

Gilliam for his dedication to family and country.

JOHN E. BALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Golden Fire Chief John E. Bales for his many years of service to the City of Golden and surrounding communities.

For almost two decades, Chief Bales has been active within the Golden community and fire department. Chief Bales became Golden Fire Chief in 2001, but his personal passion and a commitment to his community started long before then. For more than 50 years, Chief Bales contributed to several Colorado communities and other communities across the country with positions at the Rocky Flats Fire Department, Genesee Fire Protection District, Cunningham Fire Protection District, City of Thornton Fire Department, and the Wichita Fire Department. His hard work and dedication has helped make our community—and so many others—a great place to live and work.

I extend my deepest thanks to Chief Bales for his service to our community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the people of Colorado.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JACK J. PENDLETON

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton of Yakima, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his service during World War II.

In Germany in 1944, Sergeant Pendleton lost his life while drawing enemy gunfire away from his squad, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor one year later. He is the sole Medal of Honor recipient from Yakima.

I would like to thank U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Ramon Dang. Two years ago, Sergeant Major Dang was touring our state to care for the graves of Medal of Honor recipients when he discovered that Sergeant Pendleton's grave did not include an appropriate memorial. A memorial statue, a 6-foot granite sculpture, was subsequently dedicated at Tahoma Cemetery on September 26th of this year.

Sergeant Pendleton's Medal of Honor citation reads, "[His] sacrifice enabled the entire company to continue the advance and complete their mission at a critical phase of the action." He made the ultimate sacrifice for his brothers-in-arms and our nation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE
GIRL

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize October 11th as the International Day of the Girl, a day to promote girls' empowerment and examine the challenges and barriers girls face around the world. According to the UN High Commission on Refugees, there are approximately 65 million forcibly displaced people worldwide and half are under the age of 18. Prolonged periods away from home result in low school enrollment rates for displaced children, which leaves girls vulnerable to early marriage, human trafficking, and child labor. The Protecting Girl's Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which myself and Congressman CHABOT introduced, aims to ensure educational needs of displaced girls are considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of U.S. foreign assistance. Girls perform better in school when they have access to quality education and a safe space to learn. International Day of the Girl, is a day to reflect on the importance of ensuring all children, especially girls, have access to safe, quality education.

HONORING SAMUEL THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Thomas. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel completed a natural area for the Missouri Department of Conservation outdoor classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to raising awareness and educating folks about breast cancer and

honoring the thousands of women across our nation who have been diagnosed, fighting, or have survived breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. It is the second deadliest cancer among American women. 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer over the course of her lifetime, and it is estimated that this year more than 252,000 cases of invasive breast cancer is expected to be reported. In Texas, 17,566 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018.

In the Second District of Texas, I am proud of our local hospitals, school districts, and non-profits who promote breast cancer awareness and prevention during this month. Many are showing their support by replacing their outdoor light bulb with a pink bulb. I have noticed many front porch lights shining pink around our town. These pink bulbs help support a local nonprofit called Project Mammogram. Project Mammogram offers mammograms and other services free to patients in the Lake Houston area. Remember, not every woman can afford a mammogram. By providing free mammograms this organization has saved thousands of women.

Almost everyone we know has been touched by this disease. Unfortunately, this disease has hit close to home for one of our very own community leaders, Leslie Raffa. Leslie and her husband, Tony, own two restaurants in the Lake Houston area. They are well-loved and respected in the community. Leslie battled breast cancer for over two and a half years, her final treatment was in February 2017. During the course of her treatments, she underwent a bilateral mastectomy, breast reconstruction and chemotherapy. During her battle, Leslie lost her sister to breast cancer in the summer of 2016. Leslie continued to fight while mourning the death of her sister.

Leslie rang the monumental bell at MD Anderson in April of 2016. The bell signifies the end to treatment. Ringing the bell is a celebration. But Leslie soon realized that the end of treatment is not necessarily the end. She thought if she would just get to the end and cross the finish line it would all be over. But she soon discovered an emotional fall out occurs. Cancer is hard mentally. It takes months, years, to recover. She shares this piece of advice for those going through what she went through, "it's ok to have a pity party, but don't unpack and stay there." Leslie exudes positive energy and happiness, even during the lowest moments. She beat the odds that come along with this disease and tries her best to educate those around her to get annual breast exams.

Now this is where I usually say: "And that's just the way it is." But Leslie's story is not over. The same year she completed her last treatment, Hurricane Harvey devastated our area. Raffa's Waterfront Grill was destroyed. Friends and family gathered quickly around them to help rebuild the restaurant that took on 5 feet of water. Leslie didn't flounder in pity and give up; she put on her water boots and gloves (I am sure they are pink) and began the cleanup process. Raffa's will open this year, and our community cannot be any happier for Tony and Leslie. This month Leslie will speak in front of hundreds of folks at the annual In the Pink Luncheon to share her survival story. Stories like Leslie's are an inspiration and a reminder that we must keep up the fight until there is a cure.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING CARR & DUFF,
INC.'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friend Mr. Norcross to honor Carr & Duff, Inc., a family-owned electrical construction company in my district that will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this month. Mr. Norcross worked as a journeyman, foreman, and lead splicer for Carr & Duff, one of his first jobs as an electrician. In fact, he was hired by the company's founders we honor today.

