

The David A. Solari Post 151 of the American Legion works tirelessly for our community of veterans and their families. We honor the service of our veterans and congratulate the David A. Solari Post 151 of the American Legion on its 100th anniversary.

**HONORING THE BLACK RIFLE  
COFFEE COMPANY**

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work and inspiring mission of the Black Rifle Coffee Company, a veteran-owned coffee company committed to supporting those in uniform in each branch of the armed forces, law enforcement, and first responders.

The Black Rifle Coffee Company was founded in 2014 and was inspired by CEO and Founder Evan Hafer's time in the military where he recognized the impact something as simple as coffee can have on our nation's service members. With a goal of hiring 10,000 veterans, the Black Rifle Coffee Company has expanded greatly from Evan's basement to different locations across the United States and Canada. This growth was made possible by Evan and the rest of the owners, all of whom are veterans themselves: Tom Davin, Mat Best, Jarred Taylor, Richard Ryan, and Logan Stark.

As I have said before, I strongly believe the most important part of returning home from the military is renewing that mission and sense of purpose for our veterans, as well as the community around them. It is inspiring to see the Black Rifle Coffee Company take the initiative to look out for their fellow military brothers and sisters—just as they were trained to do on the battlefield while protecting our freedoms.

I'm proud to recognize the Black Rifle Coffee Company in this Chamber and thank them for their commitment to helping those who have put everything on the line for our country. This team and community of veterans is the embodiment of true patriotism, and I look forward to watching the mission of the Black Rifle Coffee Company continue to grow and inspire others to do the same.

**NORM HURST RECEIVES THE  
PRESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARD**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Norm Hurst, who received the Presidents' Choice Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

After serving in the United States Air Force, Norm Hurst went on to become a Deputy Sheriff for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Within the span of his 32-year career in law enforcement, Norm would ultimately be promoted to Deputy Chief. Long before he was a Deputy Chief, Norm's associa-

tion with Victor Valley College began when he received his Associate of Science degree in the Spring of 1974. Not long after receiving his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, Norm was encouraged to begin teaching within Victor Valley College's Criminal Justice Department. His service to the College continued in 2011 when he joined the Victor Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. Today, Norm continues to be an advocate for student success, and works tirelessly to fundraise for the Foundation's scholarships and grants to VVC's departments.

Norm Hurst has dedicated decades of his life to serving the public. Throughout his career in the military, law enforcement, and education, he has embodied one of the Air Force's core values—Service Before Self. Congratulations, Norm.

**HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE 1980 WINTER  
OLYMPICS IN LAKE PLACID**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic legacy of the Olympic Games in Lake Placid. This week marks the 40th Anniversary of the 1980 Winter Olympics, which featured some of the most iconic moments in Olympic history.

The first Olympics held in Lake Placid took place in February of 1932. The intervening half century saw the massive upheaval of World War II and the rise of the Soviet Union. The Olympics returned to Lake Placid in the winter of 1980 and brought the tensions of the Cold War with them. It was during those games that the amateur USA Hockey Team defeated the heavily favored Soviet Hockey Team on their way to a gold medal in what was dubbed the "Miracle on Ice." In addition, U.S. speed skater Eric Heiden's record-setting five gold medals helped cement the Thirteenth Olympic Winter Games as one for the ages.

Building this legacy has been an ongoing effort for over a century. Since long before the 1932 games, residents of Lake Placid have been working hard to make their community a destination for winter sports athletes and enthusiasts. Lake Placid and surrounding communities have sent at least one athlete to every Winter Olympics since the first one in 1924. In order to maintain that level of success, they have worked tirelessly to host other major international and national competitions that constantly foster new generations of world class athletes. It is for that reason that Lake Placid was chosen as the host city for the 2023 World University Games, where over 2,000 athletes from all over the world will come together to compete in 79 events.

To honor the 40th Anniversary of the 1980 games, throughout this week there will be dozens of events at all of the facilities celebrating athletes from the original winter games and athletes moving towards Olympic goals. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the entire Lake Placid community on this important milestone. I look forward to working with local leaders to ensure the continued success of Lake Placid and its athletes.

STRAWBERRY CREST HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROSS SPANO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls soccer team of Strawberry Crest High School for winning the Class 6A District 11 title.

