

community who believed in them and their ability to bring home a state championship title.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young men who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia Class A State Championship title.

HONORING THE GENERAL BAPTIST DEACONS ASSOCIATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Greater Baptist Deacons Association (GBDA) for its outstanding spiritual work in the District of Columbia.

The GBDA has been an instrumental part of the faith community in the District for 100 years. The GBDA has supported spiritual development through meaningful Bible study, leadership training workshops, youth education opportunities and other community enrichment initiatives over the years. The GBDA has promoted social, economic and civic justice for all citizens and religious institutions.

In 1919, the GBDA was formed to unite the faith community across the Washington metro area, to more effectively spread Christian teachings and to provide quality community programs. In 1939, the members of the GBDA were instrumental in starting the National Baptist Deacons Convention, bringing together members of the spiritual community to better serve and strengthen the fellowship of churches.

The GBDA was instrumental in expanding spiritual leadership training across two dozen states and territories, providing a mechanism for spiritual leaders to share common experiences and offer support to various communities. Together with regional elected leaders, the GBDA helped raise awareness for national and social issues over the years, which led to changes in the nation's conscience.

The GBDA members and leaders have worked with various corporations and business entities to address issues such as homelessness, affordable housing and workers' rights. They have worked collaboratively with community partners on programs supporting civic, social and community development.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the General Baptist Deacon Association on its 100th year of service to the District of Columbia.

HONORING STEWART RESNICK FOR RECEIVING THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE FOUNDATION INDIVIDUAL PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Stewart

Resnick as the recipient of the 2019 Bakersfield College Foundation Individual Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Stewart is the chairman and president of The Wonderful Company, a multi-billion dollar global company known for its iconic brands like Wonderful Pistachios, Wonderful Halos, POM Wonderful, and FIJI Water, to name a few.

The Wonderful Company empire began in 1978 when Stewart and his wife Lynda Resnick purchased a parcel of California Central Valley farmland. Since then, Stewart has overseen all financial, legal, real estate, strategy, human resources, and business operations for the company. Under his guidance, Wonderful has become so successful that every year, nearly half of all American households purchase their products.

The Wonderful Company has continuously given back to the communities where its employees live and work—contributing an average of \$50 million annually to community development efforts, educational programs, and a comprehensive employee health and wellness program. Stewart has long been passionate about free market sustainability, and has made significant investments in sustainability research, including implementing advanced irrigation technologies, extensive solar installations at Wonderful facilities, and utilizing fuel cells to generate electricity without combustion or air pollution. Additionally, Stewart founded the Resnick Sustainability Institute at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), which focuses on innovative science and engineering research to develop solutions to global energy challenges.

Even outside of The Wonderful Company, Stewart's philanthropy is far-reaching. Among his generous contributions are The Milken Institute's Lynda and Stewart Resnick Center for Public Health, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at the UCLA School of Medicine, the Resnick Program for Food Law & Policy at the UCLA School of Law, and the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Stewart's generous philanthropic efforts make him a well-deserving recipient for the Bakersfield College Foundation Silver Medal, and I want to thank him for his many selfless contributions to the communities and citizens of the Central Valley.

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR SEAN M. DONOHUE

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Major Sean M. Donohue of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Donohue will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to serve as the Command Surgeon for the Center for Initial Military Training at the US Army Training and Doctrine Command. This unit is the largest charged with training all initial entry Soldiers in the Army.

A native of Tacoma, WA, Sean began his military career after graduating from the Uni-

versity of Puget Sound, enlisting after the 9/11 attacks as a medic in 2002. Sean was commissioned in 2009, completed his clinical training as a Physician Assistant at Fort Carson and promptly deployed to Afghanistan as a Battalion Surgeon with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Since then, Sean has served in numerous leadership and staff positions around the world. His wife is a dedicated military spouse, Lexey, and they have three boys: William, Jack and Maximus.

In 2017, Army Medicine selected Major Donohue to serve as Legislative Liaison to serve in the Army House Liaison Office. In his role as a legislative liaison, Major Donohue served as the primary liaison between Members of the 115th and 116th Congresses, their Staff, Legislative Committees, and the U.S. Army. In this role, he planned, coordinated, and accompanied Congressional and Staff Delegations on numerous worldwide fact-finding and investigative missions and built the relationships and trust needed to increase the trust and confidence the U.S. Congress has in the U.S. Army.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Sean M. Donohue and his family as they proceed to the next chapter in his remarkable career as they continue to serve our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN HENRY HAGGINS

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Henry Haggins, who passed away recently at 102 years of age.

John was born in Raleigh, NC on February 15, 1917 to Dorsey McAllister and William Haggins. John grew up in Raleigh with seven siblings and first moved to his eventual home, Washington, D.C., in the 1930s, following his older brothers to find work.

His natural skill and ingenuity led John to a long and storied career in engineering and construction. He worked with C.W. Freitag Construction Co. and George Hyman (now Clark) Construction Co., moving to cities in West Virginia, South Carolina and New York throughout that career. While his time in West Virginia was spent doing some of the hardest work of his professional life, it was well worth the effort when he met his future wife, Lorene Epps. The pair were married on September 14, 1945 after a long courtship and remained together until John's passing, raising four children in the Northeast Washington, DC home that John would later build by hand.

After more than 30 years of hard and dedicated work, John retired from Clark Construction Co. as the Concrete Superintendent in 1987. He remained a member of the Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons, America's oldest building and construction trades international union.

Over the course of his 102 years, John and Lorene built a large and loving family that will continue to carry his legacy, including children Shirley, Phyllis Joann, Cynthia Jean, Pamela Francine, and John Anthony; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I send my condolences to the family and friends of John Haggins. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating his incredible life and legacy.

Rest in peace, John.