In 1958, Edward Duff and Harold (Hap) Carr were just two linemen who set out to fulfill the electrical construction needs of Philadelphia's burgeoning suburbs. More than half a century later, what started as a single line truck operation has evolved into one of the most prominent electrical contractors in the Greater Philadelphia and Tri-State Area, now employing roughly 200 people.

Though much has changed for Carr & Duff over the past sixty years, much has stayed the same. It's still a family-owned business, now in its second generation, and it's common to see parent and child working alongside one another. The Carr & Duff team is just as committed to giving back to the community as they were some six decades ago, having donated tens of thousands of hours and equipment. They continue to be a vital arm of natural disaster response along the Eastern seaboard, true pillars of the communities they serve. People have always looked to them personally and professionally during times of need. When power is knocked out, Carr and Duff are immediately on the scene. In fact, they carry such a wide array of transformers that even the utility companies turn to them during crunch time.

As leaders of the Blue Collar Caucus, we know that men and women like those employed by Carr & Duff are the backbone of American communities. We celebrate their achievements; their hard work and constant contributions to our districts. We rise today to thank Carr & Duff, Inc. for upholding its commitment to reliable and accessible service while keeping its employees safe—and for all it contributes to Huntingdon Valley, Greater Philadelphia, and New Jersey. We need more companies like Carr & Duff.

IN RECOGNITION OF
BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW
HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL AS A
2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle 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. Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School is an exceptional center for learning and preparing students for all stages of life. I'd like to congratulate the teachers and staff of Brecksville-Broadview Heights for creating an environment where students can excel. As a father of three children, I believe there is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. Most of all, I'd like to congratulate the hard-working students for a job well done. I am proud to have such an example of academic excellence in Northeast Ohio and I congratulate Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School on this well-deserved recognition.

2018 ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary individuals from my district—James and Angie Sessions—who opened their hearts to foster care and adoption.

I was proud to nominate James and Angie as "Angels in Adoption," an award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. It recognizes individuals, couples, and organizations who improve the lives of children in need of families.

The Sessions family is more than deserving of this recognition. After learning about foster care at a local church camp for children in state custody, James and Angie were inspired to become foster parents. While they were providing foster care for four siblings—three young brothers and their baby sister—James and Angie were determined to keep the siblings together.

In August of 2017, the Sessions family grew from 2 to 6 when Ajay, Nathan, Kyler, and Layla found their forever home with James and Angie in Pasco, Washington.

Thank you, James and Angie, for your love and dedication to children in Central Washington.

HONORING JUSTIN MCHENRY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin McHenry. Justin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Justin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Justin painted hand rails around the First United Methodist Church in Kirksville, MO.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
RONALD E. LAWSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Ronald E. Lawson. Mr. Lawson honorably served in the United States Army for twenty years, touring in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

Ronald "Ron" E. Lawson was born in Los Angeles and, in 1959, at age seventeen, he enlisted in the Army, completing his basic training at Fort Ord. He was then sent to Korea as a member of the 1st Cavalry with duties in the DMZ. Upon completion of his tour, he was posted to Germany, serving five years with the First ARB 46th Infantry and the 24th Infantry Division.

After returning to the US as a weapons instructor, Ron was called up for his second tour in Korea, this time serving a year with the famed 7th Cavalry with the 2nd Infantry Division at the DMZ.

Ron was later selected to attend the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, earning the distinction of Honor Graduate. After graduation, Ron was deployed to Vietnam as part of Military Assistance Command. He worked with South Vietnamese Regional Forces in the Central Highlands of II Corps, providing instruction and tactical advice to regional soldiers, accompanying them on jungle operations.

After twelve months in Vietnam, Ron assumed duties as a drill sergeant for new recruits at Fort Ord, later returning to Germany as operations sergeant with the 1st Armored Division. He deployed in 1961 and 1964 for the Berlin Crisis and to Greece and Cyprus in 1962. He once more returned to Fort Ord to serve with the 7th Light Infantry Division.

After twenty years of service, Ron retired with the rank of First Sergeant. For his service, Ron Lawson was awarded the Bronze Star, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Army of Occupation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. Additionally, Ron received six letters of commendation and was selected Drill Sergeant of the Year.

After retirement from the Army, Ron and his family settled in Chowchilla, California. Working as a maintenance supervisor, Ron served on the City of Chowchilla Planning Commission for twenty-one years. He is a Life Member and past commander of VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148. Ron attends St. Columba Catholic Church and is a member of the Young Men's Institute. Ron and his wife, Mathilde, have two children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the service of Ronald E.