

As the wife of a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in combat and a step-mother to marine aviators, I have been proud to support our military and our veterans. During my time in Congress, I authored legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II Women Air Force Service Pilots, WASP, and supported efforts to reinstate burial rights at Arlington National Cemetery to these women pioneers.

I supported legislation to protect victims of domestic violence and some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Mr. Speaker, each one of these issues is important, not only to me, but to our community in south Florida, and I will carry them wherever I go next. I want to thank the hardworking staff and interns with whom I have had the delight to work throughout my tenure in Congress. Some are still looking for jobs; please hire them.

I want to thank my loving and supportive family, my parents, Abu Mandy and Abu Kiki. I know they are watching me from Heaven, and I thank them for encouraging me to run for office and for their love in every step of the way.

I thank Dexter Wayne for supporting and joining me on this crazy adventure and for his unwavering support. The same goes to our adult children: Rodrigo, Patricia, Douglas, and Katharine. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I know that they have accomplished so much, and there is still some more to come.

I hope to have contributed to leaving a better world for our five grandchildren to enjoy with a sixth one coming before the new Congress is sworn in. I thank each one of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have worked with me in a bipartisan manner throughout my three decades in Congress. I will continue to cheer on my pals in the bipartisan Congressional Women's Softball Game.

Mr. Speaker, it truly has been the highest honor of my professional life to represent the great people of south Florida. I am excited to start a new chapter in my life, and for whatever life throws at me, all I have to say is: Put me in, Coach.

Muchas gracias. I thank my constituents.

#### RECOGNIZING HOWARD GARRETT OF EDMONTON, KENTUCKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend, Howard Garrett of Edmonton, Kentucky. In addition to serving as mayor since 1993, he has served as an officer of the Kentucky State Jaycees, a member of the local Industrial Board and 9-1-1 Board, and a deacon of the Edmonton Baptist Church. As an officer of the Barren River Area Development District and

the Barren-Metcalf Ambulance Board, his influence was felt throughout the region.

In his personal life, Mayor Garrett is an avid University of Kentucky and Yankees fan. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Teresa, and they are the parents to three children and grandparents to five grandchildren. Mayor Garrett has much to be proud of in his life. On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I thank him for his years of achievement and compassionate service to the Edmonton community.

#### RECOGNIZING MONROE COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE TOMMY WILLETT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Monroe County Judge-Executive Tommy Willett on his retirement after serving two consecutive terms in office. Prior to his election, Tommy and his father owned and operated Pure Drug Company in Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Currently, Judge Willett serves as the secretary of the Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Monroe County Water Board, Monroe County Board of Health, and several other significant boards and committees over the years. In his free time Judge Willett enjoys spending time with his two sons, daughters-in-law, and his four grandchildren.

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I congratulate Judge Willett on his years of service to Monroe County and wish him many years of continued success in the community to which he has given so much.

#### RECOGNIZING CLINTON COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE RICHARD ARMSTRONG

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Clinton County Judge-Executive Richard Armstrong. I am grateful for his efforts to better the lives of First District Kentuckians through his service on the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board of Directors as well as his involvement with numerous community organizations throughout his career.

As one of Clinton County's prominent community leaders and advocates, he has prioritized industrial development and spurred economic opportunities for those he has served. These significant accomplishments, in combination with his passion for serving his community, have distinguished him as one of the region's most prominent public servants. His achievements and efforts to improve the lives of his fellow Clinton Countians have forged a legacy of outstanding character and commitment to continuous improvements in all facets of community life.

Judge-Executive Armstrong's passion for bettering the community is rivaled only by his love for spending time with his family. I join his wife, Joy; his children, Cannon and Brandy; and his five grandchildren; as well as all those who know him in thanking him for his years of service to his community.

#### RECOGNIZING ADAIR COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE MIKE STEPHENS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend, Judge-Executive Mike Stephens of Adair County, Kentucky. His outstanding service and contributions during his tenure have greatly benefited his community, and I am proud to recognize him for his years of service.

