

Commission, and Advisory Committee, Unitrans. Sheila holds a B.S. in Nursing from University of Wisconsin, Masters and a PhD in Nursing from University of San Francisco.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF CONVAL

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Conval, Inc., located in Somers, CT.

In 1962, WWII Navy veteran, Chester "Chet" Siver designed a line of high-pressure, forged steel valves in his basement in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. After a brief period overseeing Hamilton Standard's use of his design, Mr. Siver eventually regained the rights to his product and set up shop. Conval, or "Connecticut Valve", was founded on November 7, 1967.

Today Conval is the premier manufacturer of high quality, high temperature, and high pressure forged steel valves in the world. Conval valves are used in a variety of industries, including fossil power, nuclear power, pulp and paper, and water treatment.

As the town's largest private employer, Conval has become an institution in Somers. This family-owned and operated small business, now overseen by Chet's son, Frank Siver, is an American success story that has stayed true to Siver's commitment to making Conval "a nice place to work." For example, when it came time to expand, Conval elected to stay close to home to accommodate its employees and their families. Their new facility, located in nearby Enfield, CT, is set to open in February 2018.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Conval for their fifty-year commitment to great American manufacturing and community. May they enjoy continued success for years to come.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—TRANINE CHISOM

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Tranine Chisom of Fairfield, California, who has dedicated her career to community service and improving support for people with mental health disabilities and those who experience housing challenges and homelessness. As the Director of Supported Housing of Caminar in Solano County, Tranine has tirelessly worked with property owners, and city and county officials to increase and leverage affordable housing resources for our most vulnerable citizens. Annually, Tranine and her team provide supportive housing services to over 100 residents who might not otherwise be able to obtain or maintain affordable housing on their own.

Ms. Chisom also serves as the Board Chairwoman for Housing First Solano, a coalition of service providers in Solano County working to-

gether to end homelessness. She has been instrumental in the development and now the implementation of Solano County's Neighbors Helping Neighbor-Forward Together 5-Year Strategic Plan to address homelessness.

Tranine is also active in the Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity program where she actively participates as a crew member on community building days, as well as serves on the Family Selection Committee to identify families most in need of a Habitat Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 6, 2017. Had I been present for the following Roll Call votes:

H.R. 3562—To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes, I would have voted Yea as this legislation would make it easier for the VA to assist veterans who are in need of adaptations made to their homes to receive care.

On H.R. 1066—VA Management Alignment Act of 2017—Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936, I would have voted Yea as this legislation would require the VA to submit a report on the individual roles and accountability mechanisms of the VA.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—RONDA DAROSA

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ronda DaRosa of Woodland, California, who has dedicated her 33-year career to Education. Her broad educational experience includes 12 years of private and public classroom instruction at the intermediate to adult education levels, 21 years in an administrative role at schools and county office levels implementing programs focused on alternative and special education, developing curriculum for college preparatory and career technical programs, designing and implementing professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and administrators, and facilitating school reform at the secondary and middle school levels.

Dr. DaRosa currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent for the Yolo County Office of Education; a position that is well deserved. In her capacity as an administrator, she is committed to providing quality education and delivers a wide range of services to the children, parents and K-12 school districts in Yolo County.

Dr. DaRosa holds credentials in the areas of Life Sciences, Introductory Mathematics, Language Development Specialist and Educational Administration. She received her mas-

ter's degree in educational administration from Sonoma State University and her doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

HONORING RICHARD COOVER FOR  
HIS LEGACY AND COURAGEOUS  
SERVICE

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Richard Coover, a loving father and husband. Richard, who valiantly served our nation during World War II in the U.S. Marine Corps, passed away on October 27, 2017 at the age of 92.

In February 1945, three U.S. Marine divisions landed on Iwo Jima, Japan; Richard was one of them. He not only survived the war, but he also endured and bravely defended our country facing many challenges. He fought right at the bottom of Mount Suribachi while bearing the sound of explosions that lasted all night long.

Richard is indeed a hero. He was just a young man, thousands of miles away from his home, his friends, and his family when he bravely served our country in Japan. His actions embody the true meaning of valor.

When I met Richard, I was deeply touched by his humility and spirit of service. He passionately expressed his love for our nation and was proud to have witnessed the U.S. flag being raised in Iwo Jima. His courage and strength is truly an inspiration.

Richard's courage was displayed not only overseas, but also when fighting against cancer. My office had the honor to help him obtain medical assistance. I even had the humbling opportunity to present him with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of his service. Throughout the process, Richard maintained an admirable and graceful presence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor an outstanding constituent, Richard Coover. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I extend my deepest respects and condolences to his family. His years of committed service to our nation are an example of excellence and dedication, all should seek to emulate.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—ROBIN DEWEY

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Dewey, a dedicated advocate for individuals living with disabilities in Davis, California, who is committed to serving her community. As President of Team Davis, a nonprofit organization established to help enrich the lives of children and adults with developmental, cognitive, and physical disabilities, Ms. Dewey has demonstrated her devotion to an underserved community.

