

For near four decades, Davis positively impacted all those around him, while zealously safeguarding the sanctity of our public accounts and our public trust. We have all benefited from his extraordinary guidance, judgment, and character. His dedicated service has greatly contributed to the security of this Country, and of free peoples around the world.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. It is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Davis Welch as he starts this new chapter of his life. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his superb work and wish him the very best.

HONORING COLTON MATTHEW
FRENCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colton Matthew French. Colton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colton Matthew French for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. This bipartisan and commonsense legislation will level the playing field for older workers in Central New York and across the country by restoring the ability to combat age discrimination in the workplace.

Speaking with Central New Yorkers, I have heard from many older workers who have expressed concern over the prevalence of ageism in the workplace. My constituents are not alone either. According to a recent AARP report, 3 in 5 older workers have experienced age discrimination in the workplace. Despite this statistic, the recent 2009 Supreme Court's decision in *Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc.*, has weakened federal protections against age discrimination, making it more difficult for older Americans to prove age discrimination and rectify these instances. For this reason, I

am proud to support the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. Under this bipartisan legislation, we will take the necessary steps to protect older workers against age discrimination in the workplace by restoring the pre-2009 legal standards for age discrimination claims.

Mr. Chair, age should never be a factor in employment decisions. Whether an older worker is forced out of a job or receiving lower pay due to age, older workers in Central New York and in the United States must be protected from age discrimination in the workplace. Troubling statistics published by AARP make it clear that age discrimination in the workplace is an issue that must be addressed by Congress. I urge my colleagues in the House to act in a bipartisan manner to protect older workers against age discrimination by supporting the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK
GAFFNEY FOR A DISTINGUISHED
CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Mark Gaffney as he retires from his position at Teamsters Local Union No. 214.

As a lifelong Michigan resident, Mark Gaffney has become a cornerstone of the Michigan labor community. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in Philosophy and master's degree in Labor Relations from Michigan State University, Gaffney launched a successful thirty-year career in workforce issues and labor relations. Beyond his role at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, Gaffney has also served as President of the Michigan AFL-CIO, an association of forty national labor unions representing over 700,000 Michiganders. In addition, Gaffney has directed the Economic Alliance of Michigan for twelve years as a co-chair, served as the Chair of the Board of Human Resources Development, Inc., was part of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth, and was appointed by Mayor Duggan to serve on the Detroit Workforce Board. Aside from his work with labor relations, Gaffney also has extensive healthcare experience and even served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. In 2016, Gaffney was elected statewide to serve an eight-year term on the Board of Governors of Wayne State University.

Mark Gaffney's professional accomplishments demonstrate his unrelenting commitment to the people of Michigan. During his time at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, the largest Teamsters Local in Michigan, Gaffney has represented and negotiated on behalf of Michigan municipal and education workers from all walks of life. Yet, Gaffney's dedication is not exclusive to his role within the labor union. Instead, Gaffney has endeavored to represent Michiganders in all capacities, ensuring their needs are being properly met. Gaffney is recognized amongst his peers and colleagues as a compassionate, ambitious,

and humble leader who strives for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Mark Gaffney's career with Teamsters Local Union No. 214. Mark Gaffney's unrelenting commitment to our state is remarkable and I deeply appreciate his continued leadership in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE UNION OF THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (UVSA)

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA) and the organization's tremendous contribution in organizing the highest-attended, longest-running annual Tét festival in the country.

UVSA is committed to fostering awareness of Vietnamese culture, civic engagement, and leadership development within the community. Since its founding, it has shown an unwavering dedication to community service and advocacy for social justice, both domestically and internationally.

UVSA's volunteers are students, alumni, professional, educators, and community leaders. When not organizing the Tét Festival, UVSA provides grants to other non-profits across Southern California, holds leadership development activities at high schools and colleges, participates in Black April commemorations, and holds inter-collegiate events with their respective Vietnamese student associations.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California.

HONORING CONOR ALLEN
LITTLETON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conor Allen Littleton. Conor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Conor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Conor has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Conor built a firepit at American Legion Post 58 in Smithville, Missouri, to be used for flag retirement ceremonies.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conor Allen Littleton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL STEWARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel Steward on his recent retirement from a remarkable fourteen-year career as first selectman for the town of Waterford, Connecticut. This tenure makes Dan the longest serving first selectman since the founding of the town in 1801 and ensures his legacy will last forever.

