

packing houses, and as a machinist for Wishbone and Honeywell. Each of these positions offered a unique point of view on the needs of the worker. This gave Mr. Rojas a clear view of the blue-collar community in Kansas City and the ways in which the lives of workers needed to be improved. From these experiences, a desire to serve and improve the lives of others was sparked within him.

As a U.S. Navy veteran serving in the Korean War from 1952 to 1955, Paul Rojas joined the ranks of great men and women who defended the United States on the frontlines. Mr. Rojas continues to exhibit the commitment he showed in his service to the United States with his membership in the Korean Veterans Association, Veterans of Underage Military Service, and the American Legion. Within these organizations, he advocates for those who have served, are currently serving, and who wish to serve their country in the future.

After serving in the Korean War, civic engagement remained a pillar of Mr. Rojas' life. He served on various boards and commissions at the city and county level before pushing to become the first Hispanic elected to the Missouri General Assembly. As a State Representative, Paul Rojas initiated national meetings of Hispanic elected officials, leading to the establishment of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Mr. Rojas also helped found the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC in order to help hundreds of Hispanic and minority owned businesses network and gain access to resources.

After his service as a Missouri State Representative, Paul Rojas continued his devotion to service. He is now chairman of Guadalupe Centers Inc., the organization that supported his family in their time of need. Guadalupe Centers provide training programs, education, after school activities, and family support programs. Mr. Rojas also advocates for the welfare of seniors as a member of the Kansas City Silver Haired Council. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, an organization dedicated to charity. Recently, through Guadalupe Centers Inc., Rojas championed the decision to repurpose a building and create a youth recreation center that provides students with a safe location for extracurricular activities and opportunities to keep them out of trouble.

Throughout his life's work, Paul Rojas has served as a model of leadership and selflessness. His service in the U.S. Navy, his position as a Missouri State Representative, his chairing of the oldest Latino serving non-profit, Guadalupe Centers Inc., and his other leadership positions demonstrate his commitment to his community and his country. Mr. Rojas has made a unique contribution to each of these organizations, representing the reality of many underrepresented communities. His counsel empowers organizations to better make decisions about how to benefit those they serve. He continues to create a community that is well equipped to handle the issues it faces.

It is a privilege to stand today and recognize the contributions and devotion of Mr. Paul Rojas. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Rojas' remarkable service to the people of the Greater Kansas City area and beyond.

#### HONORING WESTERN FARM CENTER

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JARED HUFFMAN, to recognize Western Farm Center as the recipient of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Friend of the Farm Bureau award. For 52 years Western Farm Center has been the premier feed stores that serves farms in the Santa Rosa area.

Western Farm Center was founded by brothers Larry and Lou Bertolini in 1967. The store is currently owned and operated by Lou's daughter Maria Bertolini Frampton and her husband Trevor Frampton, who is the general manager of the store. Western Farm Center has been a staple in Sonoma County for decades. The store provides essential feed, seed, and supplies to the surrounding rural community, as well as exceptional customer service.

For more than thirty years, Western Farm Center has worked alongside the Sonoma County Farm Bureau to bridge the rural and urban gap by bringing chicks and ducklings to the Farm Bureau's Ag Days, a celebration that introduces city children to the wonders of the farm community. Western Farm Center has provided straw and additional resources for other events held by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Western Farm Center is known for being run by people who are generous and involved in our community. They frequently provide food and other supplies to Pony Express, All Aboard Dog Rescue, Sonoma County Animal Services, and Dogwood Animal Rescue. Western Farm Center played a large role in the days and weeks following the October 2017 wildfires. Along with their vendors, the store provided pet food, hay, and grain for cats, dogs, and horses that had been left homeless by the fires.

Madam Speaker, Western Farm Center is an important business in our community and has been aptly honored with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Friend of the Farm Bureau award. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the store and its owners here today.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER MIKHAIL GUSEV

#### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Alexander Mikhail Gusev, who was senselessly murdered in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center shooting. Virginia Beach lost Alexander far too soon.

Alexander worked as a right-of-way agent for the Department of Public Works for the City of Virginia Beach for nine years. Alexander emigrated from Belarus and gained an education first from Tidewater Community College and then through Old Dominion Univer-

sity. His friends described him as a great guy and a good friend. Alexander's life of hard work and service to the community, as well as his faithful friendship, will forever be remembered.

