

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF NEW YORK'S HUD- SON VALLEY HONOR FLIGHT

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 98 World War II veterans of the third Hudson Valley Honor Flight, who are traveling to our nation's capital and seeing the memorials that stand as a tribute to their selfless service for the first time.

Because of these Honor Flights, 98,500 veterans since 2005 have had the chance to see our national monument to their service. As a son of a Navy veteran, it is a tremendous honor for me to welcome these American heroes to Washington, and I am proud to see them off in recognition of their service to our nation.

We owe these brave veterans a debt of gratitude. They stood in defense of our freedoms and the freedoms of those around the world. Their sacrifice made our country and the world a safer place. Our nation can never fully repay our veterans for their service, but we can continue to honor all the brave veterans who fought for our country and the many who gave their lives in defense of our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, today we should honor the sacrifices of these 98 courageous veterans from the Hudson Valley who bravely stood up in defense of our freedoms. Please join me in thanking these American veterans for their tremendous service to an eternally grateful nation.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS DAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Alzheimer's disease has risen to a global crisis, as approximately 36 million people are living with dementia worldwide and someone new develops dementia every four seconds. September 21 is Alzheimer's Awareness Day, a day to renew our commitment to change the course of this debilitating disease. Alzheimer's has afflicted millions of Americans, with millions more expected to be affected in the future. While awareness of the disease has increased because of campaigns such as World Alzheimer's Month and Awareness Day, there is more to be done to increase public awareness, as well as providing more funding for research and public education. This disease also impacts families, with more than 15 million Americans providing unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer's or other dementia. And 17.4 billion hours of care are valued at

more than \$200 billion. And so we acknowledge the need for a commitment to this disease as we recognize September 21, 2013 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day.

SACRED HEART REHABILITATION CENTER'S AIDS CARE PROGRAM

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and recognizing the 25th anniversary of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center's AIDS Care Program.

Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center is located in the Fifth Congressional District. For 25 years, the rehabilitation center has provided mid-Michigan residents with free and confidential HIV/AIDS services, and I ask the 113th Congress to join me in recognizing them for their hard work and dedication.

In September 1988, Sacred Heart's AIDS Care Program had humble beginnings with only one volunteer and one client. 25 years later, they have 11 professional staff that provides care at no cost to the community.

Thanks to the Ryan White Federal Care Act, the annual AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region, and United Way of Bay County, Sacred Heart is able to provide free and confidential care case management, housing assistance, monthly client support groups, patient navigation, client emergency funds, substance abuse and mental health treatment. Lastly, Sacred Heart provides HIV prevention education and HIV testing at several locations in our district.

Since its beginning in 2005, the donors, sponsors, volunteers and staff of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center—through AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region—have raised nearly \$400,000 to support the AIDS Care Program, making it the largest AIDS Walk among the AIDS Walk Michigan cities. Additionally, Sacred Heart is deeply honored to host Olympic Gold Champion Greg Louganis who has so courageously lived with HIV for 25 years. He is a true inspiration to so many people and is the keynote speaker for the 25th Anniversary celebration and will be participating in the Great Lakes Bay Region's AIDS Walk.

The services provided by Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center greatly benefits Michigan and the Fifth Congressional District. I offer this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor the 25th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center's HIV/AIDS Care Program.

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1526. While I support efforts to find consistent funding for rural schools, this bill goes too far, increasing logging to unsustainable levels and undermining the existing environmental laws that protect our public lands.

H.R. 1526 creates "timber production zones" in every national forest that must meet timber volume targets set at half of what the forest grows each year. Ultimately, this would require logging and road building in currently protected, roadless areas and would limit public input and scientific and judicial review. The bill also creates an expedited environmental review process for governor-designated "high risk areas," that could open roadless areas to grazing and timber harvests. Finally, the bill authorizes "community forest designation areas" that devolve forest management from the federal government to state boards. This would reverse 100 years of forest management precedent and limit or eliminate access for recreation, hunting, and fishing.

Our national forests are a public resource and must be sustainably managed for generations to come. Today's bill would undermine that mission, and I urge a no vote.

NUTRITION REFORM AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my opposition to H.R. 3102, the Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013, which calls for \$40 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as the SNAP program. This program currently provides food assistance to a total of 47 million Americans, 3.1 million of which are New Yorkers. Without SNAP, these recipients would not have access to one of our most basic human needs—food.

• 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.

Four to six million low income Americans, including low income children, seniors, and the disabled, will lose their food assistance as a result of these cuts. These cuts would come in addition to a benefit cut already scheduled to take place in November.

The SNAP program is a promise our government made to Americans to ensure there would be assistance for both the working poor and those individuals out of work—including parents and their children—so they can afford food. It also helps low income working families whose wages are not sufficient to make ends meet.

I am particularly concerned about the negative impact the cuts will have on the nutritional needs of children. If children go to school hungry and malnourished, learning becomes even more difficult. The worst possible thing we could do is deny healthy meals to needy children at a time when they need all the help they can get to succeed in the classroom and begin to build productive lives.

We have seen in recent years that families continue to face a shortage of jobs or are being paid wages too low to lift them out of poverty. This legislation does nothing to help this group of Americans and will lead to even greater costs in the long run.

