

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2017*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, people's legal rights have been limited by the use of forced arbitration clauses in contracts for consumer financial products and services. Forced arbitration clauses, also called mandatory pre-dispute clauses, prevent cheated or defrauded American consumers from going to court to challenge wrongdoing by big banks, cell phone providers, auto leasing and auto financing firms, credit repair, payday lenders, debt collectors and credit card companies. Most arbitration clauses for financial products also prohibit consumers from participating in class actions. Forced arbitration clauses have been opposed by conservatives and progressives.

Forced arbitration is a secret process where consumers seek redress at private firms chosen by the financial institution. This rigged system is why banks and lenders receive more than a million dollars per year paid out to them by their customers in forced arbitration, compared to just \$86,216 returned to consumers. While advocates for the financial sector are correct that (sixteen) consumers recover an average of \$5,400 in arbitration every year, they leave out the fact that banks and lenders receive an average award of \$13,195 when they win—and they win 93 percent of the time. Indeed, a recent report found that consumers paid more restitution to Wells Fargo in arbitration than the other way around between 2009 and 2016, the prime years of its fake account scandal.

After years of effort, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized a rule restoring American consumers' right to join together in court when harmed by systemic and widespread misconduct in the financial marketplace. The rule does not eliminate forced arbitration, but it would make individual secret arbitration more transparent by publishing arbitration complaints and outcomes. It also permits class action lawsuits.

Instead of celebrating a rule that prevents financial interests from evading responsibility, Republicans seek to stop this rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Today, they presented H.J. Res. 111.

It is a vote to prevent consumers from receiving adequate compensation for fraud, deceptive and predatory practices.

A vote for H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to deny Americans their constitutional right to access the legal process.

H.J. Res. 111 would protect companies like Wells Fargo that used arbitration clauses and

class action bans to create fraudulent accounts, overcharge customers with debit fees and mortgages and avoid responsibility for misconduct. H.J. Res. 111 would remove federal protections for members of the military from evictions and repossessions while they are on active duty. And, H.J. Res. 111 would deny consumers the ability to get fair compensation for harm.

For those reasons, and more, we urge you reject a resolution that shields companies from responsibility for risky and illegal conduct.

Today is another example to show the American people just how much Republicans want to rig the system for the powerful. A vote FOR this resolution is a vote to rig the rules to take money from the pockets of the American people and put it into the pockets of the financial sector.

H.J. Res. 111 puts the profits of banks, student loan, car loan and mobile wireless providers, credit card companies, payday lenders, debt collectors over the fair treatment of the American people.

How?

For far too long, people's legal rights have been limited by the use of forced arbitration clauses in contracts for consumer financial products and services. Forced arbitration clauses, also called mandatory pre-dispute arbitration clauses, prevent cheated or defrauded American consumers from going to court to challenge wrongdoing.

If your bank opens a fake account in your name, if your student loan lender refuses to adjust your loan due to your loss of income, if your bank re-orders your debit transactions to maximize overdraft fees, it was frequently impossible for you to join with others to sue the bank as part of a class action.

But two weeks ago, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau responded to demands from consumers and changed the rules to protect consumers. The Consumer Bureau told banks and lenders they cannot keep their customers out of court. Class action lawsuits must be allowed. And, the Consumer Bureau ended the secrecy that surrounds the arbitration courts. Companies must report court filings, arbitration filings and rulings.

The vast majority of the American people, consumer groups like the Consumer Federation of America, the Military Coalition, and even conservative groups oppose forced arbitration.

A vote AGAINST H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to allow people to receive adequate compensation for fraud, deceptive and predatory practices.

A vote AGAINST H.J. Res. 111 is a vote to give Americans their constitutional right to access the legal process.

Please join me in voting against H.J. Res. 111.

I include in the RECORD various statement of opposition to the joint resolution.

[From National Consumer Law Center, July 2017]

### SUMMARY OF CFPB RULE ON FORCED ARBITRATION

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued a rule addressing the

use of forced arbitration clauses in the fine print of financial contracts. The rule has two components:

1) Restores consumers' day in court and accountability when companies engage in widespread violations of the law. Contracts that have forced arbitration clauses will not be permitted to ban consumers from banding together by joining or bringing class actions involving consumer financial services.

2) Brings transparency to the secretive arbitration process. Companies that use forced arbitration in individual cases must report court filings, arbitration claims and rulings and other information to the CFPB (with identifying information redacted) so that the CFPB can study the impact of forced arbitration in individual cases.

The rule applies to the core consumer financial markets involving lending money, storing money, and moving or exchanging money. With some exceptions, the rule would cover most:

Loans and credit, including credit cards, payday loans, student loans, and auto loans (auto finance companies, not auto dealers, except some buy-here/pay-here dealers). Mortgages are already prohibited from having forced arbitration clauses. Providing leads, referrals, purchasing, selling and servicing credit are covered.

Bank accounts, prepaid cards, money transfer services and apps and remittances.

Credit reporting, credit scores, credit monitoring.

Credit repair, debt management, debt settlement, and debt relief services, including those that purport to avoid foreclosure. This includes debt relief involving medical debt, taxes, and other kinds of debt even if not credit related.

Check cashing, check collection, check guaranty services.

Auto leases, but not auto dealers who assign their leases.

Debt collection and payment processing related to these products or services.

Mobile wireless providers that allow third party charges through the wireless bill.

Key areas that are not covered include:

Auto dealers (other than some buy-here/pay-here dealers), such as claims related to discrimination, add-ons, lemon laws, odometer fraud, or deception about a car's history.

For-profit colleges and trade schools, unless the school directly makes loans.

Credit cards, bank accounts and other products begun before the rule goes into effect.

Services offered directly by governments or tribes to members within their jurisdiction. The rule does apply to tribal payday lenders who offer products off-reservation.

Investment products and services by entities regulated by the SEC.

Individuals and others who offer a product or service to 25 or fewer consumers a year.

Nonfinancial products and services, like nursing homes, cable/mobile providers (except for third party charges on bills), employers, or store payment plans that don't charge.

The rule applies to new contracts entered into 211 days after a final rule is published (likely Spring of 2018) and older contracts that are purchased or acquired after that date.

• 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.

JULY 25, 2017.

Re OPPOSE H.J. Res. 111, Congressional Review Act resolution to repeal CFPB arbitration rule and block future reform of forced arbitration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Americans for Financial Reform and Public Citizen write to urge your opposition to H.J. Res. 111, the resolution to repeal the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)'s arbitration rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) and block a similar future rule to protect consumers. This extreme legislative measure would harm the public by insulating bad actors from accountability when they systematically defraud consumers, and give lawbreakers a competitive edge in the marketplace as a result.

Based on five years of careful study and consideration mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, this rule is the result of a Congressional directive instructing the agency to restrict or ban forced arbitration if it found the practice harmful to consumers. The rule centers on two commonsense measures: 1) it restores the right of consumers to join together in court by prohibiting class action bans, ensuring consumers can hold banks accountable for widespread harm, and 2) it brings transparency to individual arbitration by publishing claims and outcomes with sensitive information redacted, ensuring banks can no longer cover up illegal behavior.

According to a 2016 poll conducted by Pew Charitable Trusts, nearly 90% of consumers want their right to join together in class action lawsuits restored. Indeed, more than 100,000 individual consumers across the country wrote in to support the rule during its public comment period, as did the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 million servicemembers. Two weeks ago, 310 consumer, civil rights, faith, and labor organizations wrote to support the final rule.

All available data supports the conclusion that class action lawsuits hold bad actors accountable and enable harmed consumers to be made whole. Without the option to join together, just 25 consumers with claims of less than \$1,000 pursue arbitration each year. In contrast, class actions returned \$2.2 billion to 34 million Americans between 2008 and 2012, after deducting attorneys' fees and court costs. An independent study conducted by a former clerk for Justice Scalia reached similar conclusions, finding "even the harshest critics of consumer class actions would have to concede that the picture it paints is a fairly successful one."

While bank lobbyists suggest that consumers recover more money in arbitration than class actions, these claims are misleading at best and brazenly dishonest at worst. Even with class action bans currently a widespread presence in customer contracts, available data shows consumers still recover \$440 million more in class actions than arbitration every year, with nearly 7 million consumers receiving cash relief annually. Class actions also often result in injunctive relief and systemic reforms that benefit consumers who are not members of the class.

Big banks and lenders prefer forced arbitration precisely because the vast majority of consumers cannot and do not pursue claims in that forum. Though bank lobbyists loudly proclaim that consumers recover an average of \$5,400 in arbitration, they neglect to mention that this number is based on just sixteen consumers per year who receive any relief in arbitration, across all fifty states. Because arbitration is so time and resource-intensive for consumers compared to class

action lawsuits, the consumers that choose to pursue arbitration tend to have high-dollar claims backed by strong evidence—and even these sixteen consumers recover an average of just nine cents for every dollar claimed.

