

long-term legislative plan and was integral in overseeing all operations and staff in my Washington, D.C. office. As a member of my team, Ms. Vetter was greatly respected by her coworkers for her professionalism and dedication to her work.

Outside of work, Ms. Vetter enjoys golfing, going to the gun range, hiking, and like a true Italian, making and eating pasta. However, she spends most of her freetime with her Labradoodle, Sullenberger "Sully" McCormack who she and her fiancé, Ryan James McCormack, brought home on June 12, 2018. Additionally, Ms. Vetter is looking forward to her marriage to Mr. McCormack, which will take place on November 2, 2019.

Ms. Vetter's time in my office will come to an end as she becomes the Communications Director for Congressman Van Taylor at the beginning of the 116th Congress. Knowing Ms. Vetter's work ethic, professionalism, and undeniable love for the United States of America, there is no doubt that she will be successful in her new office and in all of her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Anna Raquel Vetter for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 13, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 435, YEA.

REP. JARED POLIS FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Representative JARED POLIS on his victory in the Colorado gubernatorial race even though it means he is leaving Congress.

I have worked with Representative POLIS on Science Committee issues over the years given his district contains both a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) office. Congressman POLIS has shown an acute knowledge regarding High-Tech issues given his experience running internet-based companies in the private sector and his philanthropic work in the area.

I wish him the best of luck as he starts this new chapter serving the constituents of Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE BOLD VISION AND STEWARDSHIP OF OMAR BROWNSON DURING HIS TENURE AS FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT AT RIVER LA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold vision and stewardship of Omar Brownson during his tenure as founding Executive Director and President at River LA. Omar led efforts to transform the Los Angeles River, bringing renewed interest and a holistic approach to restoring its 51-mile expanse.

Since 2010, Omar has helped forge new partnerships that traverse public, private, and philanthropic sectors, fostering creativity and innovation. The vastness of the Los Angeles River and the diversity of the communities it connects create unique challenges that demand unique leadership. Through forward-thinking initiatives, Omar has been able to tackle these challenges through a wider lens—seeing opportunities to address inequity and climate change.

The history of the Los Angeles River is written by many and Omar has become squarely embedded in that history. Through the passionate collaboration of all those committed to its future, our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the beauty of this natural resource. As policy makers, advocates, and community leaders, we must all continue working together to create policies that ensure the protection and vitality of all of our planet's natural resources, including the Los Angeles River.

I ask all members to join me in commending Omar Brownson for his incredible dedication to the Los Angeles River.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call no. 431, YEA; On Roll Call no. 432, YEA; on Roll Call no. 433, YEA; and on Roll Call no. 434, YEA.

THANKING COLE JONATHAN ROJEWSKI

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cole Jonathan Rojewski for his near decade of service to the Central Valley Congressional Delegation, and particularly, for his work in various roles over the last six years for California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Mr. Rojewski was born in Clovis, California to parents Cynthia and Al Rojewski. Cole enjoyed growing up in Clovis countryside with his sister, Dena, and the family's many animals. From an early age, Mr. Rojewski had a love for animals and being outside. As a child and young adult, Cole was an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA), something he continues to participate in today as a mentor to young FFA members. Cole attended Clovis High School and Clovis East High School, where he was a member of the school's men's golf team and graduated in 2006. Following his graduation from High School, Mr. Rojewski attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated in 2011, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

It was while attending CSU Fresno that Cole found an interest in politics. Beginning in 2010, Cole worked for Congressman DEVIN G. NUNES as a Field Representative in his Clovis District Office. Mr. Rojewski continued to work for Mr. NUNES throughout his time in college, and also had an active role on campus as Vice Chair of the Central Valley Region of the California College Republicans.

In 2012, Mr. Rojewski played a vital role in my first campaign for Congress. Following my election that November, Mr. Rojewski joined my team in Washington D.C. Throughout the last six years in my office, Mr. Rojewski has played a vital role in our success representing the Central Valley, having served as my Office Manager, Campaign Manager, Deputy Chief of Staff, and most recently as my Chief of Staff from 2015 to the end of 115th Congress.

Cole's natural leadership abilities, supreme work ethic, and keen political instincts have made him a truly invaluable member of my team, and an excellent public servant elevating the needs of the people of the California's Central Valley throughout the halls of Congress and our nation's Capitol.

Following the 115th Congress, Cole's time in my office will come to an end, but I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for him. I have no doubt he will continue his great work in politics and will have many great achievements in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Cole Rojewski for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize PAUL RYAN's 20 years of exemplary Congressional service with great appreciation and gratitude.

I think Speaker of the House may be the toughest job in America. A Speaker has to gather 218 votes to approve any measure, unlike executives who can simply issue orders.

PAUL may be the first Speaker who didn't seek the office and, instead, was drafted by the Republicans in Congress—a true testament to the respect his colleagues have for him. And he has handled the speakership with humility, dignity, and confidence.

Speaker RYAN also has consistently made his family a priority, even forgoing political activities on weekends to be with them.

I thank PAUL for his leadership and heartfelt commitment to our nation.

REP. DANA ROHRBACHER FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentleman from California for 30 years of service in Congress. He cares deeply for California's Orange County and his constituents.

DANA ROHRBACHER has been an active member of the Science Committee and has been the Chair of the Space Subcommittee. In fact, he was such an able Chairman, I requested a waiver to keep him in that position for two years beyond the regular six-year term limit.

After beginning his career as a speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan, DANA, who is an avid surfer, continued to ride the wave of political service by running and winning his first campaign for Congress in 1988.

A true public servant, DANA has an infectious personality and a sense of humor that brightens any room. In fact, some of his jokes are even funny.

I thank DANA for his friendship and for his service.

