

country well, and his contributions as a servant leader will be remembered in Alabama for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Excellence in Education, a non-profit that sparks curiosity in high school and university students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, on 35 years of service to communities across the country. Because of CEE's collaborative work, students, teachers, researchers, and leaders are successfully paving the way for a new generation of STEM leaders.

San Diegans know the value of promoting STEM opportunities. Some of our region's biggest employers are biotech companies, looking to our students for their future researchers in part thanks to CEE's work and alumni. One of the largest economic drivers in our region is our innovation economy, which relies on a workforce versed in STEM fields. CEE sponsors free programs that connect students and their teachers to educational institutions, private foundations, corporations, and government agencies, to help prepare students across the country for these high-quality jobs. Teachers also have benefitted from CEE enrichment programs offered in California and other states across the country. This past year, UC San Diego—one of our burgeoning centers for innovation—hosted CEE's USA Biology Olympiad.

As San Diego and our country continue to invest in STEM education and encourage students to be curious and connect with professionals, CEE sets a vision for that future. Their commitment to 35 years of service across the country deserves praise and recognition, and I am proud to congratulate them on their successes.

HONORING PACIFIC GROVE MAYOR  
BILL KAMPE

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retiring Mayor of Pacific Grove, Bill Kampe for his career in public service and his commitment to the people of the central coast of California. His professional accomplishments and leadership in the community have affected the lives of many.

Throughout his ten years in public office, Mayor Kampe served the City of Pacific Grove as a dynamic and effective leader. Mayor Kampe endeavored in his three terms as Mayor and two terms as a Councilmember to improve the city's infrastructure, allowing visitors and residents to continue enjoying the breathtaking vistas and charming storefronts. Mayor Kampe has been a strong advocate for ocean protection, including procuring the Lovers Point Watershed project to help pre-

serve our National Marine Sanctuary. Mayor Kampe also updated the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance to preserve city resources and maintain the city's historic properties.

In addition to his distinguished service as Mayor and Councilmember, Mayor Kampe holds several regional leadership roles that greatly benefit our community on the Central Coast. As President of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority, he has worked to help remediate water shortages on the Monterey Peninsula. Additionally, Mayor Kampe has dedicated his time to representing Pacific Grove on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, an entity overseeing the development of the former military base Fort Ord. As a Navy veteran, Mayor Kampe has ensured that local resources remain accessible for local veterans and active-duty members of the military.

Throughout his career, Mayor Kampe prioritized the importance of giving back to our community's youth by hosting mock City Council meetings. Through this program, students are inspired to engage with current issues in Pacific Grove and learn the value of civic engagement. This spirit of service is evident in Mayor Kampe's service as a member of the Pacific Grove Beautification Committee and the Pacific Grove Rotary Club, and his volunteer contributions at countless town functions and events.

I thank Mayor Kampe for his service to his country, community, and the City of Pacific Grove. As he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to commend him on his invaluable work as a public servant for the past decade. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing former Mayor of Pacific Grove, Bill Kampe, on his career of service and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF RONALD G.  
RATLIFF, JR.

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Ronald G. Ratliff, Jr., for his life of service to our nation in the United States Navy.

Chief Ratliff, coming from a family of coal miners in Elkhorn City, Kentucky, raised his right hand to enlist in the United States Navy in 1995. For the last 23 years, Ronnie has served with distinction—both here at home and around the world, charging forward as his career in the Navy legal field took him from Kentucky to Rhode Island and California to Guam, with deployments in between. Following the completion of Navy legal training in Rhode Island, his first assignment was in San Diego, where he provided critical legal assistance to our sailors and marines. He was then sent to Guam, where he handled all military justice matters for the command.

Chief Ratliff returned to San Diego to serve as a Discipline Officer and paralegal to the Commander of the Navy Region Southwest, before volunteering to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served two additional deployments, and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Given his great success, Chief Ratliff was given the opportunity to attend the United States Coast Guard Chief

Petty Officer's Academy in California, representing the Navy and maintaining the strong relationship with the Coast Guard. He was then sent to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he served as Staff Judge Advocate LCPO and Discipline Officer.

In 2014, Chief Ratliff was selected as the U.S. Navy's first enlisted member of its prestigious Defense Fellow program with the Office of Legislative Affairs. Chief Ratliff first served in the office of my friend from California, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS. During his time in Congresswoman DAVIS's office, Chief Ratliff provided critical counsel and assistance in helping Congresswoman DAVIS achieve her goals on the House Armed Services Committee. Upon completion of the fellowship in 2016, Chief Ratliff joined the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs as a Congressional Liaison Officer. In this role, Chief Ratliff has served as a critical resource, helping members of Congress and their staffs understand the critical issues facing the U.S. Navy and its sailors. He has also escorted countless Members of Congress, personal staff and professional staff on Congressional Delegations or Staff Delegations within the United States and around the world, advancing the mission of the U.S. Navy.

As a fellow Kentuckian, I could not be more proud of the career of Chief Ronnie Ratliff. It is honorable servicemen like Chief Ratliff who inspire us each and every day, and I wish him all the best as he enters into retirement. Congratulations, Chief Ratliff, and God speed.

HONORING PETE HOOD

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Pete Hood for his contribution to our state.

Pete has had a long and distinguished career working as a Human Resources executive for the United Parcel Service (UPS) in Indiana. Pete is set to retire at the end of this year. I would like to congratulate him on a long career and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Throughout Pete's career, he has been a champion for UPS's culture and values. Pete will consistently tell you that UPS is a unique company with its own way of doing things. Deliberately. Precisely. Efficiently. With Integrity. To me, Pete embodies those principles.