The team exhibited strength and passion all year long. Then their many hours of practice and commitment to one another gave them an added edge on their run to the district title.

In the semifinals, the team showcased their extraordinary talents by shutting out Tampa Tech, 3–0.

In the championship game against a very talented Plant City team, Strawberry Crest was resilient in their effort and pitched a fierce comeback to ultimately win the game in double overtime.

I congratulate Coach Sean Woodhouse and his staff on this title. The time and effort you invest into our youth to help them develop into strong leaders and community members does not go unnoticed.

I also congratulate the following team members for their fantastic season:

Sheny Anauo, Cristoval Arevalo, Kamila Arevalo Cortes, Stephanie Briseno, Abigail Caballero, Ezra Carpenter, Ariana Diaz Cortes, Avery Fearnow, Isamara Flores-Hernandez, Andrea Garcia.

Alexa Guzman, Madison Hall, Emily Hobbs, Khajiah Jeans, Lydia Linares, Amanda Ocegueda, Lizabeth Ortiz, Ashley Parow, Emily Parow, Mei Ramsey.

Olivia Reyes, Emily Rosales, Danielle Seunath, Hanna Trotto, Hali Vician.

I'm proud of them all.

**IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH EUGENE PROKOP**

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Joseph Eugene Prokop, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who bravely served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and was tragically executed by the German Gestapo along with two of his fellow airmen.

Staff Sergeant Prokop, son of John and Anna Prokop, enlisted in the army in 1939 at the age of seventeen. In 1945 near the end of World War II, while on his fiftieth mission in the air corps, the B–17 bomber he was manning took anti-aircraft fire over Frankfurt, Germany and crashed in the city of Hanau. Until recently, it was believed that Prokop and the rest of the plane's crew died in the crash.

However, historians in Hanau recently discovered that Prokop and two of his fellow airmen—Technical Sergeant Charles Bernard Goldstein and Technical Sergeant Warren George Hammond—survived the attack but were subsequently captured by Hanau police and turned over to the Gestapo. Upon learning that one of the three men was Jewish, a Gestapo director ordered all three men to be executed.

Following this discovery, the German Consulate sought to contact Staff Sergeant Prokop's surviving family to inform them of the true cause of his death and extend an offer to honor him in his hometown as well as in Hanau.

On February 17, 2020—the seventy-fifth anniversary of the killings—Staff Sergeant Prokop was honored with a remembrance service organized by the General Theodore J. Wint Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 25 at his gravesite at the Scranton Cathedral Cemetery. His sister, Ann Spearmint, was in attendance. That same day, the city of Hanau, Germany memorialized Prokop and his fellow airmen by erecting a plaque at the site of their execution.

It is an honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Prokop, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation at a perilous time in our world's history. May his commitment to defending the United States and the democratic world order never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. GUSTAVO  
BALDERAS OF EUGENE, NA-  
TIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce my constituent, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of Eugene School District 4J, was named Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Balderas now makes three Oregon superintendents that have won the prestigious award, two of which hail from Oregon's Fourth Congressional District.

Education has long been a passion for Dr. Balderas. He is the proud son of migrant parents from Piedras Negras, Coahuila Mexico—who, like many migrants, sought a better life for their family in the United States. His parents saw getting an education as a path forward for their son and pushed him to follow this track.

Dr. Balderas is an Oregonian through and through—beginning his education in the Nyssa School District and Treasure Valley Community College in Eastern Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and then a master's degree from Portland State University, and, finally, receiving his doctorate from the University of Oregon. He has spent nearly all his 30-year career in Oregon.

I am not surprised the American Association of School Administrators bestowed their distinguished award to Dr. Balderas. He is well-known and well-respected throughout the state for his leadership in education equity. Dr. Balderas is committed to mentoring and providing counsel and direction to the future leaders of our state's school districts.

He has made great strides in increasing the diversity of Eugene 4J's educator workforce. Under his leadership, 30 percent of all district administrators, including 39 percent of school principals, are people of color, more accurately reflecting the district's 31 percent enrollment among students of color.

He has also partnered with community organizations to combat youth and family homelessness in our district.

