

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DONALD E. ROSPERT,
OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony in Dublin on November 9 to mark the induction of its 2017 class. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: Donald E. Rospert of Bellevue.

A graduate of Norwalk's St. Paul High School and of Bowling Green State University, Mr. Rospert is a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He speaks regularly at area schools to share his experiences in Vietnam and instruct students on proper flag etiquette and display. He also participates in the color guard during Bellevue High School's home football games.

He and his brother, Kenn, cofounded the Wounded Soldiers Fund in 2005 to help local families with loved ones injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. The fund has aided more than a dozen area families.

Donn and Kenn also designed, created, and secured funding for Bellevue's Fallen Soldiers Memorial, and were instrumental in bringing The Wall That Heals (a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) to Bellevue for display this year.

Mr. Rospert takes great pride in the work of the local branch of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, with which he was affiliated for nearly two decades. He personally mentored several local youths and remains in contact with one to this day.

Mr. Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to no more than 20 Ohioans each year. To be considered for induction, individuals must not only serve the nation honorably in the military but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

I am pleased to join in the accolades for Mr. Donald E. Rospert and his outstanding record of service as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
JERIKOVSKY BROTHERS

HON. JASON LEWIS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Jerikovsky brothers of South Saint Paul, Minnesota. These nine brothers, the sons of Jacob and Stephania Jerikovsky, served bravely in the United States' Armed Forces during World War II and the Korean War, all of them returning home safely to their family.

Emil, Nick, Jacob Jr., William, Robert, Earl, Edward, George, and Richard Jerikovsky all have the distinction of being a part of a remarkable feat in U.S. military history. It is unprecedented to have nine siblings from one family serve our country in the United States' Armed Forces, and this feat speaks to their family's patriotism and selflessness.

These nine first generation Americans were all proud members of VFW Post No. 295 in South Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Jerikovsky brothers have made a positive impact on our community, state, and country, and we are fortunate to have such selfless citizens who make sacrifices to protect our freedoms.

I know that the Jerikovsky brothers' legacy of service to country and fellow man will inspire all Minnesotans and Americans.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION 41ST ANNUAL GALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosts its 41st Annual Gala on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association has been a tremendous asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have served their communities through many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Joseph Costanza. Mr. Costanza began practicing law after graduating from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1961. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Costanza has served as counsel for many organizations including the East Chicago Economic Development and Redevelopment Commissions, East Chicago Parks Department, Ogden Dunes Parks Department, and the former American Trust and Savings Bank of Whiting, Indiana. Mr. Costanza also served as special counsel for the Town of Ogden Dunes and as general counsel for the former First National Bank of East Chicago, Indiana.

Mr. Costanza has volunteered much of his time and efforts to numerous charitable and civic organizations throughout the region, including Calumet College of Saint Joseph, the East Chicago Chamber of Commerce, Saint Catherine Hospital, the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, the Indiana Historical

Society, and the East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy, to name a few. For his lifetime of dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana, Joseph is worthy of the highest praise.

Joseph's commitment to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. He and his beloved wife, Aurelia, have four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. Joseph Costanza. For his devotion to his remarkable career and his outstanding service to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, Joseph is most deserving of the honor bestowed upon him and serves as an inspiration to us all.

OPPOSING H.R. 2936, THE RESILIENT
FEDERAL FORESTS ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. The fire season this year was devastating in Oregon and across the west. It destroyed forestland, reduced air quality, and left a lasting mark on our communities. Congress must increase funding for wildfire suppression and fire prevention actions on public lands. At the same time, Congress can and must do this while maintaining foundational environmental laws. I cannot support this bill because it undermines the bedrock science-based decision-making processes undertaken by land management agencies, and would make it more difficult for states to receive federal funding for wildfire disasters.

I strongly support provisions in the bill that would find new and innovative ways to use wood as a building material for tall wood buildings. Cross-laminated timber and other innovative wood products create sustainable building materials, generate more value from timber harvests, and translate into more jobs in rural Oregon and around the country.

This legislation does not do enough to help communities fund wildfire suppression. It includes a process that would slow local access to much-needed funds, and it calculates funding without regard to true wildfire disaster needs. I joined my colleague, Congressman SCHRADER, in submitting an amendment that would address these problems and increase available funding for wildfire suppression. Unfortunately, the amendment was not accepted for floor consideration by the Rules Committee.

I have heard from counties, families, teachers, and school administrators in forest counties in my district who have told me they will

• 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.

face great hardship if they do not receive the Secure Rural Schools payments they are owed. The last authorized Secure Rural Schools payment was distributed in FY 2016. Earlier this year, I joined my colleague Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS in introducing bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the program through FY 2017. I am frustrated the majority did not use this opportunity to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program and provide certainty to the forest counties who rely on these funds to educate students.

I am also concerned that this bill limits public participation in the management of public lands. It reduces the consideration of forest management alternatives to two options—action or no action. It creates overly broad exclusions for projects to skirt environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. In addition, it reduces opportunities for the public to engage meaningfully in these decisions. As a former consumer protection attorney, I am concerned about the inclusion of an arbitration pilot program that would force many challenges to federal forest management decisions to go through an agency-run arbitration process instead of through the judicial system.

We must manage our federal forests better, but we can do so without including these harmful provisions. I urge my colleagues to come back to the table and develop a more appropriate and effective solution.

RECOGNIZING THE RACHEL CARSON COUNCIL'S "BLAST ZONE" REPORT

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the Rachel Carson Council (RCC). Based in Bethesda, Maryland, the RCC seeks to honor and promote the environmental ethic of former Silver Spring resident Rachel Carson by linking environmental, health, and social policy solutions "with the goal of building a more just, sustainable, and peaceful future."

The RCC has documented the political and economic forces propelling the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, while suggesting safer alternative solutions to build a clean and reliable energy portfolio. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a proposed \$5.5 billion, 600-mile project to move the supply of natural gas fractured from the Marcellus and Utica Shale Basins in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania to meet growing energy demand in Virginia and North Carolina.

The RCC recently released a comprehensive report entitled, "Blast Zone: Natural Gas and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline." This report highlights the dangers of transporting natural gas and the underlying problems with existing natural gas fracturing methods, and it also questions the demand impetus for the project itself. Moreover, the report outlines serious attendant environmental and health risks, which they allege disproportionately affect minority communities and people living below the poverty line. For example, the RCC notes that in North Carolina, 30 out of 42 census tracts within one mile of the pipeline route have

higher minority levels, and 27 out of 42 tracts have higher poverty levels than the state average.

Natural gas has been touted as a bridge fuel, but RCC argues that methane leakage rates range from 3.8 percent to 12 percent, with methane nearly 100 times more effective at trapping heat in Earth's atmosphere over a 20-year lifecycle. With the methane leakage factored into an environmental analysis, RCC concludes that natural gas is even worse for the climate than coal, with a leakage rate of above 3.2 percent.

The dangers of natural gas extraction and transportation were vividly illustrated by California's Aliso Canyon disaster, which spewed 100,000 tons of methane into the atmosphere over a four-month period from 2015 into 2016. Unexpected earthquakes in Oklahoma have been attributed to fracking wastewater disposal practices, a bizarre development which calls the lifecycle of the process' ecological benefits into greater question.

Mr. Speaker, it is becoming impossible to ignore the imminent peril posed by natural gas extraction and transportation. I urge my colleagues to review the well-researched "Blast Zone" report produced by the RCC, and to come together across party lines to develop energy efficient policies that will protect our environment, our economy, and our collective future.

