

two constituents from San Juan Capistrano, as my Constituents of the Month for April.

Each month, I recognize constituents who have gone above and beyond to help their neighbors, give back to their community, and make the country stronger. As co-founders of a non-profit that provides under-served and at-risk youth with outdoor recreational activities, there is no question that Eric and David are deserving of this recognition.

The brothers' non-profit, Great Opportunities, has served over 3000 young people in my district, mainly coming from San Juan Capistrano's geographically identified gang induction zones where kids are most at-risk of being drawn toward gang activity. Organizations like theirs play a critical role in generating opportunity in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, and I am extremely grateful for the services they provide.

Eric and David provide kids in my district with more than just recreational activities—they are providing experiences that will help kids develop leadership and problem-solving skills, which will serve them well throughout their lives. I believe we must do more at the local, state, and federal to support organizations like theirs that provide under-served youth with the skills they need to succeed in life, and that will continue to be one of my priorities.

I am proud to recognize Eric and David as my constituents of the month for April, and I am deeply grateful for everything they do to give back to our community.

**VAN WEZEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION**

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall as it prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

An architectural landmark and a cultural treasure, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall was built on Sarasota Bay in 1968 and 1969 and dedicated to the City of Sarasota on January 5, 1970.

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright's son-in-law, architect William Wesley Peters and inspired by a seashell found by Wright's widow Olgivanna near the Sea of Japan, the Van Wezel is the world's only purple seashell-shaped theater.

A true pioneer in the cultural development of Sarasota, the Van Wezel has a history of presenting spectacular Broadway musicals, national and international performers, popular comedians and a compelling mix of classical productions.

Some of the stars that have visited the theatre throughout the years include Lucille Ball, Ray Charles, Bob Dylan, Van Cliburn, Liberace, Luciano Pavarotti, Josh Groban, Carol Burnett, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Hall & Oates, Tony Bennett, Dolly Parton, Jay Leno, Steve Martin and Martin Short, Ringo Starr, Renee Fleming, Vladimir Horowitz, John Legend, Sheryl Crow, Red Skelton, Count Basie and many more.

The Van Wezel's powerhouse 2019 through 2020 Broadway season features seven Sar-

sota premieres including Come From Away, based on the events that took place in Newfoundland on September 11, 2001 and the days after, as well as the critically-acclaimed production of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, detailing the life and career of the iconic songwriter. They are also thrilled to present returning favorites Les Misérables and The Book of Mormon.

Furthermore, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall is implementing its 2nd National Endowment for the Arts Grant to bring arts integration to schools. This is done through Schooltime Performances, teacher training, classroom workshops, and family workshops that serve over 30,000 students, teachers, and family members each year.

The Van Wezel has a long tradition of enriching the community and supporting arts education. I appreciate this opportunity to help commemorate its 50th anniversary.

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

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Straugh of Dillon for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service and leadership in his community.

Mr. Straugh served with the U.S. Navy for 30 years and served in Vietnam. Mr. Straugh received many commendations during his time in the Navy, including the Vietnam Service Ribbon and the National Defense Ribbon.

Mr. Straugh is a known leader in his community. He served on the city council and multiple committees to improve the community, such as the site selection committee for the Veteran Home in Butte. Mr. Straugh is active in the American Legion, serving as Commander and Vice Commander during his time. Additionally, Mr. Straugh volunteered his time driving with DAV van and logged more than 7,500 hours.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commanding Thomas Straugh for his service to our country and his leadership in the community.

**RECOGNIZING THE GARY CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE'S 12TH AN-
NUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC**

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 12th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball invitational. In observance of this special event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will host a celebratory corporate luncheon at the Majestic Star Casino Event Center in Gary, Indiana, on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, followed by the basketball invitational at

West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 29, 2019, and Saturday, November 30, 2019.

The Lakeshore Classic aims to support the education and guidance of the youth of our communities to positive paths, actions, and endeavors. The Gary Chamber of Commerce has invited Mr. Kenny Lofton, an East Chicago native and retired Major League Baseball (MLB) player, to be the keynote speaker for the event. Born and raised in East Chicago, Mr. Lofton graduated from Washington High School and was an all-state basketball player. Following high school, Kenny accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of Arizona, where his unprecedented skills led his teammates and coaches to believe that he was able to play any professional sport. During Mr. Lofton's junior year, he joined the University of Arizona baseball team. Kenny's speed and potential were widely recognized by baseball scouts, and he was soon drafted in the 17th round of the 1988 MLB draft. During his outstanding major league career, he played on several different teams and was a six-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove Award winner. Mr. Lofton was also inducted into the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame and the Negro League Baseball Museum Hall of Game. In addition, he is one of only two men that played in a college basketball Final Four and an MLB World Series. In 2007, Mr. Lofton retired from his seventeen-year MLB career, and for his hard work and determination, he is to be commended.

