

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MIKE JONES TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Jones, a Durango paramedic and firefighter, who recently passed away after 40 years of service to his community.

Mike's life of service began at Mercy Hospital where he started working as an orderly. A few years into his career, he became a paramedic with the ambulance service. In 1973, he became a volunteer firefighter for the Animas Fire Protection District and he went on to serve as the Interim Fire Chief for the district. Later on in his career, he was employed with the Durango Fire and Rescue Authority as well as the Durango Fire Protection District.

Mike was known by many for his compassion and empathy, often cooking dinner for the families of patients who had passed away. Mike's many good qualities were what compelled Durango Fire Deputy Chief Randy Black to have all new hires work with Mike. He wanted them to learn how to properly care for the sick and injured from the best of the best, and Mike was the best.

It was not just his work ethic and service to his community that set him apart, he will be remembered for his humor as well. In the early 1990s, he drove a fire truck across a bridge on the way to a fire after being assured that it could hold the weight of the truck. Unfortunately, the bridge collapsed, and the truck got stuck. As his truck was being pulled out, a photographer with a local news outlet snapped a picture of Mike grinning from ear to ear in front of the truck. For all who worked with and around him, it was an expression Mike frequently wore and perfectly encapsulated his positive outlook and light-hearted nature.

Mr. Speaker, Mike's impact on the Durango community will never be forgotten and it is my privilege to acknowledge his achievements and generosity here today. We were fortunate to have such an upstanding individual call the Third Congressional District home. On behalf of everyone in the Durango community, I would like to thank Mike for his service and honor the admirable life he lived.

HONORING MARY O'KEEFFE

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former longtime member of my staff, Mary O'Keeffe, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Mary started on our team during my first term in Congress, serving as my foreign affairs Legislative Assistant. During her time in

our office, she advised me on a variety of policy issues, served as our lead staffer with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and helped develop numerous pieces of legislation. After leaving our office, Mary went on to work for Rep. ANDY HARRIS and now serves as the Chief of Staff for the Maryland Transportation Authority.

On a personal note, I admire Mary's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. She has been a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Mary's future is very bright. I want to thank Mary for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her and her family.

THE FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE  
CORPS OF CADETS: 142 YEARS OF  
TRADITION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M University opened its doors to 40 students in 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Created under The Morrill Act, which stipulated that all students participate in military training, all Texas A&M students (at that time, admission was limited to white males) were members of the Corps of Cadets.

Aggies have been serving with honor in the armed forces since the Spanish American War of 1898. During the Spanish American War, 89 Aggies served in the Army, and 63 Aggies served as officers. When the United States became involved in World War I, 702 A&M graduates served in the military, and 668 graduates were officers. Texas A&M also trained over 4,000 troops during World War I.

It was World War II, however, when Texas A&M exhibited its expertise in training soldiers as well as scholars. On December 7, 1941, students were watching a movie at the Campus Theatre. Upon hearing about the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, the theater manager shut off the film projector to announce the attack. "Beat the Hell out of Japan" became a rallying cry across campus, encouraging students to enlist. In order to speed up the process of sending more Aggies to the front lines of the war, Texas A&M instituted a twelve-month, three semester training program to prepare its soldiers. According to an article in the Houston Post in November 1942, courses were scheduled 24 hours a day to prevent crowding in workshops and laboratories. Notably, the entire graduating classes of 1941 and 1942 enlisted in the armed services immediately following graduation.

One of these individuals was Arthur Lowell Lapham. Mr. Lapham was a fourth generation Texan and a proud Fightin' Texas Aggie who enlisted on June 30, 1942. He would go on to fight for the United States in the Pacific The-

ater, serving as a fighter pilot in the Army Air Force in Japan and the Philippines. Mr. Lapham was one of 20,000 Aggies who served in World War II. 14,000 of these men were officers and twenty-nine were commissioned as generals. Close to 1,000 Aggies died in combat for this great nation; seven Aggies were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Membership in the Corps of Cadets is now voluntary at Texas A&M; however, the university continues its tradition of training men and women to serve their country through military service. To this day, Texas A&M is the largest provider of military officers outside of the service academies.

General George S. Patton once said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates, and I'll win a battle. Give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I'll win a war."

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LATE KEN GNADT,  
FORMER MAYOR OF GRAND IS-  
LAND, NEBRASKA

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ken Gnad of Grand Island, Nebraska, who passed away in September after many years of faithful service to his community.

Along with his extensive and lifelong volunteer involvement, Ken served as mayor of Grand Island from 1994 to 2002, a member of Rotary International for over five decades, and a Charter Board Member of Grand Island's internationally-attended annual farm show, Husker Harvest Days.

Born in Alma, Kansas, Ken's work in agribusiness included stints in Texas, Iowa, and nearly seven years in Taiwan where he worked to strengthen Nebraska's valuable economic partnership with Taiwan. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University and a graduate degree in banking from the University of Wisconsin.

I offer my condolences to Ken's five children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who survive him. He was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and left a legacy that touched and improved many facets of life in Grand Island and greater Hall County from tourism to education and healthcare.