HONORING ROBERT L. SKEWES FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE NATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Skewes upon his retirement from 48½ years of honorable service to the United States Coast Guard, and this great nation.

Mr. Skewes has served as the Chief, Office of Work-Life, within the Coast Guard's Health, Safety, and Work-Life Directorate, under the direction of the Assistant Commandant of Human Resources. In this role he established work-life policy and interpreted program standards for Coast Guard-wide implementation of a myriad of individual and family support services. These services included health promotion, food services, employee assistance, critical incident stress management, transition relocation assistance, personal financial management, adoption reimbursement, child and elder care, special needs for family members, family advocacy, addiction and substance abuse prevention, and sexual assault prevention including response.

Mr. Skewes is a 1973 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy. He began his Coast Guard career as an Engineering Officer and Damage Control Assistant aboard the USCG Cutter Hamilton in Boston, Massachusetts. Following a tour at the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Research and Development, and postgraduate training at the University of Michigan, he was assigned to the Third Coast Guard District Merchant Marine Technical Branch at Governor's Island, New York, where he reviewed commercial vessel plans and specifications. In 1983, he was assigned to the Marine Inspection Office in New

Orleans, Louisiana, where he served as a Marine Inspector and Investigator, Administrative Officer, and Training Officer. From 1987 to 1990, Mr. Skewes was an instructor and Assistant Chief, Marine Safety Schools, at the Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia, where he was instrumental in the development and review of all marine safety program resident training. He served as the Executive Officer of the Marine Safety Office in Providence, RI, from 1990 to 1993, and as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Safety Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from 1993 to 1995. From 1995 to 1999, as the Chief of the Office of Operating and Environmental Standards at Coast Guard Headquarters, Mr. Skewes was responsible for coordinating the development of international and domestic standards for personnel, vessels, facilities, hazardous materials, and environmental issues, and the activities of five industry Federal Advisory Committees. From 1999 to 2003, he served as the Chief, Office of Work-Life, the same position he currently holds. In July 2003, Mr. Skewes retired as a Captain following a 30-year career in the Coast Guard. From July 2003 to June 2007, he served as the Chief, Shore Safety Division within the Office of Safety and Environmental Health, at Coast Guard Headquarters, where he managed programs that focused on the safety concerns of personnel and their dependents that work and live at Coast Guard shore facilities as well as related safety concerns of personnel assigned to afloat units and aviation facilities. In this capacity, he provided oversight for a myriad of programs including risk management, emergency preparedness and response (including occupant emergency plans), traffic safety (including motor vehicles, motorcycles and trailering), fire prevention and safety, recreational safety, personal risk management and systems safety. Mr. Skewes has a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering, and a Masters Degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, from the University of Michigan. He also has a Bachelor's Degree in Ocean Science from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAYPORT

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Naval Station Mayport as it marks 75 years of service to the United States Navy and our nation. This base was born of necessity during World War II and has served the United States Navy and our country almost continuously since. Today, it is one of the Navy's most valued and utilized military bases and is the country's third-largest naval surface fleet concentration area in the United States.

In April 1939, hearing that the Navy was looking to establish an aircraft carrier base on the East Coast of the United States, citizens of Duval County promised to purchase the land that would become home to Naval Station Mayport and give it to the Navy. In July of that year they passed a bond that enabled them to solidify the purchase. In December

1939, the Mayport area was selected for the new base.

Lt. Commander Maynard R. Sanders assumed command of the new U.S. Navy Base in October 1940. Construction began immediately and Building 1, the Administration Building, was opened on Nov. 4, 1941. Although the plans for Mayport being a carrier base were put on hold, the base became a vital crash and patrol boat training facility.

When the war began in earnest, the Atlantic Fleet was dispersed leaving the shipping lanes along the East Coast vulnerable to attack from German submarines. The Porgy Patrol, named after the foul-smelling porgy fertilizer processing plant in the Village of Mayport, went on constant patrol hoping to spot submarines and reporting those findings to the radio tower so aircraft could be launched. Then, on April 10, 1942, with citizens watching from the shore in Ponte Vedra, the S.S. Gulf of America was sunk by the German U-boat U-123. Once again, the civilian population stepped up and the Porgy Patrols expanded to include shrimp boats, trawlers and yachts, which were converted by the Gibbs Shipyard, now BAE Systems.

The marine side of the base with its protected harbor was commissioned as Naval Station Mayport in December 1942. On April, 1944, Mayport's air facility, the Admiral David L. McDonald Field, was commissioned as Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS). After the war, both the marine base and the airfield were decommissioned. The United States Coast took over the base and operated small boat camps until 1947. Because its location is so pivotal, less than a year later Naval Station Mayport was reactivated, and within three years, its land area was expanded and its runway extended. Several name changes occurred over the years and during the Cold War, Mayport became the East Coast home for the Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) squadrons and in 1988 the base was re-designated as a naval air station.

Naval Station Mayport began teeming with life once again. Investments continued and growth in land area, activities and command importance enhanced its value. As Mayport expanded, it began to accommodate more ships and sailors with their families. Its role was crucial during the Cuban Missile Crisis, providing logistical support as well as an advanced staging area for the Second Marine Division. The base has also received visits from Presidents Nixon and Reagan.

The first carrier to be stationed at Mayport was the USS *Tarawa* (CVS-40) and the last carrier to call Mayport home was the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) was decommissioned on March 23, 2007. The Navy continues to entertain the idea of Mayport as a second carrier site on the East Coast but funding is not available.

Today, Naval Station Mayport has undergone major developments in technology, services and infrastructure, making it well positioned to act at a moment's notice. The station's protected harbor can accommodate 34 ships and its runway is capable of handling most aircraft in the military's inventory. It is host to the Navy's United States Fourth Fleet, and is home to the USS *Iwo Jima*, the USS *New York* and the USS *Fort McHenry*. On November 7, 2014, Naval Station Mayport became the East Coast home port for the Navy's newest ships, the littoral combat ships.

Mayport has become an asset not just to Northeast Florida, but to country.

I salute the 75th Anniversary of Naval Station Mayport, which continues to be a major employer and economic stimulator. More importantly, its personnel continue to contribute through their hard work and dedication to the important missions of our nation's defense. Naval Station Mayport has a long history of supporting both the local community and the country and will continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate them on 75 successful years and hope Mayport sailors continue to keep their home anchors in Northeast Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 607; YEA on Roll Call No. 608; and YEA on Roll Call No. 609.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX THOMSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Thomsen of Underwood High School for winning the Class 1A, 126 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships in a row is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Alex, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Alex demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on this day because I was attending the memorial service for the 3rd Special Forces Group soldiers who were recently killed in action while serving in Niger.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 610, 611; nay on Roll Call No. 612, 613; yea on Roll Call No. 614, and 615.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL OREFFICE,
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF THE DOW CHEMICAL
COMPANY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Orefice, the former Chairman of the Board of The Dow Chemical Company, upon his 90th birthday.

Paul was born in Venice, Italy and came to the United States with his family when he was 17 years old. He went on to attend Purdue University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1949. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, Paul began his career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

Following international assignments in Switzerland, Italy, Brazil and Spain, Paul became the first president of Dow Chemical Latin America in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1970. In 1971, he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, and later as president of Dow Chemical U.S.A. in August 1975. Paul was named president and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company in May 1978 and chairman in May 1986.

