

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools with high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that Conrady Junior High School, located in Hickory Hills, has been honored as an exceptional school.

The teachers and staff at Conrady Junior High take great care to focus on the needs of individual students, and this hard work is reflected in the school's academic performance. The school employs a unique curriculum with variable length math periods based on student need, and daily periods of exploratory and intervention classes.

This is not the first time Conrady Junior High has been honored for excellence in education. The school was designated as a National Title I Distinguished School in 2014, which recognizes success in educating students who come from families with low socioeconomic status. As Principal Andy Anderson often says, "Conrady is a hard place to work, but a great place to work."

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and the Academic Student Success Enrichment Teams (ASSETS) developed by teachers and administrators have also had a positive impact on student achievement. This success has resulted in visits by teachers and administrators from other schools seeking to learn about their curriculum, methodology, and technology integration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Conrady Junior High School for this impressive achievement and recognizing the teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community for the hard work that they have put in to earn this award.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SHARON PHIPPENS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sharon Phippens of Orland, California, who has led an exciting, dynamic life, never straying from a desire to serve. The wife of a Foreign Service Officer, Ms. Phippens travelled the world and adapted to unknown situations, all in service to her country and her family. Ms. Phippens was a firsthand witness of some of our country's most interesting history through her work for two American embassies and her service in the United States Justice Department during President Nixon's resignation.

Ms. Phippens later pursued an extensive and varied education which she has put to use serving her community. Ms. Phippens has worked in law enforcement, patient advocacy, education, and social work; all fields which allowed her to work serving others. In every role, Ms. Phippens distinguished herself as someone who would go above and beyond. She has also served on the boards of organizations that provide support to people in times of need. Ms. Phippens has used her many talents to the benefit of her community, lending her skills to a wide variety of fields.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT  
DUSTIN WRIGHT

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Staff Sergeant Dustin Wright, who was killed in action on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 while defending our nation as part of the 3rd Special Forces Group in Africa. SSG Wright was a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

Enlisting in the United States Army in July of 2012, SSG Wright's list of accomplishments runs long. After attending Special Forces Assessment and Selection program, he earned his Green Beret and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group. He received numerous medals, including the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Men and women like SSG Wright represent the best our nation has to offer. As a Special Forces Engineer Sergeant, he had undergone some of the most intense training our military has and emerged as a leader and role model. His selflessness allows us to enjoy the blessings of liberty that have persevered for well over 200 years. When his country needed him most, he stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation.

Our country can never repay the debt we owe to SSG Wright. He was a model citizen and soldier whose legacy will live on forever. He will always be remembered and I will do everything in my power to honor his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Staff Sergeant Dustin Wright for his service to God and country.

RECOGNIZING THE CREW OF U.S.S.  
"INDIANAPOLIS" FOR THEIR  
COVERT OPERATION TO BRING  
OVER COMPONENTS OF THE  
"LITTLE BOY" ATOMIC BOMB TO  
TINIAN

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the nearly 1200 crew members who were aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* when it was attacked by a Japanese submarine in the early morning of July 30, 1945. Among those sailors was Seaman Second Class James Smith, a resident of the First Congressional District now living in Blountville, Tennessee.

The "*Indy*" was returning from a secret trip to Tinian, carrying critical parts and the enriched uranium for the atomic bomb Little Boy, when it was struck by two torpedoes that caused massive damage to the hull. She sank after only 12 minutes. While approximately 900 of the crew members made it into the water after the attack, only a fraction of them survived the conditions in which they found themselves. Seaman Smith was one of just over 300 survivors, and had to survive for nearly four days in shark-infested waters relying on few food rations before being rescued.

As an Army veteran myself, I extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to James and his shipmates for their service, and offer my condolences to the families of the sailors lost at sea. With the wreckage having recently been located on August 19th of this year, it is yet another reminder of their incredible sacrifice, and gives us an opportunity to recognize them for taking on a mission that was so important to ending World War II.

I was proud to join Congressman BISHOP last week in introducing legislation that would authorize the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* in recognition of their perseverance, their bravery and their service to our nation. I am forever grateful to the men and women who serve our great nation, especially to those who make the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect our freedom.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SUSAN SCHWARTZ

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Susan Schwartz of Vacaville, California, who is passionate about helping young people grow, helping small businesses prosper, and helping in the community. Susan is known as the "volunteer extraordinaire" at the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club where she lives by the motto "children don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Her genuine concern for the club youth is evident in everything she does which earned her recognition as the organization's 2013 Volunteer of the Year and the 2016 Champions for Children Award by the Solano Kids Insurance Program.

Ms. Schwartz has launched multiple projects at the club to include the Holiday Give Back for toys and donations for the needy, as well as the Garden Project that helps teach, grow, prepare, and consume meals from grown for themselves as well as the needy and homeless.

Susan has taken her advocacy for children, and expanded it into the community by working as the driving force in a group to bring the Miss Representation Project to Solano County. Partnering with the Kroc Center and Brenden Theater, she helped sponsor the showing of the films *The Miss Representation Project* and *The Mask You Live In*. Ms. Schwartz's commitment to service has brought these films that raise awareness of gender stereotypes, and help young people better understand the issues we all face to over three hundred children and their parents.

