

Finally, the bill would also encourage states to pass their own expungement laws for state offenses. States that pass a substantially similar law would receive a 5 percent increase in their Byrne funding while those that do not would lose 5 percent of their Byrne funds.

It is one thing to convict someone of a non-violent crime. It is quite another to condemn him to a de facto life sentence for it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE WEST SENECA YOUTH THEATRE AS COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the West Seneca Youth Theatre, as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce names the group 2018 Community Service Organization of the Year during their annual Community Awards ceremony at Kloc's Grove.

The West Seneca Youth Theatre was founded in 2005 to give children ages 10 to 17 an opportunity to perform in a theatrical setting. Since its creation, the theatre has presented numerous productions of professional caliber, teaching children the value of hard work, friendship, and giving back to others.

In addition to performing at local schools, the West Seneca Youth Theatre has entertained at the Kiwanis Club's annual Christmas and Easter celebrations for adults with disabilities, and has visited and performed at assisted living and long-term-care facilities including the Garden Gate Health Care facility and Father Baker Manor.

A fixture in the community, the West Seneca Youth Theatre presents Christmas carols at the Southgate Plaza annually, and has frequently been invited to perform at Town of West Seneca-sponsored programs.

Outside of bringing entertainment and joy to many, the theatre troupe consistently gives back to the community. Following extensive flood damage in 2014 to the Lexington Green neighborhood, children in the theatre raised more than \$9,000 for those affected. Each year, students and directors volunteer their time and expertise to West Middle School productions, as well as loaning out set pieces and costumes to various school productions in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the West Seneca Youth Theatre. I congratulate the West Seneca Youth Theatre as the recipient of the 2018 Community Service Organization of the Year award and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. ZACHARY LOOK

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Zachary Look, who is in-

terning in my office with the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for almost two decades and I am happy to be a host again this year. Zac comes to us from Griffith University in Queensland and is currently pursuing a degree in government and international relations. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and he has gone above and beyond our expectations. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Zac's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office.

The program has been in force for 19 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federer, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to thank Eric Federer for the opportunity to host Zac over the past several weeks. To date, over 210 interns have come through his program representing nine different universities. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come and enlighten those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Zac in our office, and I wish him the very best in the future. I thank Zac for his hard work and dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GENOA HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM FOR WINNING THE OHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Genoa High School Comets for winning the Ohio School Athletic Association Division III Team Wrestling Championship. This title was the first team state championship of any kind in the school's history.

Having placed runner-up at last year's championships, the number one seeded Comets defeated Massillon Tuslaw 40-20 in the final to secure the state title and cap off an undefeated season.

These student-athletes gave it their all, and their community should be proud of them. Wrestling is a technical sport that requires attention to detail, endurance, and toughness. It's a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Genoa team and the coaching

staff that they were able to achieve this success.

Once again, congratulations to Coach Bob Bergman and the Comets on the state championship. Great job Genoa wrestling.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE INSURANCE REGULATION PRESERVATION ACT

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague Representative BEATTY, I am pleased to introduce today the State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act. This legislation will ensure that the regulation of insurance savings and loan holding companies reflects our state system of insurance regulation while protecting policyholders and depositors.

The Dodd-Frank Act brought insurance savings and loan holding companies under Federal Reserve Supervision for the first time. As such, these insurance companies are currently regulated by both the states, and the Federal Reserve. Consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act's reaffirmation that insurance should be regulated by the states, our legislation remedies the current structural inefficiency by allowing the Federal Reserve to ensure that the holding company is well capitalized, while leaving the day-to-day regulation to the states.

The bill accomplishes this providing that insurance savings and loan holding companies that meet state and federal capital standards are regulated day-to-day by the states. The Federal Reserve would remain the backstop regulator for these companies and would retain the ability to step in if capital levels were insufficient, and also would retain general emergency authority to step as the day-to-day regulator. The thrifts in these companies would continue to be regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and Federal Reserve would retain the ability to examine material subsidiaries.

This legislation is important and helpful because Dodd-Frank did not provide specific instructions on how the Federal Reserve supervision should complement state insurance supervision for companies that are subject to both. We believe this legislation would create greater regulatory efficiency, without constraining the Federal Reserve's ability to fulfill its statutory mandate to protect the safety and soundness of these institutions.

As we developed this bill, both members of Congress and regulators identified potential improvements to ensure that the objectives of this bill are met. In particular, we are committed to preventing gaps in regulation, and ensuring that the Federal Reserve has adequate information and authority to step in when needed. Our objective is to pass a bill that embodies sound public policy and enjoys broad bipartisan support. We look forward to continued dialogue and hope our colleagues can support this needed legislation.

HONORING THE RETURN OF SAM JOHNSON AND THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION HOMECOMING

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 45th anniversary of my friend and hero, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, returning home from his imprisonment in a North Vietnamese prison camp during the Vietnam War. Operation Homecoming, which occurred from February through April in 1973, returned 591 American prisoners of war held during the Vietnam War.

During SAM's tenure of nearly three decades in the United States Air Force, he unfortunately spent nearly seven years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. During his time in captivity, SAM endured various forms of torture, designed to break his will. His continuous defiance caused his Vietnamese captors to place Congressman JOHNSON in a notoriously cruel prisoner of war camp, nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton." Even after being subjected to 42 months of solitary confinement and repeatedly tortured, SAM never let his captors defeat his resistant spirit and will. On February 17, 1973, SAM was able to return home to Texas, where he was greeted by his family.

