

When Curt took over Vistra, the company operated exclusively in Texas. Today, its operations span more than 20 states, and its businesses serve more than 4.25 million customers.

Throughout its rapid growth, Curt ensured the company took proactive steps to create a culture of inclusion, improve its spending with diverse-owned enterprises, and be a company that does business the right way.

Curt has always believed that electricity is the lifeblood of our society, and access to reliable electricity is a fundamental necessity of life. To prepare Vistra for the future, he has spearheaded the transformation of the company's fleet to meet the challenges of producing reliable, affordable electricity in a rapidly changing world.

The Vistra Zero initiative is a years-long commitment to powering America's zero-carbon, clean energy future. Under this plan, Vistra has already built the world's largest battery energy storage facility, reduced its company's carbon footprint, and initiated or completed over a dozen solar and energy storage facilities.

A native of Galesburg, Illinois, Curt never forgot the impact power plants have historically played in their host communities. He has ensured an orderly and responsible retirement process that treated workers and the local community with dignity and respect. Through his advocacy, Illinois lawmakers passed the Coal to Solar and Energy Storage Initiative, which will transform nine retiring coal-fired plant sites into renewable energy centers.

Because of Curt's vision, business acumen, and leadership, for years to come, thousands of hardworking men and women in our nation's building trades and energy industry will safely operate power plants, install miles and miles of solar panels, configure hundreds of thousands of battery modules, responsibly retire legacy plants, and reclaim thousands of acres at retired plant sites.

Despite all the regulatory, environmental, and economic changes, including the unprecedented impact of a global pandemic and weather events, thanks to Curt's management Vistra's future is as bright as ever. I want to express my appreciation and best wishes to Curt, and I hope that he will continue to guide America's energy transition in his next professional chapter and wish he and his family well.

HONORING AL WAGNER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Al Wagner who is Napa County Farm Bureau's 2022 Agri-culturist of the Year.

Born in Queens, New York, and raised in Connecticut, Mr. Wagner grew up helping his grandparents on their family farm. He attended both the Universal Technical Institute for Automotives and Diesel Mechanics in Phoenix, Arizona, and the University of Arizona. Throughout his life, Mr. Wagner has worked as a ranch manager, an auctioneer, a wrangler, and a volunteer firefighter.

In 2015, he became the Vice President of Vineyards for Foley Family Wines. Later, he

was promoted to Senior Vice President of Foley Family Farms. Mr. Wagner oversees 61 properties and over 200 employees.

Mr. Wagner is a staunch advocate for sustainable farming practices. He has received awards for his work in the Salinas Resource Conservation District and served as a member of the Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group for years. Mr. Wagner served as the director of the Napa Valley Expo Board for nine years, during which he pushed the board to approve the use of Merlot Hall as a winter homeless shelter. He worked closely with the Napa County Health and Human Services to ensure the proposal was approved. Mr. Wagner was also instrumental in bringing the BottleRock Napa Valley festival to Napa County.

A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr. Wagner now lives in Sutter County with his family on a small farm. He still makes the commute to Napa and Sonoma counties several times a week to oversee his vineyards.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Al Wagner is an exemplary member of our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of The Veterans Consortium, a nonprofit organization providing pro bono services to our nation's veterans with cases pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

The Veterans Consortium was established after the first Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims encouraged Congress to create a program to provide veterans with suitable legal representation before the Court—and help them receive every dollar in benefits they are entitled to.

A competitive grant was awarded to The Veterans Consortium for the formation of a legal services corporation to carry out Congress's wishes. Although today it is an independent nonprofit, The Veterans Consortium's founding members are four hallmark veterans advocacy organizations: The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, National Veterans Legal Services Program, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Over the past 3 decades, The Veterans Consortium has become one of the most prominent organizations providing pro bono services for veterans' claims, with almost 6,000 volunteer attorneys having delivered over \$400 million in rightful benefits, care, and compensation to American veterans. They did so by astoundingly winning over 83 percent of their appeals cases.

