory will live on, in the many lives he touched along the way. Texas will miss Ol' Bill, Happy Trails.

Semper Fi.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING 2018 BALDWIN COUNTY REACH RECIPIENTS

### HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Talexia Brooks, Luna Espinoza, Isabella Harp, Isaac Harris, and McKinsey Pennamon for being selected as 2018 REACH Scholars for Baldwin County, Georgia.

Standing for “Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen,” this needs-based mentorship and college scholarship program provides opportunity for academically-promising students from their eighth grade year through high school. In addition to remaining in high academic standing, students are required to meet with a mentor and maintain good attendance. Upon graduation from high school and successful completion of the program, the student is awarded a \$10,000 scholarship toward the cost of any HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia.

These REACH Georgia scholars are our future. Georgia has made a commitment to awarding those in need who demonstrate a high level of merit—an investment that will increase our workforce and grow our economy. I am proud that we take these steps to ensure a brighter future for our children, our state, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I expect great things from each of these special young scholars, and on behalf of Georgia’s 10th Congressional District, I offer them my congratulations and wish them continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING PAUL SCOTT AS THE KENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

#### 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 Mr. Paul Scott. He has been recognized as the 2017 employee of the year by the City of Kent, for his hard work and dedicated commitment to go above and beyond what is asked of him.

Selected from a pool of over 600 people, Mr. Scott is the Public Works Accounting Manager for the City of Kent where he oversees the city’s financial policies, labor agreements, accounting, and reporting systems. Mr. Scott has been a dedicated employee for over 25 years.

In the City of Kent, the Employee of the Year award is entirely peer nominated and peer selected, which speaks to the level of respect Mr. Scott has fostered in the community. The amount of support Mr. Scott’s peers have shown for him highlights the remarkable work he does. He can be regarded as an important example of what a devoted employee looks like, and his achievement serves to motivate civil servants all over the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Paul Scott for his years of dedicated work for the City of Kent, and congratulate him on his well-deserved award.

#### CELEBRATING TAIWAN’S 107TH NATIONAL DAY

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, October 10, or Double Ten Day, marks Taiwan’s 107th National Day. From our shared values of freedom and respect for human rights to our

strong economic relationship, Taiwan is a natural and important partner for the United States, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

Over the years, through its commitment to democracy, its contributions to global health initiatives, international development, and humanitarian missions, Taiwan has proven its leadership on the global stage. Taiwan has delivered critical aid and supplies in times of need to places such as Haiti, the Philippines, West Africa, Japan, and even in our very own Texas, after hurricane Harvey. Taiwan has also contributed to important non-humanitarian missions, including significant efforts as part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

Taiwan’s leadership and humanitarian commitment is even more impressive considering the increasing degree of coercion and intimidation emanating from Beijing. China’s efforts to block Taiwan from international organizations are depriving the world of Taiwan’s knowledge and expertise, causing unnecessarily dangerous situations in everything from global health to international commercial flight. With the support of the United States and other like-minded partners, I know that efforts to deny Taiwan appropriate recognition and participation in international organizations will ultimately be overcome.

Taiwan is a beacon of freedom, serving as an inspiration for the oppressed, a model for future democratic transitions, and an anchor of security in the Pacific. It is crucial that the U.S. provides the kind of assistance—politically, militarily, and economically—that will allow Taiwan to resist Beijing’s increasing coercion. Throughout my Congressional career, I have worked to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and to ensure that we do not lose focus on Taiwan’s importance. I am honored to be a friend and strong supporter of Taiwan and its people.

As Taiwanese all around the world celebrate Taiwan’s National Day, the United States stands with Taiwan, ready to ensure our partnership is stronger than ever. With appreciation for and commitment to our important relationship, I again offer my best Double Ten Day wishes to the people of Taiwan.

#### MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE: 95 YEARS AND COUNTING

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Miller Outdoor Theatre is celebrating 95 years in Herman Park. The Miller Outdoor Theatre got its start in 1923, and continues to be one of Houston’s most treasured venues. Located right in the heart of the City of Houston, it provides folks a place to enjoy the performing arts. And it is always free.

Miller is a unique treasure to Houstonians and it is dedicated to bringing the arts alive for audiences for over 95 years: classical music, jazz, ethnic music and dance, ballet, Shakespeare, musical theatre, popular concert artists, films and more.

The theatre has boasted the Summer Symphony Series, Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Under the Stars “Bells are Ringing”, and even

presidential candidate Richard Nixon campaigned on stage.

The original theatre was an open amphitheater surrounded by twenty Corinthian-style limestone columns built on land that was given and sold by the Miller estate. Cotton broker and mining engineer, Jesse Wright Miller, originally left the land to the City in 1919. Mayor Oscar Holcombe and his council members should be commended for their vision towards this project.

In the 1960s, the City of Houston built a new theatre that consisted of three triangular plates of Corten steel and an air condition to cool the stage. Did I mention it is hot in Texas! The original 1920s columns were moved to the Mecom-Rockwell Colonnade Fountain between Fannin and San Jacinto at Hermann Drive.

The Miller received another face lift in the late 1990s. A 6 million dollar expansion and renovation planned and funded by the City of Houston and Friends of Hermann Park. A new roof, additional restrooms and office areas were added. They built a small stage at the east end of the facility. The refurbished theatre reopened in 1998.

The Miller’s newest upgrades and additions occurred through the 2000s. New seating, lighting, and landscaping greatly enhance the educational and outreach capacities of the theatre. The Miller can accommodate about 6,200 spectators, with over 1,705 seats and over 4,500 on the grassy hill.

While so much has grown and changed over the years, I still remember my children visiting the Miller Outdoor Theatre on school field trips. It was very popular with the Poe kids. The day always included a musical production or play, a picnic lunch, and a roll down Miller’s “hill”. By the way, Miller’s “hill” was created with dirt from Fannin Street excavations. In 2008, the iconic hill was regressed and raised.

There is a plaque that was erected at the theatre’s dedication that read: “To the Arts of Music, Poetry, Drama and Oratory, by which the striving spirit of man seeks to interpret the words of God. This theatre of the City of Houston is permanently dedicated.” These words still ring true today.

Through its mission statement and commitment to the arts in Houston, the Miller Outdoor Theatre has proven to be a pillar to the citizens of Houston. I congratulate them on their 95th season and commend them for continuing to contribute to Houston’s vibrant arts community.

And that’s just the way it is.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF EFFIE RUTH WEBB MCQUEEN AND THE DEN- TON GOSPELAIRES

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Effie Ruth Webb McQueen of Denton, Texas and honor her for founding the Denton Gospelairens fifty years ago. In 1968, Sister McQueen, along with eight members, organized the Christian singing group that still performs to this day.

The Denton Gospelairens was the first gospel quartet to be organized in the City of Denton.