Ken was named a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander by the NEBRASKAland Foundation in 2012 for his lifetime contributions to agribusiness and neighborly service to the state of Nebraska and the Grand Island community. Ken joined the Grand Island Community Foundation Board of Trustees in 2014.

On behalf of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ken Gnad for his remarkable leadership and commitment to community service. He 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.

be remembered with the gratitude and admiration of many.

#### HONORING KYLE PIERCE

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kyle Pierce, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Kyle worked in several of my Indiana offices during my first and second terms in Congress, serving as an intern and later as a staff assistant. Kyle is a self-starter and always delivered on whatever was asked of him. He was integral to the success of many of the events we put on around the District. Since leaving our office, Kyle has gone on to work for the Indiana Attorney General, and now works at Hathaway Strategies as an Associate Project Manager. He is also currently pursuing a law degree at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

On a personal note, I admire Kyle's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. He was a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Kyle's future is very bright. I want to thank Kyle for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

#### ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION CENTENNIAL

#### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, December 1, 2018 marks Romania's Great Union Centennial. It was on this day 100 years ago that members of the Romanian National Assembly gathered together and unanimously voted to unify the territories that they represented.

That same year, as World War I raged on, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Hugh L. Scott, the first American high-official to visit Romania, addressed the Romanian Parliament. Gen. Scott assured the parliamentarians that the United States would fight with them and the other Allied partners until victory was secured.

Today, Romania stands as a country that has faithfully contributed to European peace and shared the burden of our collective transatlantic security. Romania also has contributed greatly to NATO's operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and to the Alliance's capacity to defend against ballistic missile threats.

We Americans are proud to recognize the contribution of many generations of Romanian-Americans to the history and the development of the United States, and to honor their rich cultural heritage as an intimate part of the very fabric of U.S. society.

Therefore, recognizing the outstanding strategic partnership between our two nations, I congratulate Romania and all Romanian-Americans on their celebration of the Great Union Centennial.

#### MAJOR HOMER L. PEASE POST OFFICE

#### HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R. 6621, a bill to designate the post office at 530 East Main Street in Johnson City, Tennessee, as the "Major Homer L. Pease Post Office."

A native of Johnson City, Major Homer Pease lived one of the most interesting lives I've ever seen. Major Pease first tried to join the Marine Corps in 1942 at age 13 but was turned away; so, he convinced a stranger to act as his father at the Army recruiting office instead.

After he successfully joined the Army, he then completed basic training and became a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, landing at Normandy on D-Day. He was wounded shortly after but later rejoined his unit fighting in the Ardennes Forest, the Battle of the Bulge and Berchtesgaden. When he was wounded again, the Army discovered how old he was and sent him home at 15.

He was awarded a bronze star and a Purple Heart for his service and returned home to complete high school. However, on his 16th birthday, he was again called to serve, making it as far as Fort Bragg before the Army sent him home once more. But his commitment to his country wasn't done there. He served in ROTC in high school, and at ETSU, before receiving his commission in the National Guard after college.

Even then, he still felt a calling to serve his country and later became a U.S. Army Ranger at age 36, arriving in Vietnam in March 1966. Unfortunately, on November 19 of that year, while leading a ground combat operation, Homer Pease fell on the battlefield. For the bravery he displayed, he was awarded the Silver Star, another Purple Heart and was promoted to Major.

A picture of heroism, we can all recognize Major Pease's contributions to our country and naming this Post Office in honor of his patriotism is one way to ensure his legacy endures. I urge support for this legislation.

#### HONORING MIKE LYNCH

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Mike Lynch, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Mike served as my top advisor in Indiana during my first term in Congress. In that role, he helped open our district office, established our constituent service operations, and managed our Indiana-based staff. Since leaving our office, Mike has worked in senior leadership roles at SpaceX, DAQRI, and now works as the Chief Revenue Officer at WaveOptics.

On a personal note, Mike is a talented leader and wise advisor that I greatly admire. We share a love of Wabash College and the life

lessons of sports. But, more importantly, we share a belief that it's never wrong to do things the right way.

I want to thank Mike for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him and Lacy continued success in all that remains ahead for their family.

#### HONORING THE COALITION AGAINST INSURANCE FRAUD

#### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on their 25th Anniversary.

The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud represents a wide array of consumer groups, insurance companies, and government agencies in combating all forms of insurance fraud. Among these groups, the Coalition's membership includes several companies from Ohio. Cincinnati Insurance and Great American Insurance are both based in my hometown of Cincinnati. It also includes Nationwide Insurance Company, based in Columbus. These organizations work together through the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud to empower public and private groups against our nation's proliferating fraud problem.

Contrary to popular myth, insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. In fact, common fraud schemes often prey specifically upon the innocent and vulnerable. Fraud causes everyone's insurance premiums to rise, and those who commit fraud are estimated to steal at least \$80 billion a year.

I understand the Coalition has helped enact more than 100 state anti-fraud laws and educate millions of Americans on how to protect themselves against damaging schemes. I also understand the Coalition conducts research studies for decision-makers like myself to more effectively target and prevent fraud as we consider relevant policy. I am grateful for the Coalition's efforts to protect Americans from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me in congratulating the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on 25 years of advice, education, and assistance to the American public and lawmakers alike. Truth and honesty matter.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTIN EPELDI

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Epeldi, better known as Marty, for his 23 years of service as a United States Postal Service letter carrier.