It is no wonder that the financial industry prefers arbitration when consumers receive a total of just \$86,216 per year. If Wells Fargo had to pay \$5,400 each to even a small percentage of the thousands of customers defrauded in its fraudulent account scandal, surely it would switch sides in this debate. But forced arbitration not only allows banks and lenders to keep millions in illegal profits, it affirmatively lines their pockets with large awards paid out by consumers.

The same study that found sixteen consumers recover a total of \$86,216 in arbitration per year also found that banks and lenders receive more than a million dollars per year paid out to them by their customers in forced arbitration. While sixteen consumers recover an average of \$5,400 in arbitration every year, banks and lenders receive an average award of \$13,195 when they win—and they win 93% of the time. Indeed, a recent report found that consumers paid more restitution to Wells Fargo in arbitration than the other way around between 2009 and 2016, the prime years of its fake account scandal.

In addition to the high payouts banks and lenders receive in arbitration, the Wells Fargo scandal demonstrates how financial companies use secret arbitration proceedings to keep misconduct out of the public eye. After the CFPB led a \$185 million enforcement action against the bank for opening as many as 3.5 million fraudulent accounts and credit cards, reports revealed that customers had been trying to sue Wells Fargo over fake accounts since at least 2013. Yet the bank's lawyers used arbitration clauses buried in the fine print of the customers' other legitimate account contracts to force allegations of fraud out of public court—and the bank continued to profit from its illegal scheme for years.

Finally, real-life experience shows that restoring consumer class action rights will not increase costs or decrease availability of credit. Consumers saw no increase in price after Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Capital One, and HSBC dropped their forced arbitration clauses as a result of court-approved settlements. Similarly, mortgage rates did not increase after Congress banned forced arbitration in the mortgage market.

The CFPB arbitration rule will ensure that bad actors cannot turn fraud into a viable profit model to the detriment of law abiding institutions, including the many community banks and credit unions that largely do not include arbitration clauses in their customer contracts. This new rule simply allows consumers to enforce rights deemed crucial by state and federal protections and increases accountability and transparency, making the financial system stronger and safer for all of us. We urge you to reject H.J. Res. 111 and allow this data-driven, commonsense rule to take effect.

Sincerely,

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM  
& PUBLIC CITIZEN.

[From U.S. News and World Report, July 21, 2017]

THE GOP'S FOOLISH DECISION

(By Dean Clancy)

Those who support overturning the arbitration rule are on the same side as corporate wrongdoers and sexual harassers.

Minimizing "lawsuit abuse" has long been a GOP priority. But overturning the anti-forced arbitration regulation issued this week by Consumer Financial Protection Bu-

reau, as congressional Republican leaders are reportedly rushing to do, would be a political and policy mistake.

Forced arbitration clauses waive a customer's right to sue a company in case of a dispute. The fine-print provisions can be found nowadays in seemingly every contract we agree to, and every app we download.

Business lobbyists defend the clauses as voluntary agreements that minimize "lawsuit abuse" by "greedy" class-action trial attorneys. But in reality, the clauses are often imposed on consumers without informed consent, and are increasingly being used to shield corporate wrongdoing.

The new rule protects Americans from the negative effects of forced arbitration clauses in a host of financial contracts, such as credit cards, bank accounts and payday loans. The clauses are already banned in mortgages and real estate.

News reports suggest the House may vote as soon as next week on a formal "resolution of disapproval" of the CFPB regulation, which was authorized by Congress in 2010, formally proposed in 2016 and finalized this week.

A resolution of disapproval enables Congress to kill a federal regulation within 60 legislative session days following its formal publication, by means of a quick up-or-down, simple-majority vote, with no chance of amendment or filibuster. If the regulation is disapproved by the House, the Senate and the president, it is dead and may not be re-issued. This procedure has been used successfully to overturn fourteen regulations to date, all but one of them in the past six months.

Last week when CFPB announced the new rule, prominent Beltway Republicans cried foul: Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas, chairman of the powerful House banking committee, denounced the reg as a "big, wet kiss" to the trial lawyers. Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas vowed to kill the regulation swiftly.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce urged Congress to kill not only this regulation, but every CFPB rule, on grounds the agency is unconstitutional and therefore all of its actions are invalid.

The GOP would be terribly foolish to go down this road, for three reasons. Forced arbitration is: (1) unconscionable; (2) unconstitutional and (3) a big political loser.

1. Unconscionable. Here are some examples of the kind of behavior CFPB's reg is trying to prevent.

Wells Fargo Bank admitted its employees systematically created millions of sham bank accounts in its customers' names, and then in many cases fraudulently billed those same customers for fees and services they never agreed to. Executives of the megabank knew this was happening but did nothing. Then, they decided to blame 5,300 "rogue employees, who were summarily fired. Now, to ward off thousands of lawsuits, the company is hiding behind binding arbitration clauses in its victims' contracts.

Roger Ailes, the now-deceased executive of Fox News, was accused, before his death, by multiple female employees of sexual harassment. To keep the women's allegations out of court, and to forestall a long line of past accusers from taking the witness stand, he invoked clauses in his employees' hiring contracts requiring any disputes be handled through a private, highly secretive arbitration process.

Military readiness has been negatively affected by unscrupulous payday lenders who prey on military servicemembers and veterans. The victims become overly indebted thanks to exorbitant interest rates and hidden fees they don't understand, and then find themselves unable to obtain relief thanks to forced-arbitration clauses. Because of this,

the Military Coalition, which represents nearly 6 million uniformed service members, veterans and their families, has formally petitioned Congress to ban the clauses.

2. Unconstitutional. Question: If binding arbitration clauses are so bad, why are they so common? Because a series of Supreme Court rulings (the most recent one in May) have effectively overturned the traditional common-law understanding of arbitration. In past centuries, arbitration was understood as a voluntary option that is fair only when both parties are of roughly equal bargaining power or else have agreed to it freely after a dispute has arisen.

In lieu of that reasonable understanding, the Court has substituted a doctrinaire "right of contract" that allows a powerful party to effectively force a weaker party to waive his or her constitutional right to sue, before a dispute has arisen and often without informed consent. This transformation defies common sense and severely weakens Americans' Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial.

Today, arbitration has devolved into a private star-chamber that's stacked in favor of the accused corporation—which, unsurprisingly, usually wins.

Is the CFPB itself unconstitutional? Yes, in my opinion. But so is forced arbitration. And Congress has a duty to protect our right to a jury trial.

Instead of lashing out at the agency by overturning this regulation, Congress should do the right thing and amend the Federal Arbitration Act to make binding arbitration agreements truly voluntary for all Americans, as the Constitution requires. Having done so, it could then, at its leisure, reform (or, as I would prefer, abolish) the controversial agency.

3. A Political Loser. Those who vote to overturn the CFPB regulation will be placing themselves on the side of accused sexual harassers, corporate wrongdoers and unscrupulous payday lenders who exploit our troops.

If Republicans are politically sensible—or just have an ounce of self-respect—they'll take the high road and let this reasonable rule stand.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act. I am deeply disappointed that this bill includes an indefensible \$1.6 billion for the President's so-called border wall. It also violates the bipartisan Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps, strips a long-overdue provision to sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), and bars any efforts to close Guantanamo Bay.

H.R. 3219 includes Fiscal Year 2018 funding for the Legislative Branch, the Veterans' Affairs Department, the Department of Defense, and Energy and Water programs at the Department of Energy and Department of the

Interior. Although I have many concerns with the bill, I am pleased that it increased funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, including funding for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which will help dredge and maintain Oregon ports. I am also grateful that a bipartisan amendment that I championed with Rep. SCOTT PERRY to increase funding for the Water Technologies Office at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) was adopted. This will allow Oregon State University to continue their cutting-edge research and development of sustainable hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy. I am deeply concerned, however, that the bill reduces overall EERE funding and eliminates the Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) program. I also do not support the inclusion of harmful policy riders that prevent implementation of National Oceans Policy protections and authorize the withdrawal of the Waters of the United States rule.

I am supportive of provisions in the bill that uphold our commitment to our nation's veterans. The bill provides robust funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research, and prioritizes funding to hire needed doctors, nurses, and medical staff at VA medical centers. Additionally, the bill addresses the ongoing disability claims backlog by requiring regional offices to report on processing performance and remediation efforts.

