

development of this knowledge has also served to influence more innovative forest management practices.

His contribution is not limited to the sphere of research, but also includes his commitment to educating the young people of our district and our state. As a fellow forester, it is a supreme encouragement to see the dedication of Fourth District Arkansans like Dr. Babst to the proper management and stewardship of our nation's forests. I take this time to commend him on receiving this honor and to thank him for his years of study and service.

TRIBUTE HONORING MAYOR
SAMUEL EUGENE MURRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding South Carolinian, leader, public servant, and personal friend. Samuel Eugene Murray has ably served as Mayor of Port Royal, South Carolina for the past 24 years, and will be leaving office at the end of 2019.

Mr. Murray is a native of Dorchester County and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from South Carolina State University. He continued his graduate studies at The Citadel, University of South Carolina, Appalachian State and Harvard University.

Mr. Murray is an educator at heart and served 16 years as a teacher in the Beaufort Country School System. He rose to become an elementary school principal for another 20 years. During his tenure as principal, Mr. Murray was the recipient of a \$50,000 Science Foundation Grant and was the only Principal from South Carolina chosen to attend that Summer's Principal Institute at Harvard University.

He has always had a passion for public service. Mr. Murray served on the Port Royal Town Council for 17 years before becoming mayor. During his tenure as mayor, he worked to improve his city's infrastructure with a new town hall, police station, and fire station. He also oversaw the city's growth with the construction of new health care centers, several commercial buildings, numerous businesses, apartment complexes, single family homes, and fast food facilities. During his time in office, Port Royal's population increased from 1,500 to approximately 13,600.

In addition, Mr. Murray has been a servant leader in his community by mentoring a young man with special needs for thirty years, serving as coach for the Neighborhood Youth Core Baseball Team, and volunteering as a homebuilder for Habitat for Humanity. He is involved in many organizations and has served in leadership roles in several of them.

He is currently a board member of the Low Country Blood Alliance and a member of the South Carolina Black Mayors Association. He has served on the Beaufort County Board of Special Needs, the Board of the Municipal Association and the Reconstruction Era Committee that laid the foundation for what is now the Reconstruction Era National Park.

Because of his tremendous service, Mr. Murray has received numerous awards and special recognitions. He was awarded the Life-

time Achievement CIVITAS Award for Business excellence presented by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Joe Wilson Second Congressional District Minority Advisory Committee Award, and the Special President's Award by the Montford Point Marine Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and sincere gratitude to Mayor Samuel Eugene Murray for his unwavering service to his community. His extraordinary work has made a great impact in the lives of the citizens of Port Royal and I honor him for his selfless deeds throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN
DROPIEWSKI FOR A DISTIN-
GUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Jonathan Dropiewski as Mayor of Flat Rock for nine years.

Jonathan Dropiewski has become a cornerstone of the Flat Rock community. After receiving his B.S. from Georgetown University and MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, Dropiewski moved to Flat Rock to begin a family with his wife, Robin, in 2001. Together, the pair raised two children, Nicholas and Alexander, who inspired Dropiewski to strive to ensure Flat Rock remained a wonderful city for people to live, work, and grow. In addition to his successful career in business and technology, Dropiewski set his sights on public service. In 2004, Dropiewski was elected to serve as a City Council member, and simultaneously served as Mayor Pro-Tempore from 2006 to 2007. In 2010, Dropiewski was elected as Flat Rock's Mayor, a position he has held ever since.

Mayor Dropiewski began his tenure at a critical moment in Flat Rock's history. Mayor Dropiewski faced a significant budget cut coupled with the worst financial crisis since the 1980s. Despite these challenges, Mayor Dropiewski's leadership and business expertise led the city to incredible progress and increased economic development, and his efforts have been paramount in ensuring Flat Rock continues to be a vibrant and welcoming destination for businesses, families, young professionals, and the like. Moreover, his leadership has been widely recognized amongst his colleagues and peers. On two occasions, Dropiewski was elected by his fellow mayors and supervisors to be the treasurer and chairman of the Downriver Community Conference. Among a host of other awards and accolades, Dropiewski was also recognized as a Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" Leader, a Detroit Rotary Club Citizen of the Month, and a WWJ Citizen of the Week. Undoubtedly, Mayor Dropiewski is beloved, respected, and appreciated by many, and he has left a mark on the City of Flat Rock that will be remembered forever. He started community events that have brought people together and have become traditions such as the Riverfest, Summer Blast, and Taste of Flat Rock.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jonathan Dropiewski for his years of service to the Flat Rock community. Flat Rock's continued success can be attributed in no small part to Mayor Dropiewski's hard work, leadership, and dedication. We are all grateful for his exemplary service and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF WILLIAM "BILL" MOREAU, JR.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Moreau, Jr. who is retiring from Barnes and Thornburg Law Firm. As a partner in the Firm's Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. offices, Bill has been named as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" for his expertise in higher education and government relations practices.