One thing we should all remember is that increasing hunger is not the answer to reducing the deficit.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I rise today to congratulate and recognize the outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose work, which is often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished many great things in a wide range of activities, and the House of

Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided three hundred twenty-five (325) years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Roger Addison—Office of the Clerk; Camilla S. Arthur—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Troy D. Buckler—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Susan Greenlee-Lowe—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Karen L. Haas—Office of the Clerk; Kerri L. Hanley—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Denine Hobbs—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; James Jenkins—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; James J. Kaelin—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Regina A. Schmitt—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Mark W. Thompson—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea L. Weadon—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Laura B. Whitaker—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate four House employees for receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award:

Douglas J. Carney—Office of Inspector General; Karen A. McKinstry—Office of the Clerk; Anthony L. Titus, Jr.—Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Robert T. Turney—Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers and the Inspector General. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

HONORING: LST-325

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the homecoming of the WWII naval vessel, the LST-325, to Evansville, Indiana. The Evansville shipyard has a proud history of manufacturing Landing Ship, Tank vessels for use in WWII. These ships were designed to land battle ready tanks, vehicles, soldiers, and supplies directly onto enemy beaches.

The LST-325 was launched on Oct. 27, 1942 and commissioned on February 1, 1943,

and, most notably, participated in D-Day at Omaha Beach, Normandy.

Today, I am honored to welcome home such an important piece of American history. The LST-325 has been a part of the Evansville community for the past eight years, and we look forward to welcoming it home for many years to come.

Boulder Crest Retreat for Wounded Warriors

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont, Virginia.

At the opening, I was joined by dozens of Wounded Warriors, including two wounded skydivers who jumped in with an American flag, 1000 spectators, 100 volunteers and senior military officials, including Admiral James Winnefeld, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This new facility will provide our nation's Wounded Warriors and their loved ones a place to get away from hospitals and rehab centers and reconnect as families. The 37-acre retreat is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains nearly 55 miles from Washington and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

In addition to beautiful cabins to accommodate guests and a lodge where families can gather together, Boulder Crest offers extensive outdoor amenities, recreational programs and healing activities. Some of these activities include archery, nature walks and fishing as well as yoga, meditation and canine and equine assistance therapy.

I want to congratulate Retired Navy Master Chief Ken Falke and his wife Julia who came up with the idea for the retreat after many visits to Walter Reed. The Falke's donated the property and have worked tirelessly for nearly three years to make the retreat a reality. I also commend the volunteers and donors for their efforts on behalf of this notable cause.

I am proud to have this remarkable facility in my congressional district and I submit the following American Forces Press Service article on the opening of Boulder Crest Retreat.

[From the American Forces Press Service, Bluemont, Va., Sept. 6, 2013]

VICE CHAIRMAN JOINS IN OPENING WOUNDED WARRIOR RETREAT
(By Amaani Lyle)

BLUEMONT, VA.—On a sprawling, tree-framed landscape, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff joined about 400 guests today for the official grand opening of Boulder Crest Retreat for seriously wounded service members, veterans and their families.

Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr. commended retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Ken Falke and his wife, Julia, who donated the land and realized their vision of providing free use of a lodge, cabins, activities and programs that provide respite and aid in reconnection, recovery and rehabilitation.

"As more than 12 years of war come to a close for the magnificent men and women who have been fighting it, our collective obligation to take care of them will not end,"

Winnefeld said. "The majority of the seen and unseen injuries our warriors have endured from Iraq, . . . Afghanistan and other places are scars they'll bear for life."

With medical facilities such as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and others just a road trip away, Boulder Crest Retreat, Winnefeld said, goes the extra mile to not only be a home away from home, but a home away from clinics and hospitals.

"The severity of many veterans' physical and emotional trauma suggests long-term care needs that will surpass our publicly available medical capacity well into the future," the admiral said.

The 37-acre, Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible retreat already has proven popular, with bookings in each of its four private cabins through 2013 and projected recreation and resources for 250 to 500 families each year.

Each cabin accommodates up to six people and is available for two- to 14-day stays, and guests also can gather in the 6,000-square-foot, two-story lodge to connect with other families and participate in programs.

Visitors also can enjoy outdoor amenities such as an archery range, nature trails, a playground, an organic garden, a bird sanctuary and a fishing pond, while recreational activities include nature walks, Shenandoah River kayaking and swimming, and golf and tennis.

In addition to the retreat's healing offerings of yoga, meditation, massage therapy, journaling, art and music therapy, Winnefeld also noted featured assistance therapy with dogs and horses, which resonates well with wounded warriors who may be weary of sudden noises and movements.

Winnefeld directly addressed wounded warriors, lauding them for their courage and buoyancy. "I'm continually amazed by your grit and resilience [and] your commitment to ability over disability."

Julia Falke, too, admired the courage not only of her husband, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, but also of fellow military families, which she said ultimately inspired her journey to Boulder Crest Retreat.

The Falkes lived in military family housing in both Scotland and her native England. "We'd always invite the young families stationed there to come and have dinner and feel the comforts of home," she said. "You could really see the difference it made."

