

and All-Area recognition. Some say her roots run purple. She finished her degree and volleyball career at Texas A&M playing on the Aggie Volleyball team. The Aggies would say her blood runs maroon.

Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this month, Coach Miser said, "these groups of girls play for each other; they are friends on and off the court." Coach Miser's passion along with Assistant Coaches Cameron Shoffner and Kasey Price will continue to guide the girls far beyond a State title. The leadership of a coach works to instill values of hard work and discipline on and off the court. The community is proud of these coaches for all their accomplishments.

Congratulations to the seven seniors on this State championship team: Katey Searcy, Sydney Kolar, Tori Marquez, Andie Unwin, Julia Hadley, Emma Joy Omenson, and Yates Barker. Thanks for working hard and being model students in and out of the classroom for all students to follow.

Congratulations to Kingwood Park's State Championship team who will return next year to defend the title: Emma Garcia, Libby Overmyer, Avery Hill, Hallie Ryan, Citlaly Paz, Ericka Williams, Alia Williams, and Anya Arrington.

Shout out to the trainers, managers, teachers, family and fans for the outpouring of support. It was in true Panther Pride.

Way to go Panthers.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America, Inc. (WLVA), an organization founded in 1991 to serve the Lao Veteran community in Wisconsin by advancing the opportunities and recognition for those who fought in the CIA's secret war in Laos.

This organization has been instrumental in helping the Hmong-Lao veterans to adjust to life in the United States, and has shaped their experience here in Wisconsin through assistance in assimilation, recognition, and societal advancement.

WLVA was founded in 1991 by General Vang Pao, who was the commander of the "Secret Army" which was conscripted by the CIA to fight against the People's Army of Vietnam. He was the only ethnic Hmong to be elevated to the position of General in the Royal Lao Army.

Currently, Captain Nao Shoua Xiong of Wausau, WI leads the WLVA as their president, and has been at the forefront of assisting the Hmong community in all aspects of life in Wisconsin.

On behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District, I would like to thank the Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America for their service to our country and our community.

HONORING GARET ROSS HOLCOMB

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garett Ross Holcomb. Garett 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 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garett 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, Garett has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CELEBRATING PAT FREEMAN'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the guidance and outstanding leadership Mrs. Pat Freeman has brought to senior adults in 13 Northeast Georgia counties.

Recently, the Legacy Link board recognized Mrs. Freeman for her outstanding work and dedication, as founder and Chief Executive Officer, for over 20 years. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at the agency's Thanksgiving luncheon.

In 1997, Mrs. Freeman created the nonprofit Legacy Link Area Agency on Aging with four employees. Since then she has been assisting the aging population of our region by offering wellness programs, employment training, Medicare counseling, grant applications, and counseling for grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Mrs. Freeman's team has grown to include more than 100 employees.

Legacy Link serves roughly 1,300 people, and its overarching goal is to allow seniors to live comfortably in their own homes as long as possible. In addition, Legacy Link also advocates for quality care for seniors who live in nursing care facilities.

My mother worked for Legacy Link, so I share in understanding the hard work, dedication, and the importance of their mission. I celebrate Mrs. Freeman's devotion to our senior adults and wish her the best as she transitions to working part-time.

HONORING DOUG MENORCA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime friend and member of my staff, Doug Menorca, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Doug has served as my Chief of Staff throughout my entire time in Congress. His dedication to our team has been unmatched, and there's no doubt I could not have done this job without him. As the leader of our staff, he was the glue that held our team together. Doug has also been a trusted adviser and incredible friend to my family and me.

On a personal note, words cannot express my gratitude to Doug for his help in this journey. Generations ago, Harry Truman famously said, "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." That's a funny line, but Truman was wrong. I believe that if you want a friend in Washington, you better find a partner. And, I am proud and grateful that Doug Menorca was my loyal partner in this effort.

The Messer family thanks the Menorca family for all their help through the years. We wish Doug, Diane and Sam continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

HONORING COUNCILWOMAN AND FORMER MAYOR DEBBIE LONG

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilwoman and Former Mayor Debbie Long on her retirement after serving on the Pinole City Council for the past ten years.

Ms. Long has been a resident of Pinole for more than thirty years. Prior to her time on the City Council, Ms. Long demonstrated her commitment to public service. She was on the City of Pinole Design Review Board from 1994 to 1996, was a Pinole Planning Commissioner from 1996 to 2007 and served on the Pinole Assisted Living Board for many years.

Ms. Long was first elected to the Pinole City Council in 2008. During her tenure she has served as mayor three times—from 2009 to 2010, from 2012 to 2013 and from 2016 to 2017. While on the Pinole City Council, Ms. Long helped accomplish numerous significant development projects for our community, including the Gateway Shopping Center, the Kaiser Medical Center, and the Pinole Valley Skate Park. She has also been heavily involved with the construction of the Pinole Wastewater Pollution Control Plant Upgrade project. Additionally, Ms. Long worked on the 2010 City of Pinole General Plan Update when she was on the Planning Commission and on the City Council.