Dan was born and raised in Waterford and worked in the southeastern Connecticut region his entire adult life. He honed his managerial skills at Southern New England Telephone Company where he worked for twenty-eight years and then spent another three years as supervisor in information technologies at Dominion Energy's Millstone Power Plant, Connecticut's largest electrical energy producer. While still employed in the private sector, he began his impressive career of public service working to improve the town's public schools, first as president of the Parent Teacher Organization, and then when he transitioned to the Waterford board of education where he rose to the position of chair. In 2005, the people of Waterford elected Dan as their First Selectman, and he hit the ground running. This win was especially significant for Waterford, as they now had the leadership of one of their own, a true Lancer. This first-hand knowledge proved crucial for the growth and success of the town. Not only did Dan make structural improvements such as building five new schools; he also paid close attention to the individual problems of Waterford's residents. Dan's vested interest in the town enabled him to connect with everyone as his peer. He took the concerns of his constituents personally; his biggest gripe with the job being only that "he wanted to make everyone happy."

During his time as first selectman it became obvious that Dan had a gift for strong leadership and embracing change, something he knew all too well. His own father sold their family's dairy farm to developers who would go on to build the local Lowe's hardware store, giving Dan personal experience with the cyclical economies of small towns. When Dominion Energy's Millstone Power Station, a backbone of the current economy, was negotiating with the state, Dan remained a fierce advocate for Waterford. Dan's personal knowledge of the company gave him a unique and well-rounded perspective to facilitate a sustainable, long-term plan for its continued operation.

As the Congressman for Waterford during the bulk of Dan's tenure, I had the pleasure of working with him and the town on a number of issues, such as the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to Vietnam hero and U.S. Army Captain Arnie Holm, a beloved son of Waterford, the development of a long term dredging plan for eastern Long Island Sound, and the recapitalization of the New England

Central Railroad, to name just a few. I found Dan to be extremely thoughtful and positive, always focused on the big picture of making southeastern Connecticut's future strong and healthy. Although we are from different political parties, he approached the job of governing from a non-political, practical point of view which I believe is a refreshing example elected officials at every level of government should follow.

Dan's presence will be sorely missed at Town Hall, although he has certainly earned this next, hopefully more restful chapter that I'm sure he will spend with his wife, Kathy, his four daughters, and his nine grandchildren. Luckily, Waterford residents won't have to look far as he will still support the community by going door to door for the census. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Dan for his service and congratulating him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF OZONE HOUSE'S YOUTH FACILITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of Ozone House's youth facility.

The Ozone House is a community-based, non-profit organization that has been devoted to helping youth in crisis for the past 50 years. In Washtenaw County, nearly 1,300 youth experience homelessness annually due to situations that arise from neglect, abuse, mental illness, or other crises. In 1969, Ozone House was established to address this problem and help young people in the community learn how to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Each year, the Ozone House provides refuge for over 800 young people and arranges over 4,000 hours of professional counseling services at two locations in Ann Arbor and a drop-in center in Ypsilanti.

Today, we celebrate the opening of Ozone House's new youth facility. The opening of the newly-constructed 19,000 square-foot building demonstrates the organization's continued unrelenting commitment to youth in Michigan, as it allows the organization to improve its services and counsel more youth than ever before. The facility will provide more space and privacy to youth navigating trauma and crisis and will afford them a new sense of security, stability, and consistency. In addition to 16 private bedrooms that can sleep 32 young people, the facility will offer counseling rooms, an expanded food and necessities pantry, three kitchens, and laundry and shower facilities. Ozone House's new facility will positively impact the lives of hundreds of youth throughout our community and empower them to get through even the toughest of circumstances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the grand opening of Ozone House's new youth facility. In their commitment to providing a safe space for young people to help them grow and recognize their talents, the Ozone House continues to be an asset to the community. I am grateful for Ozone House's positive impact and wish the organization continued success in the years to come.

HONORING NOAH JAMES RIECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah James Riecker. Noah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Noah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah James Riecker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I am pro-life, pro-family, and pro-child. While my beliefs are rooted in my Christian faith, I am not naïve enough to believe that everyone shares that connection between faith and the sanctity of life.

Yet, no matter what someone believes or doesn't believe, everyone understands that life is precious, and it is a gift. I believe that as Members of Congress and as citizens, we are called to protect the vulnerable. This is one of my core beliefs.

But being Pro-Life comes with responsibilities. It's not enough to say that you are Pro-Life and then walk away. "Just say no" isn't enough when it comes to abortion.

Women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy need support. Sometimes they need a loving shoulder to cry on. And sometimes they need help to find adoption resources.

Being pro-life means not just pro-birth but being interested in the welfare of that child during their entire formative years.

That's why I am not only a long-time member of the Pro-Life Caucus, but also a co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

We must speak up on behalf of the millions of babies aborted since Roe v. Wade, but also speak up for the children who have been saved by mothers who chose life.

Let's work together to find new ways to protect the most vulnerable amongst us—to advocate for families to adopt children or become foster parents, and then promote the underlying structures that support these families.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank President Trump and his Administration for the work they have done to defend the unborn, including changing the rules for Title X and expanding the Mexico City Policy.