

around the world. To that end, over the last decade, IU has strengthened its position as a research powerhouse and invested in improving communities around the state.

President McRobbie's commitment to IU and also serving Hoosiers has made a lasting impact on all who have passed through the institution. His legacy will live on long past his retirement, and I know I join graduates, colleagues, and Hoosiers around the state in thanking President McRobbie for his service to IU.

RECOGNIZING MENDENHALL HIGH SCHOOL AS THE MISSISSIPPI 2020 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), which is part of the ACT's Center for Equity in Learning, is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. About 3.7 million students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have been served, submitting nearly 6 million college applications since the campaign's inception in 2005.

ACAC gives a School of Excellence award for each state, and I'm proud to recognize Mendenhall High School as the 2020 School of Excellence award winner for Mississippi. Mendenhall High School was selected "based on its demonstrated commitment to student success, timely submission of data, and serving as an exemplary model for our state's application campaign," according to ACAC.

As its selection for this prestigious award demonstrates, Mendenhall High School creates unique opportunities that have positive and lasting impacts on the lives of its students. Because of the hard work of teachers, staff, and administration, Mendenhall High School students are better equipped to pursue higher education or become leaders in their communities out of high school.

I am personally thankful for Mendenhall High School's efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, who are the future leaders of our state and country, is a crucial component of our society. I congratulate Mendenhall High School once more on being selected for this outstanding award and encourage the school's administration to continue this wonderful work, which is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

CONGRATULATING THE PROSPECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many

family, friends, and community members gathered to add my congratulations to the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, Connecticut as they mark the 75th Anniversary of this very special organization.

Incorporated on September 11, 1945, the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department was founded and continues today as an all-volunteer effort. Over the course of its history, the department has grown and re-shaped itself to meet the changing needs of the community, but at its core has always been dedicated members of the community answering the call and living up to their motto—"neighbors helping neighbors." Indeed, many of those who volunteer today are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations of the Department's original members.

And it is not just their volunteer efforts when it comes to combatting fires. From the dollars raised to buy their first fire truck to the construction of the Department's first building, to their most recent equipment purchases, the Department and its volunteer members depend more on the generosity of their neighbors and their community than they do on the annual town budget. As their written history accounts, "from the first dances at the old Chapel School House, through suppers, fireworks sales, "dollar a month club", Clyde Beatty Circus, and Carnival, the department has earned its own way. While a small amount of the expenses has been born by the town, fire coverage to equal that furnished by the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department would have cost the town thousands of dollars."

It is that spirit and deep sense of community that is what makes the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department such a unique and special organization. As the Prospect community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Prospect residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today's celebration marks the 75th Anniversary of the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. The courage and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what they do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

ABSECON DOG SHOW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize a group of innovative children in

South Jersey who thought of and started the Absecon Dog Show. In 2018, Grace Marzick came up with the idea to create a dog show for mixed breeds. Grace then told her friend Zoey about her idea, so Zoey decided to form a committee with a group of their friends. On May 23rd, they held their 3rd annual dog show. Grace, Zoey, and their friends went around town and received sponsorships from local businesses to help fund the event. They even made posters and hung them up all over Absecon in South Jersey to advertise the event. This year's event had the largest turnout with 51 dogs making an appearance in the show. All of the proceeds raised from the Absecon Dog Show are donated to the Humane Society of Atlantic County. For their first event in 2018 they raised \$600, in 2019 they raised \$2,100 and so far this year they have raised \$2,500. These students are remarkable, running this event solely by themselves. This group of extraordinary students have a bright future ahead of them and I commend them on their dedication and community service. God Bless Grace, Zoey, and their friends, and God Bless America.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MILT PETERSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Milton V. Peterson of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Peterson passed away on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the age of 85 surrounded by his family. The founder of Peterson Cos., Mr. Peterson will long be remembered for his outsized impact on developing numerous major projects across the Washington, D.C. region. He developed some of the most successful and award-winning mixed-use retail, residential and office developments in Northern Virginia. In addition to being a visionary developer, Peterson and his wife, Carolyn established the Peterson Family Foundation, donating more than \$100 million to area charities.

Mr. Peterson was a thoughtful, hardworking, and passionate individual who greatly contributed to countless lives in Northern Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in memory of Mr. Milt Peterson. He will be profoundly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I missed Roll Call vote 180. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 2062.

HONORING CHLOE CHANG OF PECK PLACE SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community's three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year's winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Chloe Chang, a student at Peck Place School submitted the following essay:

We dress in red, white, and blue, attend parades, and honor the men and women who have fallen in the Civil War. This holiday has been around for 182 years, and we still donate money, coupons, and flowers to the perished soldiers. Their sacrifices have allowed them to serve their country, putting the welfare of others before their own. How can we repay them? We can give a moment of silence, visit their burial ground, and learn about their history.

The holiday started in 1868, where North America was fighting to end slavery, and South America was fighting to preserve slavery. The war to end slavery lasted for over 4 years, and Robert E. Lee finally capitulated the last Confederate Soldiers to General Ulysses S. Grant. "Decoration Day" was declared by General John A. Logan in 1868. In "Decoration Day", flowers are laid on war graves in honor of the deceased. Memorial Day holiday was declared a national holiday in 1971 to honor those who have died in all American wars.

The Union Army has contributed immensely to our lives, and the least we can do is say a little thank you. The invaluable changes they made upon our history is indescribable, and we are forever indebted to them. These brave men and women have done much for their fatherland by sacrificing their own lives, and we continue to honor them on May 31, Memorial Day.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Chloe Chang for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

GREG DeSTEFANO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize Greg DeStafano, a resilient fighter who left an impact on all of those he ever met. Greg DeStefano was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at the age of 10 and he defied the odds, living more than 30 years past the doctor's initial prognosis. Greg's family was by his side every step of the way, and they emphasize the fact that he left an impact on all of those he met with his huge smile and kind heart. Despite the multiple brain surgeries that Greg underwent, he graduated from high school and went on to attend a vocational high school for communications. After graduating, he traveled to Mexico to help children in need. Greg longed to help others, despite his own struggles. Greg passed away at the age of 42 this year, with his family by his side, like they always had been. On the day of Greg's memorial, \$13,000 had been donated in his honor to the Make a Wish New Jersey Foundation. One week following his passing, the total raised was over \$17,000. The impact Greg left not only on his family, but his community, is remarkable. God Bless Greg and his family and God Bless America.