

HONORING MR. DENNIS
KACOYANIS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work of my constituent Mr. Dennis Kacoyanis of Chantilly, Virginia. Mr. Kacoyanis plans to retire on January 3, 2019, after more than 40 years of federal service. His dedication and professionalism throughout his career have provided exceptional benefit to the people of the United States.

Mr. Kacoyanis spent the early portion of his federal career as an attorney at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforcing employment laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace. Since 1987, Mr. Kacoyanis has served as an attorney for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Mr. Kacoyanis performed a number of duties to keep consumers safe, including ensuring that hazardous products were promptly recalled from the market and that companies immediately reported hazardous products to the Commission. He zealously advocated for the Commission's interests in federal court cases. He also worked hard to ensure the Commission met its responsibility to release information to the public—increasing transparency, accountability and trust in government.

In addition to his 32 years of work at the Commission, Mr. Kacoyanis previously served the American people at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division, and at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Kacoyanis for the outstanding service he provided to the United States throughout his long-lasting career. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MAYOR DAMON WELCH

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Mayor Damon Welch for his contribution to our state and the City of Madison.

Over the years, Damon has been a loyal friend and wise adviser to me. He has also served the City of Madison, as mayor, with honor and integrity. Damon has made improving the quality of life in the community his main priority for years. Several economic development initiatives, including being designated as a Stellar Community in 2017, have been the result of Damon's hard work and commitment to the historic City of Madison. Our state is better off today because of his extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, Damon is a brother in Christ. I have truly appreciated his prayers and encouragement over the years. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN HOUGEN

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Hougen. Recently the Denver Business Journal recognized Kevin with its 2018 Most Admired Chief Executive Officer honor. This prestigious award is given only to those with a proven record of innovation, who act as a standard-bearer for their organization, as a community role model, and exert exceptional leadership within their organization and the community. I am proud to see Kevin Hougen receive this award for his more than two decades of dedicated service to my hometown of Aurora, Colorado.

Kevin Hougen's leadership with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce began 22 years ago when he was first hired as its Vice President of Sales. Since 1999, Kevin Hougen has served as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Kevin's leadership and business acumen has played a key role in the tremendous growth and economic success the city of Aurora has experienced since then as it has grown to become the third largest city in the State of Colorado.

Kevin Hougen has led the Aurora Chamber of Commerce through difficult challenges such as the "Great Recession" and to new and exciting triumphs such as the agreement with Denver and Adams County on the development of the "Aerotropolis." Critically, his leadership has proved crucial to enhancing community support efforts for Buckley Air Force Base. I do not believe any base located in a major metropolitan area receives more consistent or stronger community support than does Buckley Air Force Base.

Kevin Hougen has also led the Chamber's efforts to make Aurora a better place to live and to do business. He has done so by facilitating support for the expansion and creation of new roadways and the light rail line that now serve the City of Aurora. He has also rallied the business community to become more involved with the local schools, which are so important to the long-term economic strength of the City of Aurora.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown city of Aurora would not be the driving force of innovation, development, and economic opportunity it is today without Kevin Hougen. I look forward to seeing his successes and those of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce continue well into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE MINNETONKA
GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minnetonka Girls Soccer Team on winning the Minnesota state high school championship. After narrowly the state championship game last year, the Skippers re-deemed themselves with a 1-0 victory over

Wayzata to finish the season and take home the state title. Minnetonka scored a goal in the first minute of play and held the lead for the remainder of the game.

Soccer requires teamwork, cohesiveness, agility and physical rigor. While the Skippers' girls mastered these skills to capture their third state title, it's also important to point out that these student athletes excel in other areas off the field. Keeping up with their studies and being involved in other community activities is also a hallmark of their success.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, parents and fans on being high school champs.

HONORING MR. ABDE-ALI EMADI
OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent, Abde-Ali Emadi, for his accomplishment in earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in Scouting, which only a small number of Boy Scouts earn. The rank is performance-based, and must meet high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by myriad requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the community.

Abde-Ali has been recognized as a valuable member of Troop 180, and has served in various leadership positions; i.e. Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader. His Eagle Scout Project was to clean and stain over 70 picnic tables at the New Kingstown Fire Company pavilion, in addition to building four ADA-compliant tables.

I've long appreciated the commitment of people who demonstrate hard work and devote themselves selflessly to serving our communities and fellow citizens. On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I recognize and congratulate Abde-Ali Emadi on his significant accomplishment and community service. I wish him continued success and Godspeed in his future adventures.

HONORING J.R. AND CAROL
SHOWERS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize J.R. and Carol Showers for their contribution to our state and their community.

