

On behalf of New York's 19th District, I want to congratulate and celebrate the Smiley Family on their much-deserved award. We are grateful for the Smiley Family's dedication to the values we in the 19th District hold dear: environmental conservancy and a profound appreciation for history and culture.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Nos. 623 and 624. I would have voted "NAY" on No. 625.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD PETERS

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Richard Peters on his successful career in the U.S. Navy.

Richard Peters selfless service to the U.S. Navy has led to him being awarded a number of awards, such as the China Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the National Defense Medal, among other awards. Due to his distinguished career, Richard Peters has also been authorized the Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

I am honored to have a man like Richard Peters in my district. I can't thank him enough for his service and sacrifice for our country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to congratulate Richard Peters on his distinguished Naval career. I wish him all of the best in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 623, 624, and 625 on Monday, November 13, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 623 and 624, and Nay on Roll Call vote 625.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MS. ELAINE ROBERTS

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congress-

sional District to celebrate the career of Ms. Elaine Roberts, as she retires from service as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

For over a decade, Ms. Roberts has served as the first-ever CEO of a combined aviation authority. She was named to the newly-created position in January of 2003, and has utilized her experience as an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.), and the past Chair of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

Ms. Roberts' leadership has guided the Authority during a period of expansive growth, including the merger of two airport authorities, more than one billion dollars in airport infrastructure development, and historic improvements at the John Glenn Columbus and the Rickenbacker International Airport facilities.

Ms. Roberts is a true coalition-builder. She successfully brought stakeholders across the federal, state, and local levels, along with the private sector, to develop the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility. Her efforts to transform Rickenbacker into a leading center for trade led to her nomination and selection as a 2015 White House Champion of Change in Transportation.

Her contributions to the Central Ohio community and local economy are immeasurable. International and domestic freight operations—served by rail, highways, and international activation—helped to provide a livelihood for over 20,000 residents in the region.

Ms. Roberts will be missed by her colleagues and fellow aviation executives, but I join the Ohio delegation in wishing her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life and pursues future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Elaine Roberts on her invaluable service to the residents of Ohio, and the aviation industry at large.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COOK

### HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mike Cook of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Mr. Cook for over 40 years of service to our communities and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Mike Cook began his career in the fire service as a volunteer in 1977 and eventually became a paid firefighter with the City of Lenoir in 1980. He began working with the Caldwell County Fire Marshal's Emergency Management Office in 1985, as a hazmat planner with North Carolina Emergency Management in 1988, and as Area Coordinator and eventually Branch Manager in 2006. All told, Mr. Cook has aided in thirty-two FEMA disaster declarations, including deploying to Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina and to Lumberton, North Carolina during Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Cook was instrumental in the development of the North Carolina All Hazards Incident Management Teams, and maintains credentials as an Incident Commander with the Western Branch All Hazards Incident Management Team. He is an Eagle Scout and longtime volunteer in his

community, serving on the Board of Directors of Patterson Fire Department since 1977 and currently serving as President of the Board.

Over the course of his career, Mike has been honored with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Gold Circle Award and the Colonel William A. Thompson Award and Employee of the Year by the North Carolina Emergency Management Association. He received special recognition for work throughout the Democratic National Convention in 2012 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and for response during Hurricane Floyd in 1999 from the North Carolina National Guard 139th Rear Tactical Operation Center.

Mike Cook has earned the respect and friendship of the people of Caldwell County through his hard work and wide-ranging involvement in his community. For his service to Western North Carolina, I am honored to express to Mr. Cook the gratitude and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING ALFRED RAYMOND COE

### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Alfred "Ray" Coe of Chester County, Pennsylvania, for his life dedicated to serving his community and our country. Mr. Coe honorably served the United States Army during Vietnam in three Calvary units in addition to serving his community of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania as a volunteer Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Coe has also worked with his local government in various positions.

Mr. Coe received three promotions during his tour in Vietnam. He was injured when his vehicle was blown up by a mine, but courageously returned and rescued his Sergeant from the vehicle. For these and other efforts he earned numerous awards for his honorable service. Among the honors were the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation for Valor, of which he is most proud. Upon returning home, Mr. Coe began volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, eventually becoming Scoutmaster. Mr. Coe continued his service to his community through the Scouts working as his district's Unit, Training, and Roundtable Commissioner. Mr. Coe's years of service to his country and neighbors are invaluable. There is no doubt he has saved and improved the lives of many through that service.

I commend Mr. Alfred Coe for his passionate dedication to community and country. He has earned the respect of his friends, family, and colleagues, as well as the public he has served. I thank him for all he has done and continues to do.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 623, No. 624,

and No. 625. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 623, I would have voted 'YEA'; on Roll Call No. 624, I would have voted 'YEA'; and on Roll Call No. 625, I would have voted 'NAY'.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP  
AND ACTIVISM OF LESLIE DIANE  
HIATT

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as we observe American Education Week, I rise today to recognize Leslie Diane Hiatt, a remarkable teacher and social activist in my 40th Congressional District of California. As a teacher at Bell Gardens Elementary in the Montebello Unified School District, Ms. Hiatt has inspired her students to act on injustices in their community and in the world overall.

