

to over 10,000 new recruits. His understanding and natural talent for helping recruits develop into their best selves led to his astounding success. It was after this time that he retired from the Navy to be with his wife and four children. After a short stint working for a delivery company, Mr. Oliver was inspired to become a teacher again and sought the Santa Ana High School NJROTC program. His dedicated focus on his students became evident to all that witnessed him teach. He was not only a teacher, but a mentor, friend, and at times even a father figure to his students. It is because he genuinely loved his students that they loved him. While working with Santa Ana High School's NJROTC unit for almost 21 years, he helped develop one of the most distinguished units in the country. They received numerous awards including "Distinguished Unit" for 17 years in a row, "Most Improved Unit," and honored as one of the top 5 NJROTC units in the nation.

Mr. Oliver has enriched the lives of everyone he encounters and is a pillar of his community. His time in both the Navy and NJROTC will be remembered, and we are saddened to see him leave. His actions deeply impact all his students who will carry on his legacy. Even though he is retiring, he will continue to be a teacher, leading by example and demonstrating the best qualities of a life lived in service. I am truly honored to recognize Mr. Oliver today for his service in the U.S. military and for improving and guiding the lives of future generations.

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CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH COUNTRY PUBLIC RADIO

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize North Country Public Radio on its 50th anniversary.

North Country Public Radio (NCPR) is a public radio network with a mission to inform, enrich, and connect the community. Based out of Canton, New York, the network is the NPR affiliate for the North Country, providing NPR programming as well as music and award-winning regional news coverage. In addition, NCPR serves as the emergency broadcast system for many communities within the North Country. Established in 1965 with a single transmitter covering St. Lawrence County, NCPR expanded to operate 34 transmitters today, serving not only the entire Adirondack North Country region, but also western Vermont and southeastern Ontario.

NCPR provides a particularly important service to my district, delivering invaluable content to the people of the North Country. The hard work of NCPR employees has greatly expanded the options available to North Country residents, whether they are looking for entertainment programming or for news and information.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank NCPR for prioritizing the enrichment of our community during its 50 years of broadcasting.

RECOGNIZING FAIRMOUNT FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless actions of several members from the Fairmount Fire Department who went above and beyond the call of duty to help an elderly couple.

On January 12, 2018, members of the Fairmount Fire Department were called to the residence of an elderly couple in Camillus, New York. Heavy rains and melting snow had flooded their basement, leaving their hot water heater and furnace submerged under a foot of water. To make matters worse, temperatures that evening were expected to plummet to below freezing, putting the couple's safety in danger. With no family in the area to assist, and unable to relocate for the night, the Fairmount Fire Department came to the rescue.

Exhibiting consummate professionalism, the first responders replaced a broken sump pump to drain remaining water from the couple's basement. Fairmount's Fire Chief personally arranged for a last-minute heater installation. Ernie Kreis, the owner of Ernie Kreis and Sons Heating Co. Inc., rushed to the couple's home, and placed heaters throughout the house to keep the couple warm. The following day, Fairmount firefighters returned with dehumidifiers while Mr. Kreis and his crew finished installing a new furnace and hot water tank.

Today, it is my distinct honor to recognize Fairmount Fire Department's President Greg Poppo, Chief of Fire Scott Clarke, Lieutenant Chris Barlow, Jesse Belon, Stephanie Barlow, Billy Spinelli, Zachary Benjamin, Chris Sheedy, and Lucas Patchen for their selfless actions. Fairmount Fire Department is comprised of countless community volunteer firefighters, and I am grateful for their countless hours working to keep the public safe.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR GENERAL (MG) JERRY KEETON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of retired Mississippi Army National Guard and Army Reserve Major General (MG) Jerry Keeton who passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in Baldwin, Mississippi. MG Keeton, a native of Wheeler, Mississippi, was known for his devotion to God, country, family, and to his many friends.

MG Keeton was born on March 17, 1937. He enjoyed playing basketball at Wheeler High School and served as the captain of the team when they won the 1955 State Basketball Championship. Upon graduation, MG Keeton entered Mississippi State University (MSU), where he continued his love of basketball by serving as the co-captain of the MSU Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team. The team won the Southeastern Conference Championship in 1959. He was also a member of the

Blue Key Honor Society and President of the M-Club. He was a proud ROTC Graduate. MG Keeton was a Distinguished Engineering Fellow and earned a degree in civil engineering in 1959.

