

the area to add to its park system, seeking to discover new outdoor recreational opportunities that could enhance the quality of life for the families and residents of Wayne County.

Over the course of 100 years, the Wayne County Park System has significantly transformed. From humble beginnings in Elizabeth Park in 1919, Wayne County Parks have since become an invaluable pillar of our community, serving as spaces for community members to gather and enjoy the outdoors, compete in sports, participate in various community events, and simply have fun. Today, nearly 40 parks including nature trails, golf courses, playgrounds, swimming pools, dog parks, picnic shelters, and baseball diamonds, to name a few, comprise the entire Wayne County Park System. Without a doubt, Wayne County Parks play an important role in our community and have been improving the lives of our residents for a century. Wayne County Parks truly foster inclusive, lively, and enjoyable environments where all feel welcome, and I cannot thank the Wayne County Parks System enough for its century of exceptional service to our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the centennial anniversary of Wayne County Parks. We are grateful for their impactful contributions to our community and wish the parks many more years of continued success.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MALTA CONFERENCES

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the greatest example of science diplomacy, the Malta Conferences, their founder and president Professor Zafra Lerman, and the important work that the conferences facilitate. This year marks the ninth meeting of the Malta Conferences. The conferences help identify unique opportunities for collaboration to meet the scientific and technological challenges of the Middle East region. In the Malta Conferences, the common language of science is used for science diplomacy, which serves as a bridge to peace, tolerance and understanding.

These peace congresses have made it possible for scientists from countries that are often on opposing sides of political and cultural conflicts to meet in a politically neutral environment, where they can collaborate on solving regional problems, and forge relationships that bridge deep chasms of mistrust and intolerance. These unique gatherings draw scientists from many Middle East countries, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

In each of the Malta Conferences, Middle East scientists meet with science Nobel Laureates to catalyze enduring collaborations on scientific and technological problems, including water scarcity, environmental degradation, nuclear and chemical security, science and technology education for all, energy, and climate change.

The founder and president of the Malta Conferences, Professor Zafra Lerman, is my friend and constituent. Professor Lerman is a life-long champion for human rights, freedom, and peace. For more than four decades, she has worked tirelessly to promote peace and justice around the globe, especially among nations whose governments are hostile to one another.

Professor Lerman has received over 40 international awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Clinton, the Royal Society of Chemistry Nyholm Education Award, the American Chemical Society George C. Pimentel Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Award for Science and Diplomacy, the American Physical Society Andrei Sakharov Prize, and the UN NOVUS Summit Peace and Justice Award. Professor Lerman received her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and her Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Despite many obstacles to success, the Malta Conferences have developed several avenues for change: Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, and Kuwait formed a working group on Drinking Water Quality Assessment in the Middle East; Palestinian students from Al Quds University in Palestine are pursuing PhD studies at Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel; a women's group was formed in order to empower women scientists across the region, and encourage young girls to pursue careers in STEM; and a unified science curriculum for the Middle East is being developed which will include climate change, chemistry, nuclear security, and ethics. More than 700 Middle East scientists and 15 Nobel Laureates are now in the network.

I would like to thank Professor Zafra Lerman and the Malta Conferences for their continued hard work to bring peace to the Middle East.

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#### RECOGNIZING CORPORAL RONNIE "RD" FOSTER, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Corporal Ronnie "RD" Foster of Anna, Texas.

Corporal Ronnie Davenport Foster, known to his friends as "RD" served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1969. Originally from Farmersville, Texas, as the son of a WWII veteran, Ronnie's sense of patriotism was developed early on. Shortly after graduating from high school, RD would be assigned to the 1st Force Logistics Command driving resupply and gun trucks out of Da Nang, Vietnam in 1967 as a part of the "Rough Riders" motor transport Battalion. For his efforts, RD was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

In the decades that would follow, RD pursued a music career as a singer songwriter and worked as a tour bus operator for famed musicians and performers. In an effort to recognize the patriotism of our Vietnam Veterans who were often shunned upon their return from service, RD organized a concert to raise awareness and funds for the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Fair Park in the 1980s. Later, RD would embark on an extensive mission to identify all the men and women from Collin County who died while serving our Nation going back to the Great War. Upon conclusion of his painstaking research efforts, he would lobby local governmental entities and spearhead a fundraising effort to construct a Veterans Memorial to remember and honor the legacies of our fallen warriors from Collin County. In response, the City of McKinney created the Armed Services Memorial Board, of which RD was a founding member. The result was the Collin County Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in November 2011. Further in 2013, RD cofounded the Collin County Fallen Warrior Portrait Project which has resulted in 70 portraits of fallen warriors on permanent display at the Collin County Courthouse. Corporal Foster would also organize the efforts to rename Courthouse to the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building in honor of the posthumously awarded Medal of Honor recipient. Foster's recognitions include Patriot of the Year by the Texas Veterans Commission and recognition as a recipient of the Distinguished Citizens Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Corporal Foster for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I was not present for a vote on Tuesday, October 23, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted on rollcall No. 573, "aye."

