

to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MASTER SERGEANT GARY GORDON

HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate this year's 25th Anniversary of the death of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, U.S. Army Special Forces.

MSG Gary Gordon was an extraordinary man and soldier, serving as Sniper Team Leader, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in the Battle of Mogadishu. He went above and beyond the call of duty on October 3, 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, giving his own life to save another.

Since MSG Gary Gordon's heroic death in 1993, his beloved family, the Town of Lincoln, and our Great State of Maine have never forgotten his service and sacrifice. It has become tradition for the people of Lincoln, Maine to pause and honor MSG Gordon, their hometown hero, each and every year.

This year, on June 30, 2018, we will pay tribute to his life with MSG Gary Gordon Day, including a 5k run and walk and a yard sale fundraiser to erect his memorial statue in The Town of Lincoln's Veterans Park. The memorial will feature MSG Gordon's Medal of Honor citation, as well as a plaque with the names of all the American soldiers killed in 1993 in Somalia.

Today, the legacy of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and his selfless sacrifice lives on in the Town of Lincoln. We are so proud that this man lived, and hailed from the heart of our Great State of Maine. I am humbled and honored to serve in the United States Congress on behalf of the Gordon family and the residents of Lincoln, Maine, who are always looking to honor the memory our brave heroes like MSG Gary Gordon.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the death of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, and in assuring his family, friends, and community that he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MYLO "MIKE" JOHNSEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mylo "Mike" Johnsen, who passed away in California on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Mike, a devoted family man, served his nation in World War II, and volunteered with senior and youth organizations in his community. He will be deeply missed.

According to his family, Mike was the last known living soldier of his World War II Army Battalion. He spent four years in the Army and

was part of the 535th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. The unit was based and trained at Camp Hahn, California, which is now the location of the Riverside National Cemetery. The 535th landed on the beach during the invasion at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, fought throughout France and Belgium, including at the Battle of the Bulge and were eventually part of the Victory in Europe on May 8, 1945. We are forever indebted to Mike, who helped liberate Europe from tyranny.

Survived by his wife of 69 years, Mike cherished spending time with his family, which included five children, 12 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren. Mike worked 32 years for Rockwell/Boeing as a Quality Assurance Inspector and Engineer, contributing to many projects including Apollo Missions 3 through 17, B1 Bomber, MX missiles, three space shuttles and Navstar, the first satellite navigation system. Mike was a member of the Free Masons for over 50 years and an active adult leader with his children's various organizations, sports and activities. When Mike retired in Las Vegas, he taught western line-dancing at senior centers for 25 years and supported community events for children with intellectual disabilities at the Professional Bull Riders Finals until he was 91 years old.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Johnsen family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Mike. Although Mike may be gone, the many contributions he made to his country, community and family will have a lasting impact.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TOM MELIUS, MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Melius on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service after nine years as the Midwest Regional Director. For more than 30 years of distinguished Federal service, Tom has been a leader who is always focused on the Service's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

As the Director of the Midwestern Region of the USFWS, Tom skillfully oversaw more than 1,000 people based at eight field offices, and an area encompassing 1.5 million acres of land in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. Tom also led the national effort to protect the monarch butterfly: the state insect of Minnesota and synonymous with the imagery of the great plains throughout the Midwest. Under his stewardship, the program became a national model for other pollinator and wildlife conservation programs.

Prior to his posting in the Midwest Region, Tom oversaw the vast and rugged terrain of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska region and served as Assistant Director for External Affairs in the Washington, D.C., Office

from 2003 to 2006. There he led the national programs for Public Engagement, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the office of Native American Liaison.

Tom has also conducted substantive conservation for the Service while he was Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs. In this role he acted as the Service's representative on issues regarding the management and conservation of migratory birds and the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and wetlands programs.

In 2014, Tom was named one of four U.S. Commissioners on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and advised the sea lamprey control program, which became one of the most successful invasive species programs in the history of international conservation. His efforts in guiding this program directly improved the health of the vast habitat and ecosystem that is the Great Lakes. In turn, he ensured that the lakes would remain healthy and true to their natural characteristics well into the future.

Before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tom served as a staff member on Capitol Hill, rising to a senior position on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where he crafted policy for fishery management with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard; and for coastal programs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also advised the Committee on international conservation matters involving wildlife trade, marine mammals and endangered species. His thorough understanding of the legislative process has likely played a significant role in his ability to be an incredibly effective leader at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tom Melius' career is exemplary of the impact that committed federal employees have on their work and the people who they serve. Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the exceptional career of Tom Melius, a champion for the environment and the women and men of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN J. "JACK" TIFFANY II

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my friend, Connecticut state representative and lifelong dairy farmer, Mr. Jack Tiffany. We lost Jack this past February, and I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this dedicated public servant, who spent thirty years representing the 36th district of Connecticut.

John J. Tiffany II, or "Jack" as we knew him, was a native of Lyme, Connecticut. The valedictorian of the Old Lyme High School class of 1950 went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in dairy production at the University of Connecticut. He then served his country in the Army Corps of Engineers before finally settling into his life as a dairy farmer, a tradition he carried on like the seven generations of Tiffanys that came before him.

Jack got his start in local politics when he was elected to the Lyme Board of Selectman.

