

McLANE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud McLane for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. McLane started as a small retail grocer in 1894 and grew to a leading grocery, wholesaler and distributor in the 1970s and 1980s and to a worldwide logistics powerhouse in the 1990s. Today it is a global wholesale distributor of 35,000 products to over 50,000 businesses in the grocery, foodservice, convenience, mass merchandise, quick service restaurant, and drug store industries. In 2017, McLane completed a 226,000 square-foot facility along Tower Road creating 235 new jobs to Commerce City.

McLane is passionate about making a difference in the community. The company creates a diverse and inclusive workforce through their Hiring Our Heroes and Operation Network of Champions hiring initiatives. Employees also proudly support the Children's Miracle Network and the United Way.

I extend my deepest congratulations to McLane for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

**RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RON CARSON****HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise, on behalf of Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and myself, to recognize the achievements of Ron Carson who has made the plight of tens of thousands of disabled coal miners a central part of his life's work. Through his decades of work directing three black lung clinics in Southwest Virginia, and tireless advocacy efforts across the coal fields of this country, he offered help and hope to miners whose lungs were irreversibly scarred with the scourge of black lung disease.

Ron was born in Pennington Gap, Virginia during segregation. He attended a one-room primary school on land that his great-great-grandmother, Rachael Scott, had donated in 1939 for education of black children in Lee County. Ron and his wife Jill, a Member of the Town Council in Pennington Gap, founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in that same brick school house, which now preserves the life stories, history, heritage, culture and events of African Americans in Southwest Virginia. Although segregated in housing and schools, African Americans found a measure of inclusion in Central Appalachia, where they were able to work free from the harsh conditions in the Deep South, and many received equal pay for their work mining coal.

Ron worked for Westmoreland Coal Co. in Appalachia, Virginia as did his stepfather. His grandfather and great-grandfather both worked

for many years for Blue Diamond Coal in Bonny Blue, Virginia. Ron later attended the Massachusetts School of Pharmacy, and in 1990 returned as an outreach worker in the black lung clinic operating out of the St. Charles Community Health Clinic. For the past 20 years he has served as the director of three black lung clinics which are now part of Stone Mountain Health Services. In addition to helping miners secure diagnostic tests, treatment and benefits counseling, Ron led an effort to develop what is now the largest program for non-lawyers to successfully advocate for black lung benefits before the U.S. Department of Labor.

There are very few attorneys who represent miners filing claims for black lung benefits. And, coal miners proceedings pro se are no match for the expert legal and medical resources that coal companies and insurers dedicate to each case. Ron and his team have worked to fill this void by providing training for clinics, doctors, lawyers and lay representatives in all 15 coal producing states. The lay advocates working for the Stone Mountain clinics have helped miners win over 2,000 black lung claims in the past 17 years.

In recent years, Ron documented how miners with progressive massive fibrosis (PMF), the most advanced form of black lung disease, have flooded the clinics in southwestern Virginia. Working with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), he recently co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association which verified an epidemic of this lethal form of the disease in Central Appalachia and helped to elevate national awareness. "Mining disasters get monuments, meanwhile black lung deaths get tombstones. And I've seen many a tombstone in the last 28 years from black lung," he noted.

At a roundtable Ron organized in Wise, Virginia, disabled miners, physicians and lawyers explained how the current black lung adjudication process keeps justice out of reach for far too many deserving miners and survivors.

Ron Carson has been accessible to Members of Congress and provided wise counsel, as well as compassionate and enduring service to his community. He has been recognized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and his peers in the black lung community. On behalf of our colleagues in the House of Representatives, Congressman SCOTT and I extend our appreciation for Ron's service to those in need.

**HONORING MR. SHELDON DILL****HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Sheldon Dill, who the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is celebrating upon his retirement at its awards dinner in my hometown of Cheshire, Connecticut. Sheldon has served as President of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for the past twelve years, and his leadership has proven invaluable through the challenges that our town, state, and nation have faced.

Sheldon has led an impressive career in public service. He served on the Cheshire

Town Council, in fact, I took over his position on the Council in 2005, and his ability to work with members of both political parties earned him the respect both of his fellow councilmembers and of our entire town. Cheshire residents know Sheldon as a dedicated and creative problem solver who is always willing to advocate for our town.

As President of the Chamber of Commerce, Sheldon has been a strong advocate for Cheshire's small businesses and has worked to keep the American Dream a reality for families in our community. The past decade has seen big changes in Connecticut, but Sheldon has made sure Cheshire's businesses have a strong voice. He leaves behind a legacy of service to our town, and his commitment to Cheshire sets a high bar for the rest of us working in public service to meet. I wish him a restful—and much deserved—retirement full of time spent with his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sheldon Dill has served the Cheshire community as an elected official, a volunteer, and an advocate for our business community. His leadership as President of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for the last twelve years has made our community stronger and better able to lead in the 21st Century. It is proper that we honor him here today.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION****HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, I regret not being present for two vote sessions. During both instances, I was with my constituents and the meeting extended longer than expected. It prevented me from making it to the House floor on time to submit the first vote in each series.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4296, Roll Call No. 88, and against the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, Roll Call No. 83.