Marty was born and raised in our state's capital city, Boise, Idaho. Martin graduated from Boise High School and then Boise State University. He is also a proud member of Boise's Basque community. For over two decades, Marty has served our community as a letter carrier, delivering the mail 'neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of

their appointed rounds' and Marty is no exception.

Marty has delivered mail to my Boise office for almost twenty years. In addition to providing trusted and timely delivery of the daily mail, he is a welcome and celebrated visitor to my Boise office. Members of my staff always look forward to his friendly conversation and entertaining stories. Marty's contagious smile and laugh and his outgoing disposition will certainly be missed by the residents and business people of downtown Boise.

It is an honor to congratulate Martin Epeldi on his remarkable dedication and service to the citizens of Boise. I wish him an enjoyment retirement and much pleasure spending time with family and friends.

#### HONORING STEVE SHARP

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Steve Sharp, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Steve worked in my Muncie office for over a year, serving in a variety of capacities and focused primarily on our field operations. Steve has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. Since leaving our office, Steve has worked as a financial adviser for Foresters Financial Services and WestPoint Financial Group.

I want to thank Steve for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

#### GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Gold Star Mothers of Northern California:

Carolyn Acosta, Mother of Spc. Rudy Acosta; Loretta J. Bridges, Mother of Staff Sgt. Steven Bridges; Betty Hall, Mother of Sgt. 1st Class Bryan E. Hall; Satnam Kaur, Mother of Cpl. Gurpreet Singh; Dianne Layfield, Mother of LCpl. Travis Layfield; Suzy Maddox, Mother of Sgt. Matthew William Maddox; Jan Martinez, Mother of Private 1st Class Jesse Jack Martinez; Debbie Mason, Mother of Spc. Roy Brooks Mason; Karen Meredith, Mother of 1st Lt. Ken Ballard; Rinda Pope, Mother of Private 1st Class Alexander R. Varela; Patricia Schumacher, Mother of LCpl. Victor Dew.

These are the Mothers of brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of their country. The Gold Star Mothers of Northern California highlight perhaps the most binding characteristic of these heroes: they are family. They come from the towns occupying the vast valleys and foothills of Northern California. They come from high schools and churches that produce some of America's greatest minds. But most importantly, they come from the homes of loving families.

When we as a nation lose a soldier and a patriot, these Mothers lose a child. We must remember that for the families of these fallen heroes, as with countless other families in our country, every day is Memorial Day. Time, sadly, does not heal all wounds. The grief of our Gold Star Mothers is just as great today as the day the casualty officer came to their door. Their loss is a heavy burden that they carry with them every day. Nonetheless, they persevere to keep alive the spirit of their brave children.

I have heard many stories of the young men from Northern California who have fallen in combat—among them; Garret Pant, Jeremiah McCleery, Joshua Hardt, Victor Dew, and Sky Mote. By all accounts, these young men wanted to serve their country from the time they were in grade school. They sacrificed their lives and their promising futures to protect their fellow countrymen, and for that, we owe them a tremendous debt. Although we can never repay that debt, we can always remind these Mothers of our respect and appreciation for the sacrifices their children made and the work they are doing to carry on the legacy of each and every fallen soldier. It is organizations like the Gold Star Mothers of Northern California that keep their memories alive so that we as a nation pay tribute to them every day.

These Mothers carry out the promise to our fallen heroes set forth by Reagan: "That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we."

#### CONGRATULATING MAC TRISTAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF COPPELL, TEXAS

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mac Tristan, Chief of Police of the city of Coppell, Texas, on his retirement after 8 years of dedicated service to the city of Coppell and over 37 years in law enforcement in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Mac Tristan began his career with the Coppell Police Department on January 24, 2011, following over 29 years of service with the Carrollton Police Department. For the past eight years, Mac's leadership as Chief of Police has brought incredible success, in part due to his problem oriented strategies and strong conviction for serving his community. Through his guidance, the Coppell Police Department has experienced new standards of efficiency, and Chief Tristan has set a tremendous example for those in law enforcement and public service.

Mac's commitment to public service goes beyond his service in law enforcement, and is a true indication of the quality of his character. Through his work with the Kiwanis Club and as a Faith Coach at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Mac has helped countless people in need through some of their most difficult of days. Mac continues to lecture locally and internationally on leadership, problem oriented policing, challenging organizational cultures, and civil servant leadership.

Mac is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, where he received his Bachelor's

Degree in Criminal Justice with Honors. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the United States Army War College Strategic Implementation Seminar.

For over three decades, Chief Tristan has served his community tirelessly, putting himself in harm's way to ensure the safety of countless Texas residents. We are indebted to him for his exceptional leadership and his many years of bravery and sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service of Chief Mac Tristan and wishing him and his family the best in his retirement.

#### HONORING MARK TIEKEN

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Mark Tieken, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Mark worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving in a variety of capacities and focused primarily on field operations. Mark has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. He was always quick with a joke and was someone I could rely on for on the ground political advice.