Colonel JOHNSON retired after 29-years in the United States Air Force, serving as a director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, a commander of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, a commander with an air division out of Holloman Air Force Base, and a pilot in the Air Force Thunderbirds. Flying over 62 combat missions and being a combat veteran of both the Vietnam and Korean Wars, SAM encapsulates patriotism and dedication to his country. For his service, SAM was awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and a Bronze Star, among other well-earned awards.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve alongside one of my personal heroes and true friends. We first served together in the Texas State Legislature from 1987 until 1991, when Congressman JOHNSON was elected to represent Texas' 3rd Congressional District. Since being elected in 2005 for the 24th District of Texas, I have been fortunate to continue to serve alongside SAM not only in the House of Representatives, but on the Ways and Means Committee as well. My esteemed colleague epitomizes service and dedication to our country, with a full and accomplished career of public service after serving valiantly in our military.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the 45th anniversary of Congressman SAM JOHNSON's release, and congratulate him on his lifetime of service. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the anniversary of SAM's return to the United States; and in remembering this anniversary, we also remember all of those captured and imprisoned defending our liberty and freedom.

HONORING WENDY PIASECKI AS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Wendy Piasecki as she is presented with the 2018 Educator of the Year award by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce at Kloc's Grove. Mrs. Piasecki exemplifies dedication as an educator, and West Seneca is fortunate to benefit from her talents.

Forty years ago, Mrs. Piasecki began her career by earning her Master of Music degree in composition theory. At age 40, Mrs. Piasecki boldly decided to go back to school and attain a teaching certificate.

Mrs. Piasecki devoted her career to music education in and outside of schools. In her two decades plus in the West Seneca Central School District, Mrs. Piasecki has taught music education and theater at nearly every grade level and at every school. She has tutored students outside of school in music theory and piano. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Piasecki has helped students in extracurricular activities, such as preparing for the Erie County Music Educators Association Music Festival, chaperoning students' trips to the Young People's concert at Fantasy Island, directing musicals, and even presenting student performers at the Junior Musical Theater Celebration at Shea's Theater, one of Buffalo's finest performance venues.

Educators like Mrs. Piasecki, who invest themselves in the children and our community, are part of what makes Western New York such a special place. Because of her dedication, parents can rest assured that their kids will be attending school in a supportive environment that allows them to explore their creative sides while receiving a first-rate education.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to honor Mrs. Wendy Piasecki as she receives the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Educator of the Year award. Her personal devotion to teaching serves as a model for future educators and an inspiration to all of us who believe in public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. LOVEY ANNA LEAVELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the generous, path-breaking life of Mrs. Lovey Anna Leavell of Sandusky, Ohio. Lovey passed from this life on Saturday, January 22, 2018 after a short illness. She will be truly missed by her family and friends. Lovey was indefatigable.

Lovey's involvement and commitment to her hometown of Sandusky was known by everyone in the area. Her life of service to her community started at the historic Second Baptist Church where she served as Church Secretary, Choir Director, teacher, and Sunday school superintendent. It is also here where

she would meet her husband of 60 plus years, Daniel Leavell.

Once her children became school age and began to attend Sandusky City Schools she became active in the school system as well. When her children were young she worked for the school district as a teacher's aide, bus driver, and served as the Treasurer for the Sandusky Band Parents Association. Her dedication to the Sandusky City schools continued always. Even after her children graduated, she continued her connection to the school by working as a substitute teacher.

Civil rights was a cause that Lovey was committed to as well. As a lifetime member of the Sandusky NAACP, she worked on a number of committees for her local branch. She would help set up meetings at which local politicians would be able to talk about issues dealing not only with civil rights, but also other important issues that impacted the community. Her commitment to civil rights was one of the main reasons she decided to become a realtor. Throughout her life she saw the damage that was being done to minorities due to the effects of redlining. It was her commitment to civil rights that made her want to become a realtor in order to help people obtain the American dream of home ownership.

Lovey Leavell was on a first name basis with every elected official that represented the city of Sandusky, from local up through the federal level. It was not uncommon for politicians and candidates to call her and her husband Dan for advice. She was a lifelong Democrat, her views on politics were perhaps best described by Sandusky Mayor Dennis Murray when he said this about Lovey, "She was never about the games of partisanship. She believed totally in people and in the core things that Democrats stand for—equality, opportunity and good government."

Later in life when most people would decide to relax and enjoy their retirement years, Lovey decided it was time for her to get a college degree. She received two degrees, associates and then bachelors, both from BGSU Firelands. Her time at Firelands was filled not only with classwork but also with trips to the United Nations in New York, involvement with student government, and several other groups. The students there would come to know her as "Grandma Lovey". During her time there she made such an impression on the students, staff, and faculty she was awarded the Links to Progress Award, the highest honor any person can receive from BGSU Firelands.

During Lovey's final years she served on the Ohio 9th congressional military academy nomination committee in 2015 and 2016. She continued her service on the James McBride Arboretum at BGSU Firelands. She never stopped being a realtor or working for civil rights with the NAACP. Even with her impressive life accomplishments, there was one thing Lovey felt she was missing: a Sandusky High School diploma. It was something she had wanted for more than half a century. In September of 2017 the Sandusky School Board presented her with an honorary high school diploma for her life time commitment to education and her involvement in the community.

Lovey is survived by her husband Dan, children Dan Jr., Doug and Deanna, a number of grandchildren, family, and friends. We offer them our prayers and hope that they comfort in the wonderful memories of this extraordinary woman, our dear friend Lovey. She will