

such as the Townview Improvement Corporation and the Duluth-Superior Community Foundation. She made it her goal to help Duluthians find a place to call home regardless of their income. Additionally, her husband and she established the Beverly and Erwin Goldfine Scholarship for Academic Excellence to help students at the University of Minnesota Duluth reach their full potential.

It is an honor to recognize Beverly's many accomplishments and contributions to the community she loves so much. There is no doubt her activism and selfless efforts to help those in need have improved the lives of countless people. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in wishing Beverly a very happy 90th birthday. What an incredible milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF ROBERT G. STANKIEWICZ

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially recognize the outstanding public achievement of Robert G. Stankiewicz. Mr. Stankiewicz has been in public service for close to twenty five years, the past ten with the United States Capitol Police (USCP). As the Telecommunications Manager, Mr. Stankiewicz was instrumental in the implementation of the new USCP Radio System, built the USCP Radio Team now better known as CapCom and developed the first USCP mobile radio system that provides much needed communications for DPD motorcades.

He laid the foundation and brought in a very highly skilled and diversified group of technicians that will serve the United States Capitol Police well for many years to come. Mr. Stankiewicz's retirement marks the end of an era at USCP. He is the last of the originals. His dedication and commitment to the department cannot be measured. Even more important though are the friendships he developed that will last a life time. While his time at the United States Capitol Police has ended with his retirement, I know he will be just as successful in his future endeavors. I thank him for his dedicated service.

IN HONOR OF MARCY KAPTUR MAKING HISTORY AS THE LONGEST SERVING CONGRESSWOMAN

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize my colleague, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, who is making history as the longest serving female member of the House of Representatives.

This is especially momentous for my district, as she now surpasses Edith Nourse Rogers, who served in Congress for 35 years and previously held the record of the longest serving female member. Representative Rogers was the first woman to represent Massachusetts in

Congress, hailing from my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts and serving the district I now represent.

Edith Nourse Rogers became the sixth woman to serve in the House of Representatives when she was elected in 1935. She was one of only 17 upon her death in 1960. Today, MARCY KAPTUR is one of 84 women in the House, and odds are that number is sure to grow in November.

This historic moment is significant because of the remarkable commitment to public service that MARCY KAPTUR has demonstrated over the past 35 years, but also because of the model of service she represents to the thousands of women who have been motivated to run for office in recent years.

I am grateful that MARCY has brought a woman's voice to so many critical debates over the course of her tenure, and I think it is worth pointing out that she has never run unopposed. She's earned every vote she's received in 18 consecutive elections.

I want to congratulate the gentlewoman from Ohio on this remarkable achievement. May it inspire continued courage and confidence in women who seek to follow in her "persistent" footsteps.

IN RECGNITION OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL T. VOUGH, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSTON FRIENDLY SONS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Michael T. Vough, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick's Achievement Award. He will be honored by the Friendly Sons during their annual Saint Patrick's Day celebration on March 17, 2018.

Judge Vough is the only son of the late Henry and Mary Noci-Vough. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and the University of Scranton. In May 1989, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law.

In 1991, Judge Vough founded the Law Office of Vough & Associates, which served over three thousand clients throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and employed a staff of ten.

From 1992 to 2012, Judge Vough worked as an Assistant District Attorney for Luzerne County. As Assistant DA, he prepared, evaluated, and prosecuted all criminal cases from commission of the crime through sentencing. He prosecuted over 1,500 cases resulting in plea or trial; represented the Commonwealth in over 150 jury trials; and had a 100 percent conviction rate in seventy homicide cases. Of these seventy homicide cases, nine resulted in first degree murder convictions. He participated in three death penalty jury selection cases and had an overall 99.8 percent conviction rate in his twenty years of service with the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

On January 3, 2012, Judge Vough was sworn in as judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. Since 2012, he has presided over thousands of criminal and civil

cases. He currently serves as the Criminal Court Division Administrator and has previously served as the Co-Civil Court Division Administrator.

