

coaches. It is with great pride that I congratulate them on their winning season. Go Blue Knights.

BOB AND JACKIE HUNT'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Bob and Jackie Hunt of Leesburg, Florida on their 70th anniversary of marriage.

Bob and Jackie are lifelong residents of Lake County Florida. Bob served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, Bob returned to Florida and joined the Citrus industry. Jackie was a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and working together, they raised and put their three children through college.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation. Bob and Jackie, I am honored to recognize your loyalty and faithfulness to one another and your family. I offer my sincerest congratulations for 70 years of marriage. May God continue to bless them and their family in the years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1433 the "DHS MORALE Act", which would help improve morale among the 240,000 employees of the Department by creating and cataloguing leadership development opportunities, identifying and addressing factors that impact employee engagement, and recognizing employee contributions through the many plans it offers such as the employee effort recognition award plan which recognizes employees for their efforts over the year and through the DHS Rotation Program to create opportunities for employees.

As a senior member of the Committee and a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee and Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing employee engagement.

H.R. 1433 addresses and is responsible to the needs of DHS employees by developing frameworks to create leadership opportunities and by assessing the needs of the employees in supervisory as well as non-supervisory roles.

The DHS Rotation Program is one of the many programs that this bill has helped steer employees towards by having the Chief Human Capital Officer maintain a catalogue of development opportunities.

The bill also establishes an Employee Engagement Steering Committee—through which

factors are identified that affect employee morale comprised of representatives and individuals throughout the department and labor organizations representing the DHS employees and involvement and solutions sought to counteract those problems.

This process enhances employee morale as it requires a Department wide Engagement Action Plan to be implemented which comes through the input from the Steering committee.

The bill directs that employees be recognized for their efforts over the year by establishing an Employee Award Program which help with the goals of the department.

This bill greatly helps DHS move in a positive direction when it comes to addressing its longstanding problems of the morale concerns of employees.

I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF AMY DICKINSON AND FOR RECEIVING THE HORATIO ALGER AWARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Amy Dickinson and for receiving the Horatio Alger Award.

Amy exemplifies perseverance in the face of adversity and provides an example of the strength which can come from that adversity. Overcoming the challenges of growing up with a single parent, she received a scholarship and worked her way through college to earn a diploma from Georgetown University. Following her graduation in 1981, Amy worked as a producer for NBC and then as a successful writer. Her career represents her ability to overcome the unexpected challenges of life and to grow because of them. Amy has found great success despite the challenges she has faced from a young age and should serve as a reminder of the importance of hard work and dedication.

For nearly forty years, Amy's work has appeared in some of our nation's leading publications, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time magazine. Since 2003, she has written the "Ask Amy" column for the Chicago Tribune which is syndicated throughout North America and reaches an estimated twenty million viewers a day. Her first memoir reached the New York Times best seller list within two weeks of publication. Her work has consistently highlighted her compassion and wisdom.

Amy has dedicated her time to several charitable organizations and initiatives. She has worked tirelessly for library fundraising and literacy projects throughout the nation and has created her own initiative, A Book on Every Bed which encourages family to gift books during the holiday season. She is involved in community organizations such as the State Theatre in Ithaca and has raised money to help children from backgrounds similar to hers. Amy should serve as an inspiration not only to the Horatio Alger scholars, but to all Americans.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to

celebrate Amy Dickinson and her extraordinary career.

KAREN COWLING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karen Cowling for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Image Award.

Karen Cowling has been an active participant in the Arvada community for many years. She works with Dental at Your Door and Benefits in Action and is receiving this award for her commitment to the Arvada community and the positive image she displays for the city.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Karen Cowling is exemplary of the type of positive image that can be displayed for the City of Arvada. She provides dental care to the Arvada homeless and assists people in need with court hearings, hospital visits and mental health services.

I extend my congratulations to Karen Cowling for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and deepest appreciation for her contributions to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Greenview Christian Church of Greenview, Illinois, for celebrating their 150th anniversary.

In 1869, the Greenview Christian Church was officially opened as a place of worship for the residents of the city. Since then, the church has grown immensely; it now provides the community with far more than a place to pray. This is where the residents of Greenview come to make strides towards improving their local area, as well as to help those less fortunate than themselves abroad, through their partner missionary program, Faith Promise Rally.

The Greenview Community Church is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 150 years. Today, we celebrate the church for their dedication to serving Greenview. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Greenview Christian Church for a successful 150 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

TRIBUTE TO ZYGMUND KOWALEWSKI

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, today I'd like to congratulate Zygmund Kowalewski on the

occasion of his 99th birthday on April 7th, and thank him for his service to the United States Navy and to the United States of America.