Thirty years later, the Falkes bought 200 acres of land in rural Virginia, where they took residence in a large, stone farmhouse atop the hilly grass and briar. The couple began visiting wounded warriors and their families at nearby military hospitals, and soon resumed the tradition of inviting guests over for home-cooked meals and relaxation.

But sending the troops back, Julia said, became less and less practical. So when a friend suggested a writer's retreat for the Falkes' countryside, Julia thought of something more meaningful.

"The more we started talking about [Boulder Crest Retreat], the more other people would come to us and say, 'If you start it, we will help you,'" Julia said.

The Falkes soon secured a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation status, and in less than a year, various donors poured more than \$5 million into the organization.

Julia said contributors ranged from the Boy Scouts of America to multi-billion-dollar corporations. "There has been every kind of involvement, the outcome has been unbelievable," she said.

But the nascent project will continue to grow with the ideas and donations of those who support it, Julia said. "I've been crying all day long," she added. "To see it in reality is so amazing."

Perhaps the most interesting style of arrival to the grand opening was that of

wounded warrior Dana Bowman, who parachuted in by way of tandem jump with an American flag in tow.

In 1994, Bowman, a former special operations troop who once served with Falke, lost both of his legs after being injured while serving on the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

Standing tall on legs of steel, Bowman didn't lose his courage, and he became the first double amputee to re-enlist in the U.S. military. So when Ken Falke asked him to attend the Boulder Crest Retreat grand opening, Bowman said, the decision to help his former comrade was easy.

"Absolutely, I said I'd be there to bring the American flag in . . . and to land on target, and that's exactly what we did," Bowman said. "We're able to come back, bring the whole team and tandem jump a warrior in for this special event and day."

Bowman said the retreat, at its essence, is about giving back.

"At the end of the day," he added, "we all bleed the same way, so we have to rally our troops from the different services to come out and make a difference."

Elected and public officials, corporate and private organization representatives as well as Vietnam veteran and former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier all attended the grand opening.

NUTRITION REFORM AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

I opposed the first farm bill this House considered because of a \$20.5 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). I opposed the second attempt to pass a farm bill, because it completely removed the Nutrition title of the farm bill. And I oppose this bill today because the Majority has doubled down on a bad policy with a nearly \$40 billion cut to SNAP.

Right now, as the U.S. is emerging from a great recession, robust nutrition programs are needed more than at any time in recent history.

In New Jersey the number of SNAP participants over a 5 year period has doubled from 437,860 monthly participants in 2008, up to 875,437 participants in June of this year. These families need just a little assistance in order to afford the most basic of needs—something to eat.

The Majority here in the House has titled this legislation the "Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013." Some of my Democratic colleagues have called this bill the "More Hunger, Less Opportunity Act." I personally think we should call the bill before us today the "Malnutrition Act" because even though 92 percent of people on SNAP are children, elderly, disabled, or already working, this bill would take the food out of their mouths, hurting nearly 4 million Americans next year.

Representatives here in Congress continually punctuate their arguments with assertions that the U.S. is the greatest, most powerful, most wealthy country in the world.

Well, the greatest country in the world makes sure that working families, children, seniors, veterans, and the unemployed have the support they need to afford something to eat.

It is not simply the existence of wealth and power that makes the U.S. exceptional; it is the willingness to use that wealth and power to help the less fortunate among us. It is the ability of our elected leaders to not just make the rich richer but to make sure that the hungry are fed.

I'm sick and I'm tired of these ceaseless attempts to cut spending at the expense of those who can least afford it, but at least I'm not going hungry tonight. With \$40 billion in SNAP cuts I could not claim as much for the 4 million Americans who will suffer from the cuts in this bill.

In 2011 I joined my wife, representatives from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and a local SNAP beneficiary to shop for a week's worth of food with the average weekly SNAP benefit of \$31.50. I have always looked at prices when I shop, but never in the past 30 years have I had to watch the budget this closely. I left that experience with a strong reminder of what beneficiaries of federal nutrition programs experience week in and week out.

When the House farm bill passed, minus the Nutrition title, the Majority claimed that they were not taking a position, but Democrats opposed the bill because we knew the position of our colleagues.

So, thank you Mr. Speaker for bringing this bill to the Floor today, because now all of our constituents across the country can see clearly where every Member of Congress stands in the fight against hunger in America.

MIKE "FLAGMAN" BOWEN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mike "Flagman" Bowen from my district. I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on completing a truly inspiring mission to commemorate those who served and died in Vietnam. I could not be more sincere in my appreciation of his pledge to run a mile for each of our fallen heroes—58,292 miles total—commemorated on the Vietnam Memorial. You have inspired not only me, but our entire nation.

We must remember the sacrifice of those who have given their lives to preserve our freedom. Your dedication and mission are resounding reminders of this responsibility. It is a true honor, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Bowen represents Michigan and I thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Bowen's efforts and determination and I am looking forward to greeting him in Washington, D.C. after he completes his 58,292nd and final mile.

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, this bill is deeply disappointing. It takes an issue on which there are areas of agreement and rather than working to fulfill those opportunities, it puts forth legislation that is deeply harmful both to the process and the policy. I strongly support providing long-term fiscal stability for counties who have relied on federal timber revenues. This is an important issue for many counties in Oregon. I appreciate that this legislation provides another year of funding for these counties through the county payments program.

