

People's Pier, Chicago's lakefront treasure, welcoming all and offering dynamic and eclectic experiences through partnerships and programs that inspire discovery and wonder; Navy Pier opened to the public in 1916 and originally named "Municipal Pier No. 2; Navy Pier was built under nationally-known architect Charles Sumner Frost, based on Daniel Burham's "Master Plan of Chicago." Municipal Pier was the first of its kind to accommodate both the commercial shipping industry and recreation and entertainment for the public drawing over 3 million visitors annually.

In 1917 it was adapted to house several regiments of soldiers, Red Cross, and "Home Defense" units and served as a barracks during World War I. It was officially renamed Navy Pier in 1927 as a tribute to the Navy personnel who were housed at the Pier during the conflict. From 1941 to 1947, the Pier was leased to the U.S. Navy as a naval training center for 60,000 recruits. One of those pilots who qualified for military service was President George H. W. Bush.

Navy Pier was the original home to the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1946 to 1965, and more than 100,000 students attended classes during that time. Dubbed 'Harvard on the Rocks,' the University shared the space with the Chicago Police Department's Traffic Division, the North Pier Terminal Company, and several military detachments. The Pier was designated a Chicago historic landmark in 1977; between the years of 1978 through 1982, Navy Pier was host to ChicagoFest, a summer music festival full of food, fun, and festivities. ChicagoFest eventually grew to become the Taste of Chicago, drawing millions of guests to the Pier and spurring millions of dollars in economic impact.

The Pier re-opened in 1995 following a \$150 million redevelopment having improvements made to nearly every aspect of the three-quarter mile long public Pier. Since that renovation, year-round entertainment, shopping, dining, attractions and exhibitions have positioned the Pier as one of the most unique settings in the world; in July of 2011, Navy Pier, Inc., the newly formed nonprofit entity entrusted with the operation and redevelopment of Navy Pier put forth The Centennial Vision, a framework for reimagining Navy Pier as a unique public space and cultural mecca. The Centennial Vision's purpose is not only to expand the Pier's audience, but to enrich the experience of its guests. The Vision, divided into two phases, establishes a framework befitting Chicago, a world-class city, with a vibrant architectural, cultural, and recreational landscape and includes a 30-year Sustainable Master Plan to address the Pier's long-term environmental impact.

With the completion of the Centennial Vision's "Phase 1" in 2016, a record 9.26 million guests enjoyed new amenities such as the state of the art Centennial Ferris Wheel, Chicago-centric food experience, redesigned south dock promenade with increased access to the waterfront and recreational boat experiences, and over 245 free public arts and cultural programs.

As the Pier now enters "Phase 2" of the redevelopment with extensive plans to upgrade the built environment and Pier structures such as the Family Pavilion and Crystal Garden. In 2017, with the completion of 13-acre Polk Bros Park, the new Chicago Shakespeare Theater and expanded Chicago, Children's

Museum, the Pier projects to see attendance increase by as much as 26 percent as guests enjoy innovative, free public programming, participatory arts, cultural showcases, and the Pier's sustainable, recreational footprint; and the Pier currently employs over 3,000 individuals, is home to 77 businesses and 5 nonprofit organizations. The redevelopment is expected to generate 1,565 permanent and 1,659 temporary jobs across the city.

I am honored to represent Navy Pier and congratulate Marilynn Gardner, President & CEO; Patrick Sheehan, Chief Development and Strategy Officer, the Board of Directors and the multitude of individuals working that make the Pier a fascinating and enjoyable destination. Enjoy this landmark celebration and always remember, "To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."

HONORING MAJOR BARRY RICHARD, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Barry Richard, United States Air Force, Retired. Maj. Richard, who answered the call to defend our great nation for 20 years, continues to dutifully serve his community of Georgetown, Texas in civilian life. An exemplary serviceman and citizen, it is my honor to award Maj. Richard with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

His military service began in 1968 where his skills were utilized in various capacities as an engineer, pilot, and manager. He wore many hats during his years with the Air Force, including working as a technical design engineer for modifications to EC-135 aircraft and Hound Dog Air-launched missiles, as pilot and rated staff officer, and as Chief of numerous Air Force Safety Units. Maj. Richard saw much combat, and as a testament to the quality of his service, he received numerous awards including the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and numerous Commendation Medals.

Maj. Richard's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his fellow service members. After the end of his service in 1988, he and his friend Staff Sergeant Jim Harrell, United States Marines Corps, have worked to improve the lives of veterans in Williamson County. Maj. Richard has contributed to building wheelchair ramps and making considerable home improvements to the homes of local veterans in need. This dignified work has made a lasting impact on the community he proudly serves.

I commend Maj. Barry Richard's selfless service to the United States Air Force, his nation, and his community. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best values of Central Texas. I join his friends and family in celebrating his outstanding achievements.

HONORING PATRICIA DONNELLY AND THE AWARDEES OF THE 2017 LITERACY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECOGNITION EVENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 2017 LCNV Recognition Celebration.

The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities. LCNV serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities. LCNV provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy learning for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives.

Each year LCNV gathers at its Annandale headquarters to recognize students and members of the community who have achieved exceptional milestones. I am proud to include in the RECORD the following 2017 LCNV honorees.

Community Partnership Awards: Accenture Consulting, Crestwood Elementary School, Paul M. Engell Family Foundation.

Volunteers of the Year: Liz Castillo, Alexandra Roncal, Valerie Sutter.