Bill has provided legal, tactical and fiduciary guidance to a variety of post-secondary education institutions including his undergraduate alma mater. As a graduate of Purdue University, he proudly serves as a trustee. He is also a member of the Indiana State University President's National Advisory Board and the Board of Advisors of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, located in the heart of my congressional district. Bill's expertise in higher education issues was instrumental in the development of Indiana's community college system as a gubernatorial appointee to the Community College Policy Committee.

Bill's government relations practice has included representation at all levels of government over a broad array of issues. Bill is no stranger to Capitol Hill, having worked in both the House and Senate. He also served as Chief of Staff to then-Indiana Secretary of State, Evan Bayh.

For his extensive and passionate work, he has won numerous awards, including being named Master Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation. He also received the 2017 Leadership in Law Distinguished Barristers Award from The Indiana Lawyer and, in 2015, he was Barnes and Thornburg's winner of the Joseph A. Marley Pro Bono Award. As an advocate and engaged citizen, Bill has dedicated his efforts to promote civic literacy and engagement and has worked to reduce homelessness in Indianapolis. He led our community in the effort to create the Blueprint to End Homelessness, which is still hailed as a national model. His ongoing support of this priority includes an annual fellowship funded by Bill and his wife, Ann, to support a graduate student training program to advocate for those impacted by homelessness.

I am proud to call Bill Moreau a friend and advisor, and I'm incredibly grateful for his support and counsel through the years. His passionate work on behalf of all Hoosiers shows that he truly understands the meaning of community, and I applaud him for his efforts to improve ours. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a big impact in his next chapter, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF CATHY THOMAS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing of one of the pillars of civic life in the Northeastern Corner of the state of Connecticut, Cathy Thomas. Sadly, Cathy passed away on November 26, 2019 surrounded by family and friends at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Cathy served for 40 years as the Chair of the Thompson Democratic Town Committee—a record that I am confident will never be broken. In that role, Cathy supported hundreds and hundreds of candidates for town, state and federal office, generously volunteering her time to the nuts and bolts of campaigns—organizing conventions, lining up delegates, filing the critical paperwork to ensure ballot access and most of all, giving wise, common sense counsel to public officials about what the important issues were and how to talk about them, and address them. Forty years ago, Cathy was a pioneer political leader paving the way for women to occupy positions of power. Over time, the respect she garnered with her quiet, steely manner became an inspiration for other women to succeed in public office. It was truly fitting that she was awarded the 2019 Ella Grasso Women's Leadership Award this year. This is a special honor reserved to an elite group of Women in Connecticut named after the first woman in America to be elected the governor of a state in her own right. I personally experienced and benefitted from Cathy's dedicated work during all my campaigns for Congress. I will be forever grateful to her for her unstinting, unselfish help.

Her life was not solely defined by politics and government. Cathy grew up in Thompson and attended Annhurst College and Nichols College where she received her degree in accounting. She worked as an accountant for many years at Davis publications in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was close to her brother Paul LaRoche of North Grosvenordale and had many friends in town with whom she enjoyed going to concerts, the beach, and Kittery, Maine. She was also an avid New York Yankees fan, living in an area that leans in favor of the Red Sox. Nonetheless, she reveled in the rivalry.

Cathy's passing is a big loss for Northeastern Connecticut and was felt far and wide by all who knew her and will miss her. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

HONORING MR. FELIPE 'TRES' BARRERA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Felipe 'Tres' Barrera, a member of the Washington Nationals 2019 World Series Champions and a Rio Grande Valley Native.

