

RECOGNIZING JAMES GEIGER FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Geiger of Conrad, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Geiger was a member of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He served from 1942 to 1948 in the 303rd Bomb Group and 360th Squadron and earned the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters along with Service Medals in the European, Asiatic and American theaters. Mr. Geiger attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

Mr. Geiger was a B-17 pilot during World War II. During one of his crew's missions, the navigator and turret gunner were wounded. During the chaos, Geiger turned the controls over to his co-pilot and went to give first aid to his crew. Mr. Geiger kept them from bleeding out and saved their lives. He is a true hero who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve his fellow man and country.

Mr. Geiger has served on the Church Council for the United Methodist Church, the Pondera Medical Center Hospital Board and is a member of the American Legion. He is a well-respected and adored member of his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending James Geiger for his dedication and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MCCOWNGORDON CONSTRUCTION

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of McCownGordon Construction and its numerous contributions to the Kansas City community. As a significant cornerstone of the community, I am truly honored to have this establishment in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

McCownGordon Construction began as an idea between two friends and eventual co-founders, Pat McCown and Brett Gordon, who dreamed of starting their own construction company. Their main priority was to create a workplace that would prioritize their employees, better serve their clients, and give back to the community. They made this dream a reality through dedication, perseverance, and hard work in July of 1999. During the labor shortage of recent years when many construction companies struggled to find employees, McCownGordon Construction managed to endure by investing in the development of its team. The business tripled its training budget in order to be prepared for business growth when the economy bounced back. Due to this training initiative, McCownGordon is consist-

ently hiring qualified and strong candidates in order to continue providing the best for its clients.

In 2013, McCownGordon Construction was named Business Philanthropist of the Year by Nonprofit Connect because of its consistent commitment to giving back to Kansas City. The company devotes at least 10 percent of net profits to worthy causes in the communities it serves. The company's craftsmanship and involvement in the Ronald McDonald Longfellow House aided in providing temporary housing for families with sick children receiving medical treatment. Along with the R.A. Bloch Foundation, McCownGordon collaborated in renovating a portion of the Cancer Survivor's Park as well. Multiple projects for one of Kansas City's treasures, the NelsonAtkins Museum of Art, have also been completed by McCownGordon Construction. Thousands of visitors and Kansas City natives can view priceless and rare works of art in the newly renovated exhibits. Beautiful places like these are preserved and enjoyed by many because of the unwavering support of companies like McCownGordon Construction. These contributions and collaborations demonstrate how McCownGordon Construction has proven to be an invaluable part of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Today, McCownGordon Construction employs around 400 staff, all of whom contribute to the company in various ways. Construction workers, architects, management, and administrative staff all work together in order to create meaningful projects and buildings. McCownGordon is entirely employee-owned, so all employees have a stake through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan. The company's innovative and ambitious vision for the future and for the community drives McCownGordon Construction's success. McCownGordon sets itself apart by focusing on growing positive relationships between employees and clients, while adhering to its core values. The company's positive and communicative workplace environment prompted it to be named one of the best places to work by Fortune, the Kansas City Business Journal, and others.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring McCownGordon Construction and its employees for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to their community. Together, they have made it possible to achieve this monumental twentieth anniversary.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes due to travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 610, and yea on Roll Call No. 611.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM J. "BILLY" MCCOY

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William J. "Billy" McCoy, who passed away on Tuesday, November 12, at the age of 77.

Billy was an honorable public servant, serving as Speaker of the House for the Mississippi House of Representatives for many years. As Speaker, Billy contributed to significant legislation that revolutionized the economy of our State. He was the champion of the 1987 infrastructure plan that established a four-lane highway system across Mississippi, which brought more businesses into the State that created thousands of jobs for Mississippians. Billy is directly responsible for bettering the lives of thousands of people.

Billy was respected by all lawmakers across the aisle as he lived his life true to Jesus' words: "love thy neighbor as thyself." Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Edith, his two children, Sam and Kim, as well as all of the people who had the pleasure of working with him. Billy's life was one of service, grace, and love for his community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

### HONORING MICHAEL MERY

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of West Marin community leader Michael Mery, who passed away on September 28, 2019, at the age of 80, after a lifetime of service.

Mr. Mery was raised in Inverness, where his family ran the post office, and he attended local schools through his graduation from Drake High School. As a youth, he spent many days exploring Tomales Bay and the area that would become the Point Reyes National Seashore. The experiences left him with a lifelong love for the region's natural beauty and rural character.

Mr. Mery was a deeply rooted advocate for his beloved West Marin community and lived in Point Reyes Station at the time of his passing. He was instrumental in the creation of the West Marin Fund and a key figure in the creation of the fund's community grants and Giving Through Youth programs. The community grants program has disbursed nearly \$3 million to local nonprofits thanks in large part to Michael's vision and leadership. The Giving Through Youth program was a particular passion of his; the program teaches local students how to research organizations for grant opportunities.