Over the years, Pete and I have become friends. Pete has taken me on tours of several different UPS facilities around the state, and he even convinced me to wear the iconic brown uniform and ride around in a delivery truck. I've enjoyed the time we have gotten to spend together and have appreciated his wise counsel and advice.

I would like to thank Pete for his friendship and support of my work in Congress. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE ASH'S 25 YEARS OF HOUSE SERVICE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the longtime service of Michelle Ash to the House of the Representatives. Michelle is leaving Congress after 25 years of distinguished service.

For 25 years this institution has greatly benefited from Michelle's passion for protecting consumers. Over the last decade, as the Energy and Commerce Committee's Chief Counsel for Consumer Protection, Michelle has been at the helm for many policy issues that directly impact consumers. Whether it be developing the guidelines for ensuring that autonomous vehicles are safe, keeping unsafe toys off the shelves, ensuring safe packing of toxic substances, fighting to protect Americans' personal data from abuse and misuse, or protecting consumers from scams, Michelle always puts consumers first.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Michelle decided soon after graduating from law school that a career in a law firm was not where she saw herself making a difference. Instead, she wanted to be involved in crafting policy, and there was no better place to do that than here in Washington.

Michelle began her career in the House in the office of then-Congressman Ben Cardin of Maryland. There she focused on foreign affairs, the judiciary, Social Security, and congressional ethics. In 1997, she served for a short time as counsel for the House Ethics Reform Task Force.

In 1998, she joined the staff of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee as Chief Legislative Counsel for then Ranking Member Henry Waxman. At OGR Michelle focused on legislative initiatives that brought more transparency to government, including initiatives to protect whistleblowers.

Ten years later, in 2009, when Congressman Waxman became Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Michelle moved over with him to serve as the Committee's Chief Counsel on Consumer Protection.

Over the last ten years, Michelle has been a determined consumer advocate, pressing federal agencies to put safety first by using all the tools and authorities at their disposal to protect consumers and holding companies accountable when their actions harm consumers. She has pushed the Consumer Product Safety Commission to take swift action to protect Americans, and particularly children, from furniture tip-overs, dangerously strong magnets that were being swallowed by kids, liquid nicotine improperly packed and being ingested by kids, and much more.

She has continuously fought to give the Federal Trade Commission more authority to fulfill its mission to prevent harm to consumers, not just taking enforcement action after harm has already been done. She has also worked to advance the cause of auto safety—urging more effective and expedient action on deadly unintended acceleration and brake failures, faulty ignition switches that prevented airbags from deploying, and exploding airbags that turned a safety device into a

death device. And at the same time, she has been a mentor to many young staffers, sharing with them the benefits of her experience and expertise.

Having spent 25 years working on Capitol Hill, there have been many late nights and weekends spent negotiating legislative language and preparing for committee hearings, and I want to acknowledge the support Michelle has received from her husband, Doug Klein, and children, Erin and Sasha.

Mr. Speaker, American consumers are safer today thanks to Michelle Ash's 25 years in Congress. I wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES KINS FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

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

Mr. Kins answered his country's call to service by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1967, during the Vietnam War. He served four years on active duty, stationed mainly in Japan, and two years as a Marine Corps Reservist.

Mr. Kins is a proud supporter and member of his local American Legion Post 74 in Eureka, and a dedicated volunteer and advocate for seniors in his community. He is actively involved with the Tobacco Valley Senior Citizens Center providing hot meals for seniors and maintenance of the community center. In 2016, his dedication earned him the Senior Center's "Senior of the Year" award. Even though he's nearing his 70th year, Mr. Kins continues to dedicate himself to serving others in his community.

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

RECOGNIZING THE NAZARETH ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR 2018 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team on winning their third state championship in 5 years. The players' commitment in reaching this goal is truly commendable. On November 24th, Nazareth Academy won the Class 7A Illinois state football championship with a 31-10 victory over Saint Charles North High School at Memorial Stadium in Champaign. I would like to recognize all of the time the players, staff, and families have put in to this endeavor, and commend them on their dedication and persever-

ance. I also want to congratulate Coach Tim Racki and the Principal of Nazareth Academy, Jim Meredith, for mentoring these young men and leading them to victory.

During the championship game, senior receivers Michael Love and Diamond Evans finished the game with 166 and 125 all-purpose yards respectively. They were supported by sophomore quarterback J.J. McCarthy who completed 15 of 24 passes, for 201 yards.

This victory completed a near perfect 13-1 season for the Roadrunners, allowing Nazareth to claim their third championship in five years, adding this 7A title to their ones in the 6A and 5A divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team and to congratulate them on their IHSA Class 7A State Championship. And I wish each player continued success as he moves forward.

HONORING THE WATKINS HORNETS AND RIDGE ROAD TITANS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing two District of Columbia-based organizations, the Watkins Hornets Youth Association and the Ridge Road Titans Youth Coalition, on winning the American Youth Football National Championships.

On December 7, 2018, the Watkins Hornets and the Ridge Road Titans traveled to Florida to compete in the American Youth Football National Championships for their respective age groups, ranging from nine to 13 years old. Each of these student athletes, as well as their parents and coaches, persevered through a long season, balancing school, football and other extracurricular activities to become national champions.

Watkins Recreation Center and Ridge Road Recreation Center, which house their respective football teams, are among the elite when it comes to football. They place a strong emphasis on players as students first and athletes second. Located in the heart of the District's Wards 6 and 7, these organizations have been vital to their surrounding communities, providing programs to at-risk youth and families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these student athletes, parents and coaches on a job well done, as well as in acknowledging the work of both of these organizations in being community strongholds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on December 12, 2018, I missed Roll Call Vote 434. As I argued on the floor during debate on the rule for the bill, had I been present, I would have voted YES on the farm bill conference report.