He is married to Cindy Forlenza Vough, and they have four children, Michael, Matthew, Nicholas and Jessica.

It is an honor to recognize Judge Michael T. Vough as he accepts the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons' Achievement Award. I am grateful to him for his service to the people of Pennsylvania. I wish him all the best this Saint Patrick's Day.

HONORING SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR JUSTIN RIVARD

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young man from Somerset, Wisconsin named Justin Rivard. Justin is a senior at Somerset High School and is finishing up his final semester. But rather than just spending that time preparing for his own graduation, Justin has gone out of his way to help others. He recently invented a device, aptly titled the "JustinKase," that protects students and teachers inside their classrooms. The steel device slips underneath a classroom door and latches to the door's jam, locking the door in place. This prevents anyone with intent to commit violence against students or teachers from accessing the room.

A teacher at Somerset High recently described Justin as having "the special combination of motivation and brains and has a motor that just keeps going." Indeed, these skills will serve Justin well as he continues to use his gifts in the service of others as a soldier in the United States Army. Everyone in Wisconsin is proud of Justin's ingenuity. And we are grateful for his decision to enter the military and defend our nation.

TRIBUTE TO BILL PAVKOV

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill Pavkov of Hastings, Iowa for his dedicated service to our country in World War II and the Korean War. Bill turned 90 in 2017 and has the rare distinction of serving his country in two wars.

Bill was born and raised in Doylestown, Ohio. He left school in the 10th grade to join the U.S. Army Transport Service in 1944. He was only 17 years old and his father had to give his permission in order for Bill to serve. Bill was aboard Army Transport ships that delivered both troops and supplies around the world. After his service to our country, Bill returned to Ohio, married and began his career as an over-the-road semi-truck driver. In 1960, Bill and his family moved to Iowa where he started farming and continued driving trucks. He served his community as a volunteer firefighter and as Mayor of Hastings. When Bill

retired in the 1990s he had logged 52 years as a truck driver and 30 years as a farmer.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Bill for his many years of dedicated and devoted service to the United States of America, his family, and his community. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding his service as a veteran and in wishing him and his family nothing but the best.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICANS UNITED FOR SELF EMPOWERMENT (CAUSE)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, to recognize the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), a nonprofit organization based in the Greater Los Angeles area. CAUSE has played a pivotal role in the promotion of civic engagement and leadership development within the local Asian Pacific American (APA) community for the last 25 years.

CAUSE began in 1993 as the Chinese Americans United for Self Empowerment. The organization has been chaired since its inception by Charlie Woo. In 2003, due to the APA community's diversifying population, CAUSE expanded its mission to serve the larger APA community, and changed its name accordingly to the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment.

CAUSE was created with the mission to advance the political and civic empowerment of the APA community through nonpartisan voter outreach, training, education, and leadership development. By providing a greater understanding of APA issues, access to resources, and a large and thriving network, CAUSE has played a pivotal role in empowering the next generation to vote, participate, and lead.

CAUSE has created a pipeline of leadership development programs that cultivates leaders for the APA community. The oldest of these programs is the Leadership Academy, an undergraduate internship program, which has graduated 26 classes and has exposed students to decision makers, policy makers, and issues of the day. The program's young leaders have developed a deeper awareness of the political issues the APA community faces in California and in Washington, D.C.

CAUSE's Leadership Institute, a six-month fellowship, trains mid-career professionals to become greater advocates for the APA community. The fellowship is comprised of intimate policy roundtable discussions, civic leadership skill development, and access to political leaders who speak at leadership luncheons.

The CAUSE Leadership Council & Network is comprised of preeminent next-generation leaders, who are selected to participate by invitation only. Members move the APA community forward through education, networks, and advancement into leadership positions. They also look to ensure equal opportunities for leadership representation by building key connections and skills necessary to advance and empower emerging leaders.

Through these programs, CAUSE has developed a network of over 200 alumni. CAUSE is also especially dedicated to advocating for more women to rise to positions of power. The CAUSE Women in Power program serves over 400 women annually through leadership conferences to discuss issues women leaders face while exploring strategies to overcome them. This program inspires women to reach their full potential.

