

of those years. Mr. Neary's long service and leadership in the Montana American Legion has made him a patriotic role model for many in his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Neil Neary for his dedication and commitment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed votes last week (11/12 through 11/15) due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard. Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 610; YEA on Roll Call No. 611; YEA on Roll Call No. 612; YEA on Roll Call No. 613; YEA on Roll Call No. 614; NAY on Roll Call No. 615; NAY on Roll Call No. 616; YEA on Roll Call No. 617; YEA on Roll Call No. 618; YEA on Roll Call No. 619; YEA on Roll Call No. 620; YEA on Roll Call No. 621; YEA on Roll Call No. 622; YEA on Roll Call No. 623; and NAY on Roll Call No. 624.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the second vote series on October 22, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 578.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS PRICE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

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

Mr. Price is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1944 to 1946 on the USS *Missoula* APA 211 earning the Pacific 2 Star Award and attaining the rank of Seaman First Class. He was on board the USS *Missoula* when the flag was raised on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945.

Serving his community, Mr. Price has worked with special needs children for 25 years. He's given ten scholarships to local high school graduating seniors. He's also spent many years serving on boards for the local nursing home and Lincoln County Fairgrounds. Mr. Price even puts on a weekly bingo game and donates the proceeds to local charities throughout his community.

Mr. Price is a humble man who continually helps others. He has a generous heart and always blessed the people in his community.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 13, 2019 during roll call no. 612, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 3537, Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 613, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 499, Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 614, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3734, SERV Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MR. ARTHUR MAX BACON'S RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an extraordinary Georgian, Mr. Arthur Max Bacon.

Max Bacon is a lifetime civil servant. He began his career at his local branch of the United States Postal Service, only retiring as the town's Postmaster in 2006 after 40 years. For some of that same time, he also served the citizens of Smyrna on their City Council for 6 years, after which he carried on his father's legacy and was elected as the Mayor of Smyrna in 1985. When he retires from his post at the end of this term, he will hold the title of the longest-serving mayor in the city's history.

Mayor Bacon is a life-long resident of Smyrna's 15 square miles. He attended Smyrna Elementary School and graduated from Campbell High School in 1966. In that time, he has seen it transform from a small community to a lively, diverse suburb at the edge of Atlanta in Cobb County. Since Mayor Bacon began his tenure as mayor, Smyrna has more than doubled in residency, growing to become the second most-populated city in the county. However, that growth did not come without its challenges, which Mayor Bacon has maneuvered handily, allowing the city to reinvent itself over the years.

Through his long span of leadership, Mayor Bacon has received numerous prestigious awards. Some highlights of those are: the 1993 Georgia Municipal Association Community Leadership Award, the Cobb County 1997 Citizen of the Year from the Marietta Daily Journal, the 2001 Citizen of the Year Award from the Smyrna Area Council of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, and the 2015

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award by Campbell High School.

Mayor Bacon will be remembered for serving his tireless efforts to serve his hometown and improve the lives of its residents. A mark of a true leader is doing what you think is right, even if it is not the most politically popular choice. Throughout his time as the head of the city of Smyrna, Max Bacon did just that. He is leaving behind an extraordinary legacy, and it is only fitting that we commemorate his contribution to the Smyrna, and the greater Georgia community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Max Bacon on his retirement, and I extend my sincerest wishes for his continued health and happiness.

May God continue to bless Mr. Arthur Max Bacon.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD RIENSCHIE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold Riensche Senior of Reed Point, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Riensche is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He is a Vietnam veteran who served in the 3rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Division earning awards like the Navy Cross, and attaining the rank of Master Gunner Sergeant.

During the Vietnam War, Mr. Riensche and his crew were assigned to recover a disabled tank. During this mission, their vehicle detonated a mine. While repairing their vehicle, the Marines came under heavy fire. In an instant, two of Staff Sergeant Riensche's crew were killed and two others were wounded leaving him alone to defend his injured crew and damaged vehicle. With the help of a few grenades and unmatched bravery, Mr. Riensche was able to fight off the Northern Vietnamese soldiers by himself until backup arrived. His quick action and heroism saved the lives of his two fellow Marines.

After completing his military service, Mr. Riensche served as a member of the Stillwater County Weed control Board and President of the local community landowner's association. His friends and neighbors say Mr. Riensche never hesitates to help when asked upon.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Harold Riensche Senior for his dedication and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF STEVE F. DEMPSEY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sheriff Steve Dempsey

from King George. Steve's service to his community goes without question, and I believe he is worthy of recognition.

Sheriff Dempsey's extensive training included both the Metropolitan Police Academy in Washington, D.C. where he was K-9 certified and the FBI Academy where he was able to learn countless hours of information on how to handle increasingly difficult situations ranging from terrorism to financial crime.

Sheriff Dempsey, along with his wife Charlene and their family, comes from a long line of public servants—as is evident in Sheriff Dempsey's commitment to his community. Steve was in the Virginia National Guard and served until 1978. He has been with the King George County Sheriff's Department for 39 years, serving as both an officer and a mentor. He was the first K-9 officer in the county and served as a patrol deputy for 7 years. And, on top of all this, he has taught for almost 20 years at the regional academy; passing on vital experience and lessons to members of law enforcement who benefit from his teachings.