As a humanitarian, Paul received the Encomienda del Merito Civil (Order of Civil Merit) in 1966 from the government of Spain and in 1978 he was honored with the title "Grand Ufficiale" by the Italian government. Paul is the first person to receive both the Société de Chimie Industrielle's Palladium medal and SCI America's Chemical Industry medal, which he received in 1981 and 1983, respectively.

Paul has been especially helpful in giving back to Michigan's Fourth Congressional District through his intentional engagement of the community. His involvement in bringing the Midland Soccer Club and the Greater Midland Tennis Center to life has not only provided opportunities for the local youth to come together to be active within the community, but also brings tourism to the area through tournaments and other events. Paul's involvement in philanthropy touches not only the Midland community, but reaches across the country as he is a Trustee of the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, served as a Senior Member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Visitors Board, and he served as Chairman of the Board of the Parkinson's Foundation from 2003 to 2007. His strategic thinking and continued contributions have greatly impacted families across the district and the country.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Paul Orefice for his lifetime of work in chemical engineering and for his commitment to the Midland Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I

was in my congressional district tending to urgent business. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 605; NAY on Roll Call No. 606; YEA on Roll Call No. 607; YEA on Roll Call No. 608; YEA on Roll Call No. 609; NAY on Roll Call No. 610; NAY on Roll Call No. 611; and NAY on Roll Call No. 612.

HONORING PETE CIARROCCHI AND CHICKIE'S AND PETE'S CRAB HOUSE AND SPORTS BAR

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Pete Ciarrocchi, Chairman and CEO of the world famous Chickie's & Pete's Crab House and Sports Bar. Since 1977, Chickie's & Pete's locations have been rightfully called the best sports bars in Philadelphia. So none of us were surprised when they were voted ESPN's No. 1 Sports Bar on the East Coast.

Every Philadelphian knows that Chickie's & Pete's and Philly sports go hand in hand. The only thing better than pre-game, post-game or game watching at the restaurant is enjoying their food at the stadium. And of course, you can't leave without an order of Pete's world famous Crabbies®.

But Mr. Speaker, Pete Ciarrocchi is more than a successful businessman. He's one of Philadelphia's finest citizens. He is one of the owners of the three time Arena Bowl champion Philadelphia Soul Arena Football Team. He is also one of our leading philanthropists serving on the Aria Health Foundation Board of Trustees and on the Holy Family University Business Advisory Board. Pete is a Mummer, who is active with The Polish-American String Band.

But most importantly, Pete is a proud husband and father. His lovely wife Lisa and three sons Peter, Blaise, and Anthony are his first loves and the foundation on which the rest of his world is built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring Pete Ciarrocchi and Chickie's & Pete's Crab House and Sports Bar as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary tonight.

TRIBUTE TO MARY SCONIERS-CHAPMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mary Sconiers-Chapman, community leader and retired higher education administrator, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to iden-

tify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

After receiving a degree in elementary education from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Mary began a long successful career educating our future generations. She immediately began teaching after graduation and worked her way up to principal in the Des Moines Public School system. As her passion for education continued to grow, Mary decided that working in higher education was next and became executive dean of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), ultimately retiring in 2013 as the vice president of strategic partnerships after 23 years with the school. While Mary is a dedicated educator, she is also passionate about service to her community. She was instrumental in the creation of the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families that focuses on assisting individuals and families in finding jobs, educational opportunities, and job training.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent community leaders like Mary in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community, and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Mary nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MR. RICHARD VOUTOUR

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service of Mr. Richard Voutour. Rick is a United States Marine Corps veteran, and he has served for over a decade as a friend and advocate of the veterans of Massachusetts as a distinguished Veterans' Service Officer.

Rick was born on January 7, 1963, in Webster, Massachusetts. He entered the Marine Corps at age 18 and completed training at Parris Island, South Carolina and Camp Pendleton, California.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rick has consistently received recognition for his exemplary service to our nation, including: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one star, the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, this alone would be an impressive list of achievements that deserves our respect and gratitude. But after 23 years of service in the Marine Corps, in places as far away as Djibouti, Valetta, and Amman, Rick decided to return home to Massachusetts and serve his nation in a new way as the Director of Veteran Services for Leominster, Massachusetts.

In his 13 years as a Veterans Service Officer, Rick has helped countless veterans and

their families throughout Central Massachusetts obtain the benefits and services that they deserve. From obtaining military record and medals—to assisting with medical care and benefits, every veteran that walks into Rick's office is treated with the dignity and respect he or she deserves. There are thousands of veterans in Massachusetts right now whose lives have been changed for the better by Rick. His dedication to improving the lives of veterans serves as an inspiration to me and an example for our community.

But don't just take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. Many others have seen Rick's steadfast advocacy for veterans and his dogged determination to assist those who have sacrificed so much to proudly serve this country. Just this year, Rick was named Veterans Service Officer of the Year by Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services, Francisco Ureña.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and of the people of Massachusetts, I would like to thank and recognize Mr. Richard Voutour for his service to our country, and for his work every day to improve the lives of veterans in Massachusetts.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTIAN D. SEARCY AND STEVEN L. DANIELS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian D. Searcy and Steven L. Daniels for receiving the 2017 Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Palm Beach Jurisprudence Award. This award acknowledges those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the legal profession as well as the community in which they live. I have had the honor of knowing both these gentleman for many years and commend their worthy recognition.

Christian D. Searcy is President and CEO of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. For 43 years, he has litigated cases primarily involving catastrophic injury and death in venues throughout Florida, as well as other states. He has been honored numerous times for his exceptional advocacy and extraordinary contributions to the cause of justice. He is well known for his generous contributions to many non-profit organizations committed to helping the disabled, improving education, and advancing community causes.

Steven Daniels has played a significant role in the South Florida Jewish community since the 1980s. He has been an integral member of the local and national ADL leadership. Steven has also served as President of Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach as well as the Jewish Community Center of the Palm Beaches. He has earned the "Super Lawyer" distinction from Florida Trend magazine, and is currently the managing partner for the West Palm Beach and Boca Raton offices of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr.

Christian Searcy and Steven Daniels share the distinction of excellence in their profession and the advancement of fairness and justice in the community, the founding principles of the ADL.

I congratulate and thank them both.

TRIBUTE TO DIANA DEIBLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Diana Deibler for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavours throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Diana has spent her life utilizing the work ethic instilled upon her at an early age after growing up on her family's farm in Donnellson, Iowa. She dreamed of being a television anchor but found herself going down a different path as a broadcast reporter and producer. Later, she used the skills and experience she gained in the news business to have a successful career in marketing and consulting. Her success allowed her to also dedicate her time and talents to the Des Moines community, serving nine years on the board of Mercy Medical Center, and nine years on the Mercy College of Health Sciences board.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Diana in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community, and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Diana on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Diana nothing but continued success.

VA MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1066, the VA Management Alignment Act.

The men and women who have bravely served our country in uniform deserve the peace of mind that the VA will work for them—not against them.

Over the past few years, our nation's veterans have too often experienced outrageous wait times, long lines, and mismanagement at VA facilities across the country. In the wake of these scandals, the members of this body have passed multiple bills aimed to right these wrongs and improve VA functions. Unfortunately, we hear far too often of problems continuing to plague the halls of VA medical facilities.

The VA Management Alignment Act directs the Secretary of the VA to report to Congress the steps the Department will take to ensure that the organizational structure of the VA is both efficient and effective.