Unfortunately, the bill also included \$1.6 billion to fund parts of President Trump's border wall, a waste of money that will not secure the border and will have long lasting humanitarian, diplomatic, and environmental consequences. The bill also appropriates Defense spending at \$621 billion, which is \$72 billion above the BCA caps. Without a fix to the caps, this funding level would trigger a mandatory 13.2 percent cut in all defense accounts. This reckless cut is irresponsible. Finally, the bill was stripped of a provision to sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), which has been used for more than 15 years to justify ongoing military actions overseas. It is long past time for Congress to reassert our authority and responsibility to debate matters of military force. The Majority's decision to remove this provision—which passed out of the Appropriations Committee with broad bipartisan support—shows a disregard for our duties and the legislative process. Additionally the bill bars any funds from being used to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, or to transfer detainees. For those reasons, I am strongly opposed to H.R. 3219 and urge my colleagues to vote no.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropria-

tions Act, because it is not a responsible way to spend taxpayer money. The bill blows through the spending limits in the Budget Control Act. Responsible governing means making hard choices and spending taxpayer money wisely. This bill did not serve either of those goals.

I am particularly concerned about the \$1.57 billion included in this bill to pay for the border wall between the United States and Mexico. For that much money, we could pay for over 94,000 students to get their four-year degrees at a UW-System school. Instead, we are spending that money on a project that will only balloon in price and cost even more to maintain. We need to make smart decisions about how to spend our limited resources. We should be investing in ourselves.

There are plenty of opportunities to pay for important defense priorities by eliminating waste in the Defense Department. In January of 2015, the non-partisan Defense Business Board released a report outlining opportunities for reform that would save \$125 billion in defense spending. That report is now collecting dust. That is money we could be spending on important defense priorities like troop readiness, training, and equipment. This spending bill is another missed opportunity at reform.

Despite voting against the bill, I was happy to see \$55 million provided to the VA to implement the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. The funding will assist in increasing programs to help medical professionals and patients understand the risks associated with pain medication and examine alternative treatments. This will help address the opioid epidemic and give veterans and their families the tools they need and the accountability they deserve.

I understand how important it is to provide ample support for our military, which is why I recently voted in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act. Supporting the brave men and women who defend this nation is of paramount importance. We should not be inserting partisan riders into bills that should be bipartisan. I will continue to work with my colleagues to support our military and pursue fiscally responsible policies that invest in Americans.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 3219, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018, also ironically named the, "Make America Secure Appropriations Act" (Roll no. 435). I commend House appropriators for their work on this bill and realize that putting it together was no easy task. However, due to several poison pill provisions and deep budgetary issues, I could not support it.

Most concerning, the bill contains \$1.6 billion in funding to begin construction of a wall

along the U.S.-Mexico border. A border wall serves only to instill fear and puts United States taxpayers on the hook for something that is unrealistic, costly, and unnecessary. It's immoral and goes against our values as Americans.

There are also severe budgetary concerns. The bill would increase defense spending more than \$72 billion above limits set in the Budget Control Act. House Republicans have refused to work with Democrats on a new budget agreement, and without a budget resolution, the funding levels in this legislation would be subject to a sequester. H.R. 3219 is an affront to smart spending and a testament to misguided governing.

The legislation increases funding levels for several redundant weapons programs, including certain dangerous nuclear weapons programs. The prioritizing of weapons systems over our troops and veterans is wrong and will result in the hollowing out of the Army, Navy, and Air Force conventional forces. We need to set clear spending priorities.

In addition, the bill contains a number of provisions that ignore basic environmental policy requirements and important investments in renewable energy. It includes a rider that would prevent the federal government from protecting clean water and even exempts discharged dredged or fill material from clean water act requirements. The bill would also eliminate the Department of Energy's advanced energy research program and the energy loan guarantee program and would slash energy efficiency & renewable energy investments by nearly \$1 billion. The so-called Making America Secure Act even prevents agencies from collaborating on federal ocean policies.

There was a bright spot. The House passed an amendment to defund painful experiments on dogs conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is critical that Congress work to strengthen animal protections, which is why I've laid out an ambitious agenda to help animals and crack down on abuse.

I hope we can work together going forward to pass a budget resolution that prioritizes appropriately.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, I represent the First District of New Hampshire, which includes Pease Air Guard Base, formerly Pease Air Force Base. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I'm aware that our military's historic use of perfluorinated chemicals or PFCs has not only polluted the groundwater of Pease and the surrounding area, but also of bases and their environs nationwide. That's why I'm offering this amendment to authorize the Department of Defense

to fund a nationwide health impact study—which the House-passed NDAA has just authorized—to be conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry beginning in FY2018. Our service members, veterans, and other affected constituents deserve answers about how they and their children have been harmed by these chemicals, which are classified as emerging contaminants.

This contamination began in the 1970s, when more than 600 U.S. military fire-training sites used a firefighting foam that contained PFCs called perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Testing conducted by the Department of Defense at many of these sites has found PFC groundwater levels that exceed EPA guidelines many times over. At Pease, it is 12.5 times higher than the health advisory. The Department of Defense has so far spent \$200 million assessing and remediating the water at many of these sites. The House report accompanying the NDAA has extensive language identifying this problem and directing the Defense Department to report to the Committee on the process and timeline for identifying and resourcing long-term remediation on military bases or in the surrounding communities.

Because of widespread PFC use at sites across the United States, contaminated drinking water now poses a nationwide public health threat. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), PFOA is especially problematic "because it can stay in the environment and in the human body for long periods." Many peer-reviewed studies indicate health dangers of PFCs, including links to testicular, kidney, and thyroid cancer, liver damage, impaired immune system function, decreased fertility, and harm to a developing fetus or child. But the ACS says "more research is needed to clarify these findings," because a comprehensive, long-term study of the health impacts of PFOA and PFOS has not yet been conducted.

That is why I see a clear and pressing need for this study. Our service men and women, veterans, and others who have been exposed to PFCs deserve answers on both the short- and long-term health impacts of these contaminants. Such a study's findings could enable them to take proactive measures, such as more frequent cancer screenings, to protect their own and their children's health.

Knowing that groundwater contamination exists and understanding the clear danger of long-term health risks, we can begin to remedy past mistakes by supporting the launch of this much-needed study on behalf of our troops, our veterans, their families, and affected civilians. This is a debt we owe our troops and military families, defense civilian workers, and others who served on or lived near these bases.

Please support our amendment to give our military members and veterans, their families and children, in and around bases across our country, the answers they deserve.

RECOGNIZING LAMP HIGH SCHOOL  
IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the history and continued

legacy of LAMP High School in Montgomery, Alabama. This Magnet school remains a significant testament to the success of public education in America, especially in the historic city of Montgomery.

LAMP, originally an acronym for Lanier Academic Motivational Program, had its origin in 1984 as a magnet program in Lanier High School. As the Montgomery Board of Education saw that white flight away from integrated schools continued to increase, public education leaders affirmed that retaining racial balance in schools would allow for quality education for all students.

The first director of the program, Mary George Jester, brilliantly led this school to continually be the number one ranked public school in Alabama, a top 50 public school nationally, and the number one ranked magnet school in the nation in 2013, according to Newsweek and US News and World Report. What started as an idea by the Board of Education to combat white flight turned into a program with the philosophy that any student, regardless of background or race, could get the highest quality education in Alabama. Mary George Jester relentlessly took that attitude into a community that was all too familiar with innovative ideas, a fervor for change, and the desire for equal opportunity. Montgomery remains the backdrop of LAMP High School today as it boasts its racial, religious, and cultural diversity.

However, as the 2017 to 2018 school year approaches, LAMP will move locations for the third time in four years. After LAMP formed in an already existing high school in 1984, it finally received its own building in 1999. That facility, built in 1923, housed the first junior and senior high schools for African-American students, and was named after Henry Allen Loveless, a founding member of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Subsequently, LAMP changed its acronym to what it is today: Loveless Academic Magnet Program—reflecting the name of that building. As students and faculty grew accustomed to their new surroundings and strived to get national recognition, the building they worked in slowly deteriorated. Finally, after 13 years, that building was deemed severely unsafe for a school, and the school was promptly moved in November of 2014 to a temporary, unused elementary school building a couple miles away downtown.

Nevertheless, LAMP persisted, with students, faculty, and administrators scrambling to get situated; this was not the first nor the last time LAMP would have to adapt to a new environment. The timeless philosophy Mary George Jester instilled in the program that "excellence in education does not limit itself in the classroom; rather, it encompasses the student's entire world." After being present for LAMP's second move, Ms. Jester retired after returning that year to be the principal. Ms. Jester's philosophy remained as LAMP was informed that it would be moving again to a renovated portion of the closed down and vacant Montgomery Mall building. The brand new facility will reopen for students and faculty in August of 2017, which will complete its fourth and final move.