The rest of this legislation, however, is concerning enough that I am forced to vote against it. It removes valuable protections for our forests and watersheds and puts in place artificial logging requirements that fail to account for local needs, ecological and geographic characteristics, or realistic, long-term timber management goals. The bill also places more communities at risk from fire or erosion danger by opening up areas for development and logging that put people closer to high risk wildfire zones and decrease the ecosystem's ability to handle flooding.

Congress should help provide long term fiscal stability to counties that are largely made up of federal lands. That is something we can all agree on. However, I would hope that we could do so in a way that maintains the basic environmental safeguards we depend on to keep our forests and our watersheds healthy, that preserves the investments we have made in outdoor recreation opportunities, and that helps our communities be safe, healthy, and economically secure.

RECOGNIZING LILIA "LILY" PEREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Lilia "Lily" Perez for her dedication to the City of Laredo and the 4th Precinct of Webb County.

Miss Lilia "Lily" Perez was born March 11, 1932 and passed away on September 11, 2013. "Lily", as she was affectionately known by her friends and loved ones was a lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas.

During her lifetime she was involved in retail business as an employee for S.H. Kress De-

partment Store and as a manager with J.C. Penney. Miss Perez also became one of the most recognizable figures in her parish of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. For many years, her determination and leadership helped make numerous parish fundraisers major successes. She was also passionately involved in the collection and distribution of food and other necessities to the families and people of need in the area.

Apart from her services to the community through her parish and the retail sector, she became the first woman to be the Commissioner of Webb County's 4th Precinct. She proudly served from November 8, 1982 to December 31, 1984. To thank her for this great accomplishment and her activities as a humanitarian, Webb County officials named a neighborhood center or "concilio" after her. The Lilia Perez Neighborhood Center offers vital services and counseling to the community such as, utility assistance, rental assistance, grocery and meal distribution.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Lilia "Lily" Perez. Thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARIANO RIVERA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera. Originally from Panama, Mr. Rivera has spent 19 years working in my district, bringing great joy to the people of the Bronx and to Yankees fans around the world with his unparalleled success closing games for the New York Yankees. During his time with the Yankees he showed himself to be one of the greatest pitchers of his generation and struck fear into opponents who had to face him.

During his 19 seasons in the Bronx with the Yankees, Mr. Rivera has been the most successful closer in baseball history, becoming the all time saves leader and leading the league in saves three times. For much of his career his fearsome cutter meant that the Yankees were playing shorter games than everyone else. Once "Enter Sandman" played and Mr. Rivera strode onto the field, everyone knew the game was over. His mere appearance deflated the other team and the opposing players were often defeated before he threw a single pitch.

The length and quality of Mr. Rivera's career is evidenced by his 13 All-Star Game appearances and the five Relief Man Awards he won over an eleven-year period stretching from 1999 to 2009. However, as impressive as his individual accomplishments are, baseball is a team game and his most important role was helping to lead the Yankees to five World Series Championships.

Given the high quality of his pitching during the regular season it may be hard to believe, but Mr. Rivera was even better in the postseason. During the 16 postseason appearances that the Yankees made during his time with the team, Mr. Rivera accumulated a miniscule ERA of 0.70 over 141 innings. His importance to the success of the team in the

postseason was recognized by voters when he was awarded the World Series MVP in 1999 and the ALCS MVP in 2003, an impressive accomplishment for a closer who, while often pitching at the most critical moments, is only in the game for the final inning or two.

However, he did not merely pitch in the Bronx, he also worked hard to improve life for people in New York and back in his native Panama. Through his charitable foundation he has focused on improving the lives of children in need by improving their communities and offering scholarships so that children from underprivileged families can have better opportunities.

As his magnificent baseball career comes to an end at the end of this season, I am sure that he will continue to be a positive contributor to his community in a multitude of new ways. It has been an honor to have him work in my district and I look forward to his continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of twenty years of service to our communities from the AmeriCorps program. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating with AmeriCorps members past and present the many lives changed and neighborhoods improved through the immensely important work of the AmeriCorps volunteers.

Twenty years ago, on September 21, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. This legislation created the Corporation for National and Community Service, and under it the three CNCS administered programs: Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America, and AmeriCorps. I was fortunate enough to be at the White House for the inception of AmeriCorps, and am thankful for this opportunity to celebrate its achievements over the last twenty years.

Since 1993, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across the country. In my hometown of Sacramento, we currently have 144 full time AmeriCorps volunteers who serve Sacramento in a multitude of ways. AmeriCorps volunteers serve in our schools and in the aftermath of disasters. I would like to thank all of our local AmeriCorps volunteers for their continued commitment to improving our community—one neighborhood at a time.

In recent years, we as a country have faced natural disasters from Hurricane Sandy to the tornadoes in Oklahoma. Through these moments, the American people have responded with a spirit of service and ingenuity. We must keep investing in service and volunteer programs, to help to prepare us to handle unforeseen crises. Furthermore, community service is a proven pathway to employment. As communities recover from the recent recession, the skills learned and networks created through service have helped many Americans return to full time employment. AmeriCorps has consistently leveraged a small amount of

federal dollars to provide lasting impact on areas of the country that need it most.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the members and alumni of the AmeriCorps Program for their tremendous service to our country. This twenty years marks a successful milestone for the program, and I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the AmeriCorps Program over the next twenty years.