Prior to being elected to public office Judge-Executive Stephens owned and operated his own pharmacy. He has also served on the Homeplace Board of Directors and the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board of Directors. Judge-Executive Stephens' varied experiences and knowledge of the local community made him a compassionate and effective county judge-executive and an exceptional public servant.

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I thank Judge Mike Stephens for his numerous accomplishments while serving as Adair County judge-executive.

#### MAYOR RITA SANDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Nebraska's most dedicated and inspirational leaders. Rita Sanders has served since November 2010 as the mayor of Bellevue, one of the oldest cities in Nebraska and home to one of the largest bases in the United States Air Force, Offutt Air Force Base.

She concludes her service as mayor today, and she has achieved many heralded results. Mayor Sanders was inducted into the Filipino Asian American Hall of Fame in 2017 as a testament to her tireless work and tremendous accomplishments as a Filipino American. In addition, the adjutant general for the Nebraska National Guard awarded Rita the Civilian Distinguished Service Medal in March of 2017.

Mayor Sanders was born in Hawaii in 1952. Her father served in the United States Army and was a Bronze Medal recipient for heroism in Vietnam. Her mother was originally from Germany. Mayor Sanders is married to Rick, and they have two grown sons. They are owners of a very successful business serving the elderly community.

Rita is an outspoken advocate for our servicemembers and has emphasized and enacted measures to enhance public safety, and community and family programs, including programs that support our military families at Offutt. She has served as a longtime board member for the Offutt Advisory Council and was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to the Commission on Military and Veterans' Affairs for the State of Nebraska.

Mayor Sanders also embraced the importance of economic development and community enhancement throughout

the city starting from the time she served as chairman of Bellevue's Chamber of Commerce. As mayor, she has worked with other city and State officials on the Governor's Summit on Economic Development to provide expertise on areas such as workforce development, new business recruitment, and tax policy.

On October 14, 2017, Mayor Sanders was inducted into the Chicago Filipino Asian American Hall of Fame. The consul general of the Philippines acknowledged Rita's diligent work to facilitate the return of the historic Balangiga bells which were acquired by U.S. soldiers in September 1901 and brought to America as tribute of the war they fought and the losses they suffered.

Leaders of the Filipino Government and Catholic Church hold these bells as highly significant religious artifacts and expressed their concerns over the use of them as a war prize. When Mayor Sanders met with President Duterte earlier this year, she pledged her support to help retrieve the bells. She was successful in her endeavors and attended a ceremony at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming where Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis announced the return of the bells.

We are proud to recognize Mayor Sanders for her monumental leadership, tireless service, and epic achievements for the city of Bellevue, the Omaha area, and the State of Nebraska.

#### RECOGNIZING GRACE FRY

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young lady in Nebraska who is a fighter, a fighter against a medically complex condition known as acute myeloid leukemia, and a fighter to gain support for H.R. 3325, the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2017, or the ACE Kids Act. That fighter is Grace Fry, who is 11 years old and is in remission from AML.

Grace was diagnosed with AML when she was 9 years old after dark bruises started appearing on her shins. Her parents thought the young ballerina had suffered a dancing mishap, but these bruises grew larger.

Aggressive treatment was started for Grace at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, and her parents, Jeff and Mandy, managed to maintain a family for their two other children while going through these treatments. Mandy was able to step away from her job to care for Grace, and Jeff was able to telecommute. Thanksgiving that year was spent at the hospital cafeteria, and Grace's sister spent her 16th birthday at the hospital with her baby sister.

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Jeff's job did provide the family with private insurance, but the loss of Mandy's income and increased travel costs made for a tight financial situation. Medicaid stepped in to help alleviate the costs not covered by insurance, such as deductibles and coinsurance.

The ACE Kids Act is designed to improve care for children with medical complexities who are on Medicaid, while also reducing program spending. The ACE Kids Act addresses existing challenges facing these children, identified by families and physicians, including the provision and coordination of care across multiple providers and services, and easing access to out-of-State care.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress, and I was pleased earlier this year to join 73 other Republicans and 60 Democrats in working to advance it. Tuesday, the bill will be up for consideration under suspension of the rules. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation tomorrow.

