

Cortez, Colorado, an American soldier who was recently killed defending our country in the Kunduz Province of Afghanistan. He and Spc. Joseph Collette, both Fort Carson based soldiers, were killed in an attack fighting against the Taliban.

Sgt. Lindsay was born in Cortez in 1985. The grandson of World War II veteran Richard Lindsay and World War II veteran Warren Waldorf, he was no stranger to service. He followed his grandfather's footsteps when he enlisted into the Army in 2004, ultimately getting selected into the elite 10th Special Forces Group. This prestigious fighting group deploys to some of the world's most heated combat zones and Sgt. Lindsay bravely deployed with them seven times including five tours in Iraq, one in Tajikistan and this final deployment to Afghanistan.

As a highly decorated combat veteran, Sgt. Lindsay had an expansive list of military awards and decorations to include a Silver Star, Purple Heart, four Bronze Stars, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Meritorious Unit Awards, the Valorous Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, four Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, the Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, the NATO Medal, the Special Forces Tab, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Chilean Airborne Wings, and the Senior Instructor Badge. Sgt. Lindsay's record is a testament to his commitment of putting country before self, as he did in the Army for nearly 15 years.

I stand before the House of Representatives with a heavy heart thinking about his family and their great loss, especially his wife Sarah, his four daughters and his parents Grant and Tammy. I join the town of Cortez, his brothers and sisters in arms, and the entire nation in mourning his untimely death. I have gotten to know Sgt. Lindsay's family over the years and his loss will be felt by many in our small community.

Madam Speaker, Sgt. Lindsay's death is a painful reminder of the sacrifices our men and women in the military endure. Sgt. Lindsay was a true American hero from one of the most rural areas in Colorado who died protecting his men and the country he loved. He dedicated his life to selflessly protect our great nation and we are all proud of him. His loss is tragic, but his legacy will be remembered for generations to come, and the world is a better place because of him.

RECOGNIZING THE VIENNA ARTS SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vienna Arts Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since 1969, the Vienna Arts Society has worked to cultivate and maintain an interest in the fine arts in the Town of Vienna. The impact that the arts can have on a community and its residents cannot be overstated. As an amateur thespian myself,

I can attest to the transformative power the arts can have on an individual's life and I commend the Vienna Arts Society for its work to ensure that this transformative power is found in Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society does this in many different ways, whether it be its annual print making workshop for children, providing illustrations for the Town calendar, creating Christmas decorations for display during the holidays, providing high school scholarships or their work with numerous Scout troops.

This year is also significant because the Vienna Arts Society is hosting the first ever national art competition in the town, through its Treasure of Art reception at the newly renovated Vienna Community Center. I look forward to seeing the contributions of our local residents. A number of those artists are also receiving awards as a result of the excellence of their work. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals:

1ST PLACE

Lola Santos, "Pio", acrylic & collage

2ND PLACE

Carolyn Marshall Wright, "Cherries Jubilee" acrylic on canvas

3RD PLACE

Ray Goodrow, "Rodeo" watercolor

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Karen Hutchison, "Indigo Blues" acrylic & mixed medium

Carla Steckley, "Aspens" photograph

Susan Scanlon, "Girl with a Red Bag" photograph

Helen Power, "Layers & Levels" mixed media

Grace Rooney, "Field of Flowers" acrylic on yupo

Alice Nodine, "Safezone" acrylic & ink on paper

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the winners of the Treasure of Art show and in congratulating the Vienna Arts Society on this momentous anniversary. I wish them great success in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes Monday, June 3 through Wednesday, June 5. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 232 (Concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2157, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 233 (Passing H.R. 2940): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 234 (Approving the Journal): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 235 (Ordering the Previous Question): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 236 (Passing H. Res. 415): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 237 (Approving the Journal): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 238 (Passing H. Res. 393): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 239 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 6): NO; Roll Call Vote Number 240 (Passing H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act): YES; and Roll Call Vote Number 241 (Passing

H.R. 1921, the Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019): YES.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO TOURISM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 951, the "United States-Mexico Tourism Improvement Act of 2019."

H.R. 951 addresses the decline in tourist activity between the United States and Mexico.

The bill aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the United States and Mexican tourism industries by advocating for increased cooperation through both government and non-governmental channels.

Specifically, the legislation seeks to—improve third-party tourism to both countries through joint international promotional efforts; prioritize exchange programs in various economic sectors; and

promote cross-border medical partnerships.

Mexico is the biggest source of international visitors to the United States after Canada.

In 2016, Mexican tourism to the United States peaked at 18,990,585 visitors, constituting 1 in 4 (24.9 percent) of all tourists that year.

Additionally, in 2016, spending by Mexican tourists in the United States totaled \$20.3 billion, which represented a 3 percent growth from 2015.

In 2017, international tourist arrivals totaled 76,900,000, up 0.7 percent from 76,400,000 in 2016.

The same year, 77,000,000 international visitors spent a record \$251.4 billion on hotels, travel, food, and souvenirs, a 2-percent increase over 2016.

However, also in 2017, there was a 6.1-percent decline in visitors to the United States from Mexico, comprising a loss of 1,166,585 Mexican tourists from 2016.

The Department of Commerce has not yet released 2017 spending totals by Mexican tourists in the United States, but a corresponding monetary decline would be approximately \$1.24 billion in lost revenue.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 951 to promote bilateral tourism through the United States and Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIENNA-OAKTON CHAPTER 1116 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

NARFE is a national organization that was founded in 1921 to support both active and retired federal employees. It functions as an information resource, keeping its members up-to-date on federal retirement, health care, compensation and other benefits that affect federal employees and retirees. It also advocates on behalf of its members to protect and enhance the benefits they have earned.

