

dear friend. Words cannot express how much he will be missed.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH JEFFERSON VFW POST 5344 ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize South Jefferson VFW Post 5344 on its 50th Anniversary.

For the past 50 years, members of South Jefferson VFW Post 5344 have successfully advocated on behalf of fellow veterans and their families. The imperative work this post carries out in support of our military families is incredible. VFW Post 5344 has hosted barbecues and fundraisers to benefit community members, and has hosted wreath laying events and ceremonies in honor of Memorial Day and Veterans Day. For its 50 years of dedication to veterans and to the community, Post 5344 will proudly receive its Golden Anniversary Award Citation.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank all of the members of South Jefferson VFW Post 5344 for their selfless service to our Nation and to the local community, and wish this Post all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALDWELL COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT STEVE STONE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent of Schools in Caldwell County, North Carolina. I would like to congratulate Dr. Stone on his retirement after 38 years of service to the students and families of Caldwell County and North Carolina Public School Systems.

Dr. Stone's passion for education was sparked by his classroom experiences growing up with skilled teachers in Person County, North Carolina. Their unwavering commitment to their students propelled him forward to receive his Bachelor's Degree from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, his Master's Degree from University of North Carolina Charlotte, and lastly his Doctorate from North Carolina State University. Over the course of his career, Dr. Stone served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, school level principal, and central office director. Shaped by our state's esteemed public school and university system, Superintendent Stone is a strong advocate for public education.

As Superintendent of Caldwell County Schools, Dr. Stone focused on sustainability and success. He is active and involved with numerous educational organizations that promote, invest, and protect our children's future. Dr. Stone started and supported initiatives

which have led to 9 consecutive years of increasing high school graduation rates, 7 years of increasing college scholarship awards, and expanded access to Technology, Engineering, Science, and Mathematics for the students of Caldwell County.

Dr. Stone is highly regarded among his colleagues throughout the state and in Caldwell County and is the 2nd longest tenured superintendent in North Carolina. His service and conviction to provide a productive, forward-moving environment for all students to learn will leave a legacy for decades to come. Dr. Stone has impacted the lives of the people he serves and it is my distinct honor to recognize his outstanding work and express the best wishes of the people of Western North Carolina on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDUARDO BUENAFLO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a few moments today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Eduardo Buenaflor, a proven executive with records of generating exceptional results.

Mr. Buenaflor has been an important figure in advancing the U.S. Navy aircraft. He helped develop the fast paced HH-60H Seahawk aircraft that is currently being used by a squadron. As Director of Operations at the Navy, his responsibilities included day-to-day flight operations, strategic planning, aircraft acquisition integration, foreign and domestic key partner relations, business systems, and leadership.

Leading by example, as Director of Human Resources, he managed staffing for 3 departments, 15 production work centers involving 400 personnel and 23 division managers, assured that qualified individuals are placed in the correct position. He is highly organized in the management of 255 career development boards, employee evaluations, and 29 employee disciplinary review boards and as Chairman of employee awards board.

Recently, Mr. Buenaflor was awarded Armed Forces Joint Meritorious Service Medal for a combat tour in Iraq and four separate Navy Commendation Medals that were awarded for exceptional leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Buenaflor and the positive impact he has made in the Armed Forces.

HONORING GEORGE MACLEOD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George MacLeod and remember his rich and full life. Mr. MacLeod leaves behind a legacy of successful winemaking and a passion for the industry and our community.

In his early career, Mr. MacLeod was a geophysical engineer, working in the electronics industry at Fisher Research Laboratories and Knapic Electronics in Silicon Valley. He then worked on the development of Light-Emitting Diode (LED) technologies at Monsanto.

In 1974, Mr. MacLeod and his wife, Greta Fisher MacLeod, bought their ranch, 50 rugged acres above Kenwood, California, which was called Indian Springs Ranch. Mr. MacLeod dove headfirst in grape growing and winemaking and did so with fervor. He took courses at Santa Rosa Junior College and the University of California, Davis and contacted grape growers in the Sonoma Valley to learn as much as possible about the industry and the process.

Mr. MacLeod liked to joke about his inexperience with farming and grape growing. He compensated for his newness to the profession with talent, drive and perseverance. The vineyard's first Sauvignon Blanc harvest won a gold medal and Mr. MacLeod loved to tell that story.