REP. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize my friend and colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, or, as she allows me to call her, LILY.

When I first met ILEANA, I asked her if she had a nickname. She told me her friends call her LILY and so could I.

Her accomplishments as a Congresswoman from Florida's 27th congressional district are historic. She was the first Cuban-American elected to Congress and also had the distinct honor of serving as the first Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

She has left a positive and indelible mark on Congress and on her colleagues. I thank LILY for her dedicated service to our country.

REP. KEVIN YODER FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman KEVIN YODER for his years of service to Kansas's 3rd congressional district.

KEVIN's childhood on a family farm in rural Kansas gave him strong values and a work ethic. As the student body president at the University of Kansas, he showed an early affinity for politics before he entered Congress.

His work here on the Appropriations Committee has focused on balancing the budget, reducing our national debt, securing our borders, and spurring private sector job growth, all in the best interests of our country.

I've enjoyed working with him on these shared goals, and I've also enjoyed our friendship off the Floor when we regularly play doubles tennis matches with BOB GOODLATTE, FRED UPTON, and SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO.

Whether on the tennis court or in the halls of Congress, KEVIN is a team player, exhibiting determination and a good attitude. I thank KEVIN for his service in Congress and for his friendship.

REP. RANDY HULTGREN FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentleman from Illinois for his eight productive years in Congress.

RANDY HULTGREN has been passionate about public service from a young age. He got his start as an intern in D.C. and was then elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, the Illinois Senate, and as the representative of Illinois' 14th district.

Over the years, there have been few, if any, members who rival RANDY's steadfast commitment to supporting the U.S. research system. His district is home to a Department of Energy National Laboratory, FermiLab, and he has played a pivotal role in keeping the United States at the forefront of high energy physics.

I thank RANDY for his efforts in promoting American innovation. His service has made an impact that will continue to benefit his constituents and our country.

REP. BARBARA COMSTOCK FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentlewoman from Virginia for her years of service in the U.S. Congress.

BARBARA COMSTOCK has been an active and effective member of the Science Committee and Chair of the Research and Technology Subcommittee for four years.

She worked tirelessly to promote STEM education and opportunities for American students. Her commitment to empowering women in STEM fields motivated her to author the INSPIRE Women Act, a law that enables NASA to encourage young women to pursue a STEM education.

No doubt Barbara honed her skills while attending high school in my home state of Texas, where she also met her husband. But I know her heart has always been with her constituents in Virginia. I thank her for her public service and the influence she has had on the education of our young women.

REP. BOB GOODLATTE FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a best friend in Congress, BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia.

I often cite BOB as an example of an ideal Member of Congress. Over his 26 years, he has proven himself to be a dedicated public servant, resilient leader, and exemplary statesman.

During his congressional career, BOB served as Chairman of both the Agriculture and Judiciary Committees, one of the few members of Congress to chair two committees.

He also is a leader on Internet and high-tech issues. BOB's work to foster innovation in the technology sector has contributed to our nation's economic growth.

He is knowledgeable, smart, persistent, cheerful, and a strategic thinker. That's why he is a great Member, a great Chairman, and an inspiration to friends, family, and colleagues.

It has been a privilege to serve with BOB and know him as a close friend.

REP. TREY GOWDY FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentleman from South Carolina for his eight years of distinguished service in Congress and for his successful Chairmanship of the Oversight Committee.

TREY GOWDY has one of the sharpest legal minds I have ever encountered. He possesses that rare combination of smarts, confidence, and humility.

TREY is a skilled debater and a masterful cross-examiner on the Judiciary Committee. Perhaps it goes back to his education at Baylor University in the great state of Texas.

He will leave a legacy as one of the most capable and versatile experts of law we have in Congress.

I thank TREY for his leadership and service that has benefitted his constituents, the Congress, and our country.

REP. DARRELL ISSA FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentleman from California for his 18 years of service in Congress.

DARRELL is intellectually gifted, and his knowledge of electronics and technology is unmatched in Congress. And, as a holder of 37 patents, DARRELL knows the importance of protecting the property rights of artists and inventors.

He is also a skilled representative and leader. His time as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform was one of the Committee's most productive and effective periods. In fact, I appreciate him allowing some of his best staff to join me on the Science Committee.

DARRELL will continue to excel as Director of the Trade and Development Agency and I wish him well with his new responsibility.

REP. STEVE KNIGHT FAREWELL

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the gentleman from California for his long-time service to our country.

STEVE KNIGHT is an active member of the Science Committee and Vice Chair of the Energy Subcommittee. He authored several bills to advance research initiatives, improve STEM education, and promote opportunities for women in aerospace.

His father was an Air Force test pilot who still holds the world record for top speed in a winged aircraft. STEVE also followed the patriotic calling by joining the Army and serving 18 years with the Los Angeles Police Department.

He has dedicated his professional life to the people of California, holding office in the State Assembly, State Senate, and here in the House of Representatives.

I thank STEVE for his commitment and service.

RECOGNIZING KATIE DASINGER OF SIDNEY

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katie Dasinger of Sidney for her efforts to engage young professionals in Eastern Montana to serve their communities and develop their skills.

Dasinger is founder and president of Sidney Young Professionals (SYP), a group focused on community service as well as personal and professional development. The program coordinator for the Richland Economic Development Corporation (REDC) in Sidney, Dasinger launched SYP in 2016.

SYP recently held its annual winter school benefit which was dedicated to helping teachers replenish their classrooms with supplies, equipment, and other items for the new school semester. SYP collected more than 25 large shopping bags of supplies as well as donations from the public and local businesses.

SYP regularly organizes entrepreneurship panels, roundtable discussions, public forums, training programs, and tours of area businesses.

When a court ruling threatened the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) at nearby Intake, SYP and REDC coordinated bus tours,