

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF TORT LAW'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the American Museum of Tort Law, located in Winsted, CT, which celebrated its second anniversary on September 25, 2017. In honor of its history and continued importance as a national educational institution, I would like to commemorate the museum and celebrate this milestone.

Since its founding by Ralph Nader, the American Museum of Tort Law has attracted national acclaim from media outlets including Politico, the New Yorker, the Boston Globe and the Washington Post. Its vital importance to our citizenry has been recognized by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Thousands of people have attended the museum and have come away educated, entertained, and impressed by its presentation.

The mission of this unique institution is to educate, inform, and inspire Americans about their legal system, with a focus on the right of trial by jury and the benefits of tort law. Through school group visits, self-guided tours, quality curated programing, and its website, the museum has shown true dedication towards the fostering of greater civic knowledge and awareness.

Moving forward, the museum has an ambitious plan to expand, including not just on-site operations, but broadening its reach by traveling across the country and becoming a resource for practitioners, judges, and legal scholars.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to personally visit the American Museum of Tort Law. As a former history teacher, I can attest to the tremendous value this museum provides through the details and historical context that brings to life the law and justice. Tort law has improved the lives of so many and this museum tells that story.

I am proud to have such an exciting and important institution located in my district. Congratulations to the American Museum of Tort Law on celebrating its second anniversary. May it continue to educate and inspire for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF LTC JOSEPH MCGRATH AND HIS INDUCTION INTO THE WISCONSIN MILITARY ACADEMY HALL OF FAME

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize LTC Joseph McGrath

for his induction into the Wisconsin Military Academy Hall of Fame. LTC McGrath's long and distinguished career is highlighted by the numerous accolades and successes he achieved during his service in the United States Army and Wisconsin Army National Guard.

LTC McGrath has been an integral factor in protecting America's security interests here at home, while also spreading peace around the world. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, LTC McGrath deployed to Nicaragua to help ensure the security of the Nicaraguan President and establish the future success of the joint Wisconsin-Nicaragua partnership.

In 2004, LTC McGrath was deployed to Afghanistan to direct operations in support of the Kandak ETT comprised of American and Coalition partners. LTC McGrath was also instrumental in providing direct liaison with the UN Ballot Counting teams, while also coordinating physical security for the provincial ballot collection compound during the Afghan Presidential election.

Upon his return to the United States, LTC McGrath's leadership led to the creation of the Warrant Officer Candidate School at the 426th Regiment, a fiscally responsible move that brought greater strength and security to Wisconsin.

LTC McGrath received the Bronze Star, among many other awards, for his honorable service and dedication to our country. LTC McGrath's commitment and courage have left a profound impact on the men and women he led and served with across the world, as well as continued security of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending LTC Joseph McGrath for his dedicated military service and congratulate his induction into the Wisconsin Military Academy Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHEAST POLK WRESTLING TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southeast Polk Wrestling team for winning the Iowa High School 3A State Wrestling Team Championship and the Class 3A State Wrestling Dual Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Wrestlers: Mark Ames, Cam Baarda, Gavin Babcock, Zach Barnes, Josh Barron, Levi Brand, Thaddeus Breitsprecker, Adam Brown, Gabe Christenson, Cade DeVos, Grant Dishinger, Devin Harmison, Nate Lendt, Gauge Perrien, Nathan Robillard, Joe Rowland, Sawyer Shaw, Ryan Strickland, Brady Wenner, Cody Wonderlich

Head Coach: Jason Christenson

Coaches: Jessman Smith, Jeff Evans, Jake Helvey, Jesse Smith, Eric Morrow, Pat Wilson, Tom Koch, Jeremy Dove, Grant Schmidt

Mr. Speaker, by winning two championships at this year's state tournament, this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, commitment, and determination. I am honored to represent each of them in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—BARBARA BECKWORTH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Beckworth, a community activist in Dixon, California, and small business owner with a heart of service and a strong desire to help others. She has been involved in nearly every organization and club in the Dixon area and has served in many leadership roles.

Barbara's commitment and love for her community as a leader is reflected by her involvement in several committees and organizations. She was past Chair and Member of the Governmental Affairs Committee where she continues to moderate the candidate's forums, she sits on several scholarship committees for the students at Dixon High School, and she's also served as past president for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Dixon Downtown Business Association. Her desire to make Dixon a better place didn't stop there. She also is past president of Lamtown USA and is involved every year in the annual Dixon May Fair Parade.

Barbara is a true civic leader. There are many words to describe Barbara: graceful, elegant, beautiful, but most of all she is simply the nicest person one would ever meet. She was honored with the Dixon Citizen of the Year in 1989 and is considered an icon in Dixon who is loved by all who know her. Barbara is also known for her beloved dress shop that was in Downtown Dixon for many years.

TRIBUTE TO RDG PLANNING & DESIGN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines, Iowa for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

being named one of the 2016 Businesses of the Year at the Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony earlier this year.

The Business of the Year award celebrates a local business that is dedicated to serving their community. RDG Planning and Design has helped to design numerous buildings, landscapes and interiors across the Midwest, but the company's dedication extends beyond their office walls. Their employees help embody one of the company's core principles of giving back to the community. From schools to churches, neighborhood associations to charities and non-profits, you'll find RDG employees devoting their time to making their communities a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Iowa businesses like RDG Planning and Design in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding recognition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—BARBARA COTTER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara (Babs) Cotter of Yuba City, California, who exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and possesses a deep desire to help others in the community.

Barbara Cotter, a retired educator dedicated her entire career doing what she loved best; making a difference in the lives of elementary school children. Her career spanned over a period of 38 years; 33 in the Yuba City Unified School District. As an elementary school teacher, she was inspiring, beloved, and revered by her students and fellow teachers alike.

In 1986, after surviving a life threatening medical diagnosis, she had an overwhelming desire to give back to a community that helped her through her recovery. She became a Reach to Recover coordinator, and eventually a board member for the American Cancer Society. Barbara's heart of service didn't stop there, she also volunteered for the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, the State Convention Planning Board for Philanthropic Educational Organization, Middle Mountain Foundation, and Girls on the Run.

In 2009, Barbara Cotter was honored with the Caroline S. Ringler Perpetual Service Award for outstanding service to the Museum and has been appointed to a lifetime position on the Museum Commission.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for

Roll Call vote 591 on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 591.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER
SERGEANT PAUL CONTRERAS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative ROBERT WITTMAN, rise today to recognize the twenty-five years that Master Sergeant Paul Contreras has served in the United States Marine Corps. MSgt Contreras is a true patriot who has significantly contributed to the defense of our Nation. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April, 1992 and was assigned to Recruit Training Center, San Diego, CA. He subsequently attended Marine Combat Training before being transferred to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA where he trained as a Packaging Specialist. Lance Corporal Contreras' first assignment was to Supply Company, 1st Supply Battalion, 1st Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, CA. Within his first month of this assignment, LCpl Contreras volunteered to deploy in support of OPERATION RESTORE HOPE in Mogadishu, Somalia. Upon completion of this deployment, he was selected to attend Marine Security Guard training, transferring to Marine Security Guard Battalion, Quantico, VA. Upon graduation from this rigorous course, LCpl Contreras' first assignment was to U.S. Embassy Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In July 1995 Cpl Contreras was transferred to U.S. Embassy Santiago, Chile for his second post.

Upon departure from Chile, Sergeant Contreras served with 1st Supply Battalion until early 1998 when he began the process of applying for the Marine Corps' Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence (CI/HUMINT) occupational specialty. Staff Sergeant Contreras was competitively selected to train as a CI/HUMINT Marine, attending school from January to June, 1999. SSgt Contreras' first assignment was with 1st CI/HUMINT Company where he served until being selected to deploy with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this deployment, SSgt Contreras participated in recovery efforts following the bombing of the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen. In 2000, SSgt Contreras returned to 1st CI/HUMINT Company where he served until June, 2001 before being reassigned to 2nd CI/HUMINT Company, Camp Lejeune, NC. During this assignment, SSgt Contreras supported various exercises including BATTLE GRIFFIN in 2002, and deployed in support of combat operations to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2002 and Babil, Iraq in 2004.

