

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