Not long after, he sought higher office in the Connecticut General Assembly and won his seat in a special election. He also served as chairman of the Lyme Board of Education for several years. Jack was extremely well-respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was known across the state for his hard work, candor, and exemplary character. I had the chance to see Jack's fine work up close and in person during the time I held the state legislative seat from the town of Vernon from 1987 to 1994. We were from different parties, but that didn't mean a thing in all of our interactions. It was truly an honor to serve with him, and his example is an important one for all of us in public office.

Jack never lost sight of the challenges that Connecticut dairy farmers face. Each morning, before traveling to Hartford, he rose to do the farm chores. He once declared on the floor of the Connecticut General Assembly, "I am a dairy farmer by birth, I am a dairy farmer by education and I am a dairy farmer by choice." Even after leaving the General Assembly in 1992, he continued to advocate for farmers. He was a lifelong member of the Lyme Grange and several other agricultural associations.

In addition to being a great public servant, Jack was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Susan, their children Hannah and John, as well as their grandchildren Erica and Lauren. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and the Lyme community at large. I ask my colleagues to please rise in recognition of Jack's lifetime of service. May we all look to him as an example of honesty, humility, hard work, and stewardship.

HONORING MR. MIKE SMITH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate New Mexico native Mike Smith on completing horse racing's Triple Crown earlier this month. Mr. Smith deftly rode his horse Justify to victory in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes to become just the twelfth Triple Crown winning jockey. Furthermore, at the age of 52, Mr. Smith is the oldest person to achieve this feat.

Mr. Smith was born in Roswell, New Mexico and spent his childhood in the nearby town of Dexter. Horses were an integral part of life for Mr. Smith, who spent much of his time working with them on his grandparents' farm. Mr. Smith's professional jockeying career began when he was just a teenager and included races at tracks like Ruidoso Downs in Southern New Mexico.

Since the early 1990's, Mr. Smith has cemented himself as one of the top jockeys in the world. His long list of accomplishments includes seven victories in Triple Crown races as well as a record 27 Breeders' Cup wins. His success at these top races has earned Mr. Smith the nickname "Big Money Mike". In recognition of his impressive career, Mr. Smith was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, I want to congratulate Mike Smith on

winning the Triple Crown. He has brought our state great pride and we wish him the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO ELKS LODGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fresno Elks Lodge on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of its founding. Since its formation on June 25, 1898, the Fresno Elks Lodge has supported and improved the local community through charity and fellowship, providing neighbors and families a place to come together and serve others.

As a charitable fraternal organization, the Fresno Elks Lodge has served the greater Fresno area through many community service projects. Since the organization's founding, members have worked with the local community to ensure efforts towards its happiness and progression. Such efforts include inviting a clown troupe to visit children in schools and hospitals and entertaining veterans.

Over the years, the Fresno Elks Lodge has been honored for its community work for schools and veterans. The Fresno Compact named them one of the Top Ten Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations. They were also honored by the Fresno Veterans Hospital for their work with veterans.

Each year, the Fresno Elks Lodge organizes several events for the community. Members hold an annual Flag Day ceremony and other patriotic events in an endeavor to promote good will in the community. Other philanthropic efforts include supporting the California Hawaii Elks Association Major Project, which provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language training and preschool vision screening for disabled children throughout California and Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno Elks Lodge's 120th anniversary. I commend the service of all the members of this organization who have worked collectively to invest in the community and help improve the quality of life for many in the Central Valley.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF JOEL CARTER DENNEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life of Joel Carter Denney. Joel passed away on Sunday, August 13, 2017.

Joel served in the United States Army for 26 years and retired as a well-decorated Colonel in 1993. After retirement, Joel spent his days serving others as Chairperson for Alabama Honor Flight, President of Habitat for Humanity, Co-chair of the Calhoun County Chamber Military and Security Affairs Committee, Mem-

ber of the Alabama Job Creation & Military Stability Commission, Member of Berman Foundation Board and Museum and a volunteer with Carpenters for Christ.

During his time in the Army, Joel served in Korea, Vietnam, Germany, Fort Benning, Fort Hood, Fort Carson, Fort Riley, Anniston Army Depot and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

I knew Joel for many years and can honestly say he spent his life serving others—especially the work he did with the Alabama Honor Flight. His leadership and presence are certainly missed in Calhoun County.

Joel will be laid to rest on June 27, 2018 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering Joel Denney and celebrating a life well-lived.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA WOLFSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Wolfson, a woman who has dedicated her life to helping others through her work for Vita Education Services. During her twenty-four years with Vita, Linda has served as Director of Literacy, Director of Programs and has served as Executive Director since 2009. Under her skilled leadership, Vita has grown into the leading literacy agency in Bucks County and the largest provider of education services in the Bucks County Correctional Facility. In addition to her vision, passion and leadership at Vita, Linda has also served our community in numerous ways. She is Trustee Emeritus of the Bucks County Free Library System and served as its President of the Board from 1994–2003. She also served as a member of the Bucks County Workforce Investment Board from 2010 to 2015. Linda has truly had a positive impact in my district. I commend her for her dedication and service to our community and wish her well as she retires.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES A. DELAPP UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel James A. DeLapp upon his retirement from the U.S. Army. DeLapp most recently served as Commander of the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Colonel DeLapp, a native of Barrington, Illinois, has served our nation in the U.S. Army for over 24 years. Within this period of dedicated service, Colonel DeLapp assisted in military and peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia, Kosovo, Croatia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as leading the Corps of Engineers Recovery Field Office mission to provide relief to residents of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Prior to his experience commanding the Mobile District, Colonel DeLapp served as Commander of the Nashville District of the U.S.