In 2006, Gunnery Sergeant Contreras completed his active service to pursue a civilian career but remained committed to the Marine Corps, joining the Select Marine Corps Reserve later that year. His first reserve assignment was with the Marine Forces Pacific G2X office. From 2006 to 2008 Master Sergeant Contreras supported exercises and operational requirements for Marine Forces Pacific. During this same time, MSgt Contreras was a part owner of a small defense contracting company dedicated to the further development and

training of Department of Defense CI/HUMINT professionals prior to their deployments into Iraq and Afghanistan. In the fall of 2008, Master Sergeant Contreras returned to the CI/HUMINT school to provide support to the training staff. His next assignment in March 2009 was with Marine Forces Command G2X office. Due to his excellent reputation, MSgt Contreras was requested by name to mobilize with Marine Forces Europe from November 2011 until August 2013 where he served as Counterintelligence Operations Chief. He returned to the United States for assignment to Intelligence Support Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve in Quantico, VA. In his civilian career, MSgt Contreras also joined the Defense Intelligence Agency's Counterespionage Division. He remained on Marine Reserve duty with Bravo Company until November 2014, upon which time he transferred to Individual Ready Reserve Status intending to retire. Recognizing the immeasurable contribution that MSgt Contreras had made to the CI/HUMINT profession, the senior leadership of Intelligence Support Battalion compelled MSgt Contreras to consider withdrawing his retirement request in order to serve one final tour with the Battalion and in February 2016 MSgt Contreras returned to Bravo Company. He subsequently participated in a US Army exercise at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and served as both Company CI/HUMINT Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor until his retirement in November of 2017. During this same time, MSgt Contreras was hired by the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity in the Office of the Counterintelligence Coordinating Authority where he is able to continue to support his beloved Corps by influencing the development and direction of counterintelligence activities for the Marine Corps into the future.

Mr. Speaker, few can match the dedication and Esprit de Corps that Paul Contreras has displayed over his twenty-five years of service to Corps and country. We wish Paul continued success in his future endeavors. Many thanks to Master Sergeant Contreras. Our Nation has benefited from his outstanding leadership.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—BALJINDER DHILLON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Baljinder Dhillon of Yuba City, California, who has dedicated her life to education. She currently serves as the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools. Her career began as a fifth-grade teacher at Tierra Buena Elementary School in the Yuba City Unified School District. After earning her master's degree she moved into administration, serving as the assistant principal at Tierra Buena and Barry elementary schools. She later became the principal at Rio Del Oro Elementary in the Plumas Lake Elementary School District.

Dr. Dhillon is dedicated to finding ways to fund programs that benefit teachers, staff and students. She is credited with authorizing cost-saving measures for the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools office by becoming more energy efficient, she's authored proposals to fund the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Grant and

partnered with the four county offices for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence Early Adopter Grant application.

Dr. Dhillon received her Bachelor of Arts degree, Masters of Education degree in Education leadership and a Doctorate of Education from California State University, Sacramento. She was recognized by the California Superintendents Educational Services Association as Spotlight Leader for November 2016. Dr. Dhillon was also honored for her dedication and commitment by the Sikh Temple Gurdwara of Yuba City at their 37th Annual Nagar Kirtan Sikh Parade.

TRIBUTE TO WILMA HUGHES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Wilma Hughes of Bedford, Iowa for being named the Lioness of the Year by the Bedford Iowa Lioness Club.

Wilma has been an active member of her community for many years. She is a dedicated church member, helping with bereavement dinners, folding newsletters, Friday night dinner preparations, playing for Sunday services and she's active on church committees. On top of that, she also bakes pies for the American Legion bingo night and volunteers with the Taylor County Fair Booth each year. She worked alongside her husband, Glen, for 48 years at their family farm and raised three children.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Wilma in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but the best.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—ANNA EATON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Anna Eaton of Vacaville, CA, who exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and possesses a passion for serving our youth. Since 2013, Anna has distinguished herself as the Executive Director of the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club where she helps provide a safe and caring place for youth to learn and grow. During her tenure, she has expanded the program to five sites and significantly enhanced the club's focus on support and mentorship of the members as they are prepared for future life success.

Ms. Eaton was also founder of Starbound Theatre, a recreation based youth program, helping to bring the joyful experience of theatre to the at-risk and diverse youth of Fairfield, Vacaville, American Canyon, Dixon, and Napa. Ms. Eaton also serves in shaping stra-

tegic groups within Vacaville Unified School District to address future programs and curriculum, as well as be the catalyst for three youth summits for teens in the Will C. Wood Interact Club. Anna also serves on the Board of Directors for the Vacaville Rotary Club as the Youth Services Director and advisor to the Will C. Wood High School Interact Club.

Anna was born in Vietnam and came to America as a young child with her family as they escaped from Saigon as the United States Forces withdrew. She is a proud mother of four and proud American who dedicates her life to giving back to the country that has afforded her so many opportunities. "Life is more meaningful when we evolve into a purpose greater than ourselves."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained and had to miss the vote on H.R. 2521, South Carolina Peanut Parity Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 591.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—BARBARA GRAHAM

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Barbara Graham of Vacaville, California, who exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and boundless giving of herself to the betterment of others. A woman of great faith, Barbara has been a pillar of the Vacaville community for many years. In the late 80's, she with husband and co-pastor, Willie Graham, founded the Christian Body Life Church in Vacaville where she serves and has served as Sunday School Teacher, Preacher, Choir member, Head of the Women's Department, and servant to any needy family of the congregation.

In 1999, Mrs. Graham answered the call to assist the Vacaville Police Department in establishing resource for victims of domestic violence. This program provides food, clothing, counseling, and many other free referral services in collaboration with city and county services. Since 2013, Barbara has also served as the Chapel Coordinator for David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base where she oversees hospitality and all aspects of daily operation and church services.

Barbara is a Board Member of Safe Quest Solano, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children, and was also integral to establishing the Supervised Visiting Care Program in collaboration with the Solano County Courts to provide safe spaces for troubled families to have visitations and promote positive joint custody child exchanges.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RUFUS HONEYCUTT, USMC

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Rufus Honeycutt, USMC, for his dedication and commitment to our country. SSG Honeycutt's extraordinary devotion to community and service reflects the best values of Central Texas. He is a fitting and worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SSG Honeycutt enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1960, and spent six years proudly defending his country. His military career included wartime deployment with the first combat unit to see action in Vietnam and earned him numerous awards and medals including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Vietnam Service.

Following his military career, Rufus has served those around him with boundless altruism and exemplary leadership. A profoundly respected pillar of the Round Rock community, SSG Honeycutt has dedicated his time to numerous community organizations, including six years of service on the Round Rock City Council. He continues to support fellow veterans by providing transportation to the VA, working as the Blood Drive Coordinator at Ft. Hood, and much more. He has volunteered countless hours in his community, and has consistently placed his neighbors' needs before his own. For these reasons and many more, his community came together in 2002 to honor Rufus Honeycutt as Round Rock Citizen of the Year.

SSG Honeycutt is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. Dedicated public servants like him make Central Texas a great place to live. I join his family and friends in saluting his honored work and commitment to our country.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—BECKY MARIGO

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Becky Marigo of Davis, California, who is committed to serving her community and has a clear passion for helping those who are truly in need. Through her work as a program supervisor and case manager at Davis Community Meals and Housing, Ms. Marigo helps homeless individuals find permanent housing. She coordinates with government agencies, private businesses, and charitable organizations in order to provide resources and opportunities to homeless individuals in her community. Her work has helped many individuals to move beyond homelessness and find work providing for themselves.

In Ms. Marigo's work with Davis Community Meals and Housing, she not only addresses the need of a whole community, she also works to ensure that she meets the needs of the individual. With every person she serves,

Ms. Marigo treats them with dignity, compassion, and respect. She has a talent for connecting with isolated individuals and helping them find comfort in their community. Once Ms. Marigo makes a connection with someone, she sees them through to success, ensuring that they have support every step of the way. Ms. Marigo's work helping those in need is a great inspiration and exemplifies what it means to serve your community.

HONORING DEE BRADEN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dee Braden for her service to the senior citizens of Coles County, Illinois.

On December 31, 2017, Dee will be retiring from the Coles County Council on Aging (CCCA) after 41 years of service. Dee began her career at the CCCA as a Volunteer Recruiter and was soon promoted to the organization's Executive Director. Under Dee's leadership the CCCA was awarded three Illinois Governor Awards for Unique Distinction, one of which came after ten years of research, development, and fundraising that led to the construction of the 25,000 square foot LifeSpan Center in Charleston, Illinois.

I have worked with Dee and the LifeSpan Center staff on several occasions to provide information to my constituents. Dee has always been most helpful and professional. It is clear she loves those she serves at LifeSpan and loves her community.

While serving as the CCCA's Executive Director, Dee simultaneously served her community and its seniors in many other capacities by serving on multiple advisory boards and committees. Dee has been a true champion in her efforts to enhance the quality of life for older adults in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dee nothing but the best in her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated service.

A LIFE WELL-LOVED IS A LIFE
WELL LIVED

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Albert O. Orta for his selfless service to our nation.