The Showers have made a positive and lasting impact in Shelbyville and embody exactly what "Hoosier hospitality" is meant to be. When J.R. served as County Chairman, we worked extensively together to support Republican candidates and principles. Our state is

better off today because of the Showers' extraordinary leadership and service in their community.

On a personal note, I have known J.R. and Carol for the past two decades. They hosted my first event as a state legislator in Shelby County. And, they have supported our efforts every step of the way since. J.R. and Carol are loyal friends and wise advisers. Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with the Showers and I will always be grateful for their support of my work in Congress. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

ISIS IS RESURGING IN THE PHILIPPINES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ISIS fighters are regrouping in the Philippines. It was only a year ago that Philippine forces, with help from the U.S. military, retook the city of Marawi after a bloody five-month siege. Reports now suggest that fresh ISIS foreign fighters have arrived in the area and are preparing to unleash a new wave of terror. America must be prepared to blunt their resurgence.

It should surprise no one, that after the fall of ISIS's so-called caliphate in Syria and Iraq, that the terror group would disperse its fighters and attempt to build a new caliphate somewhere else. Two decades of fighting jihadists has shown they are an adaptive and relentless foe. ISIS itself was defeated by U.S. forces in Iraq almost a decade ago but because of Obama's naïve withdrawal, was able to rally new recruits and exploit instability in the Middle East. But we have learned our lessons and will not stand by as ISIS attempts another revival.

We are in a long war with ISIS, al-Qaeda, and other extremists. From Mali to Mindanao, America has stood ready to confront jihadism much as we stood ready to counter communism around the globe during the Cold War. The Philippines is a strategic ally of the United States and we will not abandon our commitments. We must see to it that the Philippines have what they need to crush ISIS's attempted comeback and ensure its lasting defeat.

ISIS's attempts to regroup will not end in the Philippines. Our successes against ISIS remain fragile and, without continued vigilance, can be undone. Our allies must know that the U.S. is prepared to stand with them but also note that it is their fight as well. It is their security that is most threatened by ISIS's crusade of terror. We are in this fight together until the ideology that drives Islamic extremism relegated to history.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIBBY GERMANO, KENNA GIFFORD, AND NICOLE SIMOS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 115th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young professionals has been nothing short of exemplary. During their time in my office, Libby, Kenna, and Nicole served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, conducted legislative research and learned a great deal about the United States Congress. I know they all have especially bright futures ahead of them and I look forward to seeing them build their prospective careers.

All three of these impeccable interns have made plans to continue their educational careers throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Libby Germano, Kenna Gifford, and Nicole Simos for their service this autumn.

HONORING MAYOR MIKE BETTICE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Mayor Mike Bettice for his contribution to our state and the City of Batesville.

Throughout his career, Mike has served the City of Batesville with honor and integrity. As mayor, Mike has done an incredible job of engaging the Batesville community and working to ensure its success. Our state is better off today because of his leadership and service.

On a personal note, we are both proud alums of Wabash College. Mike is a loyal confidant and among my closest friends in politics. I want to thank him for his support of my work in Congress and wish Mike continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department and to thank its dedicated members for their commitment to their community and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department was founded in September 1943 by 53 Lebanon residents without any equipment or station of their own. The first chief of the company, Clark W. Standish, obtained permission from the State Forestry Department to use their truck and equipment until Lebanon could procure their own. Since the department's inception, its volunteers have consistently served the Town of Lebanon demonstrating courage and compassion in times of crisis and distress for their friends, families, and neighbors. For decades Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has also provided the same exceptional and brave service to surrounding towns and communities under mutual aid agreements. The department has grown and adapted to the changing needs of the Town while remaining an all-volunteer force, providing fire, EMS, and hazmat services for the protection of life, property, and the environment.

This growth and innovation by Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has intensified in the wake of the post-9/11 world. As my colleagues know, the new Department of Homeland Security, which was created in the wake of the tragedy, established the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which has provided recurring grants to local departments all across the country. The grant process is an annual one and requires knowledge and expertise for departments big and small to access these funds for needed equipment and training. In Connecticut's Second District, the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department has graciously hosted annual AFG seminars for communities all across the region. Given that this program is competitive, Lebanon's willingness to share updates on ways to successfully navigate the grant process speaks highly of their commitment to public safety for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring these dedicated public servants both living and deceased, whose dedication and heroism have made this auspicious occasion possible. All firefighters and EMTs make sacrifices of time and take significant personal risks for the protection of the communities they serve. We in eastern Connecticut are ever so fortunate and grateful to be protected by the courageous men and women of Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

HONORING MATTHEW BRITTAIN OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent, Matthew Brittain, for his accomplishment in earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in scouting; only a small number of Boy Scouts earn this auspicious title. The Eagle Scout is performance-based and has high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by myriad requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the community.