Upon retirement, Mr. Lofton created his own film company, FilmPool, Inc., a full-service production company with a mission to bring diversity to the screen. He is also a board member for the Still Got Game Foundation, a not-for-profit organization for former professional athletes and philanthropic individuals that provides charitable resources in promotion of social change in our local communities and throughout the world. Recently, Mr. Lofton presented the Cleveland schools with \$15,000 from the foundation and his celebrity poker tournament. Kenny Lofton's contributions to the youth of our communities and his support for positive social reform will have an unforgettable impact for generations to come.

At this time, I would like to recognize the schools participating in the Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. These schools are dedicated to positively impacting Northwest Indiana through academic excellence and sportsmanship, and they are successful in their efforts. The participating schools include West Side Leadership Academy of Gary, John Marshall Metropolitan High School of Chicago, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy of Gary, East Chicago Central High School, George Washington High School of Indianapolis, 21st Century Charter High School of Gary, and Charles Tindley Accelerated High School of Indianapolis.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, the organizers and sponsors of the 12th annual Lakeshore Classic, and the devoted volunteers who make this event possible. Their influence, passion, and dedication to our youth in Northwest Indiana are truly commendable.

RECOGNIZING COL BOBBY
TOWERY, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of Colonel Bobby Towery, Jr., who passed away on October 26 at the age of 59.

Colonel Towery answered the call to serve our great nation with the United States Army in 1983 from the University of Mississippi Army ROTC. He retired as a Colonel after 30 years of active duty service. Colonel Towery married his wife, Lisa, in 1984, and together they lived in 19 different homes before settling in Oxford, Mississippi, after his retirement.

Colonel Towery set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an active member of St. Peters Episcopal Church in Oxford, Mississippi, serving as an acolyte, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, and head of ushers. Colonel Towery was also an active volunteer in his community, from sports coaching to booster clubs. He also had a passion for fitness and enjoyed spending time outdoors with his family and friends.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Lisa Carver Towery of Southaven, Mississippi; his two sons, Captain Patrick Towery of Fort Carson, Colorado and Nathan Towery; as well as many friends and extended family members.

Colonel Bobby Towery's life was one of service, grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAILY GLOBE IN IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Daily Globe in Ironwood, Michigan, upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through a century of community investment and growth, the Daily Globe has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula.

Seeing the need for a daily newspaper in the Western Upper Peninsula, Frank E. Noyes founded the Globe Publishing Company in the fall of 1919. The Daily Globe's first edition was published on November 20th, 1919. Its headline covered the tension between President Woodrow Wilson and the Senate regarding the proposed League of Nations following World War I. In 1936, construction began on its current location, under the leadership of Frank's son, Linwood. Over its century of operations, the Daily Globe would grow to be the local institution it is today.

In addition to their daily publications, the Daily Globe publishes two annual visitors guides, sports previews, home improvement guides, and other specialty pieces. They have also found success in the 21st century, with a large online presence and daily updates to its website and social media. They provide a critical service to the people of Gogebic and

Ontonagon Counties, and the impact of their work cannot be overstated. Day after day, the Daily Globe shows what can be achieved when a group of people work together for the betterment of their community. An open house will be held in honor of their centennial on November 20th.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Daily Globe in Ironwood for its 100 years of success, community growth, and service to the people of the Upper Peninsula. On behalf of my constituents, I wish it all the best as it ventures into the future.

CONGRATULATING FATIMA HIGH SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima Comets cross country team for winning both the boys and girls 2019 Missouri Class II State title.

This is the Fatima High School girls' sixth state championship and the boys' second state championship in the history of their cross country program. This team and Coach Marc Bridges should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state title to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets cross country team for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored for the second time as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, Indiana, in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am very proud that Immaculate Heart of Mary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hun-

dreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Immaculate Heart was one of 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive. Furthermore, this is the second time the Warriors of Immaculate Heart have been named a prestigious Blue Ribbon school, achieving this designation also in 2005. Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the leadership of Principal Ronda Swartz, Immaculate Heart has become a beacon of educational excellence.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. As a Catholic institution it has been the mission of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School to provide an exceptional academic experience grounded in making God known, loved and served. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future through the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Immaculate Heart engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Immaculate Heart of Mary School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Immaculate Heart give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Immaculate Heart of Mary School. I am very proud of them.

CONGRATULATING ALYSHA BUTLER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alysha Butler, a social studies teacher at McKinley Technology High School in the District of Columbia, for being named the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. She was honored on October 2, 2019, at the Yale Club in New York City.

Butler is the first teacher in D.C. to be recognized with this award. As a social studies teacher, she brings history to life for her students and challenges herself to bring them the untold stories of the past. As the granddaughter of a World War II veteran and Bahamian immigrant, she recognized the absence of stories like her family's in public education. She works to bring these voices and stories into the classroom each day.

Butler is known to teach history through art and storytelling, and frequently uses the District itself as an educational resource. By taking her students on trips around D.C., which