Albert Orta's extensive career began in 1947 after completion of his entry level training at Lackland Air Force Base as a member of the United States Air Force. There, he tracked and noted weather cycles. Soon thereafter, he was promoted to work on the base's radar and communication equipment as an electronics technician.

After his service with the United States Air Force, Mr. Orta continued to serve his country as an engineer with the United States Department of Defense at Lackland Air Force Base.

His talents for engineering were well recognized and his responsibilities increased. Early in his career, he found himself traveling to well over fifty countries briefing Commanding Generals and U.S. Embassy Ambassadors on communicative data and command post installation projects on behalf of the United States Military. His missions took him to Europe, the Philippines, Indo-China and to countries in Africa and South America, just to name a few.

Mr. Orta also worked on military aircraft as a radar engineer and found himself assisting on the improvements and installation of radar systems in the early B series military aircraft: B29, B36, B47 and B52. Mr. Orta's work was so noted as a leader and accomplished engineer that he was assigned to equipping and testing radar systems in the early F series military aircraft: F84, F86A, F89, F102 and F106. His proud accomplishment was his role as the lead engineer in the development and installation of new radar technology for the United States Air Force's F102 Delta Dagger, a \$6 million project at the time of his assignment.

Mr. Orta's outstanding accomplishments and his willingness to serve our nation faithfully and to the best of his abilities in all positions was recognized by President Jimmy Carter and a host of Generals and Ambassadors acknowledging his incredible service to our nation through his work with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Albert Orta and Mary Louise Guerrero married in June of 1949 and are blessed with 12 children, 31 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. Throughout his career and travels he recognized that sharing stories of his travels were important life lessons. There is no greater devotion of a father who returned home from a mission to share the experiences he encountered of a different life, different culture and hardships to emphasize the importance of hard work, the importance of quality education, to learn to be resilient and to appreciate the freedoms we enjoy today. He stands proud that his children and grandchildren are successful in their own professional careers; some educators, leaders in the private industries, medical field, financial advisors, some with a heart for public service and some who proudly served our country in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Albert O. Orta for his distinguished career and his proud service to our country; and to Mary Louise Orta for her service in standing alongside her husband, supporting him and their family throughout his missions.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ANDERSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Anderson of Minburn, Iowa, who, along with his cousin, Andy Anderson of Cedar Falls, Iowa, became the first Iowans to climb to the summit of Mount Everest on the North Face.

John and Andy have been climbing and hiking for over 10 years. When they decided to tackle the largest mountain in the world over a year ago, they began their training between heavy work schedules, preparing their bodies and minds for the physical and mental challenges such a climb presents. On the afternoon of May 21, all of their preparation paid off when they announced on their Facebook page that they had reached an elevation of 29,052 feet, the summit of Mt. Everest. Alongside the goal of just conquering the tallest mountain in the world, the cousins also used the opportunity to help raise awareness for veterans with PTSD. They plan to use the network they built in promoting this climb to help veterans and their families learn to use outdoor activities to help manage stress.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud of John and his cousin Andy for conquering the largest mountain in the world. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating John and Andy for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—BRYNDA STRANIX

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brynda Stranix of Yuba City, California, a pillar of the community who exemplifies the qualities of a true public servant. She is a proven leader who embodies a passion to help others. Brynda currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation.

Brynda's passion to help the community thrive is reflected in her present and previous work experience in the field of economics. She joined the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation (YSEDC) in 2001 with 22 years of experience in administrative management, accounting and public relations. Since joining YSEDC, Brynda has worked tirelessly with local businesses as well as public and private community leaders to identify ways to improve and expand business in the area.

Brynda takes great pride in her community; she currently serves in eleven officer roles on boards and commissions for economic development, and is a member of twenty-nine various advisory committees who deal with critical issues from healthcare to homelessness and women's issues. When Brynda is not busy attending a meeting, you will always find her attending a community event.

Brynda was presented with the 2016 Athena Leadership Award for achieving the highest level of professional excellence for her contributions in improving the quality of life for others, especially women, in realizing their full potential. Brynda was born and raised in Yuba City and takes pride in raising three delightful grandsons.

HONORING IOANNIS
IOANNOPOULOS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the important mark that Ioannis Ioannopoulos had on American society, as the original founder of one of the oldest known wooden school houses in the country. In order to fully understand the cultural motivation to establish this historic treasure, one must examine Ioannopoulos's early life. A carpenter by trade, Ioannis Ioannopoulos was the son of George and Maria-Canelas and hailed from the Petalidi area in Messinia that was then known as "Koroni" (the village of Skoutari, Mani). He was known by the Spanish as Juan Genopoly. Ioannopoulos—at the age of 13—was one of a group of indentured laborers brought to the New World by Andrew Turnbull to work an indigo plantation at New Smyrna. This group of 1,403 Minorcans, Greeks and Italians suffered mistreatment, starvation and overextended servitudes at Turnbull's plantation. The people were reduced to slavery, and treated with great cruelty by Trumbull, whose partner in the enterprise was the English Governor of the territory, who kept the colonists in subjection with English troops. This slavery lasted nine years, during which time nearly two-thirds of these colonists perished; but large crops of indigo were raised for the company—one year 30,000 lbs. it is stated.

In 1776, a new Governor having arrived, the petitions of these people for relief were listened to, and they were released from the tyranny of their master. One year later six hundred refugees, led by Ioannis Ioannopoulos, Francisco Pellicer and Antonio Llambias, walked to St Augustine and were granted asylum by Governor Tonym. They became the largest group of immigrants to settle in America in one group at one time. Collectively called "Minorcans", they were an important part of the fabric of St. Augustine history. It was on Saint George Street where the survivors of the New Smyrna Colony first settled after their escape. Since that time, this area of Old St. Augustine has been called "the Greek Quarter" and alternately "the Minorcan Quarter."

Ioannis Giannopoulos built a little house out of red cedar and cypress and put it together with wooden pegs and handmade nails, sometime around 1800. This building was a home first but, as early as 1811, members of the Genopoly family taught the children of other Minorcan families in the first floor "school-room" of this building. As the story goes, Genopoly, in typical Greek fashion, was worried his children would grow up without an education. Genopoly and his daughter Maria Manuela Barbara "Mary" Genopoly Darling were the first teachers. Then Genopoly hired a school teacher, and generations of children from St. Augustine went to school in this building. Juan Genopoly died in 1820.

Today, this preserved building is recognized as one of the oldest schoolhouses in North America. It has become the symbol of their

hard work and perseverance. It's now the main attraction of the historical precinct in St. George Street, Saint Augustine, Florida. John Giannopoulos left a deep imprint in the educational history of St. Augustine by establishing a school in his house. Now restored, it stands as one of the oldest school buildings in the United States.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—AMANDA WALSH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amanda Walsh of Davis, California, who embodies the values of a great teacher, educator, and mentor, and displays unparalleled dedication to her work. For Ms. Walsh, teaching is not just a job, but a calling. As an educator at Pioneer Elementary school, she has a positive and lasting impact on the children she teaches every day. Ms. Walsh is dedicated to the overall wellbeing of all students, ensuring that they are safe, fed, and taken care of. She can frequently be found working late to keep parents up to date and involved in their children's education.

Beyond her work in the classroom, Ms. Walsh finds many ways to serve her community. Over the years, she has been actively involved with the Parent Teacher Association and coordinated fundraising efforts for local schools. Ms. Walsh has volunteered her time for the Davis Little League and Davis Legacy Soccer Club.

A mother of three boys, Amanda is always busy, staying involved in her sons' education, music, and sports activities. Between her roles as a mother and a teacher, Amanda is dedicated to the wellbeing and success of children.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
PATRICK J. CHRIST, U.S. ARMY
(RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christ, U.S. Army, Retired, from Harker Heights, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving over two decades in the Army. LTC Christ exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and community; he is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

LTC Christ has shown sincere dedication throughout his 23 years in the Army. His commitment to serving his country can be seen through his extensive list of medals, including the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. In addition to his superb work defending our nation, LTC Christ held important leadership positions in the Mili-

tary Officers Association of America and the Association of the United States Army.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1992, LTC Christ continued to dedicate his time to worthy causes. He has served as a city council member in the city of Harker Heights, on the Board of Directors for Hill Country Transit, and the Chamber of Commerce. LTC Christ lives a life dedicated to other veterans in his area by working closely with the Area Veterans Advisory Committee and by founding the Harker Heights Veterans' Council. LTC Christ is thoroughly involved in many sports organizations in his area, namely the Tri-County Soccer Club and the T.J. Zimmerman Soccer Tournament which he holds leadership positions in, as well as many other soccer associations. LTC Christ has logged hundreds of volunteer hours in many organizations, including as Admiral of the Texas Navy for Governor Rick Perry. Community activists like him make Central Texas a great place to live and work.

