

gave him strength and hope. And that's when Stephanie wrote me a letter asking to help them complete this mission.

It was a great honor to work with Joe and Stephanie, the U.S. military, and the Connecticut National Guard to ensure once Tess was retired she could be adopted by her former handler. And I was thrilled to be able to call Joe a few weeks ago with the good news: Tess would soon be his again. Now she is with the Steenbeks in her forever home in Culver, Indiana, taking on her latest mission as Joe's partner, protector, and best friend.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the courage and sacrifice of Joe Steenbeker and the loyal companionship of his beloved dog Tess. On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I am grateful for their service to our country and the powerful example they set. This is more than a story of man's best friend. This is the story of an unbreakable bond between two American heroes.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
MICHAEL S. MCMANUS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge Michael S. McManus and his retirement from the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California. As his colleagues and local community leaders gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Judge McManus' service to the federal judiciary.

Judge McManus graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1975 with Bachelor of Art Degrees in Criminology and Psychology. In 1978, Judge McManus received his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced bankruptcy law at Diepenbrock, Wulff, Plant & Hannegan. In the late 80's, he also served in many capacities on the Debtor/Creditor Relations and Bankruptcy Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California.

Judge McManus has dedicated his career to public service. Appointed on January 11, 1994, Judge McManus initially started his first and second terms on the bankruptcy bench in the Modesto Division of the Eastern District of California and subsequently transferred to the Sacramento Division. He served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge from 2000 to 2008, as District of Nevada Judge through 2010, as the Chair of the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges, as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, and as an ex officio member of the Court-Council on Bankruptcy Judge Appointments. In addition to these great accomplishments, he is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Madam Speaker, as Judge McManus, his friends, and colleagues celebrate his retirement, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Judge McManus has contributed immensely to the bankruptcy bench and our community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Michigan Farm Bureau upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted services and invaluable community investment, MFB has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Founded in February 1919, the Michigan Farm Bureau was formed when representatives of 57 county-level Farm Bureaus gathered on the campus of the Michigan Agricultural College—now Michigan State University. Over the next century, MFB would weave together a fabric and community of farmers from across the state. Today, the organization includes more than 40,000 farmer members that produce hundreds of different agricultural commodities and represent every facet of Michigan's incredibly diverse agricultural industry.

In the last 100 years, the Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliates have provided its members with a vast array of goods and services, from farm equipment and supplies to commodity marketing, price negotiation and insurance. Today, MFB serves as the voice of Michigan's farmers at the state and national level, speaking on their behalf in Lansing and Washington, D.C. Its Young Farmers initiative helps develop the skills and leadership needed to ready the next generation to take the reins, and Farm Bureau volunteers help take the farm into classrooms statewide—keeping Michiganders informed about where their food comes from. Every year, MFB members donate tens of thousands of dollars' worth of food products and assistance to the needy, working directly with established food banks and other charities throughout the state. Day after day, the Michigan Farm Bureau sets a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a state work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Michigan Farm Bureau for 100 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing our state is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish MFB all the best in its future endeavors.

HONORING PAUL RIPLEY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the amazing life of Paul Ripley. On February 8, 2019, Mr. Ripley will receive the highest French order of merit for military and civil excellence, the French Legion of Honour. The Legion of Honour was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte as an order of merit for those who serve France and its people with honor.

At the age of 95, Paul Ripley has lived a distinguished life. He was born in Smithton, Missouri, on February 28, 1923, and attended Smithton High School before going to work for

a pipe company in Sedalia, Missouri. Paul answered the call to serve his nation during World War II. Upon entering the Army on April 6, 1943, he underwent basic training at Camp Blanding and was later deployed to France with the Ninth United States Army.

Stationed at Army Headquarters near Rennes, Mr. Ripley was assigned to the Graves Registration Division, assisting with the identification and burial of his fallen brethren. He served honorably, ensuring that American servicemembers were buried with dignity and respect. Technician 5th grade Paul Ripley was honorably discharged on November 14, 1945.

After returning home Mr. Ripley attended the University of Tulsa under the G.I. Bill and then entered the nursery products industry, becoming the first entrepreneur to sell products directly to large department stores such as Ames, Target and Sears. This innovation led to the creation of the modern gardening department at many national retailers. He moved his family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, so that he could expand his business and better connect with his clients. Throughout his career, Mr. Ripley received many awards and accolades for his ingenuity and ethics.

I would like to congratulate Paul Ripley and his family on this distinguished honor.

MARY J. TROST CELEBRATES
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mary Josephine Trost from Yucaipa, California. Mary was born as Mary Josephine DeHetre on January 30, 1919 in Currie, Minnesota.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Mary saw her formal education end before the start of high school. Family medical issues and a failing national economy forced her into the workforce, where she held a variety of jobs. In 1938, Mary married Joseph Trost, and moved with him to his family's farm in Seaford, Minnesota. They later moved to another farm in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1944, where Joe began working as a mechanic in addition to his farming business. In 1951, Mary and Joe moved across the country to Colton, California, where Joe worked at nearby Norton Air Force Base. Following a three year trip to Guam for work, the family finally settled in Yucaipa, California in 1963. Over the next 56 years, Mary has become a staple in the local community. She has been active in St. Frances Xavier Catholic Church and the Catholic Daughter's Court Holy Spirit, where she serves as Grand Regent and recently received her 50 year pin. Mary has also seen the birth of 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Mary has lived an incredibly rich life that has spanned an entire century. I wish her a happy birthday as well as continued joy and happiness as she continues to be active in her church, family, and community.

