

youngest of 11 sons. On April 23, 1949, he married Nathalie M. Larscheid. He was a true lover of the outdoors; he enjoyed camping with his family and hunting and fishing with his brother-in-law, Carlton Larscheid. He was very proud of becoming a licensed pilot at the age of 63.

Words cannot justly thank Mr. Balza for his many years of service to our country. A treasure for a community and nation Mr. Balza cannot be replaced. May his service, dedication, and sacrifice be remembered by a grateful nation and all who knew him.

HONORING EMMA GREEN WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emma Green as a woman of the year. She is passionately devoted to improving her community both through her career and volunteerism. While professionally Emma has had a stellar career at Charter Systems, Inc. the financial services company she owned which just celebrated its 30th Anniversary, she is more likely to be recognized by the underserved in our community for the countless hours of volunteer service providing and delivering meals. One of Emma's passions is feeding the needy by running the Community Meal Program at the Church of the Epiphany where she serves over 350 meals per week. Not only do they serve meals, but she coordinates with other service providers to bring medical, dental, and transportation services to those in need. Ms. Green's history of service also includes her time as President of Vacca Arts, serving on Boards of the Boys & Girls Club, performing vocational rehabilitation and job placement for the disabled, serving as a liaison to Travis Air Force Base Airmen, working with the Vacaville Community Outreach Program, and donating her time to many other service organizations where she is always the first to help. The significant positive impact Ms. Green has had on this community cannot be overstated, which makes her extremely worthy of this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA AND LARRY FOLLMANN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Patricia and Larry Follmann of Massena, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 22, 2018.

Patricia and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year 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.

CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF MILITARY FUNERAL HONOR GUARDS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an important issue facing our service members and veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over 500,000 veterans are dying each year. Under a law passed in 2000, many of these men and women qualify for military honors at their funerals, including a two-person honor guard. These honor guards perform an impressive ceremony that includes folding and presenting the flag of the United States and playing Taps. This demonstration of our nation's unceasing appreciation is incredibly important to family, friends, and the entire veterans community.

The Indiana National Guard, like in other states, strives to provide funeral teams whenever possible. Unfortunately, with so many veterans passing each year, there are too few men and women prepared to render honors. Service members and veterans in my hometown of Indianapolis recognized this shortage and organized the Indy Metropolitan Military Honor Guard to meet the need, averaging 400 funerals per year and amassing over 9,600 man hours and 56,000 miles traveled.

Those who serve in our Armed Forces never do so for accolades or honors. Yet, we honor them with medals and ribbons to recognize their service and tell the story of their achievements. In Indiana, the National Guard decorates funeral team members and the Metro Military Honor Guard provides a ribbon to be worn by its participants. Yet, this is not the case across much of the country. Service members and veterans who serve on honor guards are providing a valuable service and should be decorated for their contribution.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to recognize all the service members and veterans who serve on honor guards across the country. I call on all states to follow Indiana's example and adopt a ribbon to recognize these dedicated individuals.

RECOGNIZING ELGIN LOWE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my former colleague, Mr. Elgin Lowe, on the occasion of his receiving the South Alameda County NAACP 40th Annual Service Award.

Elgin joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in 1996 after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in History from UC Santa Barbara followed by his Juris Doctor from UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Elgin's accomplishments over the course of the last twenty-two years are innumerable. There are, however, a few achievements I will mention for the extraordinary impact they had on our community. In 2011, Elgin began prosecuting cases that resulted from gang violence on the south side of our county. His work resulted in the successful prosecution of several high-profile murders and brought resolutions and a restorative sense of justice to several victims and families whose cases were previously considered "unsolvable."

Elgin's deep understanding of criminal prosecutions is sought whenever the county is in

need of someone to train newer attorneys in the areas of case investigation, testimony, trial preparation, and the unique set of challenges that prosecutions of gang members bring to the courtroom.

Our community is only in debt to Elgin not only for the work he completes in and around the courtroom, but also for the countless hours he volunteers in the community at large. He has prioritized speaking to at-risk youth about the perils that await those who enter the criminal realm or affiliate with a gang. Elgin has also actively participated with our local Regional Occupation Program center and mentored first-year law students in Berkeley's Boalt Hall moot court program.

