

than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young women who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia AAAA State Championship title.

HONORING MR. RAFAEL B. CRUZ
ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize my constituent, Mr. Rafael B. Cruz for his 80th birthday on March 22nd. A man of strong faith and uncompromising willpower, Rafael embodies the meaning of persistence, and serves as a leading example of what the American Dream can look like with enough hard work and an unwavering belief in the prospect of liberty.

Born in Cuba under the oppressive Batista regime, Rafael experienced assault and imprisonment as a teenager for taking an active stance against the injustices he witnessed. In search of a better life, he left his home at the age of eighteen to pursue a degree in higher education, and arrived in Austin, Texas where he studied Mathematics and Chemical Engineering. While in school, he worked seven days a week for fifty cents an hour until he obtained his degree in 1961. In addition to his obligations as a student, Rafael maintained strong ties with his community in Cuba and advocated against the abuses of the newly empowered Castro forces.

A family man by the early 1960s, Rafael balanced his new career in the energy industry with raising two daughters and his son, current Texas Senator, TED CRUZ. Rafael moved to Houston with his family to work and found a lasting home in the state Texas. Today, he resides in my district, in the City of Carrollton, where he is a pastor, a supportive father and grandfather, and an exemplary member of our community.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the inspiring life story of Rafael Cruz, who has fought for freedom, family and faith for all of his life, and whose contributions to our country will continue to make a mark on the character of our American spirit. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing a very happy 80th birthday to Mr. Rafael Cruz.

CONGRATULATING MR. MATTHEW
ANTHONY OF CARBON COUNTY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Mr. Matthew Anthony of Palmerton, Pennsylvania. Matthew proudly represented Carbon County at the North American Special Olympics in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was named the Special Olympics North American Unified Gold Medalist in bowling.

Matthew competes with his father, Christopher, and they are the first Special Olympics unified team from Carbon County, as well as the first bowling team from our area to make it to the national competition.

Matthew has been actively involved with the Special Olympics since the Carbon County delegation was established fourteen years ago and has competed in a variety of different sports in addition to bowling, including floor hockey, track and field and bocce. Matthew is a strong competitor and a positive voice for all members of the vibrant Special Olympics community and the constituents of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

In his free time, Matthew works at his family business in Palmerton, plays video games, and enjoys restoring his 1987 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser Wood Panel Station Wagon. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Matthew for his many achievements and outstanding legacy of continued sportsmanship and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
REUEL WALTERS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Reuel Walters for his service to the United States of America.

Reuel was born at home in Livingston, Texas on January 16, 1925. A midwife attended to his mother. One of six children, at the age of eighteen, Reuel was drafted and courageously answered the call to serve and defend his country in the United States Army. Reuel completed his basic training in San Antonio, Texas and deployed as a radio control repairman.

From 1941 to 1945, Reuel served in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville Island, Sipan Island and Guam. He saw the Enola Gay before it dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Reuel was in Guam when he heard the announcement over a loudspeaker that the war had ended.

After his time in the service, Reuel worked as a lineman for thirty-six years at Houston Line & Power. In 1985, he retired and moved to Livingston, Texas.

Madam Speaker, it is because of the sacrifices made by men and women like Reuel Walters that we are able to enjoy the freedoms that we hold so dear. Let us not forget this great generation. We thank Reuel for the contributions he has made to preserve our liberty.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD STEVER'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward Stever and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was an event that not only shaped the course of our country but the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Stever. After Pearl Harbor was attacked he was one of the many Americans who felt compelled to fight against the Japanese. He then joined the Army Air Corps where he served until 1946. During his career he completed countless dangerous, yet vital, missions delivering bombs and fuel from India to China. He showed endless bravery and courage in his pursuit to serve our country halfway across the world.

After completing active duty, Mr. Stever returned to his wife and two children and worked for IBM in Binghamton, New York until he was transferred to Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2007, he moved to Fayetteville and unfortunately lost his wife after 69 years of marriage. Despite his loss he still felt compelled to serve our country and he has been volunteering at the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum, since 2011. In fact, he has dedicated over 2,400 hours to the Museum. I know I speak for everyone when I say we are so thankful for him and all of his service to our country and community.

The U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum had a goal of collecting 100 birthday cards for Mr. Stever's birthday. I am honored to play a small part in recognizing him and all he has accomplished over the last 100 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mr. Edward Stever for his service and wishing him a Happy 100th birthday.

THANKING CHIEF BILL JOHN
BAKER

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Chief Bill John Baker for his many years of service to the Cherokee people and to his community. Chief Baker's service to the Cherokee Nation and the state of Oklahoma has touched the lives of many, whether acting in the capacity of Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, as a Cherokee Tribal Councilor, as PTA President, as President of the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, or as the coach of local youth sports teams.

Personally, my wife Tammy and I can attest to Chief Bill John Baker's dedication to community by our mutual involvement in the Ronald McDonald House Charities. When we first moved to Muskogee Oklahoma, Tammy called Chief Baker to bring his attention to the Cherokee Nation women's use of the Ronald McDonald House—roughly 1/3rd of the House's inhabitants are Cherokee citizens. Without hesitation, Chief Baker stepped up to the plate and asked—how much money does Ronald McDonald House need?

Chief Baker's accomplishments have been heralded by his colleagues and neighbors alike. The town of Okay is grateful for the Veterans Monument project that Chief Baker spearheaded. People recall the countless times that he expedited housing assistance for disabled and elderly Cherokee citizens. Chief Baker's friends, neighbors, and those who

may not have had the pleasure of knowing him will benefit for years to come because of the extra first response vehicles that he helped secure for the Fire Department and the drivers education cars that he worked to provide for the local schools.