RECOGNIZING WEST WARWICK'S CENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 100th anniversary of West Warwick's incorporation on September 23, 1913. Although it is the youngest of Rhode Island's municipalities, it has a rich and vibrant history, and it has played a great role in shaping our state.

While we are celebrating West Warwick's 100th birthday this year, 2013 is also the 340th anniversary of its settlement. In 1673, Warwick divided among five families a parcel of land around what is today the village of Natick and opened it for settlement. The new residents quickly discovered that, in addition to rich stocks of timber, fish, and farmland found in West Warwick, the area also boasted enormous potential in its waterways. Within the town's eventual boundaries, the branches of the Pawtuxet River enter at an elevation of 150 feet before joining up and dropping to a mere fifty feet above sea level on the eastern border. This natural resource, combined with a good dose of Rhode Island ingenuity, was to prove vital to the growth of the community.

As early as 1737, the force of the river was harnessed in the form of a saw and flour mill. The citizens of West Warwick remained mostly subsistence farmers, however, until the community's first textile mill opened in 1794. Following closely on the heels of Samuel Slater's famous mill in Pawtucket, the Centerville Mill would usher in enormous changes in the town. By 1810, five of the seven largest mills in the state were located in West Warwick.

This rapid industrialization fundamentally altered the way of life in town. Rather than living on relatively isolated farmsteads, mill workers moved into factory housing near their workplaces. This swiftly increasing population density led to a greater demand for services, and soon, taverns, shops, churches and schools were springing up around these factory hubs. In fact, all of the villages that make up West Warwick—Natick, Centerville, Arctic, Clyde, Riverpoint, Wescott, Phenix, and Crompton—grew up around a mill of some sort.

In post-war West Warwick, the industrial base, until then rapidly expanding, exploded. Driven first by the Civil War and then by the vastly improved transportation infrastructure that permeated the state, West Warwick's textile production increased by orders of magnitude. Commercial developments sprang up to serve the thousands of factory workers, and cultural and civic institutions were strengthened. A housing expansion tied to the mills' desire for labor also served to bring the villages together as the fields and forests separating them were given over to homes.

By the late nineteenth century, the citizens of West Warwick were clamoring for better representation. Their political views diverged significantly from the more agrarian and coastal residents of Warwick proper; in fact, they were so divergent that the Republican-controlled General Assembly refused to consider any split of the municipality for fear that Democrats would gain power. In 1912, however, the town held a referendum through which division passed, and the General Assembly granted the town its charter in 1913.

The century since has seen both dramatic change and stability. The change centered on the collapse of the Rhode Island textile industry beginning in the 1920s. As textile jobs moved south, the town struggled to adapt to new economic realities. And yet, despite this traumatic shock, citizens of West Warwick retain the same industriousness they displayed 340 years ago, a spirit that will continue to lead them to future success.

As we celebrate that spirit this year, I must acknowledge and thank the fine work of the West Warwick Centennial Committee. Led by its President, Council Member Edward A. Giroux, the Committee has developed a wonderful program to celebrate the town's religious, industrial and cultural development.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the people of West Warwick as my constituents, and I am honored to join them in celebrating the town's 100th birthday.

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunity improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Counties in my district in Oregon and across the state have long faced revenue shortfalls because of declining timber receipts, and the extended economic downturn of the last few years dealt another blow. Sequestration has further reduced the availability of federal funds, and for many counties their financial problems are even more acute.

There is no question that federal policy governing the management of the O&C lands must change. Current policy results in consistently low revenue from timber receipts, harming already cash-strapped counties. The failure to allow for fuel reduction that can prevent wildfires is threatening other forestland and the safety of our constituents and their families.

As I have said many times, we need a legislative solution that will help our counties put

their finances in order, protect vital natural resources and wildlife habitat, and mitigate the danger posed by wildfire. That solution, however, must be one that can pass both chambers and be signed into law; otherwise our efforts here in D.C. will not make a difference back at home.

H.R. 1526 does extend vitally important county payments through the Secure Rural Schools program by one year. It would lead to more active management of federal forestland in Oregon and it does include some vital environmental conservation provisions. But the overall proposal does not adequately balance economic and environmental priorities and has no chance of becoming law.

Some of my colleagues from Oregon have already put in long hours searching for a solution to this issue that our counties face, and I applaud Mr. DEFazio, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. SCHRADER for their efforts to resolve this issue.

I look forward to continuing to work with my House and Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support a bill that will help our counties and, importantly, will become law. I hope that we can work together with haste to draft and enact broadly-supported legislation that will help our local and county officials back home.

HONORING THE IOWA VETERANS WELCOME CENTER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the grand opening of the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In January 2013, three Vietnam veterans, Roger Wiest, Doug Adamson, and Richard Harvol, set out to establish the first independent veteran's social center in the Cedar Rapids area. Their vision was to create an environment for veterans of all ages to come together, share their experiences, and provide support for their brothers and sisters. These men contributed their own funds and resources to ensure that their idea came to fruition.