Elgin draws his support from his amazing family. His wife, Brigitte, also works at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and together they have two wonderful children, their son Kendall, and daughter Kori. It goes without saying that Elgin has made his mother Evelyn quite proud.

I want to thank Elgin Lowe for the contributions he has made to the 15th Congressional District and all of Alameda County. His work is consequential and appreciated.

HONORING GAIL FEINBERG WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Feinberg as a woman of the year. She is always finding ways to enrich the lives of those in Solano County. As a medical professional, Ms. Feinberg has a wealth of knowledge and skills to bring to bear on any issue. Having now served for two years as the Chair of Primary Care for Touro University, her continued excellence and tireless work to train medical students in providing care for our underserved populations has been indispensable to our community. Additionally, in spite of the demanding nature of her position, Ms. Feinberg is persistent in her willingness to go above and beyond, as demonstrated by her dedication to volunteering at a student-run free clinic. Here her valuable insight and tenacity became so integral to the mission of the clinic that she was quickly asked to take over as medical director. As a result, Ms. Feinberg provides much needed free medical services to those in need. She also manages to find the time to volunteer teaching nursing students and work with a diabetes research program. Ms. Feinberg is diligent in her work, generous with her time, and passionate about serving others. She is a dedicated community servant and truly worthy of this recognition.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NASA'S KEPLER SPACE TELESCOPE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NASA's Kepler Space Telescope on its retirement and to commend the many thousands of NASA personnel who designed and maintained Kepler and analyzed data received from it.

Launched in March, 2009, Kepler spent nine years in deep space collecting data that indicate our sky is filled with billions of hidden planets—even more planets than stars. Now

Kepler has run out of fuel, and will be retired in its current safe orbit, away from Earth.

"As NASA's first planet-hunting mission, Kepler has wildly exceeded all our expectations and paved the way for our exploration and search for life in the solar system and beyond," said Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "Not only did it show us how many planets could be out there, it sparked an entirely new and robust field of research that has taken the science community by storm. Its discoveries have shed a new light on our place in the universe, and illuminated the tantalizing mysteries and possibilities among the stars."

Kepler showed us the diversity of planets in our galaxy, and concluded that 20 to 50 percent of the stars visible in the night sky are likely to have small, possibly rocky planets similar in size to Earth. Many of these could possibly sustain life.

"When we started conceiving this mission 35 years ago we didn't know of a single planet outside our solar system," said the Kepler mission's founding principal investigator, William Borucki, now retired from NASA's Ames Research Center and the recipient of the 2013 United States National Academy of Sciences' Henry Draper Medal for his work with Kepler and the 2015 recipient of the Shaw Prize in Astronomy.

"Now that we know planets are everywhere, Kepler has set us on a new course that's full of promise for future generations to explore our galaxy."

Kepler's retirement doesn't mean the end of its contributions to our scientific knowledge. Future missions will build on its results and scientists will mine the data Kepler collected for years to come.

NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley manages the Kepler and K2 missions for NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to represent NASA Ames and its extraordinary programs that advance our knowledge of our planet and beyond. I ask the entire House of Representatives to honor Kepler and each person and organization who contributed to its extraordinary success.

HONORING MR. JEFF STRACK  
WITH THE 2018 DISTINGUISHED  
CITIZEN AWARD

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization will host a celebratory event on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

For 26 years, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals whose selfless efforts have tremendously impacted their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council will honor Mr. Jeff Strack.

In May of 2016, Jeff Strack was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Indiana Grocery Group/Strack & Van Til. As a third-generation head of the company, Jeff's legacy began with his fondest memories of

shadowing his father as he worked tirelessly to keep Strack & Van Til successful. After eighth grade, Jeff was officially hired into the company, eventually working his way through every department within the store before leaving for college. After obtaining his master's degree, Jeff embarked on a journey with Strack & Van Til that helped him learn every aspect of the business, rightfully earning his way to leading the company.