While this number demonstrates the effectiveness of the Consortium, it also underscores significant room for improvement in the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits determination process. That's what makes the work of The Veterans Consortium so important.

As Chair of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations subcommittee,

I have the distinct honor and responsibility of leading the only committee in Congress that cares for our servicemembers through their entire lifecycle: both during and after their service.

I'm proud to work with our VSOs to ensure those who have risked their lives for this Nation are supported throughout their transition to civilian life and are able to age with dignity. A critical component of that work is ensuring the Veterans Benefits Administration is adequately funded and that our veterans receive the benefits they need and are entitled to.

We know the benefits and claims process is in dire need of reform, and it has been for years now. That is why I will continue working with VA Secretary McDonough to improve upon the existing system, and by conducting rigorous oversight of all VA agencies to ensure they are spending the money we provide effectively.

Congress can honor our veterans—and the decades of committed work of The Veterans Consortium—by legislating and using the power of the purse to make sure the benefits and claims process is working for those who served their country. For all that veterans sacrifice for this Nation, the least we can do is ensure they receive the benefits they were promised and deserve.

Congratulations to the Veterans Consortium and the TVC National Volunteer Corps on 30 impactful years, and I thank them for all the critically important work they do.

CONGRATULATING THE GREENWICH WITCHES ON A VICTORY AT THE CLASS C STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greenwich High School softball team on an extraordinary season culminating in a win at the state championship game.

The Greenwich Witches won the state championship softball game at Moriches Athletic Complex over the Greene Trojans, by a score of four to one. Led by Coach Bill Curley, the Greenwich Witches rose to the challenge during their final game and, after an amazing comeback, the team pushed the game into an extra inning. Trailing by one run in the fourth inning, the Witches responded with a run of their own during the sixth inning and tied the game. In the top of the eighth inning, the Witches scored three more runs and sealed their state championship victory.

After a hard-fought semifinal game earlier in the day, the Greenwich Witches' perseverance ultimately allowed them to succeed in the final. They won the state championship thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire team. Pitcher Lily McCauliffe helped carry the team to victory with nine strikeouts during the championship game and eleven in the previous semifinal game. In the championship game, the Greenwich Witches began their comeback with a critical double hit by Reese Autiello. Additionally, Faith Ingber and Kiley Allen scored significant runs that carried the Witches to victory. Their perseverance and determination are truly inspirational and worthy

of celebration. I am confident that the Greenwich High School softball team will continue to be a competitive force for many years to come.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate the Greenwich Witches on their incredible 2022 season culminating in a state championship win. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication throughout this year.

HONORING BLOUNT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Blount Memorial Hospital.

Blount Memorial Hospital first opened its doors on July 24, 1947, thanks to members of the community who worked together to make it a reality. They named the hospital in honor of the brave Blount County citizens who served our country, those who died or went missing in the line of duty, and those who continue to serve today.

For over seven decades, Blount Memorial Hospital grew and expanded its ability to provide care to East Tennesseans. In 2019, the hospital joined the Mayo Clinic network and gained access to research, diagnostic, and treatment resources that allow Blount Memorial to provide better care to every patient that walks through its doors.

Today, Blount Memorial Hospital is nationally recognized for its heart attack and stroke care, and currently has fifteen facilities in two counties that treat hundreds of thousands of patients each year. Residents of Blount County also benefit economically from the hospital's presence, since Blount Memorial Hospital contributes roughly 15 to 20 percent of the county's economy, employs over 2,500 local citizens, and has—over the past 10 years—provided over \$400 million in charity and uncompensated care for folks in our community.

For 75 years, Blount Memorial Hospital and its employees have valiantly served the citizens of Blount County while forging lasting relationships with the community. It is my honor to recognize them on this historic anniversary.

HONORING THE HABEMATOLEL POMO TRIBE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe on the 10th anniversary of the opening of their Running Creek Casino in Lake County, California.