In accepting his award, Dr. Balderas said: "This is a 'we' award, not a 'me' award"—accepting the award on behalf of his community rather than himself. I am thrilled that Eugene 4J has such a dedicated, yet modest, leader who recognizes the important work educators contribute towards making our public schools exceptional. In fact, it was the educators in his life that inspired him to follow this path. They made him a better student and the role model he is today.

Dr. Balderas' talents were cultivated in Oregon's public schools, and today our community is reaping the rewards from his capacity, capability, and commitment. I am honored to have an educator of Dr. Balderas' caliber serve our community, and I thank him for the outstanding work he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the students of Eugene 4J and all of public education.

IN RECOGNITION OF RILEY  
DOLENCE FOR HER REMARK-  
ABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CREW

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Riley Dolenca for her accomplishments in crew. As a four-time world record holder, Riley's impressive achievements are worthy of commendation.

Riley Dolenca is a student at Trenton High School in Michigan. Beyond academics, Riley is an accomplished athlete who has recently earned a host of awards and accolades for her involvement in crew. Since last November, Riley has set four world records in her age group including the records for most meters on the erg in sixty minutes, most meters on the erg in four minutes, fastest time to complete a half marathon, and fastest time to complete a full marathon. Despite her overwhelming success, Riley hopes to earn even more world records in the coming months.

Riley Dolenca's success in crew is a testament to her unrelenting hard work and dedication to the sport. As a genuine and enthusiastic team-player, Riley is regarded by her teammates and coaches as a humble and passionate leader who motivates others to do their best. Even as a junior, Riley already understands the importance of commitment and discipline. She will carry these values throughout all her future endeavors, and we are confident she will continue to achieve greatness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Riley Dolenca for her remarkable achievements in crew. It is clear Riley's future is bright, and we all wish her continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GEORGE  
WALKER SMITH

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor and remember the tremendous legacy of Reverend

(Rev.) George Walker Smith, who passed away in San Diego on February 15, 2020 at the age of 91.

Rev. Smith was a champion for racial equality and one of the most impactful educators and civic leaders in San Diego's history.

Rev. Smith was born on a plantation in Haynesville, Alabama in 1928. As the son of sharecroppers, he faced adversity early on in his life, as the local school he attended was segregated, substandard, and only offered schooling through the ninth grade. After noticing Smith's intellectual capacity, the plantation owner decided to send Smith to a nearby church-run school. Capitalizing on his educational momentum, Smith attended Knoxville College in Tennessee and later matriculated on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary School.

After completing Seminary School, Rev. Smith moved to San Diego with his wife, Elizabeth Irene, in 1956. Once in San Diego, Smith founded a Presbyterian church in Golden Hill. Smith's congregation, Christ United Presbyterian Church, later moved to 30th and Fir Street in South Park, which he led for decades.

While in San Diego, Rev. Smith did not limit his talents to the pulpit. In 1963, Smith became San Diego's first elected black official, after winning a seat on the San Diego School Board. Smith went on to serve on the school board for 16 years and acted as the board's president a total of four times. Rev. Smith left an indelible impact on the school board in his leadership and successful efforts to recruit a diverse faculty, at a time when educators of color were few and far between.

In 1970, Rev. Smith founded the "Catfish Club," a weekly lunch meeting that would become a mainstay for discussions on civic issues, local politics, and social justice. The "Catfish Club" created a safe environment for multiple views and approaches, at a time when the country and city needed it the most.

In 1976, he was elected president of the National School Boards Association. He also served on the National Advisory Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the White House Committee on Education and the Arts, the California School Boards Association, the San Diego Community College District, and the San Diego Crime Commission. He was the first president of the Citizens Advisory Review Board, which monitored police practices in the city in the mid-1980s.

As a Member and President of San Diego Unified School District, as well as President of the National School Board Association, Rev. Smith was the strongest voice for the achievement of all children. He was always probing the performance of students who would be first in their family to attend college. He believed strongly in accountability for all adults responsible for a path to opportunity for all young people. Although Rev. Smith retired from his church in 2000, he remained active and served as a mentor in the community.

Rev. Smith is survived by his daughter, son, four grandchildren, and a great grandson.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to personally witness and appreciate his drive to bring people together in order to create a better community. I always admired Rev. Smith's ability to keep education at the center of all he did; a wise and thoughtful approach.

I valued our relationship as I looked to him as a mentor on becoming a member of the