**CELEBRATION OF THE GI BILL'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY AND ITS AU-
THOR SENATOR ERNEST "MAC"
MCFARLAND**

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration and honor for the 75th anniversary of the GI Bill as well as the bill's co-author, the late Arizona Senator Ernest "Mac" McFarland. Officially titled the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," the GI Bill provided a slew of benefits for veterans returning from World War II. These new benefits were available to every veteran who had been in active duty for ninety days and they continue to this day. The benefits bestowed onto our veterans include low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans, payments for tuition and living expenses to attend university college of vocational education and up to one year of unemployment compensation. With this bill, we've been able to offer a small token of our gratitude to those who put their lives on the line in order to defend everything we hold dear. The assistance cemented in the GI Bill is thanks, in large part, to the former Majority Leader from Arizona Ernest McFarland. Mac's accomplishments stretch far beyond his work on the GI Bill. As it stands today, he is the only person in Arizona's history to have served as U.S. Senator, Governor of Arizona and Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. He was a leader for our state and his tireless efforts enabled so many wonderful opportunities for our uniformed men and women. I am proud to honor this man and his diligent work for our veterans.

**CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF READING AND BEYOND**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the local non-profit organization Reading and Beyond of Fresno, California as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since its creation in 1999, Reading and Beyond has been a leader in the community, providing educational, health and wellness opportunities to underserved families of Fresno County. The impact Reading and Beyond has had over the past two decades continues to be felt by countless families in the Central Valley.

In the fall of 1998, members of the First Covenant Church called together leaders of the community to explore prospective solutions to help neighborhood students struggling with reading. Reading and Beyond was founded with the belief that a child's path toward a brighter future was paved with books. Initially, Reading and Beyond provided tutoring and

parenting programs for 30 families in need. Eventually, it expanded to include cradle-to-career services for both children and their parents, health services and tailored programs to help families increase their social mobility and strive for success and self-reliance.

Since its founding, Reading and Beyond has earned many honors both locally and nationally. In 2003, Fresno Unified School District praised Reading and Beyond as a "model for other organizations". In the same year, it was chosen as one of only four organizations to receive national funding from the U.S. Department of Education to develop its Early Childhood Education program into a replicable model. In 2008, Kerri Briggs, the U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, recognized Reading and Beyond as a "remarkable example of the impact that faith-based organizations have in a community". In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$12 million dollars in pilot funding to Reading and Beyond's Fresno Bridge Academy program; one of only ten national projects to receive this grant.

What started out as a community-led effort to help neighborhood children in Fresno develop their reading abilities, has evolved into an organization that serves the needs of children and families across seven counties in California. Reading and Beyond has committed to empowering families to achieve productive lives through its holistic, research, and results-based programs with the end goal of helping children succeed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reading and Beyond as it celebrates twenty outstanding years. Our community is forever grateful for the contributions Reading and Beyond has made in the Central Valley. I ask that you join me in wishing Reading and Beyond long-lasting success.

**IN HONOR OF THE 2018-2019 AAAA
STATE CHAMPIONS: THE CARVER
TIGERS BOYS BASKETBALL
TEAM**

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018-2019 AAAA Boys Basketball Georgia State Champions, the George Washington Carver High School Tigers of Columbus, Georgia. The team commemorated this significant milestone on Sunday, March 17, 2019, with a celebratory parade followed by a celebration of honor at the Columbus Civic Center.

On Friday, March 8, 2019, the Tigers won the state championship game against Americus-Sumter High School by a score of 58-55. This was the fifth game of the season against the Americus-Sumter Panthers and it was an exciting end to their series. The Tigers took the lead for a second and final time in the game with 28 seconds left. This historic victory marked the first championship for the Tigers since 1971.

Their victory in this year's AAAA state championship follows years of frustration, hard work, and determination bursting forth into an unbelievable season of teamwork and athletic

excellence. The perseverance of these Tigers, after placing No. 3 in the MaxPreps AAAA Boys Basketball rankings for Region 1, was clearly shown by a spectacular season.

I cannot put into words the tremendous pride that the citizens of Columbus, and indeed the entire Second Congressional District, have in being able to call this outstanding team of athletes their own. They have accomplished an incredible feat, one that could not have been possible without the tireless leadership and encouragement from their head coach, Warren Beulah and his staff, as well as their families, classmates, and members of the community who believed in them and their ability to bring home a state championship title.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young men who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia AAAA State Championship title.

**HONORING AERA ENERGY FOR RE-
CEIVING THE BAKERSFIELD COL-
LEGE FOUNDATION CORPORATE
PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR
AWARD**

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Aera Energy, and President and CEO, Christina Sistrunk, as the recipient of the 2019 Bakersfield College Foundation Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Industry-leading oil and gas producer Aera Energy has displayed its commitment to California and the communities in which it operates for nearly 100 years. Jointly owned by Shell and ExxonMobil but operated as a stand-alone company with its own board and managers, Aera is proudly based in Bakersfield, California and in Kern County, one of the largest oil-producing regions in the entire country. Innovative approaches to engineering, lean processes, and data quality helped Aera become a titan of industry—Aera produces about 125,000 barrels of oil and 32 million cubic feet of natural gas each day, accounting for nearly one-quarter of California's oil production annually. However, its community involvement and philanthropy are what truly sets them apart.

Aera actively encourages their employees to participate in events and causes that strengthen communities, recognizing individual employees who go above and beyond in this regard. Through various programs like Partnership A.E.R.A. (Achieving Excellence, Rewarding Academics), the Community Reading Project, and multiple high school programs, Aera employees are heavily involved in the communities where they live and work. In addition to these volunteering and mentoring efforts, Aera donates to over 100 community organizations each year.

Bakersfield is fortunate to have a premier oil and gas producer like Aera so dedicated to the betterment of its people and community.