With well over 1,000 chapters nationwide, NARFE also serves as a source of community engagement. It unites public servants and provides them with opportunities to do what they do best: serve their community.

Today, I would like to recognize the past and current members and leaders of NARFE Chapter 1116. They have contributed to a thriving civil society in Northern Virginia and are part of the backbone that makes both our community and this country great. I would like to specifically recognize President Kathy Arpa and the other officers and board members for their dedication and efforts on behalf of our current and retired federal employees.

The federal government cannot function effectively and efficiently without the hard work and commitment of our exceptional civil servants. NARFE Chapter 1116 has advocated and supported our public servants for the past 50 years and I am honored to recognize the Chapter on this occasion.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating NARFE Chapter 1116 for 50 years of service to our federal workers and to wish them continued success protecting the rights of current and future federal workers and retirees.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on June 10, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 242, Roll Call Vote 243, and Roll Call Vote 244. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 242, Yea on Roll Call Vote 243, and Yea on Roll Call 244.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRS CRISISLINK

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize PRS CrisisLink on its 50th anniversary. This occasion carries great significance for my family and I, as my wife is co-chair of the Congressional Spouses for Suicide Prevention and Education.

PRS CrisisLink is a free 24/7 crisis intervention and suicide prevention program that offers a free and confidential crisis and suicide prevention hotline for Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. region.

Under the leadership of Wendy Gradison, PRS CrisisLink continues to evolve into a highly important resource within our community. Based on a 2009 report by the Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, PRS CrisisLink has determined that an estimated 72,000 residents of Northern Virginia have a serious mental illness with the majority of whom not receiving treatment. Given the high numbers of persons with mental illness, PRS seeks ways to serve those in need through a variety of programs.

PRS CrisisLink hotlines are staffed by highly trained volunteers and crisis line workers who provide helpful information about community services, referrals to mental health services and tips on how to help those struggling with mental health issues.

With many community members in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. region still in dire need of mental health services and support, PRS CrisisLink aims to further expand service delivery to reach as many individuals as possible.

Each year, PRS serves more than 1,100 clients. Last year alone the volunteers and staff at CrisisLink responded to 45,000 phone calls. I commend the staff and volunteers for their selfless service to our community. The tools they provide to help individuals with mental illness live with dignity and become fully integrated members of our community.

Madam Speaker, programs like PRS CrisisLink are a testament to good community leadership and further evidence that we live in a community that cares. I commend the staff and volunteers of PRS CrisisLink for the life-saving work they do every day on behalf of others. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating PRS CrisisLink on its 50th anniversary and in thanking them for their continued service to our community.

TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the “Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act” to safeguard federal funding for disaster-recovery projects.

I want to thank my colleagues from California’s Congressional delegation for their support: Representatives JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA2), MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA5), MARK DESAULNIER (D-CA11), BARBARA LEE (D-CA13), JACKIE SPEIER (D-CA14), ERIC SWALWELL (D-CA15), RO KHANNA (D-CA17), ANNA G. ESHOO (D-CA 18), ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA 19), JIMMY PANETTA (D-CA20), SALUD O. CARBAJAL (D-CA24), KATIE HILL (D-CA25), JULIA BROWNLEY (D-CA26), GRACE F. NAPOLITANO (D-CA32), NORMA J. TORRES (D-CA35), RAUL RUIZ (D-CA36), GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, JR. (D-CA39), ALAN S. LOWENTHAL (D-CA47), HARLEY ROUDA (D-CA48), and SCOTT H. PETERS (D-CA52).

Our legislation would prevent the Trump administration from targeting disaster-recovery funding for highway and transportation projects across our state. In January 31, 2019, the Federal Highway Administration denied the California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) request for 1-year extensions for 66 out of 73 projects awarded “emergency relief” funding from the U.S. Department of Transpor-

tation. During previous administrations, such 1-year extensions were routinely granted under the Federal Highway Administration’s and Federal Transit Administration’s emergency relief programs.

Californians are facing increasingly frequent and severe floods and wildfires due to climate change. They deserve nothing less than the full-throated support of their Federal Government, and that is exactly what our bill ensures.

Current U.S. Department of Transportation regulations allow the Federal Government to claw back “emergency relief” funding for highway and public transit projects if those projects do not reach construction within 2 fiscal years. The “Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act” would repeal this regulatory deadline and provide up to 6 years for projects awarded these funds to advance to construction. The new 6-year deadline would start following the date on which a disaster was declared by the respective state’s governor or the president.

I also want to thank Caltrans, the California State Association of Counties and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) for their support of this critical legislation for our state.

Madam Speaker, I hope that any surface transportation reauthorization bill this Congress will include the “Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act.” This is a major priority for California: the nation’s most populous state and the fifth largest economy in the world. As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with my fellow California colleagues to see this done.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 27th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established more than 40 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of needed services is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the nation.

Last year alone, over 6,000 individuals contributed more than 328,000 volunteer hours totaling almost \$8,000,000. These staggering numbers are a testament to the strong ethos of public service and of volunteerism that exists in Fairfax County and is one of the many reasons why this community is such a wonderful place to live.

Each year, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to receive special recognition. It is my great pleasure to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS
Braddock District: Allan Boswell Robertson