CAUSE has been a primary source of information for foreign and native-born APAs. CAUSE's Voter Outreach, Training & Education (VOTE) Initiatives provide voters with valuable access to voter education and registration workshops, candidate debates and forums, and community issue town halls. With over 200 volunteers, the VOTE Initiatives work to increase APA turnout and voter registration, the understanding of candidates and propositions, and discussion of politics and community issues.

Today, the APA community is the fastest growing community in the U.S. and is projected to be the largest immigrant group in the country by 2055. APA voters increased from more than 2 million voters across the country in 2000 to 3.9 million voters in 2012. In addition, there has been a growth of over 600,000 new APA voters nationwide within the last three election cycles. However, only about half of eligible voters were registered in 2016, and there is still a lack of representation in political leadership roles. The APA community is sure to see increased voter activity and voter engagement under CAUSE's stewardship.

Under the leadership of CAUSE's Executive Director, Kim Yamasaki, the organization's budget for programs and staff has increased by more than 50 percent. CAUSE is better positioned than ever to fully activate and engage the APA community in politics and the world around them.

On April 5, 2018, CAUSE celebrates its silver anniversary at an event in Downtown Los Angeles with several hundred supporters in attendance. Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to please join us in celebrating CAUSE's first 25 years of success. We look forward to its next 25 years with great anticipation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote 104, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the mullahs in Tehran are among the world's worst human rights abusers. This year we have witnessed their brutality again on display as they mercilessly crushed political dissent from their own people. International attention has faded but

the Iranian people are still in the streets demanding their rights, whether they be economic opportunity, access to water, religious freedom, or gender equality. The United States must support these dissidents fighting for freedom and basic human rights.

In response, the regime has murdered dozens and locked-up thousands as it has done so many times before without punishment from the outside world. In perhaps one of the most egregious cases, in 1988 the Iranian regime initiated a systematic massacre of thousands of political dissidents. The barbaric mass executions by hanging and firing squad included teenagers and pregnant women who refused to renounce their political affiliations, including many from the MEK—today's leading Iranian dissident group.

It's important to remember and emphasize who exactly were the victims of this bloody massacre. Iranian security officials would ask detainees "What is your political affiliation?" Those who said "MEK" would be immediately placed on execution lists. So horrific was the act that the deputy to Ayatollah Khomeini at the time called it "the greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us."

Their day of reckoning is fast approaching. It has taken 30 years to condemn and investigate this horrific massacre. The United States must act swiftly to ensure that the Mullahs in Tehran are finally held accountable. Our government must work with international partners to also investigate other major human rights abuses such as the dozens more killed during protests in 1999, 2009, and 2017. In all cases, the families of those murdered by the regime were never told what happened to their loved ones' remains. The United States government and our allies must make it a priority to pressure the Iranian regime to disclose where the final resting place of the missing is so that their families may have a small bit of peace.

Another horrific violation of human rights and decency is taking place today on the shores of Libya. In 2011, our government self-righteously intervened in Libya to topple the regime of Muammar al-Gadhafi and then turned its back on that country. It is now a full-blown failed state where human trafficking is taking place.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. We are seeing thousands of desperate refugees attempting to cross the war-torn country to the freedom and opportunity of Europe only to end up being exploited by slave traders. Estimates indicate there are about 500,000 to a million migrants bottled up in Libya that could be fodder for this despicable slave trade. Evil men, whether they be criminal opportunists or terrorists, are subjugating those in the most need for their own profit. You cannot put a price on human life.

The fact remains that we simply do not know enough about what exactly is going on in Libya today. The U.S. government and Congress should further investigate this tragic development of human slavery in Libya so we can get to the bottom of what is actually going on.

We must know who is exploiting migrants for profit, where the money is going, and compel Libyan authorities and the international community to respond decisively. It is our moral duty to fight for the voiceless who are being sold as chattel on the shores of Libya.