I commend LTC Christ for his service to his community and country. I join his family and friends in saluting his dedication to our country, and being an embodiment of Central Texas values.

TRIBUTE TO NEWARK BETH
ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER FOR
PERFORMING ITS 1,000TH HEART
TRANSPLANT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for performing its 1,000th heart transplant.

Founded in 1901, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a regional care, teaching hospital that provides comprehensive health care services to local communities. Beth Israel is an important referral and treatment center for patients throughout northern New Jersey, and it is one of only two hospitals certified to perform heart transplants in the state. Staffed with more than 800 physicians, 3,200 employees, and 150 volunteers, the hospital serves over 3 million patients each year.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has long been a leader in cardiac care. It performed the first heart transplant in New Jersey in 1986. It was the first New Jersey hospital to use extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for babies awaiting transplants, and it pioneered the use of Left Ventricular Assist Devices for heart-transplant patients.

In August, Beth Israel's Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program performed its 1,000th heart transplant. Only eleven other centers in the United States have reached this milestone. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center deserves to be recognized for its achievement. I am proud and honored to have this medical center investing in the health care of my constituents and the citizens of the State of New Jersey.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2017 ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXCEL-
LENCE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving economic development opportunities for Asian Pacific American-owned businesses in the Washington, DC, region. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation.

The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our regional culture as well as to our economic strength and stability. In fact, Asian-American businesses generate more than 52 percent of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region. In Fairfax County, approximately 25,000 businesses are Asian-owned and generate approximately \$9 billion in annual revenue, creating 54,000 jobs.

Each year, the AACC recognizes individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the Metropolitan Washington community and economy. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards:

Member of the Year: Stephanie Shei.

Business of the Year: University of North America, State Farm.

Young Professional of the Year: Jhenileen Libongco.

Citizen/Company of the Year: Jon Peterson, The Peterson Company.

Non-Profit of the Year: AAPIVote.

Asian-American Business Leader: Dr. James S.C. Chao, The Foremost Group.

New Business of the Year: Logos Briosystems.

Chamber Partner: Central Intelligence Agency, Corner Media, MGM.

Mentorship Award: Dr. Gary Jones, Youth for Tomorrow.

Community Leader: Christina Chang, Chiling Tong.

Entrepreneurship of the Year: Terry Hsaio, Hook Mobile, Inc.

Chairman and President's Award: Haiwen Mackleer, Capital Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2017 Excellence Awards and in commending the AACC for its work to support all Asian-American owned businesses throughout our region.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
MONTH AND WEST VIRGINIA
CARING

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to November as being National

Hospice and Palliative Care Month and to recognize a passionate steward of a non-profit hospice—West Virginia Caring.

Under the leadership of Ms. Malene Davis, West Virginia Caring's hospice and palliative care has helped citizens in 12 counties receive attentive and respectful care. As we consider the importance of compassionate and dignified care during one's end of life, we must protect the fair and adequate compensation for non-profit hospice and palliative care provider organizations. I continue to be vigilant of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as the intermediary contractors who review and recommend reimbursement rates on a case-by-case basis. For our families, friends and the American people, this is an important aspect of our healthcare responsibility.

During this month, I call particular attention to the many physicians, nurses, caregivers and volunteers who offer invaluable patient service under the Medicare Hospice Benefit. I thank them for their skills and for their compassionate care.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ANNANDALE CHRIS-
TIAN COMMUNITY FOR ACTION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. In 1967, Fred and Emily Ruffing realized that there was a great need for childcare services for low-income and working poor families who did not qualify for subsidized daycare. They decided that they needed to take action to address this problem so they organized a meeting with representatives from eight local churches to set up a day care center and ACCA was born.

Since 1967, ACCA has continued to grow not only in size but in the number of services provided. What began as a group of eight churches 50 years ago has grown to 26 member congregations. ACCA has also partnered with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and its services and programs as well as the model of faith community and government partnership begun by ACCA has been replicated all throughout Fairfax County.

ACCA gives back to the community in a variety of ways. The Child Development Center (CDC) provides both developmental childcare and early childhood education to over 200 toddlers, preschoolers and infants. The ACCA Pantry collects from churches, schools, community groups and local businesses and delivers food and other necessities on an emergency basis to area households. ACCA's Emergency Assistance program handles financial emergencies such as payment for rent, utilities, prescription drugs, and minor car repairs for low-income families who have few resources to fall back on in a time of crisis.

The 26 partner ministries provide a safety net while the families recover stability. Furniture ministry volunteers collect and distribute gently used furniture to needy recipients, while volunteers from the Transportation ministry

provide rides to medical appointments. Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals every weekday to elderly residents who cannot fend for themselves. ACCA volunteers also spend a Saturday in April repairing houses—more than 110 homes have been repaired or rehabilitated since 1990. With the exception of the CDC, all of these services are provided by volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the staff and volunteers of ACCA and in congratulating them on this incredible milestone. Civic engagement is the foundation of a healthy community, and Fairfax County residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. Their contributions have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 31, I was unable to be in Washington and missed Roll Call vote No. 591, To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include South Carolina as a part of the Virginia/Carolina peanut producing region for purposes of appointment to the Peanut Standards Board. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH COYA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize someone who has had a profound impact on the Northern Virginia community, Ms. Mary Beth Coya. I have been proud to partner with Mary Beth on many issues of importance to the residents of Northern Virginia and the quality of life we enjoy, and I consider her a good friend. This year marks 30 years since Mary Beth Coya began her career with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), beginning in 1987 as a Legislative Assistant. During her career, she has steadily advanced and currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for NVAR.

Prior to joining NVAR, Mary Beth began her career as a staff member with the Virginia House of Delegates Appropriations Committee in Richmond. From there she took her passion for advocacy to the private sector, where she lobbied at both the state and federal levels for a variety of associations and companies. Throughout her career, Mary Beth has used her knowledge and experience to advocate for policies that would improve the lives of the members of her community. This has perhaps most been felt in the area of transportation, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA), a business-citizen coalition focused on advancing highway and transit projects of major importance to the region.

I have worked with Mary Beth and the NVRTA on efforts to construct the Silver Line Metrorail extension and the establishment of the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail system. In fact, NVRTA was the first private sector organization to call for a dedicated funding source for Metro, which is a goal that I share.

Mary Beth's career with NVAR and her role as a Board Member for the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance are inextricably intertwined. At NVAR, she has been an experienced and expert advocate for the advancement of major legislation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She was instrumental in obtaining dedicated regional and statewide transportation funding and has a passion for protecting the real estate industry. Due to her strong relationships with elected leaders at all levels of government and her extensive historical knowledge of the region, she has been an effective voice in ensuring that Northern Virginia remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Beth Coya on the occasion of her 30th Anniversary with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors and in commending her for her dedication to the betterment of our region. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with her and NVAR on numerous issues and I look forward to continuing to work with her going forward.

TRIBUTE TO DEIDRE DEJEAR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deidre DeJear on being named the Iowa Small Business Administration Minority Business Champion of the Year.

Each year, during National Small Business Week, the Iowa Small Business Administration announces winners of the Iowa Small Business Week Awards. Deidre is the president of the business marketing company Caleo Enterprises. She's also a passionate advocate for low- to moderate-income individuals and families, helping to strengthen their financial opportunities and knowledge. She led the United Way of Central Iowa's Financial Capability project, where since 2012 over 20,000 people have gained access to financial systems and improved their financial management skills. Deidre has created several programs to provide financial and business education in Central Iowa, among which three "boot camps" have seen 1,300 people come and learn about finances, business and non-profits.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Deidre, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. It is an honor to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Deidre on this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING EILEEN CURTIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has had a tremendous impact on Northern Virginia. Eileen Curtis, President and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, is retiring after leading the Chamber since 1994.

During her tenure, the Dulles Chamber has established itself as one of the leading business advocacy groups in the region, adding to the quality of life for our residents in the Dulles Corridor and beyond. I have been proud to work with the Chamber on a host of issues, perhaps most significant being Rail to Dulles. The Chamber was instrumental in the foundation of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, which helped lobby for federal funding which was eventually secured to help construct the Silver Line. The 23-mile long Silver Line has spurred major economic development along the Dulles Corridor and has been singled out by Fairfax County executives as one of the main reasons behind Fairfax County's continued economic success.