I would also like to give special recognition to Patricia Donnelly, who is retiring from her role as Executive Director of LCNV after leading the organization for more than 15 years. She has three decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, most of which has been in education and the performing arts. In addition to her role as Executive Director of LCNV, Patti serves on the Board of the Virginia Literacy Foundation, the Virginia Adult and Continuing Education Board and WETA's Community Advisory Council. Her selfless efforts on behalf of others were recognized when she received the 2007 Nancy Jiranek Award for Leadership Excellence in Literacy. Though she may be retiring from her role as Executive Director, I am confident that she will continue to be engaged in our community and in the causes that are dear to her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Patricia Donnelly for her service to our community and in congratulating each of the honorees of the 2017 LCNV Recognition Celebration. I wish all of them great success in all their future endeavors.

HONORING ST. MATTHEW ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Matthew Original Free Will Baptist

Church in my hometown of Farmville, North Carolina. This congregation recently celebrated 61 years of serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The passion and commitment from this church has helped to spread the Word and Humility of Christ throughout the town of Farmville and surrounding communities for many years.

The ministry and community outreach performed by the people of St. Matthew have helped meet the needs of so many. I am proud and honored to call these people my neighbors.

I want to thank the church family of St. Matthew and Pastor Jesse F. Warren III as they continue to improve the quality of life for so many people and commend them on this milestone in their ministry. I pray that they will be blessed with many more years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the book of Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust, He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you helped His people and continue to help them."

Congratulations on your 61 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 WINTERSET HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Winterset High School Softball team for winning the Iowa Girls State Class 4A Softball Tournament on July 21, 2017.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Players: Macy Johnson, Ainsley Gurwell, Mia Olson, Danny Barker, Ava Lowden, Abby Benshoof, Natalie Hansen, Malia Messerschmidt, Grace McDonald, Natalie Drake, Corry Pickering, Madison Berns, Mariah White, Jessie Nicholson, Ally Pickering, Taylor Lincoln, Jennifer Lopez, Emma Lowden, Marie McDonald, Sophie Stover

Head Coach: Steve Corkrean

Assistant Coaches: Jennifer Devine, Karly Olson, Taylor Benshoof

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. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young women for competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL RAUL VILLARONGA, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achieve-

ments of an esteemed and valued citizen of Killeen, Texas. Colonel Raul Villaronga, U.S. Army Retired, has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. He is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

His commission as an Infantry 2nd Lieutenant in 1959 began his 24 years of service in which he completed assignments in Fort Bragg, the Panama Canal Zone, Vietnam, Germany, and Fort Hood. While assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group, he participated in numerous classified Mobile Training Teams in Central and South America. COL Villaronga deservingly received awards including the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal as a testament to his exemplary service.

COL Villaronga is a respected citizen serving in numerous roles showcasing his commitment to community and nation. Returning from the Army, COL Villaronga served three terms as Mayor of Killeen. As Mayor, he founded the Killeen Youth Advisory Commission and worked on the Joint Use Agreement for the Robert Gray Army Airfield. As Chairman of the Killeen League of United Latin American Citizens Council 4535 Foundation, COL Villaronga has been responsible for the donation of over \$175,000 in scholarships for local graduating seniors. He continues to serve veterans in his community alongside his wife. His tireless efforts have made Central Texas a place that we're proud to call home.

COL Villaronga's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join his wife, Julia, along with his family and friends in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Obesity Care Week on behalf of the over 90 million adult Americans living with obesity today.

Treating obesity is more than just eating right and exercising and is caused by a number of factors that are often out of that person's control. These include genetics, socioeconomic status, and physiological, psychological and environmental factors.

As important, obesity is also linked to over 50 disorders including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. In fact, over \$1.42 trillion is spent in the U.S. on direct and indirect costs for health related conditions related to obesity a year.

National Obesity Care Week aims to advance an evidence-based understanding of obesity and widespread access to comprehensive and appropriate care. Unfortunately, at 31.6 percent, Illinois has the 18th highest adult obesity rate in the nation—4 million people—almost a third of our population. This must change. I urge my fellow Members, the scientific community, and researchers, to treat obesity seriously—as the chronic disease that

it is—and I urge the medical community to have conversations with their patients, their students, and their colleagues about obesity and how we can effectively treat this disease.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL WOOD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carol Wood of Council Bluffs, Iowa for receiving the Rotary International Vocational Service Leadership Award. The award was presented to Carol at the Rotary District Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Carol has been a Rotary member since 1993 and is a member of the Noon Rotary Club of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Carol received this award for exemplifying integrity and high ethical standards in her vocation and in the community. She is President and CEO of Children's Square U.S.A. in Council Bluffs, a non-profit organization that has helped children and families in need for 135 years. Carol's dedication and leadership has helped youth succeed in their vocational pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Carol 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 Carol for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH- DAY OF MRS. THELMA KOUZES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my constituents in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelma Kouzes, a truly remarkable woman and a beloved member of the Northern Virginia community. Mrs. Kouzes was born Thelma Virginia Loss on July 26, 1917 in Audubon, Iowa. She proudly says she is a first-generation American, the daughter of immigrants whose parents came to the United States from Denmark. She grew up in Iowa, was raised by hardworking parents, and experienced the hardships of the Great Depression. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1938 to work for President Roosevelt's Administration. There she met her late husband Thomas Kouzes—also a first-generation American whose parents came to the U.S. from Greece.

Mrs. Kouzes has led an amazing life. Shortly after she moved to D.C., she experienced culture shock when she attended a segregated religious service. Because of experiences like this she became a proud and passionate civil rights activist. She remained steadfast in her commitment to justice and equality—including marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963—even when others in her community criticized her efforts. She was an active member of the