Ms. Long is known among her colleagues for being hard-working and well prepared. She makes sure she has done her homework and closely reviews all staff reports.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Long has been an admirable public servant throughout her time on the City Council. It is therefore fitting and

proper that we honor Councilwoman and Former Mayor Debbie Long here today.

**HONORING BRYCE PATRICK
JOHNSEN**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryce Johnsen. Bryce 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 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryce has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bryce 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, Bryce has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

**CONGRATULATING THE BLAIR
OAKS FALCONS FOOTBALL TEAM
FOR WINNING THE 2018 MISSOURI
CLASS 2 STATE FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for winning the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Football Championship.

With a perfect record of 15–0, the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team and Coach Ted LePage should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for a job well done.

**PROCLAMATION OF GRATITUDE
FOR DR. LARRY MASON'S SERV-
ICE TO HIS COMMUNITY**

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Larry Mason for his devotion and service to his community. Dr. Mason began his medical practice in 1972 in Albany, Kentucky, later moving to Byrdstown Medical Center (BMC) in Tennessee where he has practiced since 1982. His many professional accomplishments include, being named Chair-

man of Board of Directors Livingston Regional Hospital (LRH) as well as serving for many years as Medical Director of Pickett Care and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Mason made many significant contributions to his community and will be greatly missed. He and his wife, Gina, reside in Livingston where they attend First Baptist Church, and together have three children, Luke, Lance, and Lindy, along with several grandchildren. We honor Dr. Mason today with his family, friends, and neighbors with deep gratitude for his service.

HONORING MAYOR NORM YODER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Norm Yoder of Auburn, Indiana who announced his intent to retire next year. A native of DeKalb County, Mayor Yoder graduated from DeKalb High School in 1967 and received a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in 1972. Mayor Yoder then returned to his beloved DeKalb County and started several businesses, including Yoder & Yoder Concrete & Construction and Auburn Skatin' Station. He joined the Auburn Board of Public Works in 1990 and served on the Eckhart Public Library Board from 1992 to 1999.

In 2000, Norm Yoder was elected by the people of Auburn to serve as mayor and has since been reelected five times. During his time in office, Mayor Yoder enacted several policies that positively impacted his fellow citizens. He led the revitalization of downtown into a thriving small-town commerce center and oversaw the development of Rieke Park. Mayor Yoder created Auburn Essential Services, a local provider of telecommunication services, so that the citizens of Auburn could join the information revolution. Mayor Yoder will leave Auburn a more prosperous community, and his leadership will long be remembered.

I wish Mayor Yoder, his wife Peg and his family the very best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life. Our community will miss his leadership and dedication.

**HONORING BRYANT WILDER UPON
HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of the retirement of a longtime public servant for the Social Security Administration, Deputy Regional Commissioner Bryant Wilder. On January 3, 2019, Mr. Wilder will retire from the Social Security Administration after a career spanning thirty-eight years.

Mr. Wilder began his career in 1980 as a Clerk Typist in the New York Regional Office, Disability Programs Center. Over the years, Mr. Wilder has risen through the Social Security Administration, holding many important po-

sitions. In 2009, he was selected for the highly competitive Senior Executive Service Candidates Development Program. After completing the program, Mr. Wilder was promoted to Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Operations Support. In December 2015, he was promoted to his current position.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wilder has been an impeccable leader. He led the national workgroup that helped enhance office safety throughout the country. And during an active shooter incident, Mr. Wilder courageously took action to protect his staff in the East New York Field Office. Because of his quick thinking, all of the employees were safely evacuated.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honor of Deputy Regional Commissioner Bryant Wilder for his decades of service to our country. His advice and counsel will be missed. I wish him the best in his retirement.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MATT
GROCOTT**

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the departure from public service of San Carlos City Councilman Matt Grocott. Councilman Grocott has served from 2001 to 2018, twice as mayor.

During his tenure, the city has undergone enormous change. Although a small community, the city has many distinct neighborhoods and groups of residents. Through all of the changes impacting these constituencies, Matt Grocott contributed mightily to the effort to improve communication between the city and its residents. He regularly provided opinion pieces in local newspapers, wrote online and spoke directly with residents on their doorsteps and at civic events. Everyone could count on Councilman Grocott to offer them information about the public services and initiatives being undertaken in San Carlos.

The city has a new budget process that makes it much easier for residents to figure out what the city is accomplishing. Matt Grocott has supported this process and used it to explain what the city does well and where it needs to improve.

During his tenure, he served on multiple joint power authorities and committees. This is not glamorous work, but these appointments help cities work together to create the greatest value for residents. Councilman Grocott served on the Airport Land Use committee, the SFO Roundtable, the governing board of the library, the Grand Boulevard Initiative to re-imagine our El Camino Real, the South County Fire Authority, the Belmont San Carlos Fire Board, several subcommittees of the City/County Association of Governments, and multiple other boards, committees and commissions intended to answer many quality of life issues that vex any community.

Councilman Grocott has been a staunch advocate for persons on fixed incomes and for taxpayers. He has often persuaded residents as to the wisdom of his viewpoint, and they rewarded him with repeated re-election and, at times, by voting as he recommended on measures on the ballot.