In 1960, MG Keeton joined the United States Army. The following year, MG Keeton married Josie Browning. He began a long and successful career that included command of troops at the Platoon, Company, Battalion, Brigade, and Group unit levels in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He served as Deputy Commander, Reserve Command of the 2nd U.S. Army located at Fort Gillem, Georgia. Following a long and distinguished military career, MG Keeton retired from the Army in 1993.

In the civilian world, MG Keeton was a registered professional engineer. He worked for the USDA National Resources Conservation Service from 1965–2002 as a supervisory civil engineer. While living in Tupelo, Mississippi, MG Keeton was an active member of Harrisburg Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

After a distinguished engineering career, MG Keeton retired and moved back to his hometown. He and his wife became members of Booneville First Baptist Church. It was in Wheeler where MG Keeton decided to become a cattle farmer. In addition to his love of farming, MG Keeton enjoyed hunting for quail and going fishing. He remained a loyal fan of Mississippi State University and Wheeler High School athletics, regularly attending games, especially basketball.

Jerry Hutcheson, a friend of MG Keeton and fellow member of Booneville First Baptist Church, said he always enjoyed MG Keeton's sense of humor. He liked to make people laugh. "Jerry was just a good guy," Mr. Hutcheson said. "He loved to talk politics every morning as a member of the Hardee's Coffee Club. He was devoted to everyone in the Berea Sunday School Class and to all his fellow senior adults in the church. He loved people."

A funeral was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at First Baptist Church in Booneville. Reverend Carter Smith and Dr. Lynn Jones officiated. MG Keeton was laid to rest at the Booneville Cemetery.

MG Keeton is survived by his wife of 56 years, Josie Browning Keeton; their son, Joe Keeton; and his brother, Billy Keeton. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilmer E. and Helen Martin Keeton.

MG Keeton was a true leader, who proudly served our nation. He touched many lives in both his professional and private life. MG Keeton will be missed.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. KURT TOPPEL

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Kurt Toppel—a beloved father, husband, and Los Angeles community leader—who passed away on February 9, 2018 at the age of 85.

Kurt Toppel was born in Cologne, Germany and immigrated to the U.S. in 1954. He served

in the National Guard in the late 1950's and later moved to Pacific Palisades in 1960 where he became very active in the community.

Kurt served as president of the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), and was instrumental in formulating its Guiding Principles which are still used today. He played a critical role in securing funds to assure the construction of the new gym in the Palisades Park, which led to him being honored with the Pacific Palisades Citizen of the Year Award. He served as the president of the Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association for over 10 years, serving as an important advocate for homeowners' rights.

Through his prodigious community involvement, Kurt became President of PRIDE, a non-profit designed to improve and enhance the aesthetics of Pacific Palisades. He was also a member of the Community-Policy Advisory Board for 10 years.

Additionally, Kurt was a member of American Legion Post 283 Pacific Palisades. He served on the Palisades Park Advisory Board, and on his 80th birthday his family donated \$20,000 in matching funds to build a Veteran's Garden at the Recreation Center in Pacific Palisades.

Kurt believed that the residents of Pacific Palisades should continue working together to maintain the beauty of Pacific Palisades here in Los Angeles. May Kurt's memory be a blessing to us all.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 94; NAY on Roll Call No. 95; NAY on Roll Call No. 96; YEA on Roll Call No. 98; and NAY on Roll Call No. 99.

#### HONORING ROBIN LANTZ

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robin Lantz in celebration of her 50 years in service for the State of California.

Ms. Lantz was born in Marion, Ohio. She grew up in a military family and spent her childhood in many places throughout the United States before settling in California. Robin graduated from Hayward High School and went on to earn an Associate of Arts degree from Stockton Junior College. She attended the University of the Pacific on an acapella scholarship and was a member of that institution's touring choir.