It took the push of education leaders in 1984 for LAMP's success to transcend buildings thirty-three years later. Through community support early on, LAMP stands as a testament that public education creates developed

minds with the ability to adapt to adversity. As current Principal Matthew Monson leads the school onward, Ms. Jester's philosophy is clearer than ever: education is "always believing in, and always nurturing the mind, body and soul, no matter the hindrances."

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, and the nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing LAMP High School in Montgomery, Alabama for demonstrating the pinnacle of public education in the face of adversity.

#### HONORING BRIAN ROSS LUCAS

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Ross Lucas. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 222, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brian completed a landscaping project around a sign he also erected for Eagleville United Methodist Church in Eagleville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Ross Lucas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2017 GRADUATING CLASS OF THE DODIE LONDEN EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE SERIES

#### HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the graduating class of the 2017 Dodie Londen Excellence in Public Service Series. Brandy Wells, Cindy Casaus, Debi Vandenboom, Farhana Ahmed, Jeni White, Kristen Desmangles, Lauren Pemberton, Lisa Godzich, Dr. Shadow Asgari, Simone Hall, ViciLee Jacobs, Bernadette Coggins and Yvonne Cahill have all distinguished themselves as impactful leaders in our community.

#### HONORING NAFCU NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

#### HON. SCOTT TAYLOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Schools on his recent se-

lection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Schools has been President and CEO of Chartway Federal Credit Union in Virginia Beach since 2015. Mr. Schools joined Chartway Federal Credit Union in 2008 and served as vice president of lending, corporate strategy officer, and corporate divisional president, until he assumed his current role.

Mr. Schools has more than 20 years of business leadership experience and holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Virginia Tech and a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has also served as a Board member of Chartway's We Promise Foundation, which provides financial support to make dreams and wishes come to life for children facing medical challenges.

He is known at his credit union as a highly capable leader who has the experience, the determination, and the drive to position Chartway for the opportunities and challenges ahead. Mr. Schools' business experience and leadership will bring a tremendous amount of expertise to the NAFCU Board.

I wish Mr. Schools the best of luck in his new role on the NAFCU Board, and look forward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Brian Schools on this achievement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE VILLAGE OF PENTWATER

#### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Pentwater, Michigan on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

On March 16, 1867, the former settlement of Pentwater was officially incorporated as a village by the Michigan Legislature. The Victorian homes and cottages scattered around the village remind visitors of Pentwater's historic past. Its first sawmill—opened in 1867—turned into a booming lumbering industry, including the largest shingle mill in the United States. As we look back at Pentwater's historic past, we hope to preserve that which has made it special.

From early on, Pentwater was known as a scenic resort destination. Today, with its picturesque location on Lake Michigan, Pentwater offers countless options for recreation and entertainment. Charles Mears State Park provides visitors the opportunity to hike, fish, sail and enjoy all that Lake Michigan has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the village of Pentwater, Michigan.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN MATHEWS

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Mathews and thank him for his

years of dedicated service to Congress and the American taxpayers. Dan has worked on the Hill for over 20 years, and, he has been a fixture on the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the Republican Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management for the last 14 years. The Subcommittee has a wide area of jurisdiction covering federal buildings and courthouses, the General Services Administration, and GSA leases and capital projects, the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery of Art, and numerous other federal facilities. In addition, Dan also staffed the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparedness for and the Response to Hurricane Katrina in 2006. He was one of the primary authors of the Committee's investigative report, "A Failure of Initiative," which led to the successful enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, and later the establishment of the National Preparedness System and the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act.

In his time with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Dan has had a leading role in the enactment of major pieces of legislation related to public buildings and emergency management. Most notably, during his tenure, he has overseen the passage and the initial implementation of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA), which will shrink the size of government and help ensure savings by selling or redeveloping high value properties, consolidating federal space, and streamlining the disposal of unneeded assets; the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which gave FEMA clear guidance on its mission and priorities, and provided the legislative authorities needed to better partner with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments before, during, and after disasters; and the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, which was the most significant legislative change to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) substantive authorities since the enactment of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974.

Dan has also worked tirelessly to save taxpayer money by reducing the cost of federal real estate, reducing waste in the federal courthouse construction program, coordinating efforts by agencies to reduce leasing costs through space reductions and consolidations, and pushing GSA to negotiate the best lease deals for the taxpayer. It comes as no surprise given his experience and efforts, that the Administration has appointed him Commissioner of GSA's Public Buildings Service. I am confident in that role, Dan will continue the important work of ensuring GSA and other federal agencies continue to reduce costs and make smarter decisions in federal real estate to benefit the taxpayer.

In his spare time, Dan enjoys spending time with his family, his wife Lara and their two daughters, traveling, doing yoga, and rock climbing. Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Dan's achievements during his tenure here in the House of Representatives and in wishing Dan the best of luck with new endeavors.

# RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

## HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the Auburn Correctional Facility in Auburn, NY.

The Auburn Correctional Facility has served Central New York diligently and without fail—never ceasing to operate 24 hours a day for seven days a week—for 200 years. The Auburn Correctional Facility has been an economic driver in Auburn and Central New York, creating jobs and boosting the local economy over the past two centuries.

I commend the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for keeping the Auburn Correctional Facility operational for the last 200 years, and I wish the Auburn Correctional Facility continued success in the years to come.

# FEDERAL COURT DECISION ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY

## HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express deep concern about the recent Federal Court decision on the Trump Administration's Presidential Advisor Commission on Election Integrity. The partisan commission led by Vice President PENCE and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach sparked controversy on June 28th when they requested the names, date of birth, party registrations, partial Social Security numbers, and voting history of more than 150 million registered voters across America.

Immediately following this request, voting rights groups and civil liberty activists challenged the Commission on Election Integrity in Federal Court. Earlier this week, a D.C. federal judge ruled that the White House is exempt from federal privacy review requirements, permitting the Trump Administration's commission to move forward with collecting voters' personal information throughout the country. This decision is a setback to democracy, because it legitimizes the voter suppression efforts of this commission.

The creation of the Commission on Election Integrity is based on an inaccurate claim by President Trump that he would have "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." It is also upsetting that the commission is using tax payer money to promote this false narrative.

Fortunately, the D.C. Federal Court's decision will not be the final ruling on the legitimacy of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Many other groups, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, have filed lawsuits in federal courts across the country to challenge the commission's efforts.

With the seemingly constant attacks on voting rights, it is easy to become discouraged and disengaged. I challenge every American to draw inspiration from the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement who risked their lives in the pursuit of unfettered access to the ballot. As old battles become new again, we must re-double our efforts to ensure equal access to the voting booth. That is why I proposed H.R. 2978—The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017. By restoring the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we can address the problem of voter discrimination and help ensure all Americans, regardless of race and economic status, are able to exercise their right to vote.

# HONORING TALENT IN GEORGIA'S FILM INDUSTRY

## HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the success and bright future of the film industry in my home state of Georgia.

When Americans ventured out to see feature films like Spiderman: Homecoming and Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2 they watched movies that were shot 50 miles south of my home in Gainesville. Ten years ago, no one could imagine big ticket films such as these being produced here. But today, Georgia's film industry yields an economic impact of over \$7 billion.

The need for Georgians to keep up with the pace of this industry's growth is crucial. Therefore, I want to take the time to commend the efforts that my northeast Georgia friends have taken to educate and inspire our youngest generation to get involved in film production.

Recently, the Hall County Library System hosted a film school that offered free classes to young students. There, students were taught how to draft their own movie scripts, shoot videos at different angles, and edit them in order to provide viewers with the best experience.

Additionally, I want to recognize Opal Littleton, a star on the rise from Dahlenega. She was recently cast as the role of young Charlotte Byrde on the show Ozark and is working with Clint Eastwood on his film, 15:17 to Paris.

The future of Georgia's film industry is being paved by the talent of these young Georgians and the support that their loved ones give to them. I am excited to watch them grow and take on their own roles in the success of Georgia's film industry.

# HONORING DR. JOSEPH V. ERARDI, JR.

## HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr. upon

his retirement as the Superintendent of Schools in Newtown, Connecticut. Dr. Erardi is a distinguished educator and administrator, and his legacy of fighting for Connecticut's students will inspire the next generation of public servants.

Dr. Erardi has long been active in education in our state. He completed his undergraduate and Master's degrees at Central Connecticut State University before earning his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford. Before joining the Newtown Public Schools, Joe worked in school administration at Rockville High, Killingly High, and Manchester Public Schools. He then worked as Superintendent at the Southington, Watertown, and Bolton school districts in Connecticut before joining Newtown as Superintendent in 2014.

Joe's leadership has been vital to support our local schools during a challenging time for our state and local governments. In November 2016, the Connecticut Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents named Dr. Erardi as the Superintendent of the Year for 2017 in recognition of his dedication to students, teachers, and his district. What's more, in spite of his demanding work at Newtown Public Schools, Joe found the time to teach at Central Connecticut State University and to share his experience with the next generation of educators.

