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