Supported by groups including the American Legion and the American Federation of Gov-

ernment Employees, this bill seeks to chart a meaningful path forward to better serve those who put their lives on the line to serve us. It is integral that the VA make clear the steps it will take to ensure that our nation's veterans have access to the quality, timely care that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank veterans across the country for their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I chose to remain in my congressional district in Miami for safety reasons due to serious threats I received.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 569; YEA on Roll Call No. 570; YEA on Roll Call No. 571; NAY on Roll Call No. 572; NAY on Roll Call No. 573; YEA on Roll Call No. 574; YEA on Roll Call No. 575; YEA on Roll Call No. 576; YEA on Roll Call No. 577; YEA on Roll Call No. 578; YEA on Roll Call No. 579; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; YEA on Roll Call No. 581; NAY on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; NAY on Roll Call No. 584; YEA on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 586; YEA on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; and YEA on Roll Call No. 590.

STAND FOR SOMETHING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem, on behalf of Albert Carey Caswell, to honor the men and women and families of The Armed Forces, for their selfless service to our Nation on this upcoming Veteran's Day.

And over the many years
All in our Nation clear,
Has been one constant here
The men and women of The Armed Forces
who hold our Nation dear
Whose valor, honor, courage, faith, selfless-
ness, and sacrifice perseveres
While, in the darkest of days of night they
all stood without fear
Who at a moment's notice into the face of
hell would so appear,
All so we can all be here
This Veteran's Day stand for something, be-
cause they stood for you
The ones who fought and bled for all that's
true
And stand for that old Red, White, and Blue
All in what they would do
Ready to die for their brothers and sisters in
arms to their left and right so true
And remember what all of their families
must go through
On this Veteran's Day, please remember our
Nation's real who's who
Stand for something because they stand for
you
When, in the darkness of war comes into
view

Teaching us all how men and women of
honor behave so true
Who came home without arms, legs, and
scars upon their face
But, for the greater good they gave
Stand,
Stand for something noble,
Because they all stood so you can live the
American Dream
While, over the generations so rose to the
top America's Dream
Honor all those who fight the fight,
Who today still stand at the ready on this
very night,
Who turn the dark into the light
Stand, for those on the battlefields of honor
who watched their Brothers and Sisters
die,
And had to bury them all with tears in their
eyes,
Stand, on this Veteran's Day and every day,
For The Armed Forces, their families, and
the ones who gave
Stand, because where would we all be?
If it were but not for the likes of all of these
who stood for you and me
Stand, because freedom is not free
But, only bought and paid for by all of the de-
fenders of the free
Stand, because they live and they die for
you,
They bleed and they cry for you
All so you can turn your back on them,
And they don't ask you how you caught your
disease
Stand for our Veteran's on this Veteran's
Day and everyday
For what they give and gave
Because, it's all they ask.

JAN PLATT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jan Platt and to honor her legacy for the Tampa Bay community. She will always be remembered as an environmental pioneer, champion for "ethics in government" and inspiration for her selfless service.

Born in St. Petersburg, Jan lived in Tampa for most of her life and grew up with a love for Tampa Bay and its natural environment. She graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1954 and earned a degree in political science from Florida State University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, in 1958. During college, she was President of the Student Senate, Student Body Vice President, and even recognized amongst her peers as the "Most Outstanding Senior Woman" in her graduating class. After graduating she began her career as a schoolteacher and taught at both Hillsborough and Plant High Schools before finally being elected to serve on the City of Tampa's City Council in 1974. Four years later, she was elected to Hillsborough County's Board of County Commission, where she proudly served for 24 years.

Jan served her community in countless ways. She established the Agency on Bay Management, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program. She led as the President of the Suncoast Girl Scout Council and the Hillsborough County Head Start Community Foundation INC. Jan endowed a scholarship in honor of her sister, Bobbie Lou, at the

Florida State University College of Music. She was also an active member of the Friends of the Library. Because of her support for libraries, in her honor, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library named one of their branches, the "Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library".

Additionally, Jan was the recipient of the University of South Florida's Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award, recipient of the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, and she was inducted into the Hillsborough County's Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

I was honored to serve alongside Jan during my time on Hillsborough County's Board of County Commission. She was an inspiration to me and many others throughout her career in elected office. A passionate leader, Jan's love of the environment led her to devote herself to protect and preserve our community's natural resources.

Jan Platt inspired me to be a better public servant. She was honest, ethical and loved our Tampa community—from the waters of Tampa Bay to the pristine, wooded areas she worked to protect. Throughout her career serving our community, even in times of great change in local governing bodies, Jan was steadfast in her leadership and it was a great honor to learn from her and know her. I hope her commitment to ethics in government will inspire another generation of passionate leaders to serve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of our Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor the life of Jan Platt and pay tribute to her outstanding contributions to the Tampa community. Jan is survived by her husband Bill, son Kevin, his wife Michele and granddaughter Emma. She leaves an indelible legacy for future generations to enjoy our bay and its waters the same way she did.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE BARANCZYK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jennie Baranczyk, head coach of Drake University's women's basketball team, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

For 18 years, the *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Jennie is no stranger to success. During her time as a member of the women's basketball team at the University of Iowa she was named First Team All-Big Ten in 2003. Her outstanding athletics accomplishments early on in her career have translated into her new role as the head coach of Drake University's women's basketball team. In her first year as head coach, Jennie was given a team that finished with a record of 11–20 the prior year. Her unyielding commitment to excellence and hard work have turned the fortunes of the basketball program around, finishing last season 28–

5, champions of the Missouri Valley Conference, and making an appearance in the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Jennie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her team, her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing Jennie a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) BRIAN LEE FREEMAN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Brian Lee Freeman who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 7, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Freeman was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Baghdad. Also killed were First Lieutenant (1LT) Justin S. Smith, Specialist (SPC) Robert C. Pope, II, and Private First Class (PFC) Marion A. Reyes. SSG Freeman was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

SSG Freeman, a Caledonia, Mississippi native, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1997. Pat Freeman, SSG Freeman's mother, said her son was married to his wife, Leah for 14 months. According to the Associated Press, Mrs. Freeman said prayers from family and friends helped them through a difficult time. "The Army has been very kind to us and helped us through this bad time in our lives," she said. "We know Brian is in a better place and we will see him again someday. We call him our angel now."

A scholarship was established in his memory of SSG Freeman at Caledonia High School. Twelve scholarships have been awarded over the years. Bill Lawrence, the former mayor of Caledonia, recently said that SSG Freeman's late father, Glen Freeman, worked hard to build support for the development of the Veterans Memorial, located at the Ola J. Pickett Park. The family also donated an American flag and flagpole to the facility. The memorial includes two battle crosses—one for SSG Freeman and one for Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jeffrey Dayton, a Caledonia High School graduate who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

At the time of his son's death, Mr. Freeman told the Associated Press that SSG Freeman meant everything to the family. "This boy was a hero. Our son was everything to us. People don't realize what it is to lose a child," he stated. Mrs. Freeman said SSG Freeman demonstrated bravery and courage as a soldier. She said her son saved the life of their unit's medic who he talked out of riding with them in the Humvee on the day of the incident. SSG Freeman told the medic that he may be needed if something happened to them.

The funeral for SSG Freeman was held at the Lowndes Funeral Home in Columbus. SSG Freeman was laid to rest at Rowan Cemetery in Caledonia, Mississippi.

SSG Freeman is survived by his mother, Pat Freeman; his wife, Leah; her son, Bradley Thomas; his sister, Lisa Nichols; his uncle, Rick Merryman; his aunt, Karen Merryman; his brother-in-law, Ronnie Christian; and his sister-in-law, Linda Christian.