Tres Barrera is an incredibly talented professional baseball catcher for the Washington Nationals. He was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 10 years old. Tres played on the baseball team for Hidalgo High School his freshman year, winning the District 32–3A Most Valuable Player award, before transferring to Sharyland High School. At Sharyland High School, Tres played football and baseball, and quickly became a standout athlete and student. He was selected to two all-state teams, and won the 30–5A Most Valuable Player and the All-Valley Player of the Year as a senior. His batting average was an astonishing .452, hitting 22 home runs during his time at Sharyland High School.

Tres' incredible work ethic, determination, and sheer talent earned him a spot on the renowned baseball team for the University of Texas at Austin. As a freshman, Tres was the team's starting catcher, won the 2014 College Home Run Derby, and led Texas to the College World Series. His achievements continued on.

During his sophomore year, Tres was a vital part of the University of Texas' Big 12 championship team, while adding his name to the All-Big 12 second team. In his junior year campaign, Tres earned the 2016 Academic All-Big 12 baseball honors and was named an All-Big 12 honorable mention. He left Texas after his junior year to join the minor leagues, but only after walking away with 20 home runs and 106 runs batted in (RBIs) for the University of Texas at Austin.

Tres Barrera's hard work and dedication continued for the next three years as he played for a number of minor league teams before being called up to the Major League Baseball, MLB, on September 8, 2019, for the Washington Nationals. Being a member of the Nationals, Tres participated in one of the most unlikely runs in the history of professional baseball.

The Nationals' record through 50 games was a poor 19 wins and 31 losses before they won 74 of their next 122 games. This secured the Nationals a wild-card spot in the postseason. The Nationals continued their unlikely playoff run until the very end, where they beat the Houston Astros in seven games, winning the World Series on October 30, 2019. On that day, Tres earned himself the coveted World Series ring.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Tres Barrera worked tirelessly to prove that with determination, will power, and commitment, we can accomplish anything we set ourselves to do in life. Tres made history, gave young people across our country the hope to achieve anything they set their mind to and for that I stand here today to recognize him. He is a proud son of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, and we appreciate him for his work and dedication to the Washington Nationals.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF FAIRPLAY, PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, each and every day, across America our fellow commu-

nity members find opportunities to be of service to one another. These small acts of heroism, pinnacles of our values and ideals as Americans, are far too frequently lost in the rapidity of our society.

I would like to take a moment to draw attention to one of those small acts of heroism in the town of Fairplay in Park County, Colorado.

In a small mountain town of just 762 people, nearly 750 people were stranded last Friday and Saturday after snow, wind, and low visibility made travel impossible. At the height of the post-Thanksgiving travel rush, with their town's limited shelter resources strained to breaking, the people of Fairplay jumped to action to ensure safety and comfort for all those who could not continue their travels. Hotel operators housed people in every space possible; churches opened their stores of food to ensure no one went hungry; neighbors went door-to-door to gather blankets and supplies; transportation authorities brought vehicles abandoned on the highways to the town and reconnected drivers to their cars. In the end, everyone remained safe and sheltered. This is the type of hospitality and generosity that makes Park County and Colorado such an incredible place.

This year I am grateful for citizens like these in Park County, and throughout our nation, who remind us during this holiday season of the essential goodness of people.

THANKING LC "BUCKSHOT" SMITH FOR HIS 56 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and extend my gratitude to Mr. LC "Buckshot" Smith of Camden, Arkansas.

Officer Smith has spent a lifetime in law enforcement. His career spans over five decades in the Fourth District of Arkansas. Having spent 46 of those years with the Ouachita County Sheriff's Department, he officially retired in September 2010. However, after only a few short months in retirement, he decided to return to the Camden Police Department. At the age of 90 years old, he is still serving the community after 56 years of service.

President George H.W. Bush said, "Public service is a noble calling." Officer Smith has answered this call to service everyday as a police officer, church deacon, and community member for decades. The Ouachita County and Camden communities can attest to the exemplary character and dedication to service found in Officer Smith.

I'm proud to know of the lifelong commitment to service men like Officer "Buckshot Smith" have. His life serves as a powerful reminder of what an impact a lifetime of service can have on our communities. I take this time to thank him for the decades he has given to the Fourth District of Arkansas and for the example he has provided for generations of Americans to come.