

have no doubt Jerry's biggest impact on our nation is yet to come. I look forward to cheering Jerry on in those efforts.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ALEX FOR
THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Alex of Libby, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Alex served his country in the United States Air Force for more than two decades, including service in the Vietnam War. Beginning his career in 1953, he retired a Senior Master Sergeant in 1976, working as an Aircraft Jet Engine Maintenance Superintendent.

Mr. Alex's leadership and dedication to the community is evident through his many years of service at area schools as an administrator and school board member.

On Veterans Day, Mr. Alex proudly speaks to area students about his 23-year military career. According to Libby resident and school-teacher Chrys Marchant, "He makes everyone feel welcome and valuable in all situations."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending John Alex for his dedication and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Monday, December 10, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 426 and 427.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
CLINE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard Cline as he concludes his service on the City Council of Menlo Park. He leaves a record of passionate commitment to the priorities of housing, transportation and education.

A few years ago, as the economy was finally recovering, Councilman Cline and I visited a large development for seniors. It sits on a main entrance to the Belle Haven neighborhood. Sequoia Belle Haven offers 90 deeply discounted apartments to seniors, plus amenities such as organized events and access to public transit. It is a model that reflects the commitment of the entire city to its elderly, low income population. Councilman Cline was very proud, and rightfully so. As a member of the

council, he knew many long-time Menlo Park residents who would benefit by moving to this new development.

He was also very enthusiastic about building housing at the site of an abandoned school located in Menlo Park. It appears that the district and the city have agreed that this would be a good site for faculty/staff housing, and that the site has since been cleared in preparation for future development. During his 12 years on the council, he supported the revitalization of the downtown plan which included hundreds of new housing units.

In Menlo Park, parks and recreation are treasured. Councilman Cline helped guide the city council during a period of significant construction on the Burgess Campus, the passage of bonds for a sports field, and construction of an ever-expanding bike lane system.

The City of Menlo Park is blessed with exploding economic development. As a councilmember who sat on the council through the Great Recession and who had to make very painful cuts to the city's budget in order to deliver balanced budgets for 10 of his 12 years of service, Rich Cline has seen both sides of the economic cycle. He supported tiered pensions for sustainability and worked hard with his colleagues to ensure that prudent reserves were created during times when property and sales taxes rise.

He advocated for smart growth along transportation corridors and for mitigations to the Facebook development that would put housing closer to the campus, create shuttles, and potentially reactivate a rail line across the bay to reduce vehicle traffic. At some point, long-anticipated improvements to the Willow Road overcrossing will be finalized. While Rich Cline will not be on the council when the intersection is opened, his support was vital to ensuring that this community-wide benefit is implemented.

In his elections to the council, he was variously supported by the Sierra Club and labor, community leaders and businesses. Rich Cline is a pragmatist and a respectful leader, which is part of the reason that his colleagues elected him Mayor of Menlo Park on three separate occasions.

As he retires from the council to concentrate on his business and family, we want to thank his wife Julie, and their three children, Maria, Chiara and Gina, for allowing Rich to spend so much time on public affairs during these three terms on the council. He will be missed as he leaves an indelible impact on Menlo Park. His service is an excellent example of the quality of local leadership that exists in San Mateo County, and of the strength of democracy in cities throughout America.

TRIBUTE TO MARION ASHLEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our region have been exceptional. After serving 16 years on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, my good friend Marion Ashley will be stepping down.

Marion is a native of Riverside County, a member of a pioneer Perris Valley family, and

has long shown his deep commitment to the people of Riverside County. He attended local schools: Perris Union High School, Riverside City College and graduated San Diego State University with a major in Business Management. Marion spent years in the private sector as a CPA with a national accounting firm, a corporate executive, a banker, and established a real estate investment firm. He also served the public as a Riverside County Planning Commissioner from 1973 to 1981, and was elected to a serve on the Board of the Eastern Municipal Water District from 1992 to 2002.

In 2002, Marion was elected to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, where he has become a respected leader on regional issues. As a County Supervisor he oversees a budget of \$5.3 billion and sets public policy for nearly 2.4 million people. Marion's leadership has made a tremendous impact on a variety of initiatives critical to Riverside County's future, including the Riverside County Integrated Project, the Perris Valley Metrolink Line, and the construction of numerous public safety and transportation infrastructure projects. For the benefit of future generations, Marion and his family have donated hundreds of acres of land in the hills west of Perris to help create a permanent wildlife refuge and supported countless charitable causes.

Marion has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. To conclude, Mr. Speaker I want to thank Marion for his service to the Inland Empire—his dedication, insight and passion will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING HARRY ARMSTRONG
FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry Armstrong of Belgrade, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Armstrong joined the United States Marine Corps in 1964 and competed in shooting sports throughout the United States for the Marine Corps Shooting Team. He completed his 12-year active and reserve duty military career in 1976, retiring with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Since 2014, Mr. Armstrong has served as the Commandant of the Marine Corps League Robert Ellard Detachment 1050. His passion for shooting sports has led him to open a private shooting range on his ranch for veterans to gather, talk, and in some cases, heal. On the day before Memorial Day each year, Montana veterans and their families join Harry and Louise Armstrong on their ranch where they are treated to a special day in remembrance of their fallen comrades and loved ones.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Harry Armstrong for his dedication and service.

HONORING MARISSA LYNCH

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Marissa Lynch, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Marissa served as my Deputy Chief of Staff in Indiana during my first and second terms in Congress. In that role, she managed our district offices, improved our constituent outreach programs, and oversaw our Indiana-based staff. Since leaving our office, Marissa started her own consulting company and now has clients around the state.