SSG Freeman's service and sacrifice to protect America will not be forgotten.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. VELORIS "JEAN" WILLIAMS-EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great woman and sincere friend, Veloris "Jean" Williams-Edwards. Jean passed away on October 29, 2017. Funeral services will be held at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

A native of Wooten's Crossroads, North Carolina, Jean was born to George T. and Lacy Ann (Mott) Williams, as the fourth of eight children. A product of the Greene County School System, she graduated from Greene County Training School in 1959. She went on to attend North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University (NC A&T) where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of Maryland.

In 1964, she married the love of her life, Leon Edwards, and they built a life that was based on the love of God, the love of each other, the love of family and the love of people. They knew that the love of these could lead one to a close and fulfilling relationship with God because they are an embodiment of His greatest commandments: to love Him with all your "heart, mind and soul" and to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

Jean's passion for education persisted during her professional career as a teacher, a vocational development specialist and a transition coordinator, where she taught her students to be of service to others. After her career in education, she went on launch a dress shop, work as a promoter for various events, and work alongside her husband at Edwards Trucking Company (which evolved in to a productive transportation company), before becoming a staff assistant in the office of former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. The treasured relationships she developed and the exciting daily operations of the Office of the Speaker made her experience on Capitol Hill beneficial.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Jean was undoubtedly great because of her devotion to her work, and the compassion she showed for her friends and loved ones.

On a personal note, Jean became a trusted friend on Capitol Hill. I was truly blessed by

her friendship as I started my congressional career. Her advice, counsel and assistance were invaluable.

Jean was preceded in death by her siblings; Gerald Lee Williams, Marjorie (Daisy) Williams, George Earl (Bob) Williams, and Melvin (BoBo) Williams.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Leon A. Edwards; her son, Reginald Edwards (Sherry); her daughter, Tiena Edwards; two sisters, Dorothy Clark (Washington, D.C.); Sabrina Hickman (Greenville, NC); two grandchildren, Reggie (Chaz), and Miesha; two great-grandchildren, Miayah-Joy Keith and Somer-Hope Keith; two God-children, Julia Chaney (Winston) and Malika Taylor-Phillips; and a host of relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join my wife, Vivian, and me in extending our deepest sympathies to Jean's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH BARNES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Barnes of Southeast Polk High School for winning the Class 3A, 145 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning state championships is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Zach, but also his parents, his family, coaches and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Zach demonstrates the rewards of dedication, and perseverance. I am proud to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of November 7, 2017, a series of votes were held. Had I been present for the first of these roll call votes, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 613—I vote YES.

VETERAN URGENT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 918, the Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act.

As Veterans Day approaches, we remember the debt of gratitude we owe our nation's veterans, who have sacrificed greatly to protect our freedoms.

Tragically, about 11 to 20 out of every 100 veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year. As researchers work diligently to understand the increase in veteran suicides—now at a troubling 22 veterans per day—it is important to understand that service-related mental stress is not limited to veterans who receive honorable discharges.

The Army has released at least 22,000 combat veterans diagnosed with mental health conditions or traumatic brain injuries since 2009 for alleged misconduct—meaning that many who have served in uniform may fall through the VA's cracks as they attempt to access mental health services.

The Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act recognizes this issue and expands the boundaries of mental health care covered by the VA to better serve those who serve us—including those with PTSD that affects their service.

The lack of access to mental health care remains an unfortunate reality for too many veterans. This bill would extend a helping hand to combat veterans struggling with the effects that their service has on their mental health. It would ensure that a population at a high-risk for suicide receives the care and support its men and women deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank veterans across the country for their service.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Keweenaw National Historical Park upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Through committed preservation and community engagement, the Keweenaw National Historical Park has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

For over 7,000 years, the Keweenaw area has been a source of natural resources and cultural enrichment. Native peoples first utilized its easily accessible and workable copper to create tools and items for trade. Later, copper became the center of growing industries and cosmopolitan communities in the Keweenaw. This rich history is preserved through the hard work of the rangers and volunteers at the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

The celebration of the park's anniversary is the perfect recognition of efforts to preserve our history, culture, and beautiful landscapes. Today, the park continues to raise the bar of innovation through programs and partnerships with state and local governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Its steadfast work has helped give the people of the Keweenaw Peninsula and all of the Upper Peninsula a sense of unity and common heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Keweenaw National Historical Park for its 25 years of success and community investment. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important institution of historical, cultural, and environmental preservation. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Keweenaw National Historical Park all the best in its future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT ON GRIFFIN NOMINATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend President Trump for nominating Michael D. Griffin to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD/ATL).

There is a saying that a person was made for a certain job. In the case of Dr. Griffin, this is true.

We currently have a convergence of space and national security factors which are matched only by a handful of circumstances in the past.

I am thinking of Russia placing Sputnik in space, and President Kennedy refusing to accept missiles in Cuba, and of President Reagan's placement of Pershing missiles in Europe and starting the SDI, or Strategic Defense Initiative Office.

With the nomination of Mike Griffin, we have a person with the experience of working in SDI yet also being the initiator of new ideas, such as the commercial cargo resupply program for NASA's ISS (International Space Station).

For this particular job at the Pentagon, that is what we need—a person who knows how to utilize best practices of the past, combined with the openness and boldness to recommend to the Secretary of Defense the decisive actions which will keep America pre-eminent in technology, and give America the edge, when and if we must engage in armed conflict.

Dr. Griffin holds degrees from six separate universities, his management experience in business and as former Administrator at NASA, as well as his work serving as a professor and as a consultant on Department of Defense review panels such as the Mitchell Commission (rocket launch engines), all prepare him well for this assignment and for the rising challenges facing our military around the world.

After his confirmation, I look forward to working with him and the rest of our Department of Defense to help provide what is necessary for our national security.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NA-
TIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST
(SPC) JAMES ANDERSON
CHANCE, III

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army National Guard Specialist (SPC) James Anderson Chance, III, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 6, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Chance was killed when his vehicle struck a landmine in Husaybah, Iraq. SPC Chance was assigned to C Company, 890th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, based in Columbia, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, SPC Chance volunteered to lead his convoy. He did not want his comrades to risk their lives if they had spouses or children. SPC Chance, a Kokomo, Mississippi native, was close to his parents, James and Patricia Ann Chance. Allen Chance, SPC Chance's brother, said he always lived close to his parents so he could look after them. "He was worried and he was trying to get it where he could come home for a few days to see her," Allen said. Mrs. Chance recently said her son was a good man who always made her laugh.

SPC Chance was remembered in a post on a memorial website. "SPC Chance, a true soldier, never complained, and moved out at a moment's notice," First Lieutenant (ILT) Robert Enochs of Saucier, Mississippi wrote. "Thanks for your love, dedication, and sacrifice for our country. I wish there were many more like you. We love and miss you dearly. We will never forget you."

SPC Chance joined the U.S. Army in 1997 after he graduated from Kokomo High School. He served one tour of duty in the Army. In 2002, he joined the Mississippi Army National Guard to pursue higher education opportunities.

A memorial service was held for SPC Chance at the Kokomo United Methodist Church which is located across the street from his childhood home. He was laid to rest at the Kokomo Community Cemetery.

SPC Chance is survived by his mother, Patricia Ann Chance; his brother, John Allen Chance; and his nephew, Samuel Chance.

SPC Chance will always be remembered for the sacrifice he made to protect America. He made his family and our nation proud.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT THOMPSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Thompson, of Afton, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 East Union's Military Service Recognition Award.