The center will provide a safe haven for men and women to interact with their fellow veterans through various activities. In addition, it creates a vital support system so necessary to combatting the various issues our brave veterans face every day. I applaud the efforts of these three men and the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center. They truly embody the notion that service to their fellow brothers and sisters in arms doesn't stop when the uniform comes off.

HONORING BAYPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the courageous volunteers of the

Bayport Fire Department on the 125th anniversary of its founding. Since 1888, this band of heroes has come to the rescue of community members not only in the City of Bayport but the surrounding townships and villages with their all-volunteer department. With literally generations of families serving in this St. Croix River fire department, the Bayport Fire Department is one of the oldest all-volunteer fire departments in the state of Minnesota.

The Bayport Fire Department was originally established in 1888 when the village of South Stillwater formed its own brigade to fight fires ravaging this small mill town. In the years following department's creation, the town has since changed names and generations of families have diligently volunteered to protect the Bayport community. Most remarkably, it is possibly the oldest all-volunteer fire departments in continuous existence in Minnesota. The fire department's informal motto, "desire to serve, courage to act, ability to perform," is a testament to the inspiring commitment of the Bayport Fire Department's all-volunteer staff. The brave men and women in the Bayport Fire Department have selflessly given untold time and energy to meet the challenges and emergencies this community has faced over the last 125 years.

From community outreach to training drills and even water rescues on the Saint Croix River, the fire fighting volunteers are extremely capable professionals who frequently hold full-time jobs in addition to their fire department duties. Bayport fire fighters are trained as first responders and routinely arrive first to the scene of local medical and fire emergencies. The long and prestigious history of the Bayport Fire Department and its all-volunteer staff is a powerful demonstration of what is possible when a community acts collectively—it is an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of all-volunteer Bayport Fire Department as we commemorate their 125th anniversary today.

**A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR
A NORTH CAROLINA TREASURE,
MRS. THELMA PATTERSON CAIN**

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelma Patterson Cain, a constituent of mine from Davie County, and longtime North Carolinian. It is an honor to represent Mrs. Cain in Congress and to introduce her to this body and her country as a real national treasure.

The people who know and love Mrs. Cain, which is everyone who meets her, say she is loyal, dutiful, responsible, intelligent, loving, beautiful, kindhearted, and gracious. She is a celebrated cook, a beloved mother, a cherished "Grandma," and an adopted "Auntie" to practically all the children in her neighborhood.

Mrs. Cain was born on September 26, 1913 as the tenth of Henry and Julia Patterson's eleven children. With her four sisters and six brothers, Thelma grew up in a North Carolina farming family, working in tobacco and raising cows, pigs, and chickens.

In 1939, she married Mr. Samuel Cain and the two had a son, William Henry Patterson.

She raised Gary Dulin, her grand nephew and current caretaker, like her own son as well. Today, Mrs. Cain enjoys the blessing of watching her family continue to grow through her four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In earlier years, Mrs. Cain was employed by North Carolina families in Davie and Yadkin as a domestic worker and was also a waitress at Winston-Salem's own Salem Academy.

A woman after my own heart, Mrs. Cain possesses a green thumb and has committed much time in her years to planting flower and vegetable gardens in our fine North Carolina soil. Birds, too, are counted among the beneficiaries of Mrs. Cain's thoughtfulness as feeding and watching them is a favorite of her pastimes.

Her personal relationship with God has been strengthened through her lifetime membership in Mocksville's Chinquapin Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Faith in the Lord Almighty has sustained Thelma Cain for 100 beautiful years, and carried, comforted, and guided her through hardship and loss. The heart of compassion, decency, and spirit of generosity which characterize this woman are so clearly rooted in obedience to God.

It is an absolute joy to recognize Mrs. Cain's on the occasion of her 100th birthday celebration. Mrs. Cain, like strong women often are, is an anchor for her family, church congregation, and community. She is deserving of honor, congratulations, and true celebration on this day and for all her days. May God continue to bless Mrs. Thelma Patterson Cain with good health, dear friendships, hope and happiness for many years to come.

**RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS
FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. This bill is the fulfillment of a promise that the federal government made to counties and communities, particularly those in the Western part of the country, more than a century ago.

For far too long, our national forests have been managed by a strategy that fails to recognize the tremendous resource potential that our national forests hold. At the beginning of the 20th century when our national forest system was being created, the federal government implemented a program to exchange land owned by counties in return for a share of the revenue generated off the land. The

land was managed for resource extraction and forests thrived.

That is until the forest management strategy shifted. As extraction became less popular and increasingly vulnerable to litigation, timber revenue decreased and communities became wards of the federal government. In fact, timber harvests in our National Forests have fallen 80 percent over the last 30 years. Forest health is at an all time low. Jobs are scarce and communities are decimated.

In Eastern Washington, the Colville National Forest has been the economic engine for Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties—providing jobs, energy, and recreational opportunities. Yet, mills have closed, jobs lost, and of the 1.1 million acres in the Colville National Forest, over 300,000 are bug infested. This is unacceptable.

This past August, I met with forest officials, community leaders in the Colville National Forest, and other stakeholders to chart a path forward. We need a path that allows states and local governments to manage their affairs because they have shown success.

States have shown that they are able to produce several times more harvest and revenue from a smaller land base than the federal government. For example, Washington State is able to harvest 7 times as much timber, and generate 200 times as much revenue on 1/4 the land area as the Forest Service. We need forest management policies that exploit these successes.