**SUTRAK****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Suttrak for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. Suttrak is a manufacturer of HVAC systems for transit vehicles including bus, light rail, and automated people movers. Founded in the 1970s by Hugh Ferdows in Germany, Suttrak expanded into the United States and Colorado by the early 1980s.

With over 30 years of domestic production, Suttrak systems have been installed on virtually every major bus, light rail vehicle, and automatic people mover system manufacturer in the United States. Suttrak completed a

major expansion in 2017, adding two new warehouse buildings and seven additional employees to the company's existing 70 employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sutrak for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. I would like to reflect how I would have voted, had I been present.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following: "YEA" on Roll Call No. 81; "YEA" on Roll Call No. 82; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 83; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 84; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 85; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 86; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 87; "YEA" on Roll Call No. 88; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 89; "NAY" on Roll Call No. 90; and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 91.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2018, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call votes No. 83, No. 84, No. 85, No. 86, and No. 87.

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GEORGE T. SANDERS COMPANY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the George T. Sanders Company for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. The George T. Sanders Company is Colorado's largest independent distributor of plumbing and heating supplies and services the plumbing, heating, and HVAC trades as well as the general public and can accommodate plumbing and heating projects for residential dwellings or large commercial buildings. Last year, George T. Sanders Company built a new, 76,000 square-foot facility in Commerce City, which brought 25 new jobs to the city adding to their 16 existing locations throughout Colorado and in Wyoming.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the George T. Sanders Company for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS  
OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms, one of the most horrific attacks against the Armenian people committed at the hands of Azerbaijanis.

On February 27, 1988, up to 200 Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and even burned alive for no reason other than their ethnicity. This senseless violence was instigated by hostile, anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani citizens and officials against these innocent individuals.

For three decades, Azerbaijan has taken steps to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss the atrocities at Sumgait. Even more disturbing is that perpetrators of these events and similar violent attacks have since been lauded as national heroes.

I condemn these horrific attacks. Tragically, the Azerbaijani government's approach toward the Armenian people has not changed much since these attacks were perpetrated. In 2018, we hear the same violent rhetoric and witness the intimidation tactics by the Azerbaijani government against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

If we do not condemn crimes against humanity, we only strengthen the resolve of those seeking to perpetrate these crimes in the future. The Armenian people have known this for too long, as we prepare to commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to remember the victims of the pogroms at Sumgait and to condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of their existence. I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric and intimidation by renewing our commitment to achieving a collective and lasting peace.

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TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOHN HODGES  
BENTLEY

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Judge John Hodges Bentley on the occasion of his retirement as Circuit Judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. I am proud to recognize Judge Bentley for his many years of public service on the bench and the practice of law. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work and devotion to one's community, state and nation.

Judge Bentley is a native of Kinston, North Carolina. After graduating from Grainger High School, he was appointed to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York where he graduated in 1972 and was commissioned into the infantry. While in the Army, Judge Bentley served five years on active duty

commanding various infantry units on the East German-Czech Border during the Cold War. He finished out his active duty Army career as an instructor in the Leadership Department at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Once out of the Army, Judge Bentley attended the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated in 1980. He practiced law for twenty-two years in Birmingham and Hamilton, Alabama, many of those years serving as the City Attorney for the City of Hamilton. In 2002, he was appointed to the bench as Circuit Judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit serving Marion and Winston Counties. Judge Bentley served in this capacity until his retirement on January 15, 2018.

Judge Bentley is a member of the Hamilton First United Methodist Church and has served as both Lay Leader and Sunday School Teacher. Furthermore, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Emmaus Community. He is also one of the founders of the Weldy Home, an emergency shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children.

He is married to Judy Sandlin Bentley, and they have two children, Carrie and Samuel, and four grandchildren, Lydia, William, Caroline and Jonathan.

Judge Bentley is very respected by the people of Marion and Winston Counties for his honesty and dedication, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Judge John Hodges Bentley on his many accomplishments and for his enduring impact on his community, state and nation. I join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings as he enters the next chapter of his life in retirement.

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CONGRATULATING IAN KUEHL,  
STATE CHAMPION IN WRESTLING

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ian Kuehl, a student from Lena-Winslow High School, for earning the Class 1 A wrestling title for the Illinois State Championship in the 285lb weight class.

Ian Kuehl pinned his opponent in 3 minutes 25 seconds to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Ian for his tremendous accomplishment. Ian's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment that goes into being awarded such a title. Ian's title demonstrates the value of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Lena throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Ian Kuehl on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.