# INTRODUCTION OF WHITE HOUSE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DIVERSITY ACT

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, after President Trump's inauguration, the White House deleted Spanish-language content from the official White House website. At the time, the White House claimed that a Spanish-language site was under development, but, more than two years later, such a website has yet to materialize. Meanwhile, the previous two administrations offered Spanish-language content on the official White House website.

There are many taxpayers whose first language is not English. Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and French are among the most spoken languages in the United States. People benefit tremendously from having different options to access their government and receive information that may impact their lives. This is why it is imperative that the White House and federal agencies continue to be accessible to all taxpayers.

Therefore, I am reintroducing the White House Accountability for Diversity Act. It is vital for all Americans to be able to follow issues that affect their lives. This legislation will allow for content to be translated into Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, French and any other language deemed necessary by the Office of Management and Budget. This will ensure that all taxpayers have the option of accessing up-to-date information in their preferred language.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BOB AND ANNA RENAUD TRAIN BARN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Renaud Family and celebrate the opening of the "Bob and Anna Renaud Train Barn." The Renaud Family's generosity and life-long commitment to our community are worthy of commendation.

The Renaud Family is a central fixture of the Southgate community. Since moving to Southgate in 1947, Bob and Anna Renaud have fully dedicated their lives to serving the city. Anna, a retired councilwoman, served on the Southgate City Council for 16 years, and her husband Bob was a United States veteran who dutifully served our country in World War II. Throughout the decades, Bob and Anna have become pillars of Southgate and are widely recognized for their lifetime of generosity and philanthropy. To the great sadness of our community, Bob Renaud passed away last August, yet his remarkable work alongside his wife will always be remembered, honored, and appreciated.

The opening of the Bob and Anna Renaud Train Barn was only made possible due to the continued generosity of the Renaud Family. Named in recognition of Anna and in honor of the legacy of Bob, the barn will provide the

Great Lakes Live Steamers crews a place to store and work on their trains. More importantly though, the barn will serve as a welcoming place for our community to gather and learn more about something Bob loved: trains.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the dedication of the Bob and Anna Renaud Train Barn. We are grateful for Bob and Anna's 70 years of meaningful service to Southgate and their efforts are truly deserving of this recognition. The Renaud Family is cherished by so many within our community, and I am glad the train barn will bear their name for generations to come.

# RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST ERIC HALL, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Specialist Eric Hall of Frisco, Texas.

Specialist Eric Hall began his career in the United States Army as an infantryman, in both Scout and Reconnaissance Platoons. He was deployed to Iraq and continued his active duty service until June 2010. For his valiant efforts in the Army, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Combat Infantry Badge to name a few.

Mr. Hall would spend the next few years of his career in the Army National Guard, during which time he attended the University of Texas at Dallas, earning a Bachelor of Art in Political Science and a Masters in Constitutional Law. As a student, Eric developed a passion for servant leadership in organizations including the Young Conservatives of Texas, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the Cares Team, and as a member of the Rugby team. His deep desire to ensure equality, as instilled by the teachings of family members, led him to continue to serve in a multitude of organizations including the Equal Rights Voting Institute, 22 Fellowship Program, and as a Board Member for the DFW Chapter of the Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Texas.

As an advocate for our military and veterans, Eric has maintained an active role in organizations including the Association of the United States Army, Veterans of Foreign

Wars, and Carry the Load. Specialist Eric Hall is a leader of service and sacrifice who is wholly deserving of this recognition.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Specialist Hall for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2019, I was absent for a vote on H.R. 2426, the CASE Act of 2019, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 578.

# RECOGNIZING SGT. JEFF HEWITT AND DEPUTY JARED S. HEWITT

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sgt. Jeff Hewitt and Deputy Jared S. Hewitt of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for their courageous actions during the Eastpoint, FL fire that took place last June devastating the community and stretching over 1,000 acres.

The father and son received a call over dispatch that a family was trapped in a burning vehicle, and without hesitation, the two of them hurried to the scene. Placing their lives at risk, they fought through the heavy smoke and engulfing fire to free a young boy, his parents, and their cat from the emblazoned truck.

Because of their bravery and swift action, this family was safely rescued and there were no deaths as a result of the horrific fire in Eastpoint.

Their heroic actions have not gone unnoticed. Sgt. Jeff Hewitt and Deputy Jared Hewitt were named as the 2019 Law Enforcement Officers of the Year at the Florida Sheriff's Association annual summer conference. As a nation, we are indebted to our first responders and law enforcement officers for their daily acts of heroism.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking this father and son for risking their lives not only during this fire, but every day to ensure that the people of Franklin County can live safe and prosperous lives.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DWIGHT EVANS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I was attending a committee meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 579.