CONGRATULATING ROD SMITH ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rod Smith, longtime Sports Director at KRCG-TV Jefferson City, for his recent induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Growing up in Naperville, Illinois, Rod shared his father's love of sports, playing baseball, basketball, golf, tennis and even hockey as a child. In 1985, Rod graduated from Oral Roberts University and started his career at KRCG. Jefferson City was not on his radar when Rod graduated, but after attending college in Tulsa and his parents still living in Chicago it was a good central location. His career at KRCG started out with reporting the weather and sports on the weekend. He didn't expect to stay at KRCG forever, but when he met Lana at Capital City Christian Church everything changed. The two fell in love and built a life in Jefferson City.

Throughout his three decades of passionately delivering sports news to Jefferson City residents Rod has become an icon and celebrity in the local community. He has watched generations of student athletes excel in their respective sport and has cheered them on with pride. During this longstanding career he has also had the privilege to cover two Super Bowls: Rams and Tennessee Titans and Rams and New England Patriots; World Series games: St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals; NCAA tournaments; Missouri bowl games; and SEC football games. Perhaps his best claim to fame in the Midwest is "Rod's Big ol' Fish!" segment that is dedicated to showcasing the many catches from anglers across the region.

Along with sports broadcasting Rod is known throughout the community for his many emcee appearances which include fundraisers like the Mid-Missouri Heart Association Heart Ball, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, United Cerebral Palsy's "Wing Ding" and "Deal or No Deal", and the YMCA and Samaritan Center auctions. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and many other events also appreciate his energetic and positive energy. In 2018 alone, Rod emceed no less than 35 of the area's fund-raising events. As an accomplished golfer, Rod has been able to participate in 15 charity tournaments each year on behalf of KRCG and Naught-Naught Insurance Agency.

The biggest supporters throughout Rod's longstanding career are his wife of 31 years, Lana, and daughters, Brittany, Brooke, and Paige. While his love of sports is evident, Rod's family has unquestionably been his number one priority and, even with his hectic broadcasting schedule, he was able to coach all three girls in softball and basketball. I have no doubt they are as proud of their father today as he has been of them throughout their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Rod Smith on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019. This milestone is well deserved.

HONORING SESSIA WYCHE AT CONGRESSMAN VELA'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sessia Wyche, a dedicated educator in the Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Wyche earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from Texas A&I University in Kingsville. He helped his peers as a mathematics tutor and a graduate teaching assistant. As a Second Line Manager and Programmer at Southwestern Bell in Texas, he wrote computer programs and helped the company with its inventories.

An avid tutor, Mr. Wyche returned to academics as a leader for students interested in mathematics and the sciences. He served as Assistant Chairman of the Mathematics and Physics Department at Texas State Technical College (TSTC), and as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and Texas Southmost College (TSC).

As Director of Computer Directed Instruction in Math at UTB and TSC, he received the "Teacher of the Year" award, "Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching" Award, and "The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development" award. Currently, Mr. Wyche is teaching the future mathematicians of the Valley at TSTC. In his spare time, he volunteers as a chaplain in hospitals across the Valley.

I am pleased to recognize Mr. Wyche for his contributions to Texas' 34th Congressional district. He is a role model for our children, and we are thankful for his compassion to serve those in need. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing him, his family and friends on this special day.

IN RECOGNITION OF UC DAVIS' 14TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEART CARE FORUM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program as they celebrate their 14th Annual Women's Heart Care Forum. As community organizations and supporters of this program gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their commitment to the promotion of women's heart health in the Sacramento region and its surrounding areas.

For 25 years, the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program has received national recognition as the first women's heart program in the country. Under the leadership of Program Director Amparo Villablanca, doctors and nurses at the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program have continued to provide comprehensive treatment, education, outreach and research, benefitting women throughout our region. The program's exceptional commitment to women's heart health

has empowered women by providing knowledge of how to decrease their risk factors for heart disease and pursue healthier lifestyles.

Madam Speaker, as community organizations, staff and supporters gather at the forum to raise awareness about heart disease, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program for their years of service dedicated to advancing women's heart health.

THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I oppose U.S. military intervention in Venezuela. I am a cosponsor of legislation that would make that crystal clear to this Administration. At the same time, I strongly and unequivocally condemn reported acts of violence that have been carried out by security forces against Venezuelans peacefully exercising their fundamental civil rights, including to protest.

We must find other ways to continue to express our nation's legitimate concerns, as well as that of the rest of the international community, about the attacks on human rights and democracy underway in that nation. I am aware of the demonstrations that Venezuelans, opposed to Nicolas Maduro and his cronies, have held amid a deep and ongoing political and economic crisis.

While continuing to condemn violence against protestors and attacks on basic democratic rights and institutions, the U.S. must also press for multilateral diplomatic actions to help create the conditions for a peaceful return to democratic order in Venezuela. Additionally, any sanctions (either bilaterally or multilaterally) imposed against Venezuela must be targeted at government officials and coordinated to avoid worsening the country's dire humanitarian emergency. And let's be clear, sanctions are not an end to themselves and do not substitute for smart and disciplined diplomacy.

The U.S. should support international efforts to achieve a negotiated resolution. Rather than trying to repeat all the mistakes of our failed foreign policy of the past in this region, I urge this Administration to engage with other partners in order to best facilitate a return to democracy.

Lastly, I share concerns about the individual, Elliott Abrams, appointed by this Administration to serve as a "special envoy" to Venezuela. His history, particularly with regards to his views on U.S. policy in this region, disqualify him to serve as an impartial implementer of a strong diplomatic effort to reach a peaceful resolution. Among other concerns, this individual was twice convicted of lying to Congress and has long held troubling views on how the U.S. should engage with governments in the region with which it disagrees.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.