Mr. MacLeod cherished the winemakers of the Sonoma Valley. He helped write the constitution for the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance and was its first president. In 2015, Mr. MacLeod was inducted into their Hall of Fame, the first person to receive this honor. Mr. MacLeod stayed involved with our community as the author of the Journey to Harvest column in the Kenwood Press. He also published a memoir, family history books and wrote a book on terroir and how it affects the flavor of wine.

Mr. Speaker, George MacLeod was always willing to lend a hand and help our community flourish. He was a devoted husband and dedicated father and an example of how to live life with integrity and generosity. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING FARNEY'S HOME AND BUILDING CENTER ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Farney's Home and Building Center on its 60th anniversary.

Gladys and Vincent Farney established Farney's Home and Building Center in 1958, and the business has played an essential role in providing home tools and appliances to the community since. The Farneys built their business from the ground up and includes a lumber yard, building supplies, a hardware store and kitchen, and a bathroom and countertop design showroom. Now in its second generation, the family company is run by the couple's son, Reg Farney, but Gladys and Vincent remain quite active in the business. In recognition of their many years in the hardware business, Gladys and Vincent were awarded the Estwing's Golden Hammer Award in 2015.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate Farney's Home and Building Center on its 60th anniversary. The Farney family sets a wonderful example for developing a prosperous small business in the North Country.

IN CELEBRATION OF NANCY
MENDEZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and success of Nancy Mendez. A dedicated resident of Whittier, California whose hard work and model leadership has made a significant impact in my Congressional District. Ms. Mendez is retiring from her position as Assistant City Manager this year, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize her accomplishments.

Ms. Mendez began her 38 year long career with the City of Whittier in 1980 as a community supervisor. She established herself as an active member of the community spearheading several programs and activities responsible for maintaining high levels engagement across all age groups. Following the Whittier earthquake in 1987, Ms. Mendez demonstrated her ability to perform under pressure when she organized and opened a mass shelter for displaced residents after having been on the job as the Assistant for Human Services for only one day.

Ms. Mendez also assisted the city in winning a number of grants to fund important city projects over the years. She has also served as the Director of Human Services and Assistant City manager. Ms. Mendez has always used her skills to provide tangible benefits to our community. As Assistant City Manager, she was integral to the design and funding for the Greenway Trail, improved cell phone service in Whittier, and other important economic development projects. While there are too many projects to list, I would be remiss if I did

not also mention her work on the Walnut Senior Center, Palm Park Activity and Aquatics Center, and the city's police headquarters.

I cannot thank Ms. Mendez enough for all that she has contributed to the City of Whittier. Her passion for public service has made her an influential and effective leader whose accomplishments both from the past and present continue to benefit the people of Whittier today.

I wish Nancy Mendez a happy retirement and thank her again for her service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan, then known as the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. As the first Muslim-majority nation to embrace secular, elected government, Azerbaijan will always be a model for states who aim for progress, ongoing reform, and a step towards bettering the lives of their people. On behalf of the people of North Carolina, I also recognize the contributions of the Azerbaijani community in my home state.

After the landmark 1918 independence declaration, a Bolshevik invasion cut short Azerbaijani independence. Yet, this dream was never extinguished, and in 1991 Azerbaijanis again created their own independence movement, successfully declaring their own state. Each time Azerbaijan reasserted its independ-

ence, the United States has been quick to recognize Azerbaijan. We should be proud of the lasting and valuable relationship we have enjoyed ever since.

Azerbaijan is a crucial and irreplaceable ally in the global fight against terror and an exemplary partner with the United States. I look forward to deepened bilateral cooperation, including towards the fullest realization of our commitments to good, democratic governance, trade, and progress in the Caspian region and beyond. As a country bordering both Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan's membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is particularly important. Azerbaijan has emerged as a crucially important transportation route for supplying U.S. operations, and I want to recognize Azerbaijan for providing troops to the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan and for allowing NATO planes to use Azerbaijani airspace.

Throughout my time in Congress, my colleagues and I on either side of the aisle have united in our staunch support of Israel. As a modern, secular Muslim country, Azerbaijan shares these values and stands out among its neighbors in the region for the strength and durability of this bond with Israel. As a nation with a Jewish community dating back many hundreds of years, and as a major provider of oil to Israel, the Azerbaijani-Israeli relationship, and indeed the Azerbaijani-American relationship, are on a path to greater cooperation and shared prosperity.

It is important that Congress recognizes the historic milestones of our allies, especially those in a region where close cooperation with America is valuable and scarce. This is why I would like to recognize and congratulate Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of independence.