Not stopping there, he served as the Special Olympics Chair for the Commonwealth from 2017 to 2018 and is currently serving as President of the Virginia Sheriff's Association. I am filled with pride to know all the good that this man has done for his community and our district.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments, hard work, and dedication of Sheriff Dempsey. Words alone cannot express our pride, and I am proud to represent him. May God bless him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ruth Hyman as she celebrates her 100th birthday this year. It is my honor to join with her family and friends in marking this incredible milestone and wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

A lifelong resident of Long Branch, New Jersey, Ms. Hyman was the youngest of eight children. Her parents, Ida and David Hyman, were founding members of Congregation Brothers of Israel and instilled in their children the importance of hard work and community service. Throughout her life, Ms. Hyman has striven to be an active and charitable member of her community, supporting Congregation Brothers of Israel, the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, and Jewish and Family Children's Services, among many others. In addition, Ms. Hyman established and operated a long-running women's apparel business and worked as an editor of technical manuals for the federal government. Her involvement with numerous local charities and organizations reflect her passion to help others and improve our communities and her success and accomplishments serve as an example of what hard work can attain.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Ms. Ruth Hyman as she celebrates her 100th birthday. Her generous spirit and impact on the commu-

nity continue to be felt throughout Monmouth County and New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING JAMES WATKINS FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Watkins of Dillon for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and his community.

Mr. Watkins served in both the United States Air Force and Montana Army National Guard, serving a combined 22 years. Mr. Watkins received multiple commendations during his service, including the Army Commendation Medal.

Mr. Watkins has been a member of the American Legion Post 20 since 1968 and served in various capacities. Every year, he coordinated the placement of American Flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day. Part of this project was his work locating and arranging the headstones for all veterans in Dillon Mountain View Cemetery. In addition, Mr. Watkins makes, maintains, and places the white crosses for the Montana American Legion White Cross Highway Fatality Marker Program in Beaverhead County.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commanding James Watkins of Dillon for his dedication and service to his country and community.

NEW HOME, NEW BYLAWS, SAME MISSION: WPAOG HISTORY PART IV (1996–2019) SECTION B

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD Section B of the fourth and final installment of an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates:

2009–15: THE FOR US ALL CAMPAIGN BREAKS RECORDS

“In the summer of 2008, the Association and the Academy began to consider a new comprehensive campaign for West Point. The campaign, called For Us All: The Campaign for West Point, officially launched in January 2009. By the time the campaign ended on December 31, 2015, more than \$420 million had been either pledged or received, well exceeding the original \$350 million campaign goal.

During the For Us All Campaign, WPAOG continued to achieve new levels of support for the Academy and the Long Gray Line. The average of total annual donations to West Point/WPAOG rose to \$40.7 million per year, more than 40 percent higher than the average annual donations during the Bicentennial Campaign. More impressively, 58 percent of living alumni made one or more donations. Approximately 50,000 graduates, families, and friends of West Point partici-

pated in the For Us All Campaign. The priorities for the For Us All Campaign were divided into five areas. With a goal of \$200 million, the largest category was designated as “For the Cadets” and sought gifts to fund scholarships (from research through Academic Individual Advanced Development or AIAD opportunities), endowments (in support of academic departments, cadet clubs and teams), and Academy Centers (e.g., the Combating Terrorism Center and the Center for Oral History).

Individuals and classes also committed gifts to numerous brick and mortar projects, including the Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center, the Foley Enners Nathe LaCrosse Center, the West Point Cemetery Columbarium, and more. But, as George Gilmore '71, one of the members of the For Us All Campaign Cabinet said in 2013, “We will see the effects of this campaign not in new buildings or new playing fields but rather in how well prepared our junior officers arrive in the Army.” Indeed, in a world of increasing threats to the nation's security, economic stability, and fundamental values, producing leaders of character became more important than ever, and the For Us All Campaign, above all, was focused on ensuring that the Academy had the resources available to fully prepare the next generation of leaders for the Army and the nation.

Since the For Us All Campaign concluded in 2015, WPAOG has continued to build on gains achieved, increasing donations to an average of \$49 million annually and raising graduate participation to all-time highs, driven by innovative initiatives such as the All-Academy Challenge. During this period, WPAOG has also won the highest awards of recognition for management practices and transparency from Charity Navigator (four stars) and GuideStar (Platinum Seal of Transparency), and the Development team has earned “Overall Performance” and “Sustained Excellence” (a five-year award won by only 16 colleges) in fundraising awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a 3,700-member global professional association focused on advancing education.

FURTHER EXPANDING WPAOG SERVICES

WPAOG continued to expand its Alumni Support activities and services into the new millennium as well. Today, WPAOG provides services to 82 classes, 141 West Point societies worldwide, and to more than 53,000 individual graduates. Since launching in 2011, WPAOG's comprehensive reunion services have also proved popular with graduates: in 2019, WPAOG hosted 29 class reunions for more than 14,700 returning graduates and their guests. The WPAOG Gift Shop has steadily expanded its unique product line and services to reunion classes, graduates, cadets and their families, exceeding \$1 million in annual sales for the first time in 2005, and recently achieving \$2 million in sales. Profits from the Gift Shop support our alumni services.

In September 2006, AOG premiered a new award initiative to engage cadets with the presentation of the inaugural Nininger Award for Valor at Arms to Major Ryan L. Worthan '97. Conceived by E. Doug Kenna '45 and funded in perpetuity by Kenna and his wife Jean, the award is named after First Lieutenant Alexander “Sandy” Nininger '41, who was killed in action in the Philippines during World War II and posthumously received the Medal of Honor (the first American army soldier to be so honored in the war). It is given to a recent graduate who has displayed heroic action in battle. Like AOG's Distinguished Graduate Award, the Nininger is an award for which the recipient is meant to be representative of a larger body; in this