The people of the Habematolel Pomo Tribe have ancient origins in Lake County. Following the arrival of Europeans, the Pomo were the targets of repeated efforts of genocide, either through systemic violence or forced assimilation. Fortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful,

and after a 1983 federal court case granted the Habematolel Pomo federal recognition and a portion of land in Upper Lake, the Tribe began a campaign of economic sustainability that continues today.

The federal recognition of the Habematolel Pomo brought great opportunity to Lake County. Setting out to build a casino, the tribe worked with Lake County and regional officials, along with the community at-large, to create a series of Memorandums of Understanding that would guarantee the tribe's contributions to the County for years to come. This exciting opportunity came at a time when Lake County had the highest unemployment rate in all of California.

Since the opening of Running Creek Casino in May of 2012, the people of Habematolel Pomo Tribe have accelerated steady economic growth in Lake County. The Casino created 140 new jobs, provided the County over \$378,000 to improve the Lake County Sanitation District's wastewater system, contributed a one-time donation of \$636,000 to the Northshore Fire Protection District for fire and safety mitigation, and granted \$130,000 for field lighting at a local high school.

Beyond its monetary contributions to local government, the people of the Habematolel Pomo Tribe serve dutifully on local institutions, such as the Northshore Business Association, the Lake County Chamber of Commerce, and the Lake County Tribal Health Consortium.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake and its people have tirelessly served the people and land of Lake County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the tribe and its members here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2022, I missed one vote on an amendment to H.R. 4176.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 293.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF RALPH FRASURE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Eastern Kentucky's fallen heroes, Ralph Harlow Frasure, a 39-year law enforcement veteran who was one of three officers killed in the line of duty in Allen, Kentucky. Frasure was Captain of the Prestonsburg City Police Department for nearly four decades and a beloved School Resource Officer at Prestonsburg High School.

The best law enforcement officers will tell you it isn't a job, it's a calling; and it was with great courage of conviction that Captain Frasure lived to protect the people of Prestonsburg and all of Floyd County.

President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a former commissioner of the New York City Police Department once said, "No man is worth his salt, who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well-being, to risk his life in a great cause." On Thursday, June 30, 2022, Captain Frasure paid the ultimate sacrifice as he valiantly answered the call of duty to protect others in Floyd County.

His heroic death was the greatest display of love described in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this: to lay down his life for his friends."

In a Nation where police forces have been vilified in recent years by the actions of a few bad actors, may Captain Frasure's life be a reminder of the outstanding integrity and sacrifice that the thin blue line represents. We must continue to support our law enforcement officers across the United States, ensuring they are fully equipped, adequately prepared, and never at the mercy of evildoers.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky owes a great debt of gratitude for the life and service of Captain Ralph Frasure. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Clearnce, their sons Ralph Kelly Frasure and Robert Clarence Frasure, daughter Stacy (Mike), their grandchildren, and the widespread band of brothers and sisters in uniform who served alongside Captain Frasure throughout his career. May his loved ones find peace and confidence in God's promise in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

RECOGNIZING KENNEDY ANDERSON

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kennedy Anderson for her service to my office.

Kennedy joined our team as our D.C. staff assistant in July 2021, and quickly proved herself indispensable to our organization. In February of this year, she took on additional responsibility with my communications team and was promoted to staff assistant/press and digital assistant. Kennedy embodies our office's values of excellence, kindness, service, responsiveness, productivity, and accessibility. Kennedy's role is demanding and involves serving not only our staff, but also our broader community, as well as managing our paid internship program. On top of this workload, she always finds time to connect with each colleague, mentor each intern, and identify opportunities to improve our office's operations and constituent communication.

In her management of the internship program, she often went above and beyond, providing additional skills training, life advice, and job seeking support to talented young people with ambitions for public service. She worked with our Chief of Staff to improve recruitment of interns from underrepresented backgrounds. Kennedy unfailingly treats all who interact with my office with respect and enthusiasm and is among those special people whose positive energy illuminates a room—even a Zoom room. During our office's celebration of Black History Month, she shared