Grace loves all her nurses from Children's Hospital and Medical Center, which serves the most medically complex children in Nebraska and the region because of their highly specialized pediatricians and surgeons. Due to Children's wide footprint, Medicaid plays a significant role in their patients' lives.

One day, the young fighter known as Grace hopes to become a pediatric oncology nurse. But until then, she will continue to fight for her health and fight for support of the ACE Kids Act.

#### HONORING CHARLIE ODELL LOVETTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Charlie Odell Lovette of Wilkes County in North Carolina's Fifth District. Recently, Mr. Lovette was posthumously inducted into the Wilkes County Agriculture Hall of Fame and 3 miles of Highway NC-16 North were officially renamed in his honor.

In addition to being a pioneer of the U.S. poultry industry, Mr. Lovette was an active leader in the community and advocated for the construction of what is now his namesake, C.O. Lovette Highway, connecting Wilkesboro to Millers Creek. Although he passed away in 1978, Mr. Lovette's legacy is fondly remembered and livelihoods continue to thrive along trails he blazed.

Charlie Lovette's life is a shining example of the American Dream that North Carolinians remain proud of and hopeful for. At the young age of 14, Lovette left home to drive trucks for his uncle, distributing farm products in the foothills and mountains of Wilkes. In the summers, he put his farming skills to use.

At age 19, he returned to public school to improve his skills to be able to turn his work experiences into a business of his own. Starting with a horse-drawn wagon to sell apples and working at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Mr. Lovette was able to acquire necessary

startup capital to contribute to the foundation of the modern poultry industry. He bought the first truck in his enterprise in 1924 and developed a weekly schedule of buying barnyard chickens, butter, eggs, hams, dried apples, honey, and other produce from country stores to sell in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. His business provided a market for local farms to sell and trade their products to produce family farm income.

This same year, Mr. Lovette married the love of his life, Ruth Bumgarner. Ruth deserves just as much credit as her husband for being a steadfast pillar of support in his business endeavors and encouraging him to succeed.

During this time, chicken production progressed from barnyard chickens to hothouse chickens, and Lovette was an early adopter of this farming innovation. In 1928, he built one of the first hothouse chicken houses on his farm, with capacity for 250 birds. A portion of that chicken house is now on display at the Wilkes Heritage Museum.

Hothouse chicken farming increased rapidly in western Wilkes in the 1930s and 1940s. During World War II, processing plants were built in the major cities on the East Coast to supply the war effort, and live chickens were delivered to these plants from Wilkes by Mr. Lovette's trucks.

In 1946, Mr. Lovette sold his live chicken business to his oldest son, C. Fred Lovette. However, Charlie continued to run a smaller farm-raised food products business and started Lovette Egg Company in North Wilkesboro with his partner, J.C. Bumgarner.

Fifteen years later, Fred Lovette consolidated all the chicken and egg operations to form Holly Farms Poultry Industries. During the 1970s, Holly Farms Poultry Industries became the largest chicken company in the world, with chicken operations in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Texas. Additionally, it was the first chicken brand nationally distributed in the United States.

Not only was Mr. Lovette a smart businessman with a strong work ethic, he was also known for his good character. If profits were higher than expected, he passed on extra earnings to his suppliers. He was an adored father of seven who, alongside Ruth, instilled values of faith into the Lovette family, and he was an active member of Pleasant Home Baptist Church. Charlie and Ruth were a team in every endeavor and extended their business success not just to their children, but also to their siblings and many nieces and nephews who lived on the farm and worked at Lovette Poultry Company.

The Wilkes farming community has been the beneficiary of Mr. Lovette's courage to take risks and his determination to succeed. In 1989, Holly Farms was acquired by Tyson Foods, and in Wilkes, the industry still generates more than \$300 million in gross annual revenue, employs 3,300 people, and supports 200 family farms.