The Afton Star Enterprise reported that "Robert Thompson was a 1957 Afton High School graduate who enlisted in the U.S.

Army, serving from 1957 to 1979. He had two assignment periods in Viet Nam during the Viet Nam War, and while there received two Bronze Star Awards and a Silver Star for his action in combat and a Purple Heart for a combat-related injury." In addition to his service in Vietnam, Robert was stationed in other locations, like Iceland and Panama, before returning home to Afton with his family. He retired from the Army in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent Iowans like Robert in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert for receiving this outstanding designation and in wishing him nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING BILL STANLEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend Mr. Bill Stanley on being named this year's William Crawford Distinguished Service Award winner by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

A native of Norwich, CT, Bill began his outstanding public service career in journalism, writing for local publications like the Norwich Bulletin and the New London Day. He then transitioned to government, working briefly as a campaign press secretary for Governor O'Neill before spending the next six years at Rome, Frankel & Kennelly. In 1996, Bill became Director of Corporate Communications for the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, where he worked until 1999. He currently serves as vice president of Development and Community Relations at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital. On a personal note, I have known Bill since my days as a rookie state legislator at the Connecticut General Assembly. He is deeply involved in the politics and community of his beloved Southeastern Connecticut, willing to throw himself into any cause that improves the region. Although passionate in his beliefs, he is a true gentleman and respectful of any and all people he interacts with, which is a lot.

Throughout his full and prestigious career, Bill has always found time to volunteer for numerous causes across Eastern CT. Currently he is Board Chairman of his alma mater's foundation, the Three Rivers Community College Foundation. He also sits on the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut's board of directors. Bill served nearly 20 years on the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, including two terms as chairman. He previously served as chairman of the New London Redevelopment Agency and was a board member at St. Jude Common and the USS Connecticut Commissioning Committee. From 1996 to 1999, he was Chairman of the American Heart Association's Southeastern Connecticut Heart Walk and continues to serve on its Executive Leadership Team.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my dear friend Bill on receiving this noble recognition. May others always look to

him for a great example of leadership and service.

TRIBUTE TO DIWALI

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the India Association of Indianapolis (IAI). The IAI is a non-profit organization that unites Indian-Americans located in the central Indiana area. It has become a vital cultural bridge between Indian-Hoosiers and the community.

The IAI was founded in 1968 by fifteen families living in the Indianapolis area. Today, the IAI has a membership that exceeds 2,000 families and continues to climb. There are over 30,000 Indian-Americans living in the Indiana. The IAI has been a valuable voice for all Indian-Hoosiers and has increased understanding of India, Indian people, and Indian culture in central Indiana.

The mission of the IAI is to promote the cultural activities of India, to foster cultural exchange between people of India and the USA, and to carry out educational and charitable activities. Over the course of the last 50 years, the IAI has performed its mission admirably and has enriched the community immeasurably. It has played a crucial role to protecting, preserving, and promoting Indian traditions and has showcased the beauty of India to the Indianapolis community.

Whether it's the annual Diwali celebration, the Holi Festival, the yearly marking of India's independence, or a cricket game meant to foster friendship between the Indian and Pakistani-American community, the IAI has been a constant force of goodwill in Central Indiana. The IAI has grown exponentially since it was founded and is destined to do bigger and better things in the future. Indiana is lucky to have such an organization in its midst and I acknowledge the IAI, its leadership, and all its members.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I would like to salute the India Association of Indianapolis.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SER-
GEANT (SGT) COURTLAND
ANSHUN KENNARD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army (SGT) Sergeant Courtland Anshun Kennard who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 9, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Kennard was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Also killed was Staff Sergeant (SSG) Gregory W.G. McCoy of Webberville, Michigan. SGT Kennard was assigned to the 410th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Retired Army Sergeant (SGT) Douglas Kennard, SGT Kennard's father, recently said his son grew up living on military bases in the United States and Germany. SGT Kennard graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School in Weisbaden, Germany in 2002. SGT Kennard followed in his father's footsteps when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003. "He wanted to join the Army," Mr. Kennard said. "I am extremely proud of him. I was always proud of him."

Pamela Pleasant, SGT Kennard's aunt, said she was always proud of her nephew. "He was an awesome kid," Mrs. Pleasant said. "He had a smile that would light up a room. He was so humble. I miss him terribly."

SGT Kennard was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "I will always remember your smile, Kennard," Sergeant (SGT) Michele Martin wrote. "He is a very special person and a soldier. He was always there for his fellow comrades. When you were down, his smile always cheered you up. I will always cherish Kennard in my heart and always remember the great sacrifice he took for this great nation and his family to be free."

A funeral was held for SGT Kennard at Mount Pelier Missionary Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. SGT Kennard was laid to rest at Memorial Garden Park, which is located near Mississippi State University in Starkville.

SGT Kennard is survived by his parents, Douglas and Darlene Kennard; his brother, Jamahl Kennard; and his aunt, Pamela Pleasant.

SGT Kennard gave his life to protect our nation. His service will always be remembered.

HONORING RONALD JOHNSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the longstanding career of Ronald Johnson, a fearless leader for more than three decades in the fight against HIV/AIDS. His leadership spans numerous esteemed organizations and agencies including the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Minority Task Force on AIDS, City of New York, Presidential Advisory Council, AIDS Action, and United AIDS from which he is now retiring.

Following the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, the gay community of New York City witnessed the rising swell of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Throughout the 1980's, the number of AIDS-related deaths climbed higher each year. In 1981, amidst widespread fear and uncertainty, Dr. Lawrence Mass and Larry Kramer founded the first New York City nonprofit devoted to HIV and AIDS awareness, testing, education, advocacy, and prevention. They called it the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC).

Mr. Johnson began volunteering with GMHC in 1984, while continuing his service as the Assistant Executive Director of the University Settlement, a nonprofit social service program that assisted immigrants and low-income families with fulfilling their health, education, and housing needs. After volunteering for a few years, Mr. Johnson was invited to join the GMHC's Board of Directors.

Mr. Johnson served as Executive Director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS and in 1992

was appointed the Citywide Coordinator for AIDS Policy for the City of New York. Known for being both forceful and persuasive yet guided by facts, Mr. Johnson helped the city develop a comprehensive strategy for stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic through proactive education, prevention, and treatment. He strengthened the city's AIDS hotline and testing programs, needle-exchange program, and housing and medical care services for AIDS patients.

By 1996, Mr. Johnson was rewarded for his efforts as he witnessed a sharp decline in New York City's HIV and AIDS-related deaths. His programs were working and he had the data to prove it. He later joined the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, where he helped design the policy thinking and best practices for the President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to commend Ronald Johnson for his long career advocating for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. His service and devotion has saved lives, inspired hope, and made this world a remarkably safer and better place.

HONOR THE LIFE OF GREG WOOD

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of my constituents, Greg Wood, who passed away on October 14, 2017, at the age of 70.

In tribute to Greg, who served in the United States Marine Corps and was wounded in action during the Vietnam War, my office arranged for an American flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol. I am so glad that our country raised the flag in Greg's honor, because Greg did so much to support and defend this country. Greg fought to protect the fundamental freedoms that our flag represents.

This Saturday is Veterans Day, when our nation pauses to express gratitude to all those who honorably served, both living and departed. The day before, I will attend a ceremony at the Park Maitland School in Orlando, where we will formally present the flag to Greg's widow, Donna. Donna was kind enough to talk to my office about her late husband, about what mattered most to him, and about how he lived his life.