I want to thank Mark for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

#### CELEBRATING MR. ALPHONSO B. DEAL

#### HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate Mr. Alphonso B. Deal on the 30th anniversary of his passing, which was earlier this year, on July 7th.

From his lifetime commitment in the Harlem community, Alphonso B. Deal will be remembered for his significant efforts to increase access and participation for diverse communities. This included organizing a house crawl on Saturday afternoons to encourage people to live in Harlem all while showcasing the beauty in Harlem's history and architecture. He was a staunch believer in expanding opportunities for the wider community. To expand access for Latinos, Asians, and African Americans to take the New York State Court Officer's examination, Mr. Deal also asked the Tribune Society to hold a free test preparation course.

Alphonso B. Deal was a dedicated public servant who served as a New York State court officer for decades until he was tragically murdered on July 7, 1988—heroically pursuing a ruthless criminal who robbed one man at gun point and shot two others.

Aside from his work for the New York State Supreme Court, Alphonso B. Deal was a life-long member of the NAACP, an active member of the Tribune Society, and a founding member of the New York State Commission on Minorities.

"E Pluribus Unum" is our motto in the United States. The Latin term which translates to "Out of many, one" is center to the values we hold dear as a nation. Alphonso B. Deal understood that diversity is this country's strength and fought to bring about impactful change in his field. We all come from different backgrounds but come together as one beautiful American people—regardless of our race or ethnicity.

It is my pleasure and distinct honor to celebrate the life of Mr. Alphonso B. Deal, whose tremendous work left a lasting impact on his community.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE MUMBAI ATTACK, PAKISTAN IS STILL OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the ten year anniversary of the most horrific terrorist attacks in India's history. In 2008, the city of Mumbai became a warzone when ten terrorists attacked hotels, railway stations, cafes, and a Jewish community center, killing 166 people. We still mourn the loss of so many innocent lives, including six Americans. But justice for this awful attack has yet to be served. The one obstacle: Pakistan.

Pakistan is already well known for helping give birth to the Taliban and providing safe haven for international terrorists like Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda's central leadership. But Pakistan has held a cozy relationship with terrorists that predates September 11, 2001 and undoubtedly continues to this day. The Mumbai attack and Pakistan's response provide ample evidence.

The Mumbai attackers, all Pakistani citizens, belong to Lashkar-e-Taiba, or LeT. This group—which is designated as a terrorist group by the United States, European Union, India, and the United Nations—does not act without approval and support from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI). The LeT and ISI have been joined at the hip since the 1980s, first working together to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan, then in fighting India in Kashmir. After 9/11, when LeT was found to be closely working with al-Qaeda and the Taliban, including training and sheltering senior al-Qaeda leaders like Abu Zubaydah, Pakistan claimed to have outlawed the terror group. But it never arrested LeT's leader, Hafiz Saeed, and the group was allowed to continue operating under its supposed charity wing, Jamaat ud Dawa.

Pakistan's true policy towards LeT became clear after the Mumbai attack, when multiple ISI officers were specifically implicated in organizing and supporting the 2008 assault. Pakistani investigators have even admitted that LeT was responsible for the attack and that it had been planned and prepared for at LeT training camps within Pakistan. But the Pakistani government refused to cooperate in

India's investigation and only temporarily took action against LeT, briefly closing their offices and dismissing charges against the group's leader. Today, LeT and Hafiz Saeed are actively involved in Pakistani politics under the Jamaat ud Dawa front and inciting new generations of violent extremists.

Ten years after the Mumbai massacre we know with absolute certainty that Pakistan's status as a "counterterrorism partner" is an absolute joke. Thousands of terrorists use Pakistan as a base to fundraise, recruit, and train for their ongoing war against India, America, Afghanistan, and the wider world. Terrorism is Pakistan's foreign policy. It is time we stop subsidizing it with American's tax dollars.

And that's just the way it is.

ACKNOWLEDGING FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 115TH CONGRESS

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today acknowledging the great work of the Financial Services Committee during the 115th Congress.

I would like to highlight two of my bills that originated in the Committee and have now become law.

First, H.R. 910, the Fair Access to Investment Research Act, allows ETF research to be issued like stock research.

Prior to the passage of this bill, if ETF research was provided from a financial services firm to a client, it would be considered an "offer" under Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933. This legislation now gives safe harbor for these reports allowing investors access to useful information in this rapidly growing market.

Since starting an investment firm in the late 1990s, I have seen ETFs grow from about 100 funds with \$100 billion in assets to over 1,900 funds with over \$3 trillion in assets today. ETFs average 30 percent of trading volumes (by value) on any given day.

Yet, despite their growing popularity and increasing importance to retail investors, most broker-dealers did not publish research on ETFs due to anomalies in the securities laws and regulations. But with the passage of my bill, nearly 6 million U.S. households holding ETFs will have access to this important research.

With this new law, I've personally seen the amazing research produced by financial services firms and am thrilled that retail investors both in Arkansas and across the country now have access to it.

I would like to thank my friends, Mr. FOSTER from Illinois, who helped me push this through the House, and Senator HELLER of Nevada, for leading the charge in the Senate and working with me on this bipartisan, common-sense legislation.

Second, I would like to highlight the Volcker Rule Regulatory Harmonization Act, which had a provision become law as part of the S. 2155 regulatory relief package.