Almost a year after Jeff's appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer, he was faced with challenges that to many would have seemed insurmountable. In 2017, after its parent company, Central Grocers, filed for bankruptcy, Strack & Van Til was forced to shut down numerous stores. However, Jeff was determined to save the family business that has served as an economic driver in Northwest Indiana for almost six decades. After he and a group of investors formed Indiana Grocery Group and successfully purchased back Strack & Van Til, Mr. Strack vowed to keep it a family-owned business. Jeff fought for the business and for the jobs of many individuals by securing twenty locations in communities throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, Mr. Strack's many contributions to the community have supported local schools, military, first responders, and families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the steadfast leadership and dedication of Mr. Jeff Strack. Mr. Strack's family business continues to serve as a cornerstone of Northwest Indiana, and their continued charitable efforts and service in our local communities are to be admired. Jeff is undeniably deserving of the 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award. His exceptional leadership and commitment to Northwest Indiana will have a positive impact on generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SARAH CARPENTER  
OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sarah Carpenter of Burlington, Vermont for her distinguished career in affordable housing and her tireless dedication to improving the lives of Vermonters.

At the end of 2018, Sarah will retire as Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) after 20 years of leading that organization. Sarah's extraordinary career has created opportunities for thousands of Vermonters to achieve their dream of owning a home. Since its inception in 1974, VHFA's main goal has been to finance low-cost and flexible mortgages to individuals seeking affordable housing. VHFA has helped over 29,000 Vermonters and their families to purchase primary residences. Sarah leads a team of 38 employees that provides diverse and innovative services. They finance mortgages, coordinate rental housing programs, analyze housing market data, and inform state housing policy. During Sarah's tenure, the volume of VHFA mortgages provided to Vermonters grew by \$1.3 billion.

Sarah and VHFA's leadership has influence far beyond Vermont's borders. In 2000, VHFA successfully campaigned for Congress to increase the caps on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and private activity bonds. Additionally, she advocated for state tax credit programs that supplement the federal funds due to Vermont's dire need for a greater supply of affordable rental housing.

Sarah's contributions to the housing community began long before her time at VHFA.

From 1983 to 1998, she served as the Executive Director of Cathedral Square Corporation, an organization that has become a national model in providing service-enriched housing for older adults and people with special needs.

Sarah has also served in leadership roles on numerous boards including Leading Age, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, and Fletcher Allen Healthcare (now the University of Vermont Medical Center).

It comes as no surprise that Sarah has been the recipient of a number of awards including the Government Service Award from NeighborWorks America and the Vermont YWCA Susan B. Anthony Award for Woman of the Year.

Sarah is a native of Burlington, Vermont, and a graduate of University of Vermont and Harvard University.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis across this country. Chronic homelessness is alarmingly high, people are paying an ever-increasing portion of their paychecks on housing, and homeownership is out of reach for many. Despite the challenges, Sarah Carpenter and her colleagues throughout the state of Vermont have continued to make progress through innovative approaches and deep collaboration. Sarah has left her mark on the housing community in Vermont and the lives of many who have benefited from her good work.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah's exceptional work on behalf of Vermont communities will surely be missed, and I wish her well in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
MELVIN COOPER

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin Cooper, Director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation, who is retiring after 47 years of service with the city and 30 years as its Parks Director.

In a letter to Gainesville's Parks and Recreation Board, Mr. Cooper said, "From the time I was 12 years old I knew what I wanted to do and began to set my goals for what I have done for the last 47 years. I wanted to lead change, I wanted to be change, I wanted to work with people and make a difference."

Melvin Cooper was born in Moultrie and spent most of his childhood in Commerce, Georgia. In 1970, while he was a student at the University of Georgia, he completed an internship for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Cooper was first hired as a Program Coordinator and later held the role of Assistant Director for 16 years. During his tenure as Director, the Gainesville Civic Center was renovated, Lake Lanier hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics, and the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center—along with many other facilities—opened to the public.

After leading the Parks and Recreation Department for three decades, Mr. Cooper announced his retirement at a recent Board of Directors meeting. The search for a replacement will begin November 1, and Mr. Cooper will continue to serve as Director until May 31, 2019.

During his career, which has spanned almost half a century, Mr. Cooper helped improve the quality of life in our community and his contributions will benefit generations to come. I wish Mr. Cooper joyful years ahead in his retirement.