On a personal note, I admire Marissa's commitment to her faith and family. Marissa works very hard and delivers great results. But, you always have the sense that Marissa's priorities are in the right order. Marissa is a wise advisor and loyal friend.

I want to thank Marissa for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish Marissa continued success in all that God has planned for her family.

HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT BORDERS EXHIBIT & "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM DEFENDER" AWARD CEREMONY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD my speech at yesterday's event, "Human Rights without Borders," organized by the Wei Jingsheng Foundation and the European Union Parliamentary Liaison Office. It was my privilege to receive the "Human Rights and Freedom Defender" award.

We must continue to shine a light on human rights abuses in China. I look forward to working with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to continue to carry the torch for liberty in China and globally.

Thank you all so much for the invitation to this very poignant exhibit, "Human Rights without Borders."

Thank you to Wei Jingsheng as well as Antoine Ripoll of the European Parliament Liaison Office for so graciously hosting this very special event.

Wei, what a pleasure to see you again. I had the honor of hosting him in my district 16 years ago at the Toledo Labor Day Parade, as well as an event at the University of Toledo.

And thank you all for continuing to carry forward the flame of human rights in China, and across the world.

What an honor to receive this reward. I am truly humbled.

I would like to dedicate it to all the freedom fighters in China and across the world that are being detained, tortured, or persecuted due to their pursuit of liberty.

As you all know, human rights and democratic principles are not just for wishful thinking.

These principles are central to our nation's security because we know a more democratic world is a more secure world. We know that countries with strong human rights records

are more prosperous, stable, and reliable partners to build world peace.

Tragically, the Chinese regime has a deeply troubling human rights record.

As we speak, up to one million Uyghur Muslims are languishing in concentration camps in North West China.

At least 321 Tibetans have been detained since 2012, yet heroically continue their struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile, millions of Chinese workers toil away at penny-wages in slave conditions to benefit the Chinese regime and transnational corporations.

There is no freedom of association to form trade unions, leaving the level of occupational disease and injuries alarmingly high. And also prevents oversight of child labor and severe abuse of migrant and ethnic minority workers.

During peak production season, workers are forced to cover 80-175 overtime hours per month with little to no protections, exposed to hazardous chemicals and deadly working conditions.

More than 480 million people in China—one third of its population—live on less than \$2 a day.

The lack of an independent judiciary, independent press, rule of law, and due process raise serious concerns of core principals of fundamental human rights.

With such an ancient and rich culture, the Chinese people deserve better than this brutish and crude oppression.

As Congress debated allowing China into the World Trade Organization, many argued that welcoming China into the world fold would lead to democratization. They said that a middle class would demand their rights.

Instead, we've seen more oppression and a more aggressive Chinese foreign policy that can use its new-found riches to challenge American influence abroad.

China has yet to open its markets to American goods. Our trade deficits have soared, clocking in at over \$375 billion in 2017 alone and despite promises from the Trump Administration to correct this gaping imbalance.

As a result, American workers in Ohio and across the Midwest have lost thousands of jobs to corporate greed and offshoring.

Free trade with China has surely been a one-sided deal.

Just as China shows a blatant disdain for human rights and rule of law in their own country, she tramples upon international law and seeks to overturn the global rules-based order.

As a strategic competitor, she seeks to spread its propaganda and tear down the virtues of democracy. She would seek to replace the blessings of liberty and replace it with its oppressive and dark ideology.

China provides diplomatic cover and assistance to the pariah-state North Korea that threatens global security with nuclear weapons and intercontinental missiles.

China fails to control illicit flows of fentanyl into the United States killing so many unsuspecting victims in my District, Northern Ohio, and across America.

While the United States takes a step back in global leadership and diplomacy, China is too eager to fill the void. We see China investing millions in developing nations in South American and Africa, spreading its undemocratic and tyrannical influence.

We watch as Chinese foreign aid and influence pays dividends in nations as they shift to recognize mainland China over a free and democratic Taiwan.

China seeks to illegally take control of international waters in the South China sea-way and undertakes aggressive naval maneuvers to challenge stability in the region provided by our naval fleet.

China's global strategy and dominance is that of a sleeping dragon. But with its aggressive state-driven Belt and Road Initiative, which will invest \$1 trillion on development projects globally, America can no longer tip-toe around the dragon.

As a Member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, I join my colleagues in the commitment to work to hold China accountable on its deeply disturbing human rights record.

We need to take China's failure to live up to its commitment much more seriously. We need a trade policy that creates jobs in the U.S. And we must continue to check China's revisionist and aggressive foreign policy.

Thank you all again for this great honor, and I look forward to working with you and my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to continue carrying the torch for human rights in China and globally.

RECOGNIZING DONALD BOST FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Bost of Lewistown, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Bost was a member of the U.S. Navy Seabees Mobile Construction Battalion 58 in 1968 and 1969. For his service in Vietnam, he earned the National Defense Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal.

In Lewistown, Mr. Bost has been a steadfast contributor to numerous community and veteran projects. He is the Commander of American Legion Fergus Post 16 and has donated countless hours working on the Veterans Memorial Park and various events.

As an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce for 34 years, Mr. Bost helped boost the area's economy by working to establish the Nexus Treatment Center and Western Transportation Institute facilities in Lewistown. He readily participates in more than a dozen local business, civic, and veteran organizations, and his involvement with local historic attractions helps keep the area's tourism industry vibrant.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Donald Bost for his dedication and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW RALEIGH, N.C. HEADQUARTERS OF ADVANCE AUTO PARTS, INC.

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Advance Auto Parts, Inc. on the recent relocation of its headquarters to Raleigh, N.C.

I am proud that for the second straight year in a row North Carolina has topped Forbes' "Best States for Business" list. Our well-educated workforce and low taxes continue to attract valuable businesses to the region from all