Thanks to her dedication, people with disabilities have been provided opportunities for experiences that give them a sense of accomplishment, purpose, and belonging. Ms. Dewey has brought to life the mission of her organization, helping disabled individuals build physical skills, a sense of camaraderie, and a stronger connection with the Davis community.

For decades Ms. Dewey has served her community by advocating for equity, social justice, and opportunity for disabled individuals. Not only does she serve a typically isolated community with compassion, consistency, and authenticity, but she also ensures that her volunteers do the same. Ms. Dewey's service to her community does not end with the disabled people she helps, but continues with the compassionate service she teaches to everyone in her organization.

HONORING GEORGE FRANCIS LEE,  
M.D.

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. George Francis Lee, a healer with a heart of gold, who passed away on September 26, 2017.

Dr. Lee was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 1, 1941. He was the oldest of five children and spent the majority of his youth in upstate New York where he met his future wife, Katherine Temple. They were married on August 24, 1963.

After graduating from Albany Medical College of Union University in 1968, Dr. Lee and his family moved to California in 1969 where he completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco. Throughout his career he was recognized for his exceptional bedside manner as well as his compassionate and trusted nature as a physician. His work in medicine not only improved the lives of women and children in San Francisco, but throughout California and the United States.

In 1977, Dr. Lee and his family built their home, the Old Chatham Ranch in Yorkville, California. As a resident of Mendocino County, George was active in the community, helping establish the Mendocino Wine Growers, Inc. and serving on numerous committees, including the Anderson Valley School Board and the Anderson Valley Health Center.

Dr. George Francis Lee has led a life dedicated to healing and helping people everywhere. He is survived by his wife Katherine, and his children Barbara, Kelly, and Douglas. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Lee's life of service.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SAKARI LYONS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sakari Lyons, a strong advocate for women in Solano County, California as a

Fellow with the Essie Justice Center. A social worker by profession, Sakari embodies the qualities and the desire to advocate for women and families in need of compassion, empathy and guidance due to the incarceration of their loved one.

Inspired by her own situation, Sakari worked full time for Health and Social Services providing resources to children and families when she joined the Essie Justice Center. Through the organizations Healing to Advocacy program, Sakari has helped many women find strength to heal from their wounds through guidance, compassion and faith. She empowers and encourages them to be advocates for themselves and their children.

As a single parent of four children, Sakari was able to pursue her education and holds both a B.A. and M.S. degree.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 607, No. 608, and No. 609. Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 607, I would have voted YEA; Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 608, I would have voted YEA; Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 609, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
CARLOS MENDOZA

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career achievements of Carlos G. Mendoza, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Fresno District Director. Mr. Mendoza retired on Nov. 3, 2017 after more than 40 years of federal service. He has worked tirelessly in his career for small businesses and community development.

Mr. Mendoza began his federal civil service career in 1975 as an architect at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and has advanced degrees from Princeton University and California State University, East Bay. After successfully completing several assignments for the U.S. Navy, he transferred to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and quickly rose into the managerial ranks.

In 1992, Mr. Mendoza began his term with the U.S. Small Business Administration, becoming the Deputy District Director of the Los Angeles District office before serving as District Director in Fresno. As District Director in Fresno, he was responsible for small business development in Central California and the Central Coast. He expanded resources in the Central Valley, bringing in the Emerging Leaders mini MBA program, several PRIME grants, a Women's Business Center and the Small Business Development Center.

Mr. Mendoza is known for his passion to make a difference. His work has received rec-

ognition from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Chambers of Commerce and the North American Development Bank. For example, during The Great Recession in 2008, he was the first person in the country to offer a dedicated technical assistance phone line to respond to small business owner's needs. This accomplishment helped shift the focus from the lack of loans to an emphasis on "small business survival skills."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career achievements of Carlos G. Mendoza. I congratulate Mr. Mendoza for his many accomplishments throughout his career and ask that you join me in wishing him and his wife Lydia, continued success and happiness.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—RITA MONTES MARTIN

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rita Montes Martin, a lifelong entrepreneur and community activist in the Davis, California community. At 95, she's led an extraordinary life and has no desire to retire. She embodies the true meaning of a public servant and community activist.

Rita is an iconic personality in the Davis community, having developed many relationships with community organizers, business leaders and elected officials; you will always find her advocating for a local initiative or even take on a national policy. If it's good for the community then Rita will be involved. Rita is also active with Davis Media Access, a media company focused on education programming as a way of strengthening community.

Rita has worn many hats, but the preponderance of her career has been in real estate. She was a loan officer and the only female appraiser for Great Western, as well as other financial institutions, and worked closely with builders and developers throughout her career. She held a leadership position as executive vice president, property management of Pegasus group.

Rita has several irons in the fire, a serial entrepreneur and problem solver, Rita is also involved in political activism and is considered an author, screen play writer and friend to many in the Davis community.

HONORING CONRADY JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A  
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Conrady Junior High School for receiving the prestigious 2017 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. The school's award was conferred under the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.