Born in Whittier, California, on December 10, 1960, to James and Jean Hiatt, Ms. Hiatt was raised in a loving family that encouraged activism and equality. From a young age, her commitment to social justice and service to her community was apparent. In high school, where she organized the first girls' track team, she often spent her lunch break at the local elementary school organizing intramural sports for the younger students. She also spent her free time writing letters to politicians about air pollution and the Vietnam War, trying to right the wrongs of the world. In 1979, Leslie graduated from Monte Vista High School in Whittier, and went on to attend the University of Southern California, from which she graduated in 1983.

Subsequently, Leslie started her teaching career at Bell Gardens Elementary School. In 1988, she pursued her Master of Arts at California State University, Fullerton. She also received a Math Authorization from Center X at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2001.

Throughout her 34-year career as an educator, Ms. Hiatt has worked with immigrant and Latino communities. This has positioned her perfectly to help inspire students to believe they cannot be bystanders, and that in order to bring change in the world, they must use their voice to speak up about injustices. To encourage these conversations, she has her students write letters to government representatives and emphasizes the importance of persistence and collaboration. These experiences have empowered her students. Here are some of their particularly important efforts over the years.

In 1989, one of Ms. Hiatt's classes refused to have grapes from the school cafeteria after learning about the United Farm Workers movement and the dangers that grape workers faced as they were being exposed to pesticides. As a result of the ongoing struggle of grape workers, her students wrote letters to their school board, and after a lengthy debate, the district honored the grape boycott. The students' actions later received attention from labor leader Cesar Chavez.

In 2015, as her students learned about the history of immigration in California and the unconstitutional "Mexican Repatriation" deportations of the 1930s, her students were dismayed at the complete absence of information on the deportations in their history textbooks. They were also astounded to know that there has never been a federal apology for those 1930s deportations, which expelled over 1.2 million United States citizens and over two million Mexican nationals who were legally living in the United States. After drafting a letter to President Obama asking for a federal apology for the Mexican Repatriation of the 1930s, the students entered State Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia's "There Ought to Be a Law" contest. Their goal was to have California recognize the history of the Mexican Repatriation and include it in California history textbooks. As winners of the contest, Ms. Hiatt's students traveled to Sacramento to testify in support of the bill, and in the fall of 2015, Governor Brown signed the bill, AB 146, into law.

Later that same year, Ms. Hiatt's students wrote to me asking for my help in obtaining a federal apology for the unconstitutional deportations. In 2016 and 2017, I introduced H.R. 6314 and H.R. 1412, respectively, which would establish a committee to officially study the Mexican Repatriation and to recommend appropriate remedies.

To this day, Ms. Hiatt's students continue to speak up and take action on pressing world events. They have focused on such subjects as the Lakota Tribe in North Dakota, Hurricane Harvey, and the earthquake in Mexico City.

When Ms. Hiatt isn't teaching her classes and working with her students to implement new legislation, she also co-teaches the STEM Club at Bell Gardens Elementary, and helps organize the school's annual science fair. She is also currently taking science education classes at California State University, Long Beach, to learn more about science content and pedagogy, and she is a member of the university's Elementary Science Learning Academy program.

Ms. Hiatt has the infinite love and support of her husband, Francisco López, and her son, Joaquin López, whose encouragement in-

spires her to continue her work as a passionate educator.

Ms. Hiatt has shown exemplary dedication to children and families in my 40th Congressional District, and I am pleased to recognize her work as an educator and leader. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her tremendous activism, her commitment to social justice, and her determination to empower and develop a new generation of conscientious and compassionate activists.

HONORING GRANT R. WARD

**HON. ANDY BIGGS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017*

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent Grant R. Ward. Grant of Gilbert, Arizona. He has been chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Water Resources Association (NWRA).

This lifetime achievement award was established in 1948. According to the NWRA, this award "recognizes members and individuals who have actively served in the leadership of the Association for many years and who, by their activities and service to the goals and objective of the Association, merit Life Member status." Grant embodies the spirit of this distinguished award.

Grant has an impressive resume of service. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1967 and received his law degree in 1969 from the University of Idaho. From there, he commenced his professional career, serving as an assistant branch manager at the Valley National Bank. He then took a job as General Manager of the Roosevelt Water Conservation District serving there for over a decade. Following this position, he continued his distinguished career as Executive Vice President of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona, Assistant General Manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and General Manager of the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District. He currently is an independent water and power consultant.

Grant is married to Judy and their family includes seven children and 36 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Grant has a remarkable track record of service to our community. He has provided a great example for his children of the value of hard work and giving back through his conservative efforts.

I applaud Grant for his award, and I look forward to his continued service.