On a personal note, I want to honor my friend Joe. He is a true educator, mentor, and citizen servant. Joe, we'll miss you—but know that your service stands as a benchmark for all of us who care about education and about our communities. I extend him my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement with his wife, Sue, and children, Joe and Chelsea.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joseph Erardi dedicated his career in public service to improving our public schools and ensuring Connecticut's students receive a quality education. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

# TRIBUTE TO JERRY NURNBERG

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jerry Nurnberg for his many years of service to the Creston Volunteer Fire Department. After serving admirably for 45 years, Jerry has decided it's time to hang up his boots.

Jerry joined the Creston Fire Department in 1972. Not only did he work calls for fires, but in the beginning, the volunteers also responded to ambulance calls. He has had experience with everything from house fires to train wrecks and has been the treasurer for the volunteer fire fighters for most of his tenure.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor representing Jerry in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in commending him for his outstanding service to the city of Creston and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.



LEINENKUGEL'S 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company. As every Wisconsiner knows, Leinenkugel's is a staple of our state's economy and has been for 150 years.

In my district, Chippewa Falls, WI is home to one of the original Leinenkugel breweries and is still proudly producing union made Leinenkugel beer today. In fact, Leinenkugel's is not only one of the oldest continuously operating breweries in the United States; it is also the 4th largest craft brewer in our country.

Leinenkugel Brewing Company has also been a dynamic driver of tourism in my district and across the state of Wisconsin. The brewery's visitor center, the Leinie Lodge, draws over 125,000 visitors annually making it one of the most prominent tourist destinations in our great state of Wisconsin.

Leinenkugel's success, however, is not only because they manufacture great tasting beer, but it's also because they embody the Wisconsin notion of service to others. The Leinenkugel family has a long history of public service, dating back to World War II when Bill Leinenkugel served as a United States Marine in the South Pacific. It was this same passion for service that propelled Bill's 40-year career with the brewing company. Two of Bill's sons, the fifth generation of the family to work for the brewery, Jake and Dick also served as officers in the United States Marine Corps. In addition to their service as Marines, Dick Leinenkugel served as a County Board Supervisor in Waukesha County, WI and as Wisconsin's Secretary of Commerce from 2008 until 2010. Jake Leinenkugel is retired from the company but continues to honor the Leinenkugel tradition of service as a Senior White House Advisor to the Veterans Administration. The dedication for community involvement and support has been passed down through generations and continues to shape the way in which the Leinenkugel family does business in western Wisconsin today.

Whether it's brewing Leinenkugel beer in Chippewa Falls, WI or serving our country in the Marines, the Leinenkugel family consistently represents the hardworking values of all Wisconsiners. With this in mind, I'd like to raise a Summer Shandy and congratulate the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company and Leinenkugel family on 150 years of dedicated service to western Wisconsin.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO  
KATHERINE JENNINGS MOXHAM**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Katherine Jennings Moxham who passed away on July 7, 2017.

Katherine Jennings "Kate" Moxham, 46, a resident of Kennebunk, Maine, died Friday,

July 7, 2017 at Maine Medical Center in Portland from injuries received in an accident while riding a bike from home to the town library. She was an advocate for education, literature, science, the environment and personal rights, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Kate was born May 5, 1971 in Kingston, PA, the daughter of Donald Bryden Jennings and Freda Ann Lockyer Jennings, and is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, MA with a BA degree in history.

Kate was constantly seeking knowledge and educating. She loved reading, had a huge passion for libraries and learning, and was a constant advocate for both. She was vocal about what she stood for and fought for what she believed in. Having been awakened more recently (as she put it), Kate participated in the recent march for Women in Washington, DC, and in the March for Science in Boston.

Bringing people together to make connections and develop relationships, within her family, her wide circle of friends and her community was a hugely important part of her life. She was always the brightest light in the room wherever she was. Her laugh was infectious and her wit kept others in stitches. And her heart was as big as could be. She would help others without them needing to ask on a daily basis. And if they asked, she was right there.

One of Kate's passions was literature, and getting kids within her realm to pick up on that passion in any way she could. She was a volunteer at the Kennebunk Free Library, and served on its board of Trustees, including a term as board chair. Kate worked as librarian in the Kennebunk School System, at the Sea Road School library and also the Mildred L. Day School Library; created summer reading lists for all students from elementary grades through junior high, and created personal lists for students she knew so they would be challenged, intrigued, and enjoy the fun of a good book.

First and foremost was Kate's love of her immediate family—husband Todd of 17 years, and sons Tyler (15) and Riley (13). She was a tireless advocate for Tyler and Riley in the school system and in life. She loved to travel and show them new places and things to expand their minds, and to show them how to live in a community, taking care of others. She was planning to go next spring on a service trip with Tyler to Mississippi with a team from South Congregational Church.

Survivors include her husband Todd Moxham, two sons Tyler Moxham and Riley Moxham, all of Kennebunk, Maine.

DONATTI RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS  
FULBRIGHT AWARD**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Donatti of Pearland, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to work on his Master of Science degree at the University of Bristol in the UK.

Michael is a Rice University student studying environmental policy and management. His environmental policy program will cover corporate environmental sustainability, legal

and economic frameworks and climate science, and will require him to write a thesis. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Michael for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RON  
VAN GUNDY**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a respected constituent of mine, Ron Van Gundy.

Since 1968, Ron devoted his time and energy to the Roza Irrigation District in the Yakima Basin. His collaborative efforts throughout the years have guided the district through several major droughts, enhanced water quality, and improved conservation efforts.

In Central Washington, water is often times a luxury, and it takes an intelligent, visionary mind to navigate the unique irrigation challenges that face our farmers. Ron exhibited an unmatched sense of leadership and cultivated strong relationships throughout the region and state-wide. He did all of this to gain support for one of Washington's most important and vulnerable agricultural districts.

Ron will be missed by many, and I am proud to have worked with him. We can honor his legacy by continuing his work and demonstrating the passion he had for water solutions in Washington's 4th District.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in remembering Ron Van Gundy.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF  
PARAMOUNT'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Paramount on its 60th anniversary. I am deeply honored to represent this hub of innovation and history as part of California's 40th Congressional District, and I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Paramount and its residents.

The City of Paramount was incorporated in 1957 after two communities, Hynes and Clearwater, merged. The unincorporated Hynes-Clearwater community staged a hard-fought campaign, "Save Paramount for Paramount," contesting its annexation from surrounding communities, and secured the right to self-governance.

The city we now call Paramount has been home to a rich and enduring history. The city's "Hay Tree," where the price of the world's hay used to be set each day, stands today as a

State Historical Landmark, proudly representing Paramount's inspiring past as a major hay and dairy producer. Iceland, an ice rink opened in 1940 by Frank Zamboni and an early Paramount landmark, celebrates the city's rich ice skating history. Iceland has not only been a widely enjoyed community asset, but the training facility for professional skaters such as Olympic champions Sonia Henie and Dorothy Hamill. The world-famous Zamboni Ice-Resurfacing Machine, which Mr. Zamboni developed in Paramount, is a memorable illustration of the area's enduring spirit of innovation.

In the spirit of the city's motto, "Positively Paramount," residents of Paramount share a commitment to making the city the best it can be. Named an "All-America City" in 1988 for its redevelopment efforts, Paramount continues to flourish as a thriving urban center. The city's revitalization in recent decades has inspired an arts movement, sparked investments in commercial and residential rehabilitation, and, most notably, reinvented the downtown.

The City of Paramount has transformed the Paramount Pond from a vacant lot riddled with blight to a unique and thriving plaza, whose artistic features encourage community and family-oriented values and celebrate ice skating history. Only a block from Frank Zamboni's ice rink, families, residents, and tourists can dine at three different restaurants, admire the beautiful bronze sculptures, and play on a miniature Zamboni Ice-Resurfacing Machine. At the heart of Paramount are the Civic Center Gardens, connecting City Hall, the community hospital, and the county library. The gardens are much-loved by Paramount residents, and reflect the city's commitment to innovation and community unification.

Paramount's commitment to redevelopment continues to this day. City leaders have recently come together to support a multimillion dollar campaign to revitalize more than 155,000 square feet of downtown Paramount. Paramount Town Center West and Paramount Town Center East have been renovated. A new, vibrant shopping center, Clearwater Crossing Shopping Center, has been completed. New outdoor patios where families can dine, additional public parking, and wider sidewalks are making Paramount a more pleasant place for all. The city's redevelopment efforts and business-friendly reputation have attracted major restaurant chains including Applebee's, Habit Burger Grill, Chipotle, and Waba Grill, as well as retailers including WSS Shoes and AutoZone.

