

services provide these individuals the stability to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. We thank Ozone House for their commitment to supporting and protecting homeless youth. Their work embodies the duty we have to our community and to empower those most in need.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ozone House for 50 years of distinguished service. Their efforts to support homeless and high-risk youth in the Washtenaw community is worthy of commendation.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT MELANIE K.
NOEL

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous Airman and native of Vincennes, Indiana, Command Chief Master Sergeant Melanie K. Noel, on the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 27 years of distinguished military service to this great Nation.

Chief Master Sergeant Noel's outstanding career has culminated with her final assignment as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Air Force District of Washington. Chief Noel represents the highest enlisted executive level of leadership in the Air Force District of Washington and advises the commanding general on all issues regarding the readiness, training, welfare, morale, proper utilization, and progress of more than 40,000 Air Force military and civilian members in more than 500 locations across 108 countries. Prior to assuming her current position, Chief Noel faithfully served as the 6th Air Mobility Wing's Command Chief Master Sergeant and was also the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the U.S. Air Force's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

Chief Master Sergeant Noel entered the U.S. Air Force on April 9, 1992 as a security forces specialist and was later chosen for retraining into the field of personnel administration. Her honorable service has spanned numerous overseas and stateside assignments including two European countries, three States, the District of Columbia, and a deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2006, Chief Noel was competitively selected to become a First Sergeant, spending several years caring for the service's newest Airmen at the "Gateway to the Air Force." Recognizing her leadership potential, the Air Force continued to challenge her with increased responsibilities as an instructor at the U.S. Air Force First Sergeants Academy. Excelling in this demanding position, Chief Noel taught fellow senior noncommissioned officers the intricacies of equitable discipline, professional development, and esprit de corps. Her superb performance at the First Sergeants Academy garnered the attention of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy, who selected Chief Noel to become the service's first-ever Enlisted Legislative Fellow in the Nation's Capital.

As a true testament to Chief Master Sergeant Noel's exceptional career, she served

as not only the U.S. Air Force's first Enlisted Legislative Fellow but also its sole enlisted representative on Capitol Hill in 2013. During this period, Chief Noel was assigned to the office of Representative Niki Tsongas from Massachusetts. With the Congresswoman's position as Ranking Member on the House Armed Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, Chief Noel played a key role as her lead staffer during the headline-making Benghazi hearings. Moreover, she worked diligently to increase congressional awareness of impacts to both the Department of Defense and national security community caused by the 2013 federal government shutdown. Finally, her tireless efforts were critical to the bipartisan passage and implementation of the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Chief Master Sergeant Noel clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader. Throughout her tenure, she has been instrumental in advocating for Airmen across the globe while strengthening the total force team through innovative solutions, focused resiliency, and exceptional leadership development. Her unrivaled expertise and exemplary professionalism have further resulted in numerous accolades, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, as well as annual award recognition at the squadron, group, and wing levels within the U.S. Air Force. Additionally, Chief Noel was the recipient of the Distinguished Honor Graduate Award at the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Melanie K. Noel for her many years of extraordinary dedication and selfless military service. There is no question that the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense, and United States have significantly benefited from Chief Noel's visionary leadership and devotion to the cause of freedom. I wish nothing but the very best for her and her family in the future.

CONGRATULATING EVERETT
WHITCHER ON WINNING THE CITIZEN
OF THE YEAR AWARD
THROUGH THE KEWANEE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Everett Whitcher for winning the Citizen of the Year Award through the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Whitcher's dedication to organizations in the Kewanee community is admirable.

Mr. Whitcher is a graduate of Wethersefield High School and went on to pursue his career in the grocery business. Since 1989, Mr. Whitcher has been the owner of the Super Value grocery store, which is now Save-A-Lot in Kewanee, Illinois. In 2015, Mr. Whitcher needed to keep up with the demands of the community so he moved his Kewanee store to a bigger location on South Main Street where he expanded his food and meat inventory. Mr.

Whitcher is an active participant in the local community and has contributed a great deal to Kewanee's economy. In addition to running his business, he assists all the food pantries in Kewanee and donates pet food to the Humane Society. Mr. Whitcher has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club since 2007 and serves on the Board of Directors in a continued effort to give back to his neighbors. I admire Mr. Whitcher's service to the community and thank him for his many contributions as he accepts the Citizen of the Year Award.

It is because of community leaders like Mr. Whitcher that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Everett Whitcher for winning the Citizen of the Year Award given by the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. AUGUSTINE
ART ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA) on the 95th anniversary of its founding in 1924.

Founded by Spanish explorers in 1565, St. Augustine, Florida, is the oldest continuously inhabited European-established settlement in the continental United States, making it our nation's first city. The STAAA plays an integral role in preserving and promoting the artistic heritage of St. Augustine, and has been described as the epicenter of the local art community. The STAAA Art Center is open year-round and is free to the public, welcoming roughly 10,000 visitors annually. Its gallery hosts exhibitions, concerts, workshops, classes, lectures, and other art-related events. More than 1,000 artists of all backgrounds display their artwork during the gallery's season of juried exhibitions. These contemporary artists make up St. Augustine's present-day art colony.

The STAAA outreach programs serve many, including the blind, local public school students, and patients and caregivers at Flagler Hospital. Additionally, elder groups, community businesses, and others all benefit from STAAA's user-friendly gallery in the heart of St. Augustine. I am pleased to recognize STAAA for its contributions to our unique local culture, history, and community.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF VANDALIA, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Vandalia, Illinois, which is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Located in Fayette County, Vandalia was the state's first capital city. Situated on the Kaskaskia River, the Illinois General Assembly first met in Vandalia in December 1820. At the time, the state treasurer transacted business

at his home, while the auditor and secretary of state worked in the brick building that housed the state bank.