H.R. 1526 does just that. It allows responsible timber production on Forest Service commercial timber lands—areas that were specifically identified by the forest service for timber harvest. It also allows state and local governments to get more involved in preventing wildfires on federal lands, and lets counties actively manage portions of National Forest land.

It is a common sense solution that provides a sustainable revenue stream for rural schools and counties for years to come. It creates jobs, improves forest health, and strengthens our rural communities. It is a win-win for everyone. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 476, the Unfair Food Stamps (SNAP) Reduction Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate the Fireman's Fund Insurance

Company, which on September 24th of this year will celebrate its 150th anniversary in O'Fallon, Missouri. As the representative of Missouri's 2nd district, I am honored to recognize such an innovative company with a long history in the state of Missouri and throughout the country.

Since its founding in 1863 by retired ship captain William Holdredge, Fireman's Fund has been involved with several important events in our nation's history. Fireman's Fund has insured construction of such national treasures as the Golden Gate Bridge and Hoover Dam, in addition to the renovation of the Statue of Liberty in the 1980's. And for those of us from Missouri, we are particularly aware that it was a Fireman's Fund policy which helped provide for the production of Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" plane in 1927.

The company was also the first to offer a standing grain insurance policy in the United States, and the first to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance. Such innovation has contributed to new ideas for the insurance industry, but more importantly it has contributed to the sustained economic growth of our country over the last century and a half.

Fireman's Fund embodies some of the best values of American business. Not only is the company committed to servicing its customers, it is also committed to giving back to communities all across the country. In fact, the name "Fireman's Fund" comes from the company's founding social mission to award a portion of its profits to the widows and orphans of fallen firefighters. This commitment to the fire service was renewed in 2004, and since that time Fireman's Fund has awarded roughly \$30 million in grants to fire departments across the country. And in the wake of the May 2011 tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, Fireman's Fund was there to offer support for the victims of that catastrophe.

It is indeed an honor to recognize such a great American company on its 150th anniversary. I thank the employees of Fireman's Fund for all they do, and wish them many more years of continued success and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25 years of service by the Community Enrichment Center (CEC). Located in North Richland Hills, Texas, the CEC serves over 7,000 unduplicated individuals in Tarrant County with food, housing, education classes, free tax preparation, job services and seniors working to stay out of isolation.

Formed in 1998 as a food pantry by the Richland Hills Church of Christ, the CEC has expanded dramatically over the years as they identified the needs of individuals and families in crisis that extended beyond the basic need for food. In their efforts the CEC has partnered with homeless agencies, local municipalities, churches, community organizations, businesses, schools, local and state homeless coalitions.

Toward accomplishing this mission, in 1993 the CEC received the first non-profit U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homeless grant offered in the 5 state region served by the Region 6 office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Initially extended as a demonstration project and known now as the Continuum of Care grant, the CEC matches federal funding with private resources at approximately 400 percent. CEC was also recognized by HUD Best Practice Award in 1998 for their Adopt-A-Family homeless program.

In their effort to meet broader needs, the CEC absorbed Open Arms Home, Inc. to reduce administrative expenses and allow more funds to be committed to meeting the housing needs of those fleeing from domestic violence. CEC's mission has also led them to provide testing and coaching to the underemployed to identify needs and guide them through education and training resources toward financial independence. Nutritional cooking classes were also added, along with a greater selection of fresh produce and frozen meat to better serve the health needs of those using their food pantry.

I am grateful for the commitment of the CEC staff and volunteers for the 25 years of dedicated service to the underserved of Northern Tarrant County. I join them in celebration of all they have accomplished in meeting the challenges of their mission. It is my privilege to represent the organization and many of their volunteers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF EPPAMINONDAS "EPPIE" JOHNSON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise in honor of Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson, who passed away recently in Sacramento at the age of 85. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Eppie, as his family, friends, and the entire Sacramento community gathers to celebrate his life and legacy.

Eppaminondas Johnson was born on May 7, 1928, in Astoria, New York. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, he moved to Sacramento to work for his father's restaurant and hotel business. In Sacramento, Eppie became a business and community legend. He was to become a symbol for everything great about Sacramento.

Eppie founded a chain of 24-hour coffee shops and he became famous in the 1960s and 1970s for running a popular TV advertisement featuring himself balancing a plate of food while water skiing. He was well-known for his lively marketing campaigns, such as "Professor Eppie" that gave free sundaes to students who earned straight As. He eventually came to own sixteen restaurants in Sacramento, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Fresno, and the Lake Tahoe area, as well as hotels and other properties.

An athletic man, Eppie was also the founder of a beloved Sacramento tradition known as "Eppie's Great Race." Started in 1974 as a promotion and charity fundraiser, this three-

event contest included running, cycling, and kayaking all in the beautiful American River Parkway. Popularly called the "world's oldest triathlon," the contest has grown into a major summer celebration that annually attracts more than 2,000 participants. Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Great Race and I know Eppie will be cheering everyone on. His race has raised over \$1 million for the Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services which offers activities to individuals with developmental disabilities. I had the pleasure of visiting Therapeutic Recreation Services with Eppie, and his passion to assist those with disabilities was clear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson for being an exemplary member of the Sacramento community. I ask that we all take a moment and give our utmost respect and condolences to his children, George Johnson and Lisa Mangles, and his grandchildren. His life and commitment to our community are an inspiration to us all. The Sacramento area has lost a true legend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY DILL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for small business in my district—and a true friend. For the past decade, Andy Dill has served as the President of the Community Chamber of Commerce of East Montgomery County. His leadership has helped grow this important organization and the community it promotes threefold.