I hope my colleagues will join me in sending their best wishes and congratulations to Paramount on its 60th anniversary. Let us salute its optimistic spirit, and its commitment to embracing the future through smart investments, innovation, and creativity. May Paramount remain strong, successful, and "Positively Paramount" in the years ahead.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYTHA SEBASTO IN CELEBRATION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mrs. Maytha Sebasto's 80th

birthday. Maytha is a beloved wife, mother, teacher, and friend to many.

Maytha Sebasto was born in Merced, California to M.O. and Bertha Richards. Her parents were true pioneers and farmed in Merced and later in the LeGrand area. Maytha graduated LeGrand High School in 1955 and went on to Fresno State where she earned her degree in elementary education in 1960. While in high school, Maytha belonged to her local 4-H club and was a member of Job's Daughters and President of the Girls League.

Maytha began teaching at LeGrand Elementary School in the fall of 1958 with a provisional credential. Her teaching philosophy was simple: Always give your students a strong foundation for their future success.

In 1960 she taught at Eastin Arcola in Madera County and then in 1961 she joined Fresno Unified School District, teaching primary grades at Tielman Elementary, Birney Elementary and Columbia. Maytha joined the faculty at Ewing Elementary in 1967. In 1990 she joined the faculty at Ayer Elementary where she remained until her retirement after more than 35 years of teaching. Maytha was beloved by her students and spent the last 15 years of her career teaching Kindergarten.

Maytha caught the eye of a young soldier, Alfred Sebasto at a church party. The two were married on December 29, 1962. For the first year of their marriage, Maytha and Alfred lived in Augsburg, Germany, where Alfred was stationed in the U.S. Army. Thereafter, the two moved back to the Sebasto Family Farm on the Eastside of Fresno County to raise their family. Maytha and Alfred are the proud parents of two loving daughters, Theresa and Alfreda.

Maytha not only assists her husband in the family farming operation, but she also volunteered for the Farm Bureau "Ag in the Classroom" program, teaching students and teachers more about the industry of agriculture and its importance to our community. Since her retirement from teaching, Maytha has become an accomplished water color artist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Maytha Sebasto as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I ask that you join me in wishing her and her family continued health and happiness.

#### SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO REDUCE SEXUAL ASSAULT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to speak in support of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act and the Megan Roldini Act. During August recess, students across the country will return to their universities, some will be freshmen, going to college for the first time. Therefore, I hope that Congress can take decisive action and pass these bills when we return in September. It is our responsibility to ensure all students are safe and secure when they are away from home and pursuing their college education.

We cannot ignore the rise of sexual assault on college campuses across this country. RAAIN, the nation's largest anti-sexual vio-

lence organization, reports one in six women in our nation have been the victim of rape or attempted rape. College-aged women are three to four times more likely to experience sexual assault. Unfortunately when many of these women seek medical attention and justice through their universities, they find neither.

I have the privilege of representing the University of Alabama, the fastest growing flagship university in the country. As our universities grow and the number of sexual assault victims grow, it is imperative that universities become the allies of all students, especially victims of sexual assault.

I am proud to join my colleagues in co-sponsoring the Campus Accountability and Security Act. The proposed legislation would increase accountability and transparency between universities and students and ensure safer university environments. Schools will be responsible for providing essential resources for victims, like confidential advisers and well-trained campus personnel. This training will teach campus personnel the neurobiological effects of trauma and stress on the victim and their memory, ensuring that the students receive victim-centered, trauma-informed interviews.

For every one-thousand rapes in the United States only fifty-seven reports will lead to arrest; only six of these will result in the incarceration of a rapist. This bill would require that campus authorities coordinate with local law enforcement and share information when a crime occurs. Pursuant to the Cleary Act of 1990, universities are required to keep and make public information about assault cases and other crimes. This current bill will create stronger penalties for universities that do not comply with their responsibilities laid out by the Cleary Act.

Likewise, my colleagues Representative MALONEY and Representative POE introduced H.R. 3415, the Megan Roldini Act of 2017 this week. This bipartisan bill requires hospitals to have a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, also known as a SAFE, or an alternative plan that gets victims to a nearby hospital with access to these resources. Requiring that SAFEs are available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week results in both the proper medical attention and the preservation of the evidence necessary to litigate the assault.

I urge all the members of Congress to support the Campus Accountability and Security Act, the Megan Roldini Act and any other legislation that would protect victims of sexual violence on our college campuses.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN- NIVERSARY OF MCDADE PARK IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of McDade Park, which will be celebrated on Monday, July 31, 2017. For four decades McDade Park has been an important part of Lackawanna County, providing residents and visitors with a place to have fun and enjoy the beauty and history of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



Since 1977, McDade Park has offered services and recreational amenities for everyone. The park's 180 acres include several sports fields utilized by athletes of all ages while nature lovers enjoy the park's hiking trail and ponds for fishing. Programs such as youth soccer, women's golf, children's fishing derbies, and many others bring people together for some friendly competition. More recently, McDade Park has taken great strides to become more accessible to people of all needs. The Boundless Playground is a special structure added in 2009 which contains wheelchair-accessible slides and special sensory areas that allows children of all needs and abilities to have fun.

McDade Park has also helped bring past and present together by commemorating Lackawanna County's history. The Lackawanna Coal Mine tour, Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum, and Miner's Memorial are located at the park to preserve Lackawanna County's rich industrial past. The coal mine tour allows visitors to descend 300 feet underground via a mine car to explore a restored anthracite coal mine. In addition to the mine tour, McDade Park is home to memorials dedicated to honor Cancer Survivors and to commemorate the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country.

It is an honor to recognize McDade Park as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary. May the people of Lackawanna County continue to enjoy the beauty and history that McDade Park offers for many, many years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FLORENTINO DURAN

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Florentino "Tino" Duran.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Florentino Duran was an accomplished man. He persevered and managed to become Student Corps President, an ROTC Colonel, and editor of his high school newspaper. After high school, he served four years in the United States Air Force. Once he finished his service, Mr. Duran attended St. Mary's University and received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration.

Mr. Duran worked in a variety of capacities after graduating college. He served as executive assistant to both Mayor John Gatti and the Lyndon B. Johnson Administration. He also worked as executive director of the Bexar County Department of Housing, President of the National Association of Hispanic Publications of the United States (NAHP) and Vice President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of San Antonio.

Later in Mr. Duran's career, he became general manager of a Dallas newspaper known as "El Sol de Tejas". He then became CEO and president of the "Hispanic Informer". In 1989, Duran and his loving wife Millie reintroduced the newspaper "La Prensa" as a bilingual publication reporting on San Antonio and the Hispanic community.

Mr. Duran's successful career brought numerous recognitions, including the 2002 Media

Award, presented by the San Antonio Police Association; the 2006 Community Service Award from the San Antonio-Norte Chamber of Commerce; and the 2005 Henry B. Gonzalez Public Service and Integrity award, presented by the Department of Public Administration of San Antonio College.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor the life of Florentino Duran of San Antonio.

#### HONORING MILJENKO "MIKE" GRGICH, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Miljenko "Mike" Grgich, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Grgich is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mike Grgich was born in Desne, Croatia and studied winemaking and viticulture at the University of Zagreb before leaving to escape communism. He came to Napa Valley in 1958 where he has become a successful vintner and an innovator in the wine community.

After arriving in Napa, Mike learned from some of the best vintners in the region. He became a winemaker for Chateau Montelena and made the Chardonnay that won the 1976 Paris Tasting, forever changing the way the world views American Wine. George Taber documented this consequential decision in a TIME magazine article, "Modern Living: Judgment of Paris." The resulting coverage of the Judgment of Paris created an immediate positive impact on the world of wine, and inspired among experts, consumers, and the trade a new appreciation for California wines.

In 1995, Mike returned to the University of Zagreb at the age of 72 and finally received the degree in enology and viticulture that he earned as a young man. In 2002, he helped prove that the Zinfandel vine originated in Croatia. His work led to his induction into the Vintners Hall of Fame and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California State Fair. His 366-acre property, Grgich Hills, is completely organic, solar powered and strongly supports community organizations. Mike is an active member of Roots of Peace, an organization that works to replace land mines with grape vines all over the world. In 2007, Roots of Peace presented Mike with their Global Citizen Award for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Mr. Miljenko "Mike" Grgich for his achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today with the American Dream Award.

#### HONORING YEHIA "JOHN" SHOUSER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Toledo area legend as he celebrates his 90th birthday, Yehia "John" Shouser. An American of Lebanese heritage, a proud U.S. citizen and indefatigable Ambassador of Goodwill, Mr. Shouser has been a one-of-a-kind Arab American leader in Greater Toledo since he adopted the community as an immigrant to our nation.