In addition to Rail to Dulles, Eileen has worked with the Chamber to enhance the region in other ways including advocating for STEM education in our schools, forging partnerships with the business and education communities, creating greater opportunities for our immigrant community, and establishing new local festivals and events to bring the community together. These efforts are among the many reasons why Northern Virginia is routinely recognized as one of the best places in the United States in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

Eileen's efforts have been drawn recognition from across the region. The Chamber's efforts in education have been honored by Fairfax County Public Schools on multiple occasions and the Washington Business Journal routinely lists the Dulles Chamber as being one of the largest in membership. Eileen herself has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business & Professional Women and as Executive of the Year by the Virginia Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives. These accolades speak to the strength of Eileen as a leader and the dedication that she has shown to our community. There can be no doubt of the positive impact that she has had on our community and our region is better for her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen Curtis on her retirement and in thanking her for her outstanding service to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. While she may be retiring, I am confident that she will remain engaged on the issues that are close to her heart. I wish her great success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRE-FIGHTER ROBERT "SKIPPY" TILEARCIO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of longtime New York City Firefighter Robert "Skippy" Tilearcio, who passed away last Wednesday from a malignant tumor resulting from his months of recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

Skip was a tireless advocate for the Zadroga 9/11 Healthcare Act. He came to Washington about six times to fight for its extension in 2014 and 2015, even before he was diagnosed with a fatal tumor. I had the privilege of meeting Skip Tilearcio when he would make these painful trips to Congress. On his final visit Skip was confined to a wheelchair but his spirit was as strong as ever. Skip truly personified the courage of New York's Bravest.

Skip Tilearcio was the 15th firefighter to die this year alone from a 9/11 related illness. Many more are sick and suffering from these dreaded 9/11 illnesses. But because of Skip Tilearcio's heroic and successful effort to extend the Zadroga Act, these brave first responders will receive the very best medical care and treatment. My sincerest condolences go out to his wife Tina and his two children Tatiana and Robert. R.I.P. Firefighter Robert "Skip" Tilearcio.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL DUNCAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend Daniel (Dan) Duncan as he steps down after serving for 10 years as President of the Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (NoVA Labor.) As President of NoVA Labor, Dan led the largest labor council in the Commonwealth of Virginia and which represents nearly 70 unions and locals. In this role, he has been responsible for consolidating the missions and concerns of the various unions and their members into one unified voice while ensuring that all opinions are heard and respected.

Dan has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working families. He is committed to the mission of NoVA Labor which is to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our communities. He learned these values from an early age—his grandfather was a shop steward at a shipyard in Cleveland, Ohio and his father was a rank and file Machinist. Dan joined his first union, the Retail Clerks Union, in 1973 at the age of 17 while working for a grocery store in Tennessee.

After graduating from the University of Chattanooga in 1978, Dan worked as a newspaper reporter. He later became director of the Fort Lauderdale senior employment program with the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC) which was formed in 1961 and evolved from the Senior Citizens for Kennedy organization. Working with the administration

of President John F. Kennedy, the NCSC was instrumental in rallying support for comprehensive health insurance for senior citizens. These efforts bore fruit when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare into law in 1965. NCSC's efforts were instrumental in passing this landmark legislation and the organization, now known as the Alliance for Retired Americans continues its fight to protect and preserve Medicare and Social Security.

Dan then accepted a position with the Seafarers International Union where he has served for 30 years in various positions. For the last six years, Dan has held the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Maritime Trades Department.

In his roles with individual unions as well as with the Northeast Florida Central Labor Council, the Northern Virginia Central Labor Council, and the NoVA Labor Federation, Dan has worked tirelessly to advocate for working families and support state and federal legislation that would even the playing field for the backbone of our society—the middle and lower class who deserve a fair wage for honest work and other employer related benefits.

I have personally known Dan Duncan and his wife Karen for many years and have thoroughly enjoyed our countless conversations and discussions on issues of importance. While we have on occasion disagreed, mainly on their terrible taste in baseball teams, but also occasionally on the best way to achieve a certain objective, we both know and understand that we share the same goals. These exchanges of ideas and opinions have been invaluable to both of us as we continue to represent and serve our constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dan Duncan for his efforts on behalf of the working men and women of our country and in thanking him for his service. Although he is stepping down from his position of President of NoVA Labor, I am confident that he will continue his efforts to strengthen and protect the rights and benefits of all and I wish him success in all of his future endeavors.

2017 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Thursday, November 2, 2017, at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals whose efforts have had significant positive impacts on their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Tom Sourlis and Susan Eleuterio.

Tom Sourlis is the founder and chairman of Mortar Net Solutions, located in Burns Harbor. Mortar Net, a product invented by Tom, pre-

vents mortar droppings from clogging weepholes designed to allow water to exit a building wall. Mortar Net Solutions is a tremendously successful company, and the product is currently used on cavity wall construction throughout North America. In addition to his remarkable career, Tom dedicates much of his time and support to charitable endeavors throughout Northwest Indiana including Tradewinds, the Crisis Center, Parents as Teachers, and the Porter County Community Foundation. For his outstanding devotion to such causes, Tom is worthy of this great honor.

Susan Eleuterio is currently a faculty member of Goucher College's Master's in Cultural Sustainability program in Baltimore, Maryland. She has established an extensive and impressive background that consists of many titles including independent folklorist, author, educator, activist, and consultant to non-profit organizations. Sue's extraordinary contributions to her community, however, are not limited to academia. She is active in her support for causes that improve the quality of life for others and encourage the protection of human rights, lending her time and talents to the Crossroads Fund. This organization, which is focused on the ideal that fundamental change occurs from humble, grassroots beginnings and supports efforts throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, benefits from the passion for justice, equality, and the academic knowledge Sue offers as a member of the Board of Directors, as the arts and the human condition are often intertwined. For these reasons, Sue is worthy of the commendation bestowed upon her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Tom Sourlis and Susan Eleuterio. For their lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to their communities, Tom and Susan are worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING ELLUCIAN OF RESTON, VIRGINIA ON ITS GRAND OPENING

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellucian on the occasion of the grand opening of its new office space in Reston, Virginia. Based in Fairfax County since 1987, the opening of this new headquarters location speaks to the growing presence of technology companies in not only Fairfax County, but the Dulles Corridor as a whole. We are continually reminded of why this area is rapidly developing a reputation as the Silicon Valley of the East.

Established in 2012 by the merger of Datatel and SunGard Higher Education, Ellucian and its parent companies have been serving the higher education community since 1968. What began as a single office has expanded into 20 regional offices employing over 2,900 individuals all over the world.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I know firsthand that the quality of life we enjoy in

Fairfax County is directly tied to the strength of our education system. This is especially true when it comes to higher education. Providing the gateways for students to succeed is essential and I commend the staff of Ellucian for working to create and maintain those opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, to prepare the leaders of tomorrow, institutions of higher education must have the services, tools, and technologies to engage and foster student success. For nearly fifty years, Ellucian has provided support to these institutions in order for them to achieve their goals. It is critical that our nation focus our sight on improving student outcomes to better compete in the world economy and I thank Ellucian and its dedicated staff for their efforts in this area. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ellucian on the grand opening of its new headquarters and in wishing it great success in all future endeavors.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL GERY BRENT TRUITT, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Gery Brent Truitt, U.S. Army Retired, of Harker Heights, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving 25 years in the Army. LTC Truitt exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and has more than earned our admiration and respect. He is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Upon his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant from Sam Houston State University in 1979, LTC Truitt began his military career as an Infantry Officer with the Texas National Guard and then entered the United States Army. As Lieutenant, he conducted more combat patrols inside the Korean demilitarized zone than any other officer in the 2nd Infantry Division, and as Major, he served in a variety of 5th Special Forces Group assignments. Just prior to being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer, which he successfully overcame in the next year. LTC Truitt used that time to revive the Columbus State University ROTC Program as a professor in Military Science.

This brave soldier is also a committed citizen. Following his military career, he continued to support the military in the Central Texas Special Forces Association. As President, he is responsible for an annual raffle that raises thousands of dollars annually to support homeless veterans' programs and local non-profit organizations to meet immediate community needs. His work to make his community a great place to live and work have made lasting and positive impacts on the region.

I commend LTC Truitt's selfless service to his community and nation. His dedication to our country and community reflects the best values of central Texas. I join his family and friends in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX WATER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairfax Water on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. There are few human needs more precious and more critical than access to fresh and safe drinking water. Indeed, we have seen what can happen when those needs are neglected, as the tragedy in Flint, Michigan reminds us. Prior to the creation of the Fairfax County Water Authority (now known as Fairfax Water), water was supplied to Fairfax County through many small, mostly private water systems, and a limited number of public systems. There was no standardization between systems and each system maintained its own rate schedule and level of service. In order to improve service reliability, establish equitable rates, and provide effective fire protection throughout Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors created Fairfax Water in September 1957 for the purpose of "acquiring, constructing, operating and maintaining an integrated water system for supplying and distributing water."