All these amazing things that Chief Bill John Baker had a hand in, ultimately help raise awareness of the Cherokee people and their presence in Northeastern Oklahoma. I congratulate Chief Baker on his retirement, as it is well deserved.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF HENRY P. "CORKY" ANDERSON III

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Henry P. "Corky" Anderson III who passed away on February 23, 2019 at the age of 76. A lifelong Tulare County resident, Corky, as he was affectionately known, was a renowned trailblazer in the pistachio industry.

Corky's passion for farming began at age 13 when he spent his days hauling hay for nearby farms, and as the years went on he mastered his craft while working up and down the Pacific coast throughout California and Oregon. Corky was also a problem solver. The California pistachio industry has historically suffered due to a soil-borne fungus known as verticillium wilt that kills thousands of trees each year before they are mature enough for commercial production. Along with his business partner Ken Puryear, Corky developed a pistachio rootstock resistant to verticillium wilt. This development was nothing short of revolutionary, and California's current status as the largest pistachio producer in the world can largely be attributed to his hard work.

But Corky was involved in much more than just pistachios. Ever the family man, he, along with his brother Doug Anderson and sister Debi Mitchell, founded AMA Pistachio Farming and AMA Properties where they grew everything from sugarbeets to cotton, invested in a gold mine in Oregon, and diversified into office building in Las Vegas and Arizona.

Corky is survived by his wife of 30 years, Betty Jean Anderson, and an entire family that loved him dearly. He will be remembered for his kindness, love of life, and passion for farming. I was fortunate enough to have known Corky for many years. He was an exceptional farmer and an even better friend. On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to the Anderson family, and all of those whose lives Corky touched.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Va-

cancy Reduction Act. This bill would allow local District of Columbia court nominees to be seated after a 30-day congressional review period unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during that period. Currently, nominees cannot be seated without affirmative Senate approval. The congressional review process for nominees would be the same one used for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. It is therefore a reliable process, long-recognized by Congress. My bill is prompted by the unique requirement that judges for the local D.C. courts be confirmed by the Senate, where nominees for the federal courts, understandably, get the primary focus and priority. There is currently a vacancy crisis facing the District's criminal and civil courts, and the D.C. courts have raised serious concerns due to longstanding vacancies.

Whether Democrats or Republicans control the Senate, the local D.C. courts regularly face vacancy crises, which harm the operations of the judicial system in the District. Congress created the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) to recommend candidates, and Congress should generally defer to its judgment. This bill is a compromise, useful to all concerned, that retains a congressional role while saving the Senate time by removing the need for committee and floor action and increasing the odds that D.C. will have a full complement of local judges.

Currently, there are seven vacancies out of 62 authorized judges on the D.C. Superior Court and two vacancies out of nine authorized judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Both pre- and post-home rule, the District has never had control over the nomination and approval of local D.C. judges. My bill would not alter the role of the JNC or the President in the nomination process. Under the Home Rule Act, the JNC recommends to the President a list of three persons for each vacancy on the Superior Court and Court of Appeals. The President must nominate a candidate recommended by the JNC within 60 days to the Senate for advice and consent. If the President fails to nominate such a person within 60 days, the JNC must nominate a recommended person directly to the Senate for advice and consent. The Senate has no obligation to provide its advice and consent. Under this bill, once a name has been transmitted to Congress, the nomination would be deemed approved unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during a 30-legislative-day review period.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD WADE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute, honor and thank World War II veteran Richard Wade.

On February 5, 1924 Richard Wade, Jr. was born on an icy cold day to Richard and Mary Frances Wade. When he was only five weeks old, Richard's grandparents, David Kearney, an Irish immigrant, and his wife, Illa, began to raise him. Richard spent his childhood and teen years in Portland, Maine.

In January of 1942, Richard enlisted in the United States Navy. He trained in aviation radio at Naval Air Station Banana River, now called Patrick Air Force Base. He worked convoy coverage and submarine patrol and was a part of the Helicopter Development Squadron. While in service, he traveled to Brazil where he was stationed for three and a half months. Other assignments in Brazil took him to Aratu and Natal. In Natal, Richard worked the radio one night for so long that he became deaf and did not regain his hearing for two days. Richard received the American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal and Combat Air crewman Insignia.

While stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, Richard received the news that the war had ended. He remembers the historic occasion and celebrating with his buddies. Richard worked for thirty years at Missouri Pacific Railroad as a truck driver. He retired and settled in Rye, Texas, and currently resides in Livingston, Texas.

We thank Richard Wade for responding to the call to protect and defend this great nation. His sacrifices exemplify why our nation remains "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

REMEMBERING THE LATE U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN ANTOINE LEWIS

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the late U.S. Army Captain Antoine Lewis of Matteson, IL in the Second Congressional District.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Captain Lewis was among the 157 people killed in the tragic plane crash in Ethiopia on March 10th.

This incredible young man had so much more to give the world and constantly gave of himself to others. He possessed an irrepressible curiosity and a desire to make the world a better place.

Captain Lewis was a man of passionate commitment to his family, to the Matteson community, to our country, and to his faith.

An honorable man, he represented the very best of America whenever he served in uniform or wherever he traveled in the world.

Captain Lewis was a patriot who proudly served his country. He had been stationed in Afghanistan, South Korea and Canada. He had an adventuresome and free spirit and was filled with wonder and curiosity about other people and cultures.

While he was raised in Matteson, he belonged to the world.

He, like many others, went to Africa to offer hope and opportunity to others through mission work. As called to do by St. James, he put his faith into actions and deeds that uplifted others and worked to build a better world.

The entire Second District mourn this tremendous loss to our community.

As we grieve with his family and friends, we are comforted by the knowledge that he did fulfill his desire to make the world a better place—by the love he gave to every person and mission that he encountered.