The first capitol building was destroyed by fire in 1823 and a second capitol building was built in haste the following summer. Two years later people refused to enter the building for fear it would collapse, and so a third capitol building was constructed, which is the one that stands today.

Abraham Lincoln began his political career in Vandalia in 1834, and five years later the Illinois General Assembly met for the last time in the Vandalia Statehouse. In one of its final acts, the legislature deeded the building to Fayette County and the town of Vandalia. The State of Illinois purchased the old statehouse and public square in 1918 to ensure its preservation for future generations, and in the decades following carried out a major effort to restore the building to its Lincoln-era appearance.

Madam Speaker, with four days of activities planned, the celebration promises to highlight the city's rich history. It is an honor to recognize the City of Vandalia as it celebrates its bicentennial, and I wish it all the best for the future.

IN HONOR OF JANE LAIRD FOR
HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Laird for her exceptional service to the United States of America. Mrs. Laird's instrumental role as a Rosie, riveting during World War II, is worthy of commendation.

The daughter of a coalminer, Jane Laird was born in Bearcreek, Montana. In 1943, before she could graduate high school, Mrs. Laird moved to Dearborn, Michigan to work for the Ford Motor Company. During World War II, she helped construct the B-24 bomber, The Liberator, riveting the cockpit of the aircraft. Mrs. Laird's efforts as a riveter at Ford Motor Company highlight the many significant contributions of young women during World War II. After riveting for the Ford Motor Company, Jane Laird worked part time at E.J. Korvette, where she remained until her retirement.

Jane Laird's work embodies the duty we have to our community and our nation. A breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Laird stands as a model of strength, sacrifice, and service. Her generation's critical contribution to progress will always be remembered. Beloved for her sense of humor and tenacity, Mrs. Laird will finally receive her high school diploma this weekend. We thank Jane Laird for her instrumental work as a riveter and congratulate her on her graduation. We are grateful for her dedicated service to this nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jane Laird for her exemplary service as a riveter. Her graduation this weekend stands as a testament to the dedication, perseverance, and sacrifice she has displayed over her lifetime.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF KAREN
COMSTOCK OF CHINO

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Chief Karen Comstock of the Chino Police Department. After almost 35 years of public service and dedication to the Chino community, she is finally retiring and will be sorely missed.

Chief Comstock honorably rose through the ranks of the Chino Police Department. Beginning her career in 1985, she served as a cadet and reserve officer for five years before being brought on as an official police officer. Comstock held many other positions including field training officer, patrol supervisor, and detective bureau supervisor, as well as serving at the Criminal Investigations Bureau as a detective and as a member of the Crisis Negotiations Team.

In recognition of her excellent leadership, Comstock was promoted to Chief in 2014. She served as Chino Police Department's first female police chief and is now retiring as one of only 22 female police chiefs in California. Chief Comstock not only established standards of excellence, but also carved out new pathways for future female leaders in the Chino Police Department.

Chief Comstock was not only a leader within the Chino Police Department, but also served as a mentor in the community, committing more than 14 years to Chino Police Department's Explorer Program to assist young adults with entering law enforcement careers.

She has left a lasting mark on the Chino Police Department. As a lifelong citizen of Chino, she has demonstrated bravery, dedication and loyalty to her hometown and profession—earning her the esteem of the men and women of the Chino Police Department and the community at large.

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Chief Karen Comstock on the House floor today. Her decades of commitment and contributions to the City of Chino are worthy of admiration.

2019 MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST
POINT APPOINTEES

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rudolph Caleb Churchill and Edward Custy, Military Academy at West Point Appointees from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. I believe America's greatest assets are our brave men and women in uniform. These individuals are making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserve our utmost support for their service. It is with great pleasure that I give Rudolph and Edward my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend these young people and their families for their commitment. On be-

half of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, it is an honor to recognize Rudolph Caleb Churchill and Edward Custy as appointees to the United States Military Academy at West Point for their commitment to protect and serve our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE TEUTOPOLIS
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Teutopolis High School baseball team on winning the 2019 Illinois Class 2A championship. Teutopolis defeated Pleasant Plains 12-6 for the title, capping a 28-8-1 season for the Wooden Shoes.

The team's dedication and hard work were evident again, as the Wooden Shoes advanced to the state championship game for the third straight season and added a second title to the one captured in 2017. Head Coach Justin Fleener formed a team with both high production in the batter's box and resilient defense in the field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team: Mitch Hemmen, Mitch Hardiek, Brady McMahon, Trenton Schwerdt, Tyler Runde, Andy Niebrugge, Justin Hardiek, Derek Deters, Evan Addis, Hayden Ruholl, Dawson Smith, Evan Wermert, Brock Deters, Matt Deters, Clint Weber, Brayden Will, Luke Ungrund, and Dylan Overbeck.

Madam Speaker, the players, coaches, and the entire community of Teutopolis should be very proud of their accomplishments. I wish the graduating seniors the best in their future ventures and good luck to those who will return for a chance to make it back-to-back championships next season.

CELEBRATING THE 2019 GIANT
NATIONAL CAPITAL BARBECUE
BATTLE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle. This event, sponsored by Giant, has become a Washington summertime tradition. It takes place in the first full week of summer each year and brings together tens of thousands of Washington area families and visitors to the nation's capital in the spirit of unity, community and celebration. This year, the celebration will take place on June 22-23, 2019.

The Giant Barbecue Battle event has raised millions of dollars for District of Columbia charities and USO-Metro over the past 26 years, along with countless donations to area food banks.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle features the Giant National BBQ Championship, the National Pork BBQ Championship, the Smokin' with Smithfield Rib Contest, the Perdue Sizzlin' Chicken Contest, the Turkey