Ms. Lantz began her career serving California at the Department of Motor Vehicles. In the 1980s, she worked for the San Joaquin Women's Auxiliary Police—Badge #275—typing booking sheets for the jail. As part of her training, she walked through tear gas and had mace placed under her eyes. To this day, Ms.

Lantz loves the sound of a police scanner and listens to one all the time. Currently, Ms. Lantz is a Correctional Case Records Supervisor in Forensic Service at Napa State Hospital, a position she has held for the past 37 years.

Through her many years of service, Ms. Lantz has developed an astounding familiarity with the California Penal Code. Her encyclopedic knowledge of California's criminal statutes is so great that Superior Court judges have been known to ask her sentencing questions.

In addition, Ms. Lantz has honored our men and women in uniform with her volunteer work. She and her late husband, Dave Lantz, helped stage an annual encampment centered on service and military vehicles, complete with a parade. Ms. Lantz also volunteered to work at international airshows.

Mr. Speaker, Robin Lantz is truly dedicated to serving our State and our country. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### FOREVER WELCOME PEACE WALK

### HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work being done at home in my community by my friend Sunayana Dumala.

Sunayana is the widow of Srinivas Kutchibotla, the Indian immigrant worker who was tragically murdered in a hate crime in Olathe last year.

Understandably, Sunayana questioned her existence here in the United States following the loss of her husband—asking “do I really belong here?”

The man that took her husband was pure evil. He did not represent what is right and true about Kansas or America. But our community stepped up to answer her call loudly and clearly that she does belong. We responded with love.

And that love has given Sunayana a renewed purpose and a mission.

She's spreading that love and acceptance with her newly formed organization called Forever Welcome—sharing the stories of immigrants like herself who are here in America trying to build a better life.

This Friday she's hosting a Peace Walk to honor her late husband and spread her message.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all of us in this body to join in her mission of love.

#### CONGRATULATING MADISON FLEMING ON BEING NAMED 2018 NATIONAL AMBASSADOR OF HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Madison Fleming as the 2018 National Ambassador of Hydrocephalus Awareness.

Madison was diagnosed with Hydrocephalus, an incurable brain condition affect-

ing one in every 500 newborns, only three weeks after she was born. As a result of her condition, Madison bravely endured multiple emergency brain surgeries, as well as eye surgeries, migraines, learning disabilities, and years of physical therapy.

Madison courageously fought through these obstacles, and did not let them stop her from leading a successful life. Madison has competed in cross country, horseback riding, ice hockey, and lacrosse, which is a testament to her determination. She is also committed to her studies, and will be graduating high school a year early and will attend SUNY Jefferson in the fall of 2018. Madison aspires to become a Registered Nurse and dedicate her life to helping others. She is truly an inspiration.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to recognize the fantastic example that Madison sets as the 2018 National Ambassador of Hydrocephalus Awareness. I am so proud of all Madison has achieved, and have no doubt that she will continue to accomplish great things in the years ahead.

#### RECOGNIZING HOCKEY'S DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Congressional Hockey Caucus, and as an avid fan of the game, to recognize hockey's Declaration of Principles.

Those who love hockey know that it requires teamwork and perseverance, instills integrity and a sense of humility, strengthens character and brings communities together. On September 6th, 2017, the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players' Association issued a joint statement signaling the end to a two-year discussion between seventeen major worldwide hockey organizations including: American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA); American Hockey League (AHL); Canadian Hockey League (CHL); Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL); Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL); College Hockey Inc.; ECHL; Hockey Canada; International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF); National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); National Women's Hockey League (NWHL); North American Hockey League (NAHL); U SPORTS; United States Hockey League (USHL); and USA Hockey.

As part of the group's reaffirmation to the game, these seventeen hockey organizations have collectively issued a set of eight key principles—the Declaration of Principles—aimed at rededicating the game at every level to the group's core values and beliefs. The Principles are meant to serve as an internal compass to help guide decisions and shift behaviors of hockey organizations, as well as players, parents, coaches, fans, partners and all those who represent and care for the sport of hockey.

These Principles are:

1. Hockey should be an enjoyable family experience; all stakeholders—organizations, players, parents, siblings, coaches, referees, volunteers and rink operators—play a role in this effort.

2. Hockey's greatest value is the role it plays in the development of character and life skills.