The acquisition of water systems began in 1959 with the purchase of the Annandale Water Company. Over the next eight years, Fairfax Water acquired an additional 17 systems and began to build a comprehensive water-supply system. By the end of 1967, Fairfax Water had 832 miles of mains, 3,354 fire hydrants, and 54,000 metered accounts serving more than 425,000 people. By 1982, that number had grown to more than 1,800 miles of mains, more than 10,300 fire hydrants and nearly 126,000 metered accounts serving more than 650,000 people. By 1994, it would reach more than 2,700 miles of water mains, more than 17,300 fire hydrants and more than 197,300 meters.

Those numbers show a county undergoing tremendous growth in both population and urbanization. The challenges associated with that are numerous and the temptation of providing service while overlooking the quality of that service is real. However, Fairfax Water has never allowed itself to fall into that trap. Instead, it has approached every new challenge with its mission in mind: providing safe, clean drinking water to Fairfax County residents and ensuring that the County's water supply is maintained. There have certainly been no shortage of challenges—from supply issues stemming from the use of a single source (the Occoquan River) to natural disasters to the threat of terrorism, Fairfax Water has risen to meet those challenges. Its work stands as testament to the strength and character of the ethos of public service in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phillip Allin, Charles Murray, the members of the Board of Directors and the entire staff of Fairfax Water. I thank them for their service to our community and for maintaining the proud legacy of this organization while adapting it to meet the challenges of the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 591 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2521—the South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017, I am not recorded because I was home in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TRIBUTE TO CAPITAL CHIROPRACTIC AND REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center of Des Moines, Iowa for being named one of the 2016 Businesses of the Year at the Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony earlier this year.

The Business of the Year award celebrates a local business that is dedicated to serving their community. Since Dr. Chris LoRang launched Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center in 2013, it has won numerous awards for the service they provide in family and sports medicine to people of all ages. The clinic encourages employees to be active in the community, and you can find them involved in organizations around the area, including neighborhood associations, school foundations, chamber of commerce council's and chiropractic societies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent local businesses like Capital Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding recognition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKTON LIBRARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Oakton Library on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This project represents the fulfillment of a promise I made to this community more than a decade ago, during my time as both Providence District Supervisor and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Working with engaged citizens, we identified a need for new meeting space as well as a new library in the Oakton community. But we didn't stop there. We rolled up our sleeves and went to work. We worked with developers to secure the necessary land, with my col-

leagues on the Board to secure and pass the necessary bond referendums and with the community to raise awareness and support for this necessary addition. These efforts bore fruit and in 2007 we celebrated the dedication of the new Oakton Library. Ten years later, the library stands as a pillar of the Oakton community and I am confident that it will continue to serve that role for many more decades to come.

I wish to give special recognition to the members of the Friends of Oakton Library, who worked with myself and others side by side on every step of this project. Together, we guided what was once just a concept into a brick-and-mortar reality.

We are incredibly fortunate in Fairfax County to have such dedicated citizens, who go out of their way for the betterment of the lives of others. I have often said that local government is where the rubber meets the road. The level of accountability is absolute. You either solved the problem or you didn't . . . and everyone knows where you live and has your phone number! My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I accomplished a lot together during my time in Fairfax County government, but the completion of the Oakton Library remains one of my proudest moments in local government. A testament to what can happen when like-minded individuals are willing to back up their words and desires with concrete, often unglamorous actions. The Oakton community and indeed all of Fairfax County is better off today because people were willing to put in the work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Friends of Oakton Library and the entire Oakton community on this important anniversary. I commend them for their contributions to Fairfax County and wish them great success in all their future endeavors. I am confident that we will be observing many more anniversaries of this library still to come.

RETIREMENT OF MAYOR
RAYMOND BODNAR**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable public servant from my district, Mayor Raymond G. Bodnar of Munhall, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after 53 years of service to his community.

Mr. Bodnar has been the Mayor of Munhall Borough for the last 30 years, but his service to his nation and community began long before that. As a young man, he served in the Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged in 1955. In addition to working for 40 years for the U.S. Steel Corporation, he served eight years as auditor of Munhall and another fifteen as a member and then President of the Munhall Borough Council. In 1987, he was elected mayor, a position which he has honorably filled for the last three decades, and in which he has worked tirelessly to improve the Munhall community.

During his career, Mayor Bodnar has supported and secured funding for such important projects as developing the Munhall waterfront, revitalizing the town's Main Street, modernizing the police department, and introducing public safety and crime prevention programs.

Beyond his duties as a civil servant, he has also given back to his community in countless ways, including managing the youth Munhall Baseball League, organizing summer athletic programs, working with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church groups, and teaching local government to youth groups and schools. He is also a member of a number of community service organizations, including Knights of Columbus No. 2201, the Catholic War Veterans Association, the Homestead Elks, and the Steel Valley Salvation Army Board of Directors.

For more than 50 years, Raymond Bodnar has demonstrated wholehearted dedication to public service and community involvement, and I think that we can all learn something from his example. I wish to congratulate the mayor on his retirement and commend him for his lifetime of devotion to the Munhall community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on October 31, 2017 as my flight to Washington D.C. was delayed and prevented me from being on the House floor in time.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 591.

RECOGNIZING THE 26TH ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 26th Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. These awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of Reston. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community and tonight's event proves that Reston is one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia! That is due in no small part to the actions of those honored here this evening and I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. I also wish to thank Kerrie Wilson of Cornerstones and Mark Ingrao of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts on behalf of others and in making our community one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2017 Best of Reston Awards:

Corporate/Business Leader:
Odin, Feldman and Pittleman, PC
Small Business Leader:
CST Group
Volunteerism Through Nonprofit Service:
Women Giving Back
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Community Leader:
Bill Keefe
Gillian and Vincent Seske
Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award:
Herb Williams-Bafoe
Robert E. Simon Community Service Award:
Vicky Wingert

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2017 Best of Reston honorees for their tremendous contributions. I thank Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for continuing this wonderful tradition, and I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for lending their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE BARANCZYK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Drake Women's Basketball Coach Jennie Baranczyk on being awarded the 2017 Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award.

The Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award is annually presented to Drake University faculty or staff members who have "demonstrated personal commitment to volunteerism and community service." Jennie just completed her fifth season at the helm of the women's basketball team for the Drake Bulldogs, where not only she, but a number of her players, has won numerous awards and recognitions. Off the court, she leads her team in giving back to the community, reaching their annual 1,000 hour goal of community service for four straight years. Organizations throughout the Des Moines area, and the people they serve, have benefited from the team's generous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Jennie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennie for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

HONORING CAPTAIN SKIP BLANCETT, USN (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Skip Blancett, USN, Retired of Salado, Texas. With a career spanning over two decades, CAPT Blancett is a true patriot, a faith-filled citizen, and unquestionably a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CAPT Blancett joined the Navy at age 29 and was stationed in Guam, where he helped fulfill the spiritual needs of others. CAPT Blancett went on to serve his country in eight other stations around the world, with duties ranging from Public Affairs Officer, to teaching a course in the Naval War College, to furthering the spiritual state of his fellow sailors through various tactics with the Chaplain Corps.

CAPT Blancett's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his community. Upon retirement, the call to serve continued to burn inside. CAPT Blancett has gracefully served as Mayor of Salado since 2014 where he has been a champion of the Village's growing economy and its hard-working citizens. He is beloved by the Village of Salado for his leadership, commitment to faith, and passion for his community.

CAPT Blancett serves the people of Salado with the same dedication, honor, and humility with which he served his country. He is an exemplary man who shows the utmost commitment to his family, community, and above all, his faith. May we all follow the example of great men such as CAPT Blancett, and live a life of hard work, loyalty and service to others.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHERIF SADKI AS THE 2017 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Cherif Sadki, principal of Gar-Field Senior High School, as the 2017 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia.

Each year, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, which is the seventh largest school administrators' organization in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, selects a principal to represent the state as the nominee for the National Principal of the Year Program.

As the 2017 nominee, Dr. Sadki is commended for his "creativity and imagination in bringing about positive change, improving the educational program and student achievement; ensuring a school climate that reflects high staff and student morale; and for involving the community in the life of the school."

At the helm of Gar-Field Senior High School for the past five years, Dr. Sadki has implemented countless policy changes and program adjustments to address the needs of the increasingly diverse student population. Of the roughly 2,500 students enrolled in Gar-Field Senior High School last year, approximately half spoke a language other than English at home. One to never shy away from a challenge, Dr. Sadki rolled up his sleeves, transformed the teaching model, and embedded English instruction into the core curriculum to meet the needs of the diverse student body.