Mr. Kowalewski enlisted as a gunner on a twin-engine PBM flying boat in October of 1941, just two months before the ambush at Pearl Harbor would launch the U.S. into World War II. As a part of Torpedo Squadron Eight present at the Battle of Midway, he and his fellow crew members earned commendations for bravery in engagements at Guadalcanal, Midway, and the British Solomon Islands.

Attempting to fly a mail route off the coast of the Fiji Islands, Mr. Kowalewski's plane stalled on takeoff and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. He was forced to free himself from the downed plane and paddle from the wreckage, fearful the ship's 500-pound depth charges would detonate. Madam Speaker, even after receiving combat honors twice for his heroics, Mr. Kowalewski once again piloted a U.S. Navy plane, instead hunting German submarines in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Kowalewski moved out to Alaska in 1967 after fulfilling his Naval service, continuing to fly as an FAA Airway Systems Inspection Pilot. But whether he was piloting a torpedo bomber or a twin-engine Cessna, he always conducted himself with valor and should be considered among Alaska's finest Naval Aviators for his service.

An aviator needs quick decision-making and a cool head to fly a plane in combat. Many of us will not know the kind of mental toughness required to see a mission to its conclusion, even under the most dire flight conditions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zygmond Kowalewski, who now at the age of 99, will have spent nearly one quarter of his life's work in service to his country having flown missions from Dutch Harbor to the Panama Canal. There are few people that can claim to have sacrificed as much under our flag, and he is owed the thanks and gratitude of all of us here in Washington and in Alaska.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra. Beginning April 10, 2019, the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra will be traveling throughout Spain for a nine-day tour.

Notably, the symphony orchestra will perform in three public concerts: at the Teatro Auditorio Riberas del Guadaira in Seville, the Auditorio Manuel de Falla in Granada, and the Plaza Ayuntamiento in Toledo.

These performances not only give these young students the opportunity to perform in historic venues, but allow them to immerse themselves in Spanish music, culture, and history.

I would like to applaud Mr. Christopher Simon, the Orchestra Director at Council Rock High School South, for his visionary leadership. I wish him and all the talented musicians under his direction an eye-opening and rewarding trip.

CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric and David Groos, 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 levels 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.

MARY JO GIDDINGS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mary Jo Giddings for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Award.

Mary Jo is a former Woman of the Year Award recipient and has had a positive impact on the Arvada community for nearly 50 years. She is well-deserving of this award as she has served as a leader in Arvada for many years and has contributed in many unprecedented ways.

The leadership demonstrated by Mary Jo is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the Arvada community with hard work and dedication. She has volunteered at the Arvada Center since it opened in 1976 and sits on the Board of Directors for the Arvada Historical Society and the Arvada Vitality Alliance as well as organizes Arvada Garden Tours.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Jo Giddings for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments and unique heritage of cultures that make up and enrich the United States. Today, I, along with my colleague Representative STEVE WATKINS of Kansas, am proud to introduce a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Tracing their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent, the Romani people migrated and settled throughout Europe over the last millennia. Often, they faced scorn, hatred, persecution and discrimination. Nevertheless, they maintained their unique language and culture while enriching the culture and economies of the countries in which they became citizens. They have made distinct and important contributions in many fields including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science.

In 2005, the European Parliament estimated that there were 12 to 15 million Roma in Europe. Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe. In an attempt to liquidate the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, on August 2 to 3, 1944, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were murdered in gas chambers in a single night. This year marks the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

Roma have also been a part of every wave of European migration to North and South America. In the United States, there may be as many as 1 million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent.

Representative STENY HOYER was the first Member of Congress to raise concern about the situation of Roma, doing so in meetings with Romanian government representatives during a 1990 congressional visit to Romania not long after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1994, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, himself a Holocaust survivor, convened Congress's first hearing regarding the situation of the Romani people. That hearing, before the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights, received testimony from Dr. Ian Hancock, Andrzej Mirga, Klara Orgovanova, and Nicolae Gheorghe.

Though a great deal has changed since then, sadly, Romani people still face widespread human rights abuses and discrimination in employment, housing, and education. However, there is greater urgency for Roma to advance their causes today than ever before as evidenced by organizations such as the European Roma Rights Center and the still new European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture.

The Helsinki Commission has maintained robust engagement on these issues and, as