Greg was many things—a Texan at heart despite spending most of his life in the Sunshine State; a well-educated man who earned a master's degree in finance; an adventure-seeker who once rode his motorcycle from the United States all the way down to Panama; a respected commercial real estate broker; a sports lover; a fisherman and a hunter; and a pillar of our central Florida community.

But, as Donna made crystal clear, Greg was—above all—a U.S. Marine and a family man. These two roles defined him. They were the core of who he was. They gave his life purpose and meaning.

In a speech that he delivered many years ago to members of the Marine Corps, President Ronald Reagan said: "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem."

Greg volunteered to serve in the Marine Corps in March 1966, when he was only 18 years old. After basic training, Greg was sent to Vietnam, where he served as a forward observer—directing artillery fire onto enemy targets. Working as a forward observer, especially in Vietnam, was an exceptionally dangerous job.

The Marines are famous for their bravery, discipline and toughness. Greg was a Marine's Marine—respected and even revered by his brothers in arms for his courage and commitment. Despite his youth, Greg was a natural leader of men. They followed him, and they trusted him. Some even thought he might be invincible, and did not want to go out on patrols unless Greg was going with them.

Friendships forged in war are uniquely deep and intense. Greg lost many good friends in Vietnam—and, as Donna tells us, he carried these losses with him for the remainder of his life. On some days, the memories haunted Greg, and he struggled with feelings of sadness and guilt. Like any warrior who has seen his fellow warriors fall, Greg naturally asked himself: "Why them and not me?"

Physically, as well as psychologically, Greg did not leave Vietnam unscathed. One fateful day, while out on a mission, he was shot and critically wounded—earning a Purple Heart. When Greg awoke hours later in a military hospital, a priest was administering his last rites. Although he survived, doctors told him he was unlikely to live past age 35. In a sense, then, Greg's entire life was one big case of beating the odds.

After being honorably discharged from the Marines, Greg was determined to become successful professionally and personally—in part to honor his fallen comrades who never had the chance to build a career or a family of their own. As Donna told us, nearly everything that Greg did later in life was shaped by his formative experience in Vietnam, whether for better or for worse.

One of Greg's daughters, Kristina, told me that her father loved war movies, but they always made him cry. It is clear that Greg had complex feelings about war itself, but that he cherished the American soldiers, sailors, airmen and—of course—Marines who fought these wars. It didn't matter whether they served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Iraq. He felt a sacred bond with all of them.

In addition to his military family, of course, Greg treasured his own family—which includes Donna, four children, and eight grandchildren. By all accounts, he was a loving husband and father, who coached Little League, served as a Boy Scout leader, and did all the big things and little things that great dads do.

So, I hope Greg has been reunited with the friends he lost in Vietnam. I hope he is happy and at peace. And I hope he knows how much his life mattered to his family and to the country he so nobly served.

TRIBUTE TO MCGWIRE MIDKIFF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate McGwire

Midkiff of Carter Lake, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 126-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year. McGwire is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of McGwire, but his family and coaches, as well.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by McGwire demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating McGwire on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and his wrestling career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pacifica, California, a sea-sprayed city in my district blessed by salty breezes, soaring shorebirds and the collective smile of residents that rivals in intensity the warmth of the sun itself. On November 22, 2017, Pacifica is a spritely 60 years old.

Residents love this town, and there's no doubt as to why. The views of the Pacific Ocean are spectacular, the shoreline is captivating. If you wish to stroll through the sand and to hunt for seashells, bring your children to the beach and spend a few hours listening to the waves and gazing at the gulls overhead or the snowy plover nearby, Pacifica is the place to be.

Although sunshine is the predominant feature of Pacifica, fog occasionally arrives. Well, actually, more than occasionally. But it is quiet and serene in Pacifica when fog shrouds the shore and the mountains.

For hundreds of years, Pacifica was home to a village of the Ohlone tribe. Pacifica's creeks and ample supply of fish and nuts fed generations. These residents lived in balance with nature, thriving on the ocean side of the San Francisco Peninsula and trading with other villages on the bay side.

The Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portolà arrived in 1769 and climbed the mountain behind Pacifica to a point now known as Sweeney Ridge. From that point, Portolà was the first European to discover the existence of San Francisco Bay. In the next decades, thousands followed, leading to the establishment of Mission Dolores and the creation of early San Francisco. Pacifica fed San Francisco from crops planted throughout the San Pedro Valley. In 1839, a Mexican land grant to Don Francisco Sanchez was made and it almost exactly matched the boundaries of modern-day Pacifica.

While much of modern-day Pacifica might be unrecognizable to the Ohlone or to Don Francisco Sanchez, one characteristic of those

early times would easily be recognized: families. Both in the distant past and today, Pacifica teems with families. The school district is highly regarded and has over 3,000 students from grades K through 8. Parents from biotech companies and other global corporations drive a few extra miles to work every day so that they may live in a community with quality schools and a web of soccer teams and gymnastics programs that allow children to thrive amidst friends. The annual family-friendly Pacifica Fog Fest draws tens of thousands from throughout the Bay Area to enjoy the sun, music, a hometown parade, and all of the cheese and nachos needed to earn a mother's scorn.

Civic life in Pacifica is energetic, to say the least. In recent years, the city has completed such notable projects as the undergrounding of utilities, the creation of a dog park, the commencement of a parking program at state beaches, improvements to the senior/community center, protection of environmental resources around the creeks and on the beaches, and numerous other public improvements that augment Pacifica's natural splendor.

The city's leadership is as strong today as ever, and it meets the challenges of modern governance head on. For example, City government illustrates its love-hate relationship with Mother Nature by joyfully paying to protect the snowy plover's nesting areas while scrambling to pay to prevent the erosion of bluffs to the beaches below. The council knows that if you walk along the beach near Pedro Point, you're probably walking on the sand that once existed as the bluff, a few miles north, that supports Esplanade Boulevard. Such is the duty of leadership in Pacifica where a councilmember must pay to maintain infrastructure in the coin of the realm while delivering sand and refurbished habitats for endangered species for free to the ultimate administrator of Pacifica's fate: Mother Nature.

Congratulations to the City of Pacifica upon 60 years of formal incorporation, from November 22, 1957 to the present. From tail fins on cars to shark fins in the ocean, the city has done well for itself. With its loving population and visionary leadership, there are many more adventures to come for this little place by the sea that 39,000 call home and celebrate as a place to embrace life, family and neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE AVIATION PROGRAM

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Northwestern Michigan College Aviation Program upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Through innovation, passion, and dedication, NMC Aviation has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1967, NMC Aviation came from small beginnings with three planes and five instructors. In just 50 years, it has grown to be one of the most respected aviation programs in the country. Today, they continue to raise the bar of innovation through ground-breaking

courses and program partnerships with Michigan high schools and colleges across the world. Its instructors have real life experience, and its students have access to exceptional training and resources.

As a commercial pilot of 22 years, I know the great need for quality pilots in our global economy, as well as the dedication and skill this profession requires. NMC Aviation has proven itself to be one of the best institutions of its kind at training the next generation of pilots.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the NMC Aviation Program for its 50 years of success and community investment. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to this outstanding institution. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Northwestern Michigan College Aviation Program all the best in its future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. "BILL" MCALLISTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill McAllister of Clarinda, Iowa who recently retired from the Page County Sheriff's Department with 37 years of service in law enforcement.