HONORING LIBERTY ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petaluma's Liberty Elementary School for its selection as a 2017 National

Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Chosen for its exemplary high performance, as measured by state and national assessments, Liberty Elementary School was one of 342 schools to attain this honor from across the nation and one of only 25 schools selected from California. This highly competitive award reflects outstanding achievement and the highest caliber of professional service, family commitment, and community engagement.

With 219 students across seven grades, Liberty Elementary School offers comprehensive educational programs that academically challenge and instill a joy of learning in its students while ensuring that all children have the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, this hard-earned distinction reflects true community success. From the students and their families, to the staff and administrators, and the extended community, Liberty Elementary School has developed an education model for the state and the nation: empowering today's students to be tomorrow's problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers. Please join me in congratulating Liberty Elementary School on this impressive achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY AND GARY STEWART, AND THEIR SHOP, SANDWICH DEPOT, A CONCORD INSTITUTION

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy and Gary Stewart, the owners of Sandwich Depot in my hometown of Concord, New Hampshire. Through hard work and dedication, Nancy and Gary, along with their employees, created a truly special place in our community.

Sandwich Depot opened for business over 28 years ago. In the time since, they have turned an inconspicuous building on the side of Hall Street into one of the best sandwich shops in the state. Over the years, a lot has changed in Concord, but one thing has remained the same: if you want a world-class breakfast or lunch, you can find it at the Sandwich Depot. Gary has an uncanny ability to remember customers' names, and his warm smile and humor make any visitor feel welcome. Nancy cooks and assembles sandwiches that leave everyone full and satisfied. The shop is covered in historic pictures of Concord and local antique signs, which add to the sense that the Depot is a uniquely Concord institution.

My family, friends, and staff—as well as everyone in the Concord community—will all miss the Sandwich Depot, but we are confident that Nancy and Gary will continue to make wonderful contributions to the Concord area in the years to come.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SUSAN SCOTT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Susan Scott of Marysville, California, who has dedicated her life to helping children. In her 26 years of service to the Marysville Joint Unified School District, Ms. Scott performed many duties, from outreach, to attendance, to working as a school librarian. In every role, she demonstrated her devotion to children and their education. Ms. Scott has a strong understanding and appreciation of the role schools play in the growth and development of students.

In keeping with her dedication to her community's education system, Ms. Scott ran for a position on the Marysville Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees. She was elected by an overwhelming majority, becoming the first African American woman elected in Yuba County. Ms. Scott's community recognized her commitment to making a difference in the lives of children and voted to have her continue her work.

Ms. Scott's dedication to helping children does not stop at her workplace. She has fostered over 25 children in her home, helping to ensure that children have a safe and welcoming home in a time of need. Ms. Scott also sponsors a charitable program, "To Tanzania With Love," which provides financial assistance to an orphanage in Tanzania. Whether in her role as a foster parent, serving her community's education system, or supporting children in a developing nation, Ms. Scott has shown her devotion to the betterment of children's lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUNNERY SERGEANT THOMAS J. SULLIVAN, USMC

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor Gunnery Sergeant Thomas "Tommy" Sullivan of the United States Marine Corps. On Thursday July 16, 2015, a gunman attacked a Naval Reserve Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During that senseless act of violence, Gunnery Sergeant Sullivan made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life to defend his fellow service members.

Tommy Sullivan was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from Cathedral High School in 1994, and became a Marine three years later. His friends and family all attest that Tommy was determined to serve his country since a young age. Over the course of nearly two decades in the military, Tommy survived two tours in Iraq, was awarded two Purple Hearts, and made a lasting impression on all those who served with him. Many have proudly said that he was everything that a Marine should be. He was a natural leader who always kept his composure, and who mentored less experi-

enced Marines. Those who served with him recall that after battles he always took the time to talk to everyone under his command, and was never afraid to crack a joke in order to ease the tension.

Tommy's bravery during the attack on that Chattanooga military installation in 2015 will forever be remembered. On that day, he helped more than a dozen of his fellow servicemen escape when a gunman opened fire. When he turned back to help two others, he unfortunately lost his life. For his valor, Tommy was posthumously awarded the Lieutenant J. Frank Murphy Medal of Valor—an annual award given by the Springfield Veterans' Activities Committee to a resident who risked their lives to save others. His family was also honored with Tommy's third Purple Heart which was awarded to him for his heroic actions.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again honor Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan for his courage and service to our country. He was loyal to his family, his friends, and the extraordinary individuals of the Marine Corps and all of our nation's Armed Forces. To Tommy's family, please know that the United States of America will never forget his heroism and sacrifice and we are eternally grateful.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT LA DAVID T. JOHNSON

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant La David T. Johnson, who was killed in action on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 while defending our nation as part of the 3rd Special Forces Group in Africa. SGT Johnson was a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

Enlisting in the United States Army in January of 2014, SGT Johnson's list of accomplishments runs long. After completion of Advanced Individual Training, earning the Military occupational specialty 91B Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group. He received numerous medals, including the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Men and women like SGT Johnson represent the best our nation has to offer. His selflessness allows us to enjoy the blessings of liberty that have persevered for well over 200 years. When his country needed him most, he stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation.

Survived by a loving family, our country can never repay the debt we owe to SGT Johnson. He was a model citizen and soldier whose legacy will live on forever. He will always be remembered and I will do everything in my power to honor his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sergeant La David T. Johnson for his service to God and country.