Michael's activism served to sustain and nurture the agricultural community he called home for most of his life. He worked variously as a carpenter and as an organizer with the International Development Exchange, and ably brought his life experiences to bear as a devoted advocate for economic and social justice. He helped launch the West Marin Clinic

and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, among other organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of West Marin's residents and natural wonders.

Mr. Mery's passing leaves some very big shoes to fill, but thanks to his commitment to youth empowerment, a new generation of West Marin youth have come to the fore to bring his community message into the 21st Century. Michael is survived by Connie, his wife of 35 years, his sister Megan, and numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, the depth of Mr. Mery's service to his community has left a positive legacy across Marin County. He will be profoundly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GOYETTE  
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON-  
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Goyette of Butte, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Goyette is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1967 to 1970 during the Vietnam War earning the National Defense Service Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Award and RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Serving his community as a volunteer for the American Legion, his local VFW and the United Veterans Council, Mr. Goyette has dedicated in his life to helping others. He's spent more than 20 years serving rural communities working as a registered nurse and volunteering with the local ambulance services. It's hard to find a rural community Mr. Goyette hasn't volunteered in. He's also provided many hours in continuing education services for ambulance crews around the state of Montana.

Mr. Goyette also has been the coordinator for his local Honor Guard for several years where he communicates with funeral directors and personnel to make sure fallen officers and retired officers are given the respect they deserve.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Thomas Goyette for his dedication and service.

IN HONOR OF ROGER PENSKE

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has achieved greatness in motorsports, business, and in his community. On October 24th, Roger Penske

was awarded the highest honor a civilian can receive, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award is not given lightly. According to the White House, to receive such an honor one must either contribute "to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or significant public or private endeavors." It is fair to say, that Mr. Penske has done much in his life to grow his community into a better place and his business into the global industry leader it is today.

Mr. Penske has had significant success in both auto racing and business for more than 50 years. After forming his own auto racing team in 1965, Team Penske has won over 500 races and 36 national championships. The team's most recent wins include the 2018 NASCAR championship and 2019 Indianapolis 500, which marks a record breaking 18 Indianapolis 500 victories for a team owner.

Since starting his own car dealership in 1969, Penske Corporation has expanded into a company that generates \$32 billion in revenues and employs approximately 64,000 people. However, Mr. Penske is not only a man with a mind for business, he is also a man with a generous heart. In 2005 he was named Michiganian of the Year after vowing to spend \$35 million, in order to revive and restore neighborhoods in Detroit. Just as Penske Corporation is an exceptional example of a great American business, so also is Roger Penske an outstanding example of an American citizen. Our country is fortunate to have Roger Penske as a role model for generations to come. I offer Mr. Penske my sincere congratulations on this prestigious honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on November 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 610 and Roll Call Vote 611. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 610 and Yea on Roll Call Vote 611.

CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS  
CATHOLIC CRUSADERS SOFT-  
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE  
2019 MISSOURI CLASS III STATE  
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic Crusaders softball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Softball Championship.

This is Helias Catholic's third state championship in the history of their softball program. This team and Coach Chris Wyrick should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Helias Catholic Crusaders team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING DALE LONGFELLOW  
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON-  
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Longfellow of Hobson, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Longfellow is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1961 to 1964 with distinction on the USS Coral Sea CV 43 aircraft carrier. During his enlistment Dale earned nominations to the United States Naval Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy and attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

Mr. Longfellow has served his community in many ways. As a volunteer emergency medical technician, as mayor of Hobson, and as a dynamic businessman who for many years employed numerous people in the community.

Mr. Longfellow is known as the person you go to for advice and the one you call if you're in a crisis. Those who know Mr. Longfellow use words like upright, moral and compassionate to describe him. He is a role model to his children and everyone else in his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Dale Longfellow for his dedication and service.

VA OVERPAYMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Tennessee and my good friend from California for their leadership of our Veterans' Affairs Committee. They are a dynamic duo.

Their visits to Little Rock, Arkansas, both as Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, gave local Arkansans a direct voice to leaders in Congress to discuss many of the issues they deal with on a daily basis.

It was a pleasure to host them, and the accessibility they have shown to hear from people in Arkansas and across the Nation speaks to the type of leadership both provide atop the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

I appreciate their kind words about Arkansas and my veterans team in the district, which works tirelessly to ensure the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces receive the benefits and care they deserve.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor to be in support of this list of good bills tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly want to thank my friend from New Jersey, Mr. KIM, for his hard work and collaboration on this important bill for our veterans.