The provision exempts community banks under \$10 billion in assets from the Volcker

Rule, which was consistent with recommendations made by the U.S. Treasury last year.

The Volcker Rule has been one of the most indecipherable regulations; complete with 930 pages of language and overseen by five different regulatory authorities. Evidence of the Volcker Rule's ill effects and profound unintended consequences were widely reported.

A bank in my home state, which at the time had less than \$8 billion in assets, was forced to divest a \$2 million investment in a bank fund because of regulatory interpretation as it related to the Volcker Rule. This resulted in an \$80,000 loss for that year.

Community banks are spending too much time trying to comply with unnecessary regulations taking away from their main mission of serving their customers. By exempting banks under \$10 billion, the law allows for a tailored and more appropriate regulatory regime.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. FOSTER for his co-sponsorship on this legislation as well as the many Senators involved in helping create a sensible and tailored regulatory relief package with S. 2155.

Having worked in the banking and investment industry for the past three decades, I appreciate Chairman HENSARLING's, Senator CRAPO's and the Congress' efforts to promote capital formation, reduce unnecessary burdens, and grow jobs and the economy.

I'm proud of the exceptional, productive bipartisan record of accomplishment with 142 bills marked up, 126 bills passed the House and 50 enacted into law—more than any other House Committee.

None of this would have been possible without the skilled leadership of Chairman HENSARLING who has been a dedicated and fearless leader of the House Financial Services Committee. It has been an honor to serve with him over the last four years and I wish him well in his next chapter.

HONORING JOSH TAULBEE

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Josh Taulbee, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh worked in my Muncie office for over a year, serving in a variety of capacities and focused primarily on field operations. Josh has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. Since leaving our office, Josh has worked in political roles on various local campaigns in Indiana and now works in the Delaware County Auditor's office.

I want to thank Josh for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

CONGRESSMAN ED PASTOR  
TRIBUTE

## HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement by Greg Stanton, Former Phoenix Mayor, Congressman-Elect.

Arizona lost one of its greatest servant leaders with the passing of Congressman Ed Pastor. His humble nature, gentle style and beautiful sense of humor belied a brilliant tactician. His tremendous success in public service is directly related to his understanding of human nature: treat everyone, regardless of station in life or political party, with sincere dignity, respect and love. And he delivered overwhelmingly for the people of Arizona. Millions of people's lives were helped because of "the big guy."

Without Congressman Pastor's leadership, in Arizona, there would be no light rail, no bus service improvements, no Rio Salado riparian habitat development, no Sky Harbor Airport upgrades, thousands of students would not have been able to afford college. The list is virtually endless. The impact on our state due to his strategic action is unsurpassed. But he never once bragged about his success. He was a true "workhorse" not a "showhorse".

But his legacy goes way beyond physical improvements to our state. In an era of such partisan tribalism, Congressman Pastor showed by his actions a wiser path: he was a partner to both Democrats and Republicans in this Congress. Members of both parties, and all wings within those parties, liked him and trusted him. We can all learn much from how he went about his business.

And he loved everyone right back. Its why he took the time to mentor thousands of people looking to make a difference in our community through politics and policy: myself included. He taught all of us to lift up the next generation. That's his most important legacy which will pay the most long-term dividends for our state.

Nicole and I loved Ed Pastor. He passed on his passion for public service to his family, all of whom are great leaders in our community. I had the good fortune to work closely with City Councilwoman Laura Pastor. We offer Verma, Laura, and Yvonne our sympathies . . . but mostly we give them our thanks for sharing this great leader with the people of Arizona.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF  
CHARLOTTE'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

## HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Charlotte, North Carolina on the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to hail from Charlotte, and I want to celebrate the Queen City on this momentous occasion.

As a graduate of A.G. Middle School, Myers Park High School and UNC Charlotte, I hold a very special spot in my heart for this amazing city. Throughout its history, Charlotte has time and again shown the ingenuity and resiliency which allowed it to grow into the prosperous hub it is today. And that ingenuity and resiliency

comes down to one common factor—the people who have called Charlotte home over two and a half centuries.

Take the founding of Charlotte way back in 1768. Mecklenburg County and Charlotte Town were named for Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of English King George III. Despite these overt ties to England, the local leaders of Charlotte banded together in 1775 to issue the Mecklenburg Resolves, the very first declaration of independence from Great Britain by any governing body in Colonial America.

Or take the fact that Charlotte has grown from a regional banking center to the second-largest financial center in the country behind only New York City. This growth was something many scoffed at until a committed group of local visionaries grew a few regional banks into Bank of America and Wachovia, two of the largest financial institutions in the world.

The ingenuity and resiliency of Charlotte and its citizens have allowed the city to grow into not only the largest city in the Carolinas, but also one of the fastest-growing cities in the entire country the past 30 years. While Charlotte has boomed, it has also retained the Southern charm and quality of life that's made it such a wonderful place to live. Folks from across the nation have flocked to Charlotte with good reason—as the slogan goes, "Charlotte's got a lot."

I'm fiercely proud of my hometown and I can't wait to see what the next 250 years have in store for the crown jewel of the Carolinas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the City of Charlotte on its 250th anniversary.