Bill's service to our country began as a member of the United States Army Military Police. He later began his career in law enforcement in 1980 with the Nebraska City, Nebraska Police Department, as well as graduating from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center. He joined the Clarinda Police Department in 1982 as a patrolman and was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Bill graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and was awarded the 1987 Silver Star for Bravery from the American Police Hall of Fame. He was selected Outstanding Officer by the Clarinda Optimist Club in 1997, and that year, joined the Page County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff.

Page County Sheriff Lyle Palmer said, "Bill earned numerous certificates and attended classes every year to continue his knowledge of law enforcement. Bill had the ability to read people and he was a great benefit to the Sheriff's Department. He served the citizens of Page County with dignity and honor."

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent community leaders like Bill in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bill for his outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGIL HANKS

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one

of my constituents and an American hero, Corporal Virgil Hanks. Corporal Hanks passed away last week at the age of 96, just a few days before Veterans Day.

Corporal Hanks joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1942 and was honorably discharged from the military at the end of World War II following four years of service. In 2015, in his hometown of Social Circle, Georgia, I had the distinct honor of presenting Corporal Hanks with a certificate of Congressional Recognition and a World War II Victory Medal for his valuable and selfless contribution to our Nation's wartime efforts.

Virgil Hanks will be remembered as an incredibly kind and humble man, dedicated to his late wife, siblings, and children, whom he loved fiercely. His legacy of service survives to this day throughout Georgia's 10th Congressional District, and he will be buried at the Georgia National Cemetery with his other brothers and sisters in arms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence to honor the life of Corporal Virgil Hanks, a hero who deserves the respect of all Americans and will be sorely missed by so many in the community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HONOR BANK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Honor Bank upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted services, reliable staff, and community engagement, Honor Bank has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1917 as Honor State Bank, just \$20,000 in capital and a determined staff built the bank into the community institution it is today. Over the course of 100 years, Honor Bank forged its path to success through World Wars and financial crises, all while maintaining its commitment to the community it was built upon. Today, the bank's capital has grown, yet it still promotes its ideals of independent community banking.

The bank's Honor Code of integrity, hard work, responsibility, teamwork, and reliability is illustrated through its Giving Back to our Communities program. During each month of this year's anniversary celebrations, Honor Bank is highlighting the work of a local non-profit agency chosen by the bank's employees. Through this Agency Spotlight, customers and employees are encouraged to donate needed items, and employees volunteer on average 100 minutes per month to the selected agency. These charities have included the Betsie Valley District Library, Michigan Blood, and the Benzie Food Pantry. Honor Bank continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when a company is built around a community.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Honor Bank and its staff for 100 years of success, service, and community investments. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Honor Bank all the best in its future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BLUE STAR MOTHERS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Blue Star Mothers in honor of Military Family Appreciation Month. Blue Star Mothers are mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, Guard or Reserve, or who are veterans. These women provide support for the service members that make up our military, the veterans on the homefront, and the families of our service members and veterans.

The Blue Star Mothers started in the United States 75 years ago during World War II in Flint, Michigan. On January 22, 1942, the Flint News Advertiser printed a coupon asking mothers of servicemen to return the coupon after filling it out. The following February, 300 mothers came together for their first meeting and decided to form a permanent organization. They started working in hospitals and train stations, packed care packages for soldiers, and became a working part of homeland security during times of war.

Today, Blue Star Mothers have a presence in 40 states consisting of almost 300 chapters nationwide. In the State of Indiana, we have seven chapters that I would like to recognize directly. These chapters are the Blue Star Mothers of Indiana out of Monticello, the Blue Star Hoosier Mothers out of Crawfordsville, the North Central Indiana Blue Star Mothers out of Kokomo, the St. Joe Valley Blue Star Mothers out of South Bend, the Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers out of Fort Wayne, the Hoosier Heartland Blue Star Mothers out of Kokomo, and the Indy Blue Star Mothers out of Indianapolis. Each of these groups has had an incredible impact on our community and on the Hoosier service members and their families.

These women know what it means to serve our country. They live it each and every day. It is with their help and strength that we are able to have the greatest military the world has ever seen. Behind each of our heroes, both at home and abroad, you will likely find a Blue Star Mother providing them the support, encouragement, and courage they need to fight our foes. Mr. Speaker, we need more Americans like the Blue Star Mothers.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN ALDRICH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Martin Aldrich of Clarinda, Iowa for being selected as the 2016-17 Educator of the Year by Schmitt Music Company. The Schmitt Music Company operates music stores in 7 Midwest states, offering help to over 13,000 students per year with music lessons, and employing nearly 400 people, many who are professional musicians. They are dedicated to recognizing teachers who go above and beyond in their musical careers.

Martin is the Band Director at Clarinda Middle School in Clarinda, Iowa. He has served in that position since 2003. A graduate of Morningside College and the University of Kansas, he serves as the Southwest Iowa Bandmaster's Association representative for middle school affairs and has served as district president of the Southwest Iowa Bandmaster's Association. He also fills a leadership role in the Journey of Excellence Mentor Program for first year teachers and is a member of the District Leadership Team, which focuses on teacher professional development activities for visual arts, music, and physical education.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Martin for earning this award. He is an excellent example of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of our youth and their education. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Martin for this outstanding recognition and in wishing him 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 9, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
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

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anthony Kurta, of Montana, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, and James E. McPherson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, both of the Department of Defense, and Gregory E. Maggs, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

SD-G50

- Committee on Environment and Public Works
 Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1857, to establish a compliance deadline of May 15, 2023, for Step 2 emissions standards for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces, S. 203, to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency may not regulate vehicles used solely for competition, S. 839, to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule, and S. 1934, to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices.
 SD-406
- Committee on Foreign Relations
 Business meeting to consider S. 1928, to establish a review of United States multilateral aid, and the nomination of Eric M. Ueland, of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management); to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the authority to order the use of nuclear weapons.
 SD-419
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine gene editing technology, focusing on innovation and impact.
 SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine firearm accessory regulation and enforcing Federal and state reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
 SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
 To hold hearings to examine technology in agriculture, focusing on data-driven farming.
 SR-253
- Committee on Foreign Relations
 Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
 To hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia-Pacific, focusing on the view from Beijing.
 SD-419
- NOVEMBER 15
- 9 a.m.
 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 Business meeting to consider, pursuant to H. Con. Res. 71, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, reconciliation legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the "1002 Area" or Coastal Plain.
 SD-366
- 9:30 a.m.
 Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 To hold hearings to examine the victims of Turkey's failing rule of law.
 SD-124
- 10 a.m.
 Committee on Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings to examine promoting American leadership in reducing air emissions through innovation.
 SD-406
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine encouraging healthy communities, focusing on perspective from the Surgeon General.
 SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Claria Horn Boom, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, John W. Broomes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Rebecca Grady Jennings, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, and Robert Earl Wier, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.
 SD-226
- 2 p.m.
 Committee on Foreign Relations
 Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues
 To hold hearings to examine attacks on United States diplomats in Cuba, focusing on response and oversight.
 SD-419
- 2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Appropriations
 Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
 To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs efforts to prevent and combat opioid overmedication.
 SD-124
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, and Timothy Kelly, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, all of the Department of Education, and Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, and Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Labor.
 SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
 Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
 To hold hearings to examine the consumer welfare standard in antitrust.
 SD-226
- NOVEMBER 16
- 10 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John C. Rood, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary for Policy, and Randall G. Schriver, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense.
 SD-G50
- Committee on Foreign Relations
 To receive a closed briefing on new counterterrorism guidance.
 SVC-217