

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 CON-
CORD 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. SUL-
LIVAN, 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.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—TRACEE STACY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Tracee Stacy of Vacaville, California, who is committed to serving her community and devotes her time to helping those who are most vulnerable. Ms. Stacy dedicates her time, talent, and expertise to improving the lives of seniors throughout Solano County. She works tirelessly to help particularly disadvantaged seniors facing disabilities, isolation, mental illness, and poverty. Ms. Stacy is an integral part of Solano County's ability to provide services to seniors in need, and her expertise is unparalleled. She is continuously working to make a positive difference for seniors in her community.

Ms. Stacy is generous, passionate, dedicated, and acts with integrity. She is full of empathy and a fierce advocate for those in need. Ms. Stacy has left an indelible mark on senior services of Solano County, having already dedicated nearly 20 years of service and advocacy to seniors, youth, and Solano County. The positive difference Ms. Stacy has made in her community cannot be overstated.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MERCHANT'S GROCERY

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of Merchant's Grocery. The store has been a cornerstone of community for Culpeper County and is worth taking the time to recognize.

The store was founded in 1917 and is one of the few stores to make the transition from a Mom and Pop grocery store to a modern food service model without losing the culture and atmosphere that has made it desirable.

Merchant's Grocery has remained unwavering in its care for its customers and employees. Their quality of service is what has allowed them to last for 100 years and has kept their customers loyal to their industry.

Businesses such as Merchant's Grocery are a taste of an age gone by. These businesses serve as a reminder of the importance of small businesses and the crucial roles they play within their communities.

Merchant's Grocery has been a servant to Culpeper County, Shenandoah Valley, and the area of Central Virginia for the past 100 years and will continue to be a blessing to its employees and customers alike.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since its inception, public broadcasting has truly re-

mained both a national and local institution offering educational programming for youth, emergency communications, cultural programs, and providing for the unique broadcasting needs of rural and small towns. In fact, more than 170 million Americans rely on public broadcasting every month.

Fifty years ago, the enactment of the Public Broadcasting Act created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and led to the establishment of the Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio. Today, I commemorate this law's 50th anniversary signing and celebrate the critical services public broadcasting continues to provide as America's most trusted source of news and information.

It's no surprise that an overwhelming majority of Americans want to maintain or even increase the federal contribution. That's why Congress, time and time again, has committed to funding public broadcasting through the appropriations process. Each federal dollar dedicated to public broadcasting leverages six private dollars, usually voluntary contributions.

My colleague, RYAN COSTELLO, and I founded the bipartisan Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus to unite Members of Congress who understand that public broadcasting's mission is alive, well, and deserving of our support. We'll continue working to highlight the importance of the service, the needed federal support, and the valuable contributions to our citizenry.

HONORING LEMONT HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lemont High School for being honored with the prestigious 2017 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. The award was conferred under the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

District Superintendent Mary Ticknor, School Principal Eric Michaelsen, administrative staff, and an amazing group of teachers are committed to Lemont High School's mission for all students to become life-long, independent learners and productive citizens. To further the mission, teachers are afforded the freedom to take risks in the classroom, and the school encourages project-based learning with real-world applications. In this environment, students learn that success is open-ended and further educational attainment requires persistent hard work and self-improvement.

Lemont High School takes pride in preparing students for their next steps in education and future careers. This past school year, Lemont students set two school records with the largest number of students ever to take at least one Advanced Placement exam for college credit and the highest percentage ever of those exams earning a passing score. Lemont High School's diverse set of accomplishments, both in and out of the classroom, speaks to the effort the school makes to produce well-rounded young women and men.

The U.S. Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Pro-

gram in 1982 to recognize public and private schools with high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that Lemont High School has been honored as one of these exceptional schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lemont 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House and missed votes on Tuesday, October 31, and Wednesday, November 1, due to a family commitment.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 591; YEA on Roll Call No. 592; YEA on Roll Call No. 593; NAY on Roll Call No. 594; NAY on Roll Call No. 595; YEA on Roll Call No. 596; NAY on Roll Call No. 597; YEA on Roll Call No. 598; and YEA on Roll Call No. 599.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT BRYAN C. BLACK

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 Bryan Black, 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 Black 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 September of 2009, SSG Black'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 Black represent the best our nation has to offer. As a Special Forces Medical 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.

Leaving behind a wife and two sons, our country can never repay the debt we owe to SSG Black. 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 Bryan C. Black for his service to God and country.