For his foresight, engagement of the community, and commitment to ensuring that all students receive a world-class education, it is my honor to include in the Record, Dr. Cherif Sadki.

Dr. Sadki is the standard-bearer at the regional and national level for educating English learners. He attributes much of his success in

reshaping the mission of Gar-Field Senior High School to the efforts of a supportive community, a focused group of educators, and a dedicated administrative staff. Instead of seeing students who embraced a failing attitude, he saw children who had not been given an opportunity to succeed. Dr. Sadki saw teachers who needed encouragement, training and support and a community that could be convinced that success was possible.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Cherif Sadki, principal of Gar-Field Senior High School on his selection as the 2017 Outstanding High School Principal for Virginia. His leadership and dedication to the students, teachers, and faculty as he works to ensure a bright future for all who pass through the doors of Gar-Field Senior High School is truly commendable and worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF MEREDITH COREY-DISCH, OWNER OF COMMUNITY LOAVES

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Meredith Corey-Disch, a leader and business owner in my district, who was a recipient of a spot at the James Beard Foundation's Inaugural Class of the Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Fellowship program. This program, hosted at the prestigious Babson College, aims to help female chefs and owners grow their businesses by cultivating women's leadership in the culinary industry.

Meredith Corey-Disch and her business partner, Sarah Bogdanovitch, are exceptional entrepreneurs. Their business was founded on the belief that it should be local, community focused space that provides organic, traditional foods with shared work and fair pay. "Community Loaves" began in 2011 in Jacksonville, as an organic bike-delivered subscription bakery. The pair then opened a bread shop in 2014, where they served all-organic bread and pastries for breakfast and lunch. They kept the business community focused by holding special pizza nights and farm to table dinners in their garden and invited surrounding neighbors to these events.

Meredith began her love of bread making through an apprenticeship in a bakery, while brainstorming ways she could start a business people would enjoy back in her hometown of Jacksonville. She can be described as thoughtful, kind, generous, and creative. With these skills, along with her passion of bread making, Meredith will continue to spread her passion throughout Northeast Florida. We need more creative small business owners like Meredith. She has been a true example of leadership for women in Northeast Florida and I look forward to seeing her future culinary successes.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Meredith Corey-Disch for her leadership in not only the culinary community, but in Northeast Florida as well.

RECOGNIZING RED CREEK HIGH SCHOOL'S BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding students, faculty, and staff at Red Creek High School. The mission statement of the Red Creek Central School District is to educate students with equity, and help them master fundamental skills. I would like to commend the hard work of the Red Creek Central School District for making Red Creek High School a safe and welcoming place to learn.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private schools based on overall academic excellence or ability in closing achievement gaps among students. Every year the United States Department of Education seeks out, and honors, schools that tirelessly work to help students grow academically. Red Creek High School is one of just 19 New York State schools to receive the prestigious "Exemplary High Performing Schools" award from the United States Department of Education this year.

Since the Blue Ribbon Award was first created in 1982, only four other schools in Wayne-Finger Lakes region have garnered Blue Ribbon status. Red Creek High School was awarded its Blue Ribbon Award this year for the strong academic performance of its student body. The teachers and administrators at Red Creek High School work hard each day to make learning exciting, and encourage their students that they can achieve their goals both inside and outside of the classroom. I'm proud to recognize this stellar high school in my district, and applaud the students, parents, administrators and teachers for their efforts.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL SCHRAGE OF THE CRYSTAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Chief Michael Schrage on his 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter with the Crystal City Fire Department in Crystal City, Missouri. A celebration will be held on November 13, 2017 to honor Assistant Chief Schrage and commemorate his more than 50 years of service starting in 1967.

Born to Robert and Wanda Schrage on September 7, 1953, Mr. Schrage was one of five children. On August 11, 1976, Mr. Schrage married his beloved wife of 39 years, Janet Sue. Janet and Michael had one daughter, Brandi, and have also welcomed into the family Brandi's husband, Daniel and their granddaughter, Audri. In 1975, Mr. Schrage joined the Joachim Platin Ambulance District. During that same year, he began working with his father, Mr. Robert (Bob) Schrage, at the family business, Schrage Electric. Mr. Schrage earned his certificate in Fire Science Technology from Jefferson College on May 23,

1978. In 1990 when his father retired, Mr. Schrage took over the family business and is still operating it today. Throughout his life, Mr. Schrage has served the Festus, Jefferson R-7, and Crystal City Fire Departments. Since 2009, Mr. Schrage has served as the commissioner for the Festus Special Road District. Additionally, he serves his community as a member of the Twin city Area Chamber of Commerce and Elks Lodge 1721. He also attends Good News Community Church.

Throughout Mr. Schrage's service, he has held the position of Fire Fighter, Captain, and Assistant Chief. Mr. Schrage is currently the Assistant Chief at the Crystal City Fire Department. In 2013, he was given the award of Fire Chief of the Year in Jefferson County. In 2016, he was the Grand Marshall at the Jefferson County Fire Engine Rally and the Crystal City Homecoming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Assistant Chief Michael Schrage on 50 dedicated years of service to his community. The commitment he has shown to the Crystal City Fire Department has been greatly appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on October 31, 2017 for Roll Call Vote 591. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Aye on Roll Call Vote 591.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, I was absent for recorded vote No. 591. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE DECLERCK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michelle DeClerck on being awarded the Women in Business Champion of the Year by the Iowa Small Business Administration.

Every year, during National Small Business Week, the Iowa Small Business Administration announces winners of the Iowa Small Business Week Awards. Michelle is the founder and president of Conference Event Management in West Des Moines. In its 13 years, Michelle has grown the company across Iowa and around the globe. One of her passions in life is promoting women in business and fostering the growth of women business owners. She devotes her time and energy to several organizations that advocate for, mentors, and

supports women business owners, encouraging them to enter the world of business ownership. She also serves with organizations that focus on aiding the hungry and homeless in Central Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Michelle, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. I am honored to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Michele for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF BELL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bell on its 90th anniversary. I am deeply honored to represent this city as part of California's 40th Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bell and its residents on the city's anniversary.

The foundation of the City of Bell can be traced back to the arrival of the first group of settlers in the mid-1870s. Among the settlers were the city founder James George Bell and his wife and children. They moved to a property on Gage Avenue that is now known as the Bell House. The house is now a historic landmark filled with antique furnishings, vintage clothing, and photographs, and is open for the public to visit.

In 1898, the town's name was officially changed from Rancho San Antonio to Bell, in honor of its pioneer founders. The City of Bell was incorporated in 1927 and is a small, vibrant community composed of young families, small businesses, and an industrial district.

Between 1920 and 1935, Bell experienced a growth spurt where schools, businesses, and community organizations were established, such as the Bell Chamber of Commerce and Bell High School.

Since its incorporation, the city has expanded its facilities, obtained land for public parks and recreational areas, and acquired basic amenities such as a city hall, parks, a fire department building, and a police department.

The city has recently enhanced transparency and accountability within the city government. In 2013, the city's website earned an A— from a non-profit organization that examines state and local government transparency. Through the city website, the public can now watch live streaming council meetings, look up city contracts, view warrant payments and public officials' salaries and compensations, and review budget information.

Over the years, Bell has become a vibrant city with an innovative approach to enhancing its services and infrastructure in order to support its growing community. Bell encourages programs that provide recreational activities and community services, preserve and improve the environment, and protect the safety of Bell residents.

In 2016, the Bell City Council adopted a five-year strategic plan, which outlines the top

five targets for the city: economic development, community outreach, public image, developing and improving strong city management, and fiscal sustainability.

Currently, the City of Bell is mostly composed of a large Latino population and a growing Lebanese American community. Bell's commitment to community engagement can be seen through the various programs it offers to youth, adults, and seniors.

Over 700 children are participating in the city's soccer program and parents turn out in large numbers to support their kids. Some parents even become team coaches. The city has also developed new adult sports programs, and has been renovating parks by establishing maintenance procedures for the synthetic fields.

Ernest Debs Park, which is home to the youth soccer program, includes a synthetic soccer field with covered bleachers and a covered fitness zone that are available to residents every day of the week. The largest park in the city is Veterans Memorial Park, which commemorates the contributions of war veterans to our country and our freedom. Veterans Memorial Park includes a veterans monument, a rose garden, a baseball field with stadium seating, two large park pavilions, and batting cages.

Family events such as the city's annual street festival, the Summer Concert Series, and the Bell 5K Run/Walk have also been developed to promote community, health, and fitness in the city. The city's smartphone application has made it possible for its residents to report street improvements, pickup of bulky items, and graffiti removals through the touch of a button.