THE FIGHT FOR VICTIMS MUST GO  
ON—THE VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to Congress in 2004, I spent 30 years as a criminal prosecutor and Judge in Houston, Texas. During that time, I encountered the worst of the worst in our society, from abusers to rapists to murderers. Even more painfully, I watched as countless victims of violent crime were utterly failed by the system. Victims were often thrown in jail, sent back to their abusers or just left to fend for themselves. It felt like the ultimate miscarriage of justice. Also during this time, I came across a type of criminal that I had never imagined flourished in this country—the human trafficker.

Most Americans believed that human trafficking was an over-seas problem, not something that was occurring in their very own backyards. This lack of awareness allowed sex traffickers and the buyers of trafficking victims to practically walk free. It became very clear to me that something drastic had to be done to help victims of crime and raise awareness about these new rapidly expanding criminal enterprises in our country.

As a matter of first priority after being elected to Congress, I founded the Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) with Representative JIM COSTA (D-CA). Our mission was to create a bipartisan coalition of Members to represent the in-

terests of victims of crime, generate awareness about how pervasive violent and sexual crime was in our country and increase resources available to law enforcement to combat the problem.

Since its inception in 2005, the Caucus has taken the lead to protect programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA). The Caucus was instrumental in the enactment of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the Cruise Vessel Safety and Security Act, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, the SAFER Act of 2013, the Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization Act, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and the Justice for All Act (JFAA).

The VRC works closely with victims' rights organizations, shelters, advocacy groups and criminal justice reform groups. Every year, the Caucus hosts various briefings on victims' rights issues including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking as well as various other topics. We also recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week with our annual awards ceremony and policy forum.

I am tremendously proud of the progress we have made as a nation to better support victims of crime and crack down on criminals. Topics like human trafficking, sexual abuse and domestic violence are no longer considered taboo. Counseling, resources and shelters are much more readily available to victims of crime. Both human traffickers and those caught buying human trafficking victims are now being prosecuted equally to the fullest extent of the law. I believe the VRC has greatly contributed to these successes so far, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Since deciding to retire at the end of my current term, I have put a lot of thought into who should replace me as co-chair of the VRC. Recently, I reached out to my good friend and fellow Texan PETE OLSON to offer him the position. He enthusiastically accepted. Representative OLSON is a hard-working, caring and dedicated public servant, and I know he will work tirelessly to further the successes of the VRC.

I wish him and Representative COSTA the best in their continued fight on behalf of crime victims. I have no doubt that Caucus will achieve many great things in the months and years to come.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JACK MILES

## HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Jack Miles, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Jack worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving as a member of our political operations team. Jack has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our team.

On a personal note, Jack is a humble and positive teammate. I admire Jack's commitment to public service, and I have no doubt

his future is very, very bright. I am grateful to Jack for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish Jack continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
SHERIFF REUEL TODD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Reuel A. Todd, Sheriff of Oswego County and an influential leader in Central New York. Dedicating himself to a lifetime of service in law enforcement, Sheriff Todd went to work every day with the intention to protect and defend his community. Throughout his 44 year career, Sheriff Todd retained his steadfast commitment to the security and safety of his county.

Born and raised in Central New York, Sheriff Todd was passionate about law enforcement at an early age, attending the Police Training Academy after graduating from Oswego High School. In hopes of furthering his education, he also attended the New York State Sheriffs' Association Civil School, Law Enforcement Management School, and the FBI National Academy. Sheriff Todd's vast law enforcement experience allowed him to become a recognized Drug Enforcement Specialist upon entering the workforce.

Sheriff Todd began his career as a Road Deputy with OCSO in 1974. He was quickly promoted to Sergeant and then to Criminal Investigator in 1977 before being appointed Undersheriff in 1984. Throughout his 15 year tenure as Undersheriff, Sheriff Todd helped Oswego become one of the first counties in New York State to receive accreditation by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Mr. Todd was first elected as Sheriff of Oswego County in 1998. During his two decades as sheriff, Mr. Todd mobilized his department to provide 24-hour security coverage at three local nuclear power plants and secured funding for additional water safety at Port Ontario. Outside of his duties as Sheriff, Todd has also served as Chairman of Zone 7 on behalf of The Office of Public Security Counter-Terrorism Network and President of the New York State Sheriffs' Association.

Sheriff Todd's service to the Oswego community goes beyond his law enforcement contributions. He also worked to provide food to senior citizens through Meals on Wheels, coached Little League Baseball, participated in Boy Scouts and the Oswego Rotary Club, and is an active member of the Elks Club.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the distinguished career of Reuel A. Todd. His many contributions to Oswego County and the greater Central New York region will not be forgotten. Sheriff Todd's lifelong dedication to the safety and security of his community should serve as an example for current and future law enforcement officers across the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LELAND EMERSON BOREN OF  
UPLAND, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leland Emerson Boren, an Upland businessman, farmer, and philanthropist who devoted his life to serving and helping others. Leland was known for his drive and hard work which he displayed throughout his tremendous career. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Leland's significant contributions to the Town of Upland, the Grant County community, and the state of Indiana.