Prior to entering Chamber work, Andy served in the telecommunications industry and petrochemical and agricultural chemical industries. Frankly, I've learned there is very little Andy can't do and hasn't done.

A graduate of Nacogdoches High School and Stephen F. Austin State University, Andy's career has taken him across east and southeast Texas. We consider ourselves lucky he settled on the dynamic east Montgomery County.

Andy's community honors are many. From YMCA Volunteer of the Year, Rotary Club Service and Roll of Fame Awards, Andy has been a go-to person when a civic or community organization wants to get going. Andy also serves our communities on the TCC Board of Directors, the Board of the Kingwood Medical Center, Leadership Montgomery County and many others.

When it comes to leadership, Andy is a triple threat. He is a 1988 graduate of Leadership Lufkin, a 1996 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County and a 2005 graduate of Leadership North Houston. It was no surprise to me that when Leadership East Montgomery County needed him, he answered the call.

Andy keeps learning each and every day. He has completed the three-year Community Development Institute program and a fourth-year continuing education year program through the Texas Community Development program.

Andy couldn't be the success he is without his wife Sylvia. For 44 years, she has been

his biggest cheerleader. She is also a community treasure in her own right having spent 20 years as a special education teacher.

Their daughter, Angela, son, Alan, daughter-in-law, Sarah and three wonderful grandchildren; Brady, Maddi and Lauren; inspired Andy's keen interest in both education and strengthening our communities through leadership.

Somehow, Andy finds time for his wood-working hobby and an occasional round of golf. As he leaves the Chamber in a strong position for the future, he won't be slowing down much. He plans to consult, work with boards and non-profits and spend time with his grandchildren.

Andy, I—and all of southeast Montgomery County—only have two humble words for you: Thank you! You have set an amazing example that we'll all strive to live up to. Best wishes, friend.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT JOEL WHITMORE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joel Whitmore of Boy Scout Troop 37 in Calmus, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. The work ethic Joel has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISTRICT ENERGY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the many dedicated men and women of District Energy on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of this community energy system.

District Energy launched as a demonstration project in 1983 as Saint Paul's response to the energy crisis of the 1970's. The venture was a public-private partnership between the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, United States Department of Energy and the downtown business community, all of whom believed in the viability of a hot water district heating system to alleviate the pinch of the energy crisis.

District Energy Saint Paul was built from the vision of Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer. Led by Mayor Latimer, the City lobbied the State and Federal governments for assistance in adopting a technology, developed in Europe, that could solve the heating problems of the city. Using the expertise of Hans Nyman, District Energy's first president, the system was successfully designed to be energy efficient, fuel flexible, and result in stable rates for its customers.

In 1993, ten years after the successful start-up of the district heating system, District Energy began offering cooling service to downtown building owners. Ten years later, in 2003, District Energy became a green energy service provider following construction of an affiliated combined heat and power (CHP) plant that is fueled by a renewable resource—clean, urban wood residuals. It is the largest wood-fired CHP plant serving district energy system in the nation. The system was advanced further in 2011 with the installation of the Midwest's largest solar installation. It is one of the country's largest hot water solar projects and the first in the United States to be integrated into a district heating system.

Today, District Energy Saint Paul is considered the most notable in the United States for its use of renewable energy sources and implementation of energy conservation measures. In the past couple of decades, District Energy has been recognized on numerous occasions for its work promoting energy conservation. This year District Energy has received the Innovation Recognition and Bronze Space Award from the International District Energy Association as well as the Renewable

Energy Award from the Sustainable Saint Paul Award Program. Furthermore, it continues to stand by its core values of customers, community, work environment, and conduct.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of District Energy, a community energy system committed to energy conservation, I am pleased to submit this statement in recognition of their 30th anniversary.

CÓRDOVA & FERNÓS CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program on its twentieth anniversary.

The Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program is an educational program that was created in 1993 by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico to provide outstanding college students on the island the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, DC. By giving these college students the opportunity to work as interns in the United States Congress, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and private corporations, and other places, this internship program enriches their academic, personal, and professional lives.

In addition to working, Córdova interns have the opportunity to conduct a research project directly related to their studies, attend lectures in various embassies, and become acquainted with influential policy makers and opinion leaders. Since its founding, the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program has given hundreds of college students the opportunity to learn and understand how Washington works. Furthermore, Córdova interns have had the opportunity to help others learn about Puerto Rico and what it can offer to our Nation and to the world. I am proud to have been able to contribute to this program since its establishment by hosting interns in my congressional office and in other ways.

Mr. Speaker, programs such as this one help young people become involved in and learn from our democratic system of government. In short, the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program is preparing the next generation of Puerto Rican leaders to play an active role in the future of the island and I will continue to support this program and its young leaders.