Alexander will be missed by all his loved ones. Hampton Roads significantly benefited from his presence; he made our community a better place. Today we remember and honor his life.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JORDAN VALLEY DISTRICT LIBRARY

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Jordan Valley District Library upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted service, reliable staff, and community investment, the Jordan Valley District Library has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Opened in July 1919 as the East Jordan Public Library, a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and an incredibly determined board of directors and staff built the library into the local institution it is today. Over the course of 100 years, the Jordan Valley District Library forged its path to success while maintaining its commitment to the community it was built upon. While its building and name may be different today, the Jordan Valley District Library still promotes the same ideals of giving the curious a place to explore and discover. The library's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated today, July 11th, in its original building first constructed in 1919. Day after day, the Jordan Valley District Library continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Jordan Valley District Library and its staff for 100 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Jordan Valley District Library all the best in its future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill The Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act to recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The Defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a

national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Defenses of Washington that are owned by the District or a unit of state governments to be affiliated with the national historical park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the storied history of the Civil War for both the North and the South, including the history of the Defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled; arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education and inspiration of this and future generations. Last year, I was able to have a hearing on this bill. Although the National Park Service testified against this bill, I feel strongly that the Defenses of Washington need additional recognition and should be redesignated as a national historical park.

The Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in 1861, as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmored batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize these sites by redesignating them as a national historical park.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN HONOR OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM).

State Statute and then Common Council Resolution established the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, on May 1, 1944, to address the need for affordable housing in Milwaukee.

Entering its 75th year, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee provides affordable

housing to almost 11,000 households in the City of Milwaukee through its public and affordable housing programs and Housing Choice Voucher program. Its mission is to foster strong, resilient, and inclusive communities by providing a continuum of high-quality housing options that support self-sufficiency, good quality of life, and the opportunity to thrive.

During the past 75 years, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee has provided stable affordable housing to thousands of families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans. They first accomplished this by acquiring a city-built, WPA-assisted development, and subsequently by creating almost a thousand units of housing for veterans and building other innovative developments; including the first high-rise designated specifically for the elderly and one of the first housing authorities to develop public housing single-family homes.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee works with its residents to provide them a pathway to self-sufficiency through its many initiatives and collaborations in areas such as public safety, accessibility, job training and workforce development, educational support, energy efficiency, financial literacy, environmental stewardship, household savings and homeownership.

It has done this as a national leader in creating healthy, safe, vibrant, transit-oriented, sustainable, mixed-income communities of choice. They have transformed neighborhoods and continue to be innovative in their methods and services, as well as flexible in responding to the affordable housing needs in Milwaukee. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee is a strong supporter of Emerging Business Enterprises, with over \$20 million dollars annually in contracts supporting minority and women-owned enterprises.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee has partnered with multiple federal agencies to bring housing and services to its residents and has been awarded multiple federal competitive grants, resulting in new and revitalized developments, including the very first completion of a HOPE VI grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee has been recognized locally, nationally, and even internationally with dozens of awards for both its buildings and its services from organizations such as the American Planning Association, U.S. Green Building Council, Governor's Council on Financial Literacy, the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University, Congress for New Urbanism, the State & Local Energy Report, The Environmental Protection Agency's Sustainable Communities Program, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, National League of Cities and the Sierra Club.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I am pleased to honor the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. This agency continues to be an innovative leader in affordable housing and makes the 4th Congressional District a better place to live and work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MICHELLE "MISSY" LANGER

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Michelle Langer, who was senselessly murdered in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center shooting. Virginia Beach lost Michelle far too soon.

For 12 years, Michelle, also known as Missy, was a faithful administrative assistant for the Department of Public Utilities for the City of Virginia Beach. She had plans to retire soon. An Ohio native, Missy's heart was drawn to Virginia Beach and she decided to call it home. Missy's life of hard work and service to the community will forever be remembered.

Missy will be missed by all her loved ones. Hampton Roads significantly benefited from her presence; she made our community a better place. Today we remember and honor her life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DEARBORN POLICE CORPORAL GORDON MORSE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Corporal Gordon Morse for his many years of service to the Dearborn Police Department. Corporal Morse recently retired after twenty-five years of exemplary work with the department.

Corporal Morse began his service at the Dearborn Police Department in 1993. In 2002, he was selected to be a K–9 Officer. During his tenure, he has served in a variety of roles including as a field training officer, a range officer, explorer advisor, and department chaplain. Corporal Morse has represented his department by engaging in significant outreach to the Dearborn community through school and church demonstrations. He has also served as an instructor for the Oakland Police Academy K–9 Training Center for fifteen years. In this role, he trained numerous police officers and has created a safer environment for everyone in the Dearborn community.

Corporal Morse served the Dearborn community in various roles for a total of twenty-five years. His commitment to protecting the Dearborn community has impacted hundreds of his fellow officers and residents. His work training officers has been crucial to the continued safety of Dearborn, and his outreach efforts have strengthened the relationship between his department and the community. His exemplary service stands as a role model of the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment of our police officers. His dedicated leadership will be missed, but we wish him good health and every happiness in his retirement years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the twenty-five years of service of Police Corporal Gordon Morse to his country and to the Dearborn, Michigan community. His commitment to public safety is worthy of commendation.