A life-long Hoosier, Leland was born in Owensville, Indiana, in 1923. He attended Anderson High School where he graduated in 1941. While attending Anderson High School, he began working as a heat treat specialist with the Nicholson File Company. Leland continued his work there after graduation until 1945, when he accepted a position at Upland's Pierce Governor Company Incorporated as a material control clerk. Dedicated to the company's success, he quickly worked his way up the ranks. Leland was named general manager in 1956 and became president of the company just two years later in 1958. Shortly thereafter in 1969, Leland became president and director of Avis Industrial Corporation, a global manufacturing company, only a few years prior to the eventual merger of the two companies in 1971. Following the merger, Leland was elected chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Avis Industrial Corporation in 1983, eventually moving the company headquarters to its current location in Upland, Indiana. Known as a "ceaseless hard worker and a professional of integrity," Leland was a self-made man responsible for the tremendous growth of his business, which over the years has employed thousands of people. Avis is now a holding company with more than a dozen manufacturing facilities in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. A tenacious leader, Leland was appointed president of PHD, Inc. in 2010. Leland, who earned the reputation as an extraordinary boss, was dedicated to prioritizing the well-being of his employees till the very end.

Leland's commitment to business was equaled by his support for various local charities and educational institutions. During his lifetime, Leland made numerous contributions to support students, faculty, and administration efforts at Huntington University and Taylor University, often requesting to remain anonymous.

A true testament to his outstanding career and selfless contributions, Leland was honored with numerous awards and accolades. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Taylor University, Anderson University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Ball State University, as well as an honorary degree from Ivy Tech Community College. Notably, he was the recipient of four Sagamores of the Wabash, the highest honor the governor of Indiana can bestow upon a citizen, from Governors Evan Bayh, Frank O'Bannon, Joe E. Kernan and Eric Holcomb. His business endeavors also

led him to sit on as many as 20 company boards.

In his personal life, Leland was known as a generous, loving, and faithful man. He loved most in this world his dear wife, LaRita. In fact, those who knew him best would say he thought his biggest and proudest accomplishment was marrying LaRita. The two met in Wichita, Kansas, where she was working as a stewardess for Trans World Airlines. They married soon after and she was his partner in everything. While driving through the Town of Upland, you may recognize Leland's property by the numerous bright pink barns on the property. LaRita missed seeing the beautiful sunsets in Oklahoma where the sunrises would reflect red hues from the dirt and project a beautiful bright pink glow onto their barns. Knowing of LaRita's love for Oklahoma sunsets, Leland had their barns and other building exteriors painted pink as a constant reminder of her home state.

Leland will be forever missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the entire Upland community. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Leland's sons, Lael and Andrew Boren, daughter, Lori Meyers, their families, sister, Lucille Ashby, and his many grandchildren, nephews, extended family and friends who mourn his loss.

HONORING KIM BENNETT

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kim Bennett, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Kim worked in our Muncie office for two years during my first term in Congress, serving as our Constituent Services Director. Kim has had a long career serving the people of Indiana's 6th Congressional District, as she previously worked for my predecessor and our current Vice President, Mike Pence and for former Congressman David McIntosh. Kim has helped thousands of individuals navigate the complex federal bureaucracy and receive the help they need and she managed our Muncie job fair.

On a personal note, I have known Kim for more than two decades. I want to thank Kim for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her and her family.

REMEMBERING THE EXPELLED  
JEWS OF ARAB COUNTRIES AND  
IRAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today memorializes the more than 850,000 Jews who were expelled from Arab countries and Iran. Jewish communities throughout the Middle East, which had thrived for millennia, have long been a persecuted minority. When the

State of Israel was founded, many Jews were victims of brutal violence by their Arab and Iranian neighbors and had to flee their homes. We mark this occasion to remember the horrific trauma those Jews experienced so that it is never repeated.

Today, very few of the ancient Jewish communities that dotted the Middle East survive. For centuries they lived largely at peace with their Muslim and Christian neighbors. Baghdad, Iraq was once the home to one of the region's largest Jewish communities. When the British entered Baghdad during the First World War, a third of the city was Jewish. Today, there is supposedly only five Jewish individuals remaining. This is shameful.

It is astonishing that in a region so rampant with anti-Semitism has so little interaction with the people they hate so much. Many Arabs and Iranians living today have never met a member of the Jewish community; therefore their hatred is based not on their own experiences, but what extremists and hatemongers have taught them. They forget that Jews were a vital part of their history, when Middle East was an incredibly diverse place. Today, it is a region of conflict and radicals, where historic Christian communities are also now endangered.

The story of the expulsion of entire Jewish communities from Arab lands is an important part of modern history that tragically affected the Jewish nation as a whole as well as the demographic composition of the Middle East and North Africa. This is a story must be told.

And that's just the way it is.

#### NEW FUNDS FOR FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority for receiving a nearly \$500,000 federal grant for housing vouchers under HUD's Family Unification Program.

These funds will help young people from Central Ohio who are at-risk of homelessness obtain affordable housing.