The new City of Bell Technology Center has provided a safe learning environment where both adults and youth can access computers. This Technology Center provides free after-school computer skills training classes, which include introductions to computer equipment and operation, word processing techniques, e-mail correspondence, and fundamental skills required for safe web access.

As the City of Bell celebrates its 90th anniversary this month, the community will also be celebrating some of the following achievements: a "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada; the establishment of a Planning Commission; the initiation of a "Business of the Month" effort to highlight local businesses; a partnership with the Bell Chamber of Commerce to establish the Bell Family Food Truck Night; and adoption of the city's Strategic Plan and the new city logo.

That new logo is shaped by a bell design, and includes the city's motto: "Home . . . in the center of it all" to inspire civic pride and civic engagement in the community.

The City of Bell has made huge strides in the past couple of years and does not show any sign of slowing down. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes and congratulations to Bell on its 90th anniversary. This small, diverse, vibrant community makes residents proud and visitors feel at home. I expect more great things to come in Bell's future.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT WILL
WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Sergeant Will Williams, U.S. Army, Retired, of Round Rock, Texas, for his selfless dedication and service to our nation and his continued, unparalleled contributions to his community. I am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Following his enlistment in 1976, SGT Williams contributed 24 years of service that included deployments from Panama and Somalia, to Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an Army Ranger, Small Weapons Specialist with the 2nd Division. His commitment to keeping our nation safe is in his blood. Three generations of his family served in combat roles in the United States Army, and among the three they share 4 Bronze Star Medals.

SGT Williams' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to Round Rock, SGT Williams dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community. In 2013, he helped raise \$50,000 for Dell's Children's Hospital and over \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. In Round Rock, SGT Williams organized a food drive, sent out a care package to deployed soldiers, and provided clothing and supplies to 300 foster kids through Project Care.

His service has been recognized and appreciated throughout the community. SGT Williams was recognized with the Service to Mankind Award by the Round Rock Sertoma Club, received the Leadership Award from the "Heart of Texas Award" organization, and was honored with the Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award from Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

I commend First Sergeant Will Williams' selfless service to his community and nation. His commitment to excellence and citizenship reflect the best values we hold as Americans. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

H.R. 732, STOP SETTLEMENT
SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2017

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in opposition to the so-called Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017 (H.R. 732).

The Department of Justice has long had the authority to enter into and enforce settlement agreements on behalf of the United States government. This includes payments to third parties that help right the wrongs caused by an entity that has broken the law.

For instance, the government can negotiate a settlement that allows payments to groups like nonprofits that help aid in the recovery of the individuals and communities hurt by unlawful conduct. These third-party payments are particularly important when it is impossible

to quantify all of the harm done, as is often true of environmental cases.

When a corporation responsible for dumping waste into a waterway or emitting pollutants into the air agrees to this type of settlements, the non-profits they pay restore coastlines, rebuild ecosystems, and often coordinate clean-up activities. This legislation threatens that critical remediation and recovery work.

The Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017 ends this common-sense practice by prohibiting the U.S. government from entering into or enforcing settlement agreements that require payments to third parties. It also makes it much more difficult to provide relief for damage that is more generalized and non-quantifiable. When a power plant dirties the air of a community, the number of visits to the doctor or new cases of asthma cannot be precisely measured. That does not mean that they should not be held responsible for the harm they caused.

House Republicans have used the first 10 months of this Congress to do little more than push policies that reduce corporate accountability and line the pockets of corporate bad actors. I oppose the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017.

TRIBUTE TO ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Animal Rescue League of Iowa for being named the 2016 501(c) of the Year at the Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony earlier this year.

The Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Iowa is the largest nonprofit animal shelter in Iowa. ARL cares for thousands of animals every year, and offers a wide range of services to the public. From adoption, behavior training, spay/neuter services, and education, ARL aims to help people become responsible pet owners, as well as to help prevent animals from ultimately ending up in shelters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent non-profit organizations like the Animal Rescue League of Iowa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding recognition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNITION OF MR. DARRYL DIORIO

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Darryl DiOrio for his forty-seven years of service and leadership in the Johnstown community.

Mr. DiOrio holds degrees from Saint Vincent College, the Pennsylvania State University and Saint Francis University.

He has devoted his entire career to working in the steel industry, including twenty years at Bethlehem Steel Corporation, six years as President and CEO of Johnstown Wire Technologies, and nineteen years as President and CEO of Gautier Steel Ltd.

Under Mr. DiOrio's leadership, Gautier Steel recovered from a near shutdown to a multi-million-dollar operation.

Furthermore, Mr. DiOrio saved thousands of family-sustaining jobs by helping keep both Johnstown Wire and Gautier Steel in the Johnstown area.

Mr. DiOrio's leadership and great care for the community will leave an impact on Johnstown for years to come.

I would like to congratulate Mr. DiOrio on his recent retirement and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DENNIS DEWINE, U.S. ARMY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued citizen, Captain Dennis DeWine, U.S. Army. He has dedicated himself to his community and nation and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. CPT DeWine is a fitting and worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CPT DeWine joined the Army in 1967, graduated Helicopter Flight School in 1968, and spent the next seven years as a helicopter pilot; twenty months of which were two tours of duty in Vietnam. As a testament to his valorous service in Vietnam, the President of the United States presented CPT DeWine with the Distinguished Flying Cross award for his actions above and beyond the call of duty. After being Honorably Discharged CPT DeWine was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor.

CPT DeWine's leadership skills have been invaluable throughout his post-military career. After rejoining civilian life, he became the founder, broker, and president of ERA Colonial Real Estate and Colonial Residential Properties, Inc. Despite his busy schedule, CPT DeWine remains dedicated to serving his community. He can often be found in jeans and boots working alongside his friends and neighbors. CPT DeWine's passion to serve is evident through his participation and leadership in numerous organizations, such as Central Texas Voices for Life, where he serves as Chairman. CPT DeWine has also proven his commitment to serving others through his company's efforts to successfully raise \$100,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

Despite his business and charitable commitments, CPT DeWine has found time to raise a closeknit family, volunteer in community organizations, and remain active in his church. With admiration and deep respect, I pay tribute to Dennis DeWine for his sacrifices and the lasting impact he has had on his community and country.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MARK SHADE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I recognize and congratulate Colonel Mark Shade on his recent retirement after years of service as Deputy Commanding Officer of the United States Army Training Center and Fort Jackson. Colonel Shade was commissioned after graduating from The Citadel in 1989 and his first duty assignment was at Fort Hood Texas, as a Platoon Leader in support of the 1st Cavalry Division during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After attending the Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course and the Petroleum Officers Course at Fort Lee, Colonel Shade reported to the 10th Mountain Division and served as the Assistant Support Operations Officer for 1st Brigade. He was then selected to Command Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Alpha Company of the 10th Forward Support Battalion.

After attending the Tactical Officer's Education Program at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and receiving his Masters in Education (Counseling and Leader Development) in 1999, Colonel Shade was the Tactical Officer for company A3. He then attended the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Colonel Shade served in a multitude of leadership and staff positions within the 25th Infantry Division, and was the G4 for United States Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox prior to assuming his final position at Fort Jackson.

Colonel Shade has multiple combat deployments to Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. He has been awarded two legions of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals, the Defense Meritorious Medal, three Army Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge, and the Airborne Badge. I am grateful for the service of Colonel Mark Shade and his family to the Midlands community and to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE WAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S SWIMMING TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Waukee High School Boy's Swimming Team for winning their second consecutive team state championship on February 11, 2017.

In winning their consecutive title, the Waukee High School Boys Swimming Team doubled their team points from their first championship last year. During the meet, they were able to grab state championships in three individual events, and all three of their relay events finished runner up. I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Swimmers: Cameron Briggs, AJ Gainer, Davis Kuhlert, Jackson Kuhlert, Cameron Linder, Zach Linder, Augie Muenzenmay, Gus Muenzenmay, Mitchell Pollitt, Grady Rogers

Manager: Zach Bogaczky

Coaches: Daniel Briggs and Cass Zorn.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, and James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1591, to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet

To hold hearings to examine advancing the Internet of Things in rural America.

SR-253

NOVEMBER 8

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1693, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking, S. 1668, to rename a waterway in the State of New York as the "Joseph Sanford Jr. Channel", and the nominations of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Bruce Landsberg, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board,

Raymond Martinez, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Transportation, and Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine protecting consumers in the era of major data breaches.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the impact of lawsuit abuse on American small businesses and job creators.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1400, to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and S. 465, to provide for an independent outside audit of the Indian Health Service.

SD-628

NOVEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

SD-366