Last year, I was proud to spearhead the bipartisan effort calling on my colleagues to include \$20 million for the Family Unification Program in the transportation and housing appropriations bill, which was ultimately included in the government funding bill Congress passed earlier this year.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought for the housing needs of our Nation's most vulnerable populations, especially those transitioning from foster-care into adulthood and I am pleased to see federal funds designated to end youth homelessness being put to use in the Third Congressional District of Ohio.

#### HONORING PETER HOFFMAN

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Peter Hoffman, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Peter has worked for our team for a year and a half, first as a Press Assistant and Legislative Aide, then as Press Secretary, and finally as Communications Director in our Washington, D.C. office. He was responsible for all my official communications and media relations, which included writing press releases, speeches, opinion editorials and more. Peter also booked appearances for me on national and local media outlets and worked with me to implement a successful communications strategy.

On a personal note, Peter and I share a love of sports and that a belief God does an amazing job of keeping good people in our lives. I first met a far shorter Peter when he interviewed me as a Ball State freshman for the school newspaper. Since that time it has been fun to watch Peter grow physically, spiritually, and professionally. I have no doubt God has big things in store for his future.

I want to thank Peter for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF NEW YORK ASSEMBLYMAN BOB OAKS

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the illustrious career of New York Assemblyman Bob Oaks. Since 1992, Assemblyman Oaks has diligently represented the interests of Wayne, Oswego, and Cayuga Counties in Albany. Serving the 130th Assembly District, Assemblyman Oaks has always fought for his constituency's values in the State Legislature.

Assemblyman Oaks was born in North Rose, New York and grew up on a farm owned by his family for nearly five generations. He graduated from North Rose-Wolcott Central School in 1970, earned a political science degree from Colgate University in 1974, and then proceeded to complete his Recreation Administration master's degree from University of Montana in 1976. Upon completing his education, Assemblyman Oaks began his career as Assistant Director of the Continuing Education Program for the Greece Central School District.

After a five year stint as the Director of the Wayne County Youth Bureau, Assemblyman Oaks first reached public office in 1982 by winning the election for Wayne County Clerk. He held the office until 1992, when he won the 130th Assembly District seat and headed to Albany for the first time. Upon arriving in the State Legislature, Assemblyman Oaks prioritized strengthening the state economy and improving the competitiveness of New York agriculture.

Throughout his career in Albany, Assemblyman Oaks fought for the conservative values of decreased taxes and smaller government. Assemblyman Oaks' dedication to these causes resulted in his appointment to the Ranking Minority Member position on the Ways and Means Committee in September 2011. This role designated Assemblyman Oaks as the top Republican on tax issues in the State Legislature, allowing him to lead debate proposed tax legislation and any impacts such legislation may have on New York's budget.

Assemblyman Oaks was a part of the Republican leadership in the State Assembly in addition to his work on the Ways and Means committee. He served as the Deputy Minority Leader and was appointed by Minority Leader Brian Kolb to the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting in 2012. In each of these roles, Assemblyman Oaks shaped the Republican agenda in the State Legislature and ensured Assembly, Senate and Congressional district lines were fairly drawn across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the successful career of Bob Oaks in the New York State Assembly. Assemblyman Oaks always legislated with the best interests of his constituents in mind. Most importantly, his offices in Albany and the 130th District were always committed to ensuring his constituency had access to the services of the state government. I express my strong gratitude to Assemblyman Oaks for standing up for the values of Central New Yorkers throughout his career in Albany.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) on their 50th anniversary.

Originally established in 1968, the Centralina Council of Governments is one of 16 such councils in the State of North Carolina, and one of several hundred regional planning organizations across the country. Formally named Central Piedmont Regional Council of Local Governments, Centralina was created by and for local governments to allow members to partner on projects impacting our entire region.

Today, Centralina Council of Governments serves local communities covering nine counties and 74 municipalities, representing nearly two million people in the greater Charlotte region, which includes Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanly Counties in my district. They are experts at balancing the needs of smaller rural towns, growing suburban areas and Charlotte itself—quite a feat when you consider the different challenges each type of community faces.

CCOG assists local governments in coordinating sound regional development plans and provides a forum to address issues best handled through regional cooperation, planning and action. CCOG also provides a variety of services for our region including the administration of state and federal grants in the areas



of aging, workforce development, economic development and planning. The council also provides technical assistance services to local government members and other organizations in the areas of regional planning, transportation, energy and environment, local government assistance, and business resources.

In short, Centralina COG is dedicated to helping one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation find innovative solutions to both existing and future challenges and to unifying the region's collective resources to help grow the economy and jobs, improve the quality of life and control the cost of government.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing a happy 50th anniversary to the Centralina

Council of Governments and congratulations on decades of a job well done.

HONORING MOLLY NEWELL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Molly Newell, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Molly has been on our team for nearly five years now, serving in several capacities in our

Washington, D.C. office. She started as our staff assistant, where she was responsible for coordinating our constituent mail program, managing our office intern program, and processing tour requests. She now serves as a Senior Legislative Assistant, where she is responsible for advising me on a variety of policy issues, including foreign affairs, healthcare, energy, workforce development, armed services, and veterans' affairs.

On a personal note, Molly is a kind soul, with a positive spirit and big smile. I am proud to call her my friend. I would also like to thank her for her hard work in our office. I wish her and Elliott continued success in all remains ahead for their family.