Yehia, who with his brother ran a real estate investment company and J-S Vending, has been a leader in the Toledo community for decades as a civic-minded businessman as well as a Multi-Faith and Multi-Cultural Ambassador.

Yehia has served as an administrator, public relations representative, and fund-raiser in the Muslim community for many years. His generosity has been felt in many homes and organizations in our community. At the same time, he has also focused his efforts on building back hope in his ancestral land of Lebanon. He worked to establish student exchanges, village development and medical education throughout Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Yehia was one of the founders of the first mosque in Toledo, which was established in 1954 on East Bancroft Street. After the membership of the Mosque on East Bancroft Street outgrew the location, Yehia helped secure and plan the 48-acre campus that has become one of the icons of Perrysburg Township: the mosque and Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, which opened in 1983.

The Center has been a fulcrum of the Muslim and Interfaith communities, working to promote freedom and tolerance of religion and, together with his cherished wife Emney, Yehia has been an integral part of its inner workings and work in the larger community.

Always involved in events which promote cooperation among the faith and ethnic traditions in our community, Yehia's dedication to cultural diversity was recognized when he became a 2013 inductee into the Heroes of Compassion Gallery for Toledo.

Yehia's commitment to the Toledo community has been passed on to his children, Hussein, Lila, Mona and Mariam, his 10 grandchildren and his six great-grandchildren.

When I think of John, I see him carrying the flag of Lebanon at the annual Multi Faith Council's parade of nations at the University of Toledo on Martin Luther King holiday. I see him hospitably greeting guests with his wife Emney at events throughout our community welcoming new citizens. He has been instrumental in inviting religious leaders and public officials from throughout the world to visit Toledo and built our community into a place of gracious welcome.

I see him setting up exchange programs for students from Arab speaking countries to transmit the learning and values of a free society. He graciously took the time to include me on unforgettable travels with his family through the village of his ancestors and adjoining territories. The memories of that journey greatly inform my work.

Yehia with Emney at his side, and their bright smiles, have been indefatigable forces

for good in our community for nearly a century. We wish them well in the coming years and consider our community fortunate to have them among us.

The Quran 7:199 teaches, "Show Forgiveness, Enjoin Kindness, Avoid Ignorance." Yehia "John" Shousher has spent his life on this earth demonstrating this message through word and deed. His legacy is writ large in his faith community, his family, the land of his birth and our region.

We celebrate with Yehia as he reaches this milestone birthday of his 90th year. We take this moment to thank him for all he has done for so many in our community, for his leadership, for his efforts to promote mutual understanding and tolerance of diverse cultures and foster acceptance of our differences. Best wishes to both John and Emney as he celebrates this special milestone.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJ. CHARLES APPLEBERRY

#### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of Major Charles Appleberry of Flat River, Missouri. Major Appleberry was a medical doctor who enlisted in the Army on May 26, 1942 and served until his discharge on January 29, 1946.

As a member of the Army Medical Corps, he served in the South Pacific during World War II. He saved many lives, but one particular surgery is recounted in the Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune on November 1, 1944. It tells of how Dr. Appleberry removed a live Japanese 20 millimeter shell from the chest of Private Jackie Miles on the island of Leyte in The Philippines. The newspaper account explains how the doughboy clung to life, "unaware that the group of tense medics were risking their lives to save him." The article states how Major Appleberry firmly grasped the shell, removed it and safely lifted it to a tray for careful disposal.

After the war, Dr. Appleberry returned to St. Francois County to resume his medical career at the Farmington State Hospital and Bonne Terre Hospital until his death in 1984.

Those who knew the doctor join with VFW Post No. 5741 in Leadington today to honor him for his 55-year career as a physician both at home and at war. I join them in recognizing Dr. Appleberry today before the United States House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO WARREN B. ROLAND

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Warren B. Roland for his 50 years of service as a Funeral Director in Atlantic, Iowa. Warren was recently honored at the 137th Annual Iowa Funeral Directors Association Convention.

Warren grew up in Atlantic where his father was a Funeral Director who served as a Presi-

dent of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association. He admired his father's dedication to his profession and to his community, which helped influence his decision to pursue a career as a funeral director. Warren is a 1966 graduate of the University of Minnesota and is co-owner of Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Warren for his many years of dedicated and devoted service to Atlantic, Iowa and the surrounding area. Warren and his staff make a difference by helping and serving others in a time of need. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his outstanding service in the funeral industry and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2018 on July 13, 2017, my good friend and colleague Mr. NADLER of New York introduced an amendment to strike section 1022 of the bill prohibiting the use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay to the United States. Though I supported the amendment, I erroneously casted a NO vote (Roll Call Vote No. 359); I intended to vote AYE.

I want to make it clear that I support my colleague from New York's amendment and any other measure that leads to closing the detention centers at Guantanamo Bay. Guantanamo Bay is a stain on American values of justice and due process. Since joining Congress, I have signed onto many pieces of legislation to close the facility. In a previous defense appropriation, I voted for an amendment by Mr. NADLER to prohibit funds to be used to renovate and expand the facility at Guantanamo Bay along with supporting an amendment to close the detention facility that was introduced by Representative Mr. SMITH of Washington. Yesterday, I voted for another amendment introduced by Mr. NADLER to close the facility.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my record and to reassure my constituents that I maintain my opposition to the continuing operations of the detention centers at Guantanamo Bay.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. CHARLES WILSON

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Charles E. "Charlie" Wilson, of Carlisle, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Wilson, a part of the greatest generation, served our nation in the United States Army.

Mr. Wilson was just eighteen years old when he registered for the draft and became

a member of the United States Army in 1943, where he served until the end of the war. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division just five days before the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

After clearing Utah Beach, the 4th Infantry Division was sent to liberate Cherbourg. Mr. Wilson served as a forward observer, keeping the infantry safe. During his second rotation to the front, he was injured badly by German shells. The injury left him paralyzed for fifteen days. To this day, Mr. Wilson suffers from pain from this injury.

Mr. Wilson returned to his unit and became a tank driver for the rest of the war. On August 25, 1944, Wilson's 19th birthday, he helped liberate the city of Paris. During the battle of Hurtgen Forest, Mr. Wilson was injured again. He was found half-buried, unconscious, and bleeding. He was treated and rejoined the effort. The Army went on to free all of France and kept pushing the Germans until the war was won. As the end of the war neared, in April 1945, Mr. Wilson helped to identify the Dachau Concentration Camp, saving the lives of many Jewish people.

After the war, Mr. Wilson returned home and became an educator. He served as Principal of Nicholas County Elementary School. He has spoken to numerous school classes about his war experiences.

Mr. Wilson was invited by the French Government to Normandy in 2014 for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. He returned in 2015 for his third trip to France, where he was awarded the Legion of Honor. Mr. Wilson spoke at the event and his words are recorded in the French archives.

The bravery of Mr. Wilson and his fellow men and women of the United States Army is heroic. Because of the courage of individuals from Nicholas County and from all across our great nation, our freedoms have been saved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a patriot, and a hero to us all.

#### RUSSIAN ENERGY SECURITY THREATS

#### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the growing national security risk to our overseas military facilities posed by the Russian Federation.

For the last three years, we have watched with alarm as Putin's Russia has adopted an aggressive and adversarial posture towards the U.S. and our allies. Putin armed the so-called separatists in eastern Ukraine. He aggressively annexed Crimea. He is intervening in the Syrian Civil War on the side of a brutal dictator. He blatantly threatens allied nations in Europe and close to home we know he used cyber weapons to destabilize our democratic process. Moscow's hostility to our interests grows stronger and more apparent by the day.

The military dimension of Russia's strategy is obvious and you can see it covered in the nightly news. What is less obvious however is the non-military aspect of Russia's national strategy. Today one of the most serious

threats to our European allies—and our military installation in Europe—is Russia's corner on natural gas and oil. Putin constantly threatens to use these resources as means to exercise political and economic control on those who heavily rely on Russian fuels as their primary source of energy.

It is for these reasons that I was proud to join my friend and colleague from South Carolina, Representative JOE WILSON, in shining a light on this threat in the House Armed Services Committee report to accompany the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

Just as we focus on the risk to our forward-based troops, aircraft and ships, we must not overlook the risk to the installations from which they operate. The energy we rely on to power these facilities supports our troops, their families, and their vital mission.

As a matter of strategy, our military installations overseas require secure and reliable sources of energy. Today in Europe—particularly in Germany—our military facilities receive furnished heat and other utilities from commercial or private power stations. In many cases, these energy facilities are fueled by German natural gas distribution systems which are heavily supplied with natural gas from the Russian Federation.

Our growing exposure to Russia's ability to disrupt our energy supply lines is clearly seen in our network of military installations in Germany. I wish to call attention to one such facility: the U.S. Army's future medical complex at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, nearby Ramstein Air Base where I was the installation commander. At an authorized cost of nearly \$1 billion, this vital new facility will replace the Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center and serve the combat needs and family requirements of military personnel on three continents.

Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned that our current energy supply strategy will actually increase our exposure to harmful Russian influence over time. Under no circumstances should we construct and operate critical military installations overseas where the only source of energy comes from Russia. We must take immediate and deliberate steps to adopt a strategy of energy resilience through mixed-fuel diversification such that not one single source—such as Russian Federation gas—should serve as a primary supply of energy.

It would be financially irresponsible and strategically reckless to appropriate nearly \$1 billion for a state-of-the-art military medical center to serve our troops and families overseas, only to have the design of the new facility compromise the very reason it exists by relying on the Russian Federation to supply natural gas as the primary fuel source. There are local mixed-fuel energy supply options readily available and it would be inexcusable not to make them part of the design of this project. This is good strategy, good economics and just plain common sense.

We simply cannot allow ourselves to be put in a situation where Russia has the ability to cut off energy to our forward bases, especially when we could have averted this tragic vulnerability ahead of time.

The seriousness of the Russian energy threat to our overseas military installations is addressed in the 2018 House Armed Services NDAA report which directs the Secretary of Defense to make a comprehensive evaluation

of these risks and report his findings and recommendations. I am pleased to see my colleagues in the House Appropriations Committee also took up this issue with similar language in the Military Construction Appropriations and Defense Appropriations bills that passed the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House and Senate—and especially all Members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees—to join me in exercising aggressive oversight of this real and serious threat to our national security.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted YES on Roll Call Vote 433 and would like to have it reflected that I meant to vote no.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing alongside Rep. DENNIS ROSS of Florida, the Housing Accountability Act of 2017 to hold property owners of low-income housing accountable for poor living conditions.

This legislation would require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to survey tenants living in subsidized housing twice a year about property conditions and management performance and create new penalties for property owners who repeatedly fail the tenant surveys.

The Housing Accountability Act comes in the wake of recent local and federal investigations that found deplorable living conditions at several federally subsidized-housing properties owned by Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) in Memphis, Tennessee and Jacksonville, Florida.

For too long, property managers like Global Ministries have taken advantage of HUD's lack of effective oversight and over dependence on often unreliable third-party property inspections, and as a result continue to force our nation's most vulnerable to live in squalor with impunity.

This bill seeks to put an end to these malpractices, hold federally-subsidized property managers to account, and provide HUD the necessary authority and directive to ensure that public housing units are suitable homes for all families, children, and hardworking Americans.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and do right by the American public.

#### RECOGNITION OF MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL GRAND REOPENING

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the grand reopening of the Minnesota State Capitol after nearly four years of renovation.

Designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and inspired by the 1893 Chicago World's Fair's White City, an Italian Renaissance city-sized exhibit, the Minnesota State Capitol was celebrated as one of America's finest state houses when it opened in 1905.

Now, after nearly 30 years of planning and study, this great building has been reborn through renovation, restoration, and enhancements, including technological improvements. The renovation extends the usable lifespan of the State Capitol by at least another century.

The amount of public space has doubled to nearly 40,000 square feet, brand new public meeting rooms line the halls, the public will have more access and seating in hearing rooms, and a new information center for students and educators will enrich school visits. In addition, the renovation has made the State Capitol more accessible to all Minnesotans, especially those with disabilities.

When the State Capitol open its doors to Minnesotans this summer, the citizens of my home state will be able tour expanded public spaces, marvel at restored art and craftsmanship, and more effectively participate in our legislative process.

Thank you to all the workers for the hours of planning, design, building, and polishing our State Capitol back to its original grandeur. Congratulations to everyone involved.

#### JOHN MILLER RETIRES FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Miller, who will retire from his position as the U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the San Bernardino National Forest on July 31, 2017.

My office has had the pleasure of working with John over the past four and a half years. On numerous occasions, John demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to serve my constituents and forest visitors. He has repeatedly shown his dedication to the Forest Service's mission and has been instrumental in balancing multiple and sometimes competing uses of the most heavily urbanized forest in the nation.

In addition to his work as a public affairs officer, John was the Public Information Officer for a Federal Interagency Management Team and served on the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard. John is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.

IN CELEBRATION OF JAMES W. PARISH AS 2017 AVIATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of James W. Parish, executive director of the Punta Gorda Airport, who was recently recognized as the 2017 Aviation Professional of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Every year, the Florida Department of Transportation honors one executive member of the aviation community with the title of Aviation Professional of the Year. The recipient is selected based on the management and logistical organization of their airport, as well as the safety and technological advancements that take place under their watch.

Mr. Parish earned this award because of the impressive progress that the Punta Gorda Airport has made under his leadership and his overall contributions to the Charlotte County community. During his tenure in Punta Gorda, Mr. Parish elevated the airport from one that only served the general aviation community to one that now offers commercial services and has brought over \$200 million dollars into the local economy while serving over 1 million customers. Under his guidance, the airport has modernized and streamlined its safety protocols while still maintaining a low-cost business model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Parish and thank him for all that he has done for the Punta Gorda community. He is truly deserving of the Aviation Professional of the Year award, and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

### KATY GYMNAST WINS GOLD AT JUNIOR OLYMPICS

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rowan Dumond of Katy, TX, for winning a gold medal for his floor routine at the U.S. Men's Junior Olympic National Championship.

I was both Rowan's first gold at the Junior Olympics and his first time competing there. The 12-year-old competed against 800 of the top junior gymnasts in the country. When not training at the gym, Rowan is also a student at Seven Lakes High School and plays percussion with the band.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Rowan for winning gold at the Junior Olympics. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future success as a gymnast. We're excited to have him represent TX-22.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF F. GAVIÑA & SONS, INC.

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc., a coffee company located in my 40th Congressional District of California, in the city of Vernon. The company, one of America's largest family-owned coffee companies and the nation's largest privately held minority roaster, celebrates their 50th anniversary in 2017.

The history of this coffee company is a story about family. Brothers José María and Ramón Gaviña left their native Basque region of Spain in 1870, in search of a better life. They settled in the fertile mountains of southern Cuba and planted the seeds of what would become Gaviña Coffee.

Don Francisco Gaviña was born on the family coffee estate, Hacienda Buenos Aires. As a boy, he worked in the fields with his own father, watching and learning the secrets of growing quality coffee. He spent hours upon hours helping sow the seeds and urging the little plants to grow.

The family left Cuba in 1959, and arrived in Los Angeles in 1963, where they put down roots. The family later leased a 1,100 square foot building in Vernon and purchased a small roaster from Bob's Big Boy restaurant. By June 1967, when they founded F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc., they were roasting, packing and selling Café Gaviña Espresso.

In the beginning, they focused on producing Cuban-style coffee, but eventually expanded into other coffees that appealed to Middle Eastern and Vietnamese coffee drinkers. About 35 years later, Gaviña's retail brand, Don Francisco's Coffee, had become the top selling coffee in Southern California, behind Folgers and Maxwell House.

The family began selling their coffee to a small group of McDonald's restaurants in 1983. In 2005, Gaviña created a stronger blend that resulted in a double-digit increase in the chain's coffee sales.

According to the Los Angeles Times, by 2010, F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc. had become a \$114 million business and was roasting 40 million pounds of coffee a year. A fifth of their revenue was coming from making and packaging private label coffees for McDonald's, 7-Eleven, and Costco stores. Gaviña coffee brands were being sold in 20 states, and in stores like Ralph's, Walmart, and Vons / Safeway.

Don Francisco's sons, Paco, Pedro, and José, and his daughter, Leonor Gaviña-Valls, grew up on the plantation and learned about coffee in the fields. Along with their own children, they still personally select beans, cup samples as they arrive, and oversee the specialty coffee roasting and production every day. They do all of this so that their customers and guests can be ensured a wonderful cup of coffee every time, from first sip to final drop.

Today, they carry on the dream in their 240,000-square-foot eco-friendly, state-of-the-art coffee roasting facility, just a few blocks from their original 1,100 square foot building. Gaviña Coffee employs more than 250 people, and services businesses of all sizes—from

mom and pop shops to multinational accounts. The company offers four leading U.S. coffee brands: Gaviña Gourmet Coffee, Don Francisco's Coffee, Café La Llave Espresso, and José's Gourmet Coffee.

In honor of their 50th anniversary, Gaviña Coffee created a special Anniversary Blend which is roasted in Los Angeles and uses beans grown on the award-winning Carmen Estate in Panamá by a third generation coffee-growing family. The Anniversary Blend, which entered the market on June 19, 2017, comes in a commemorative tin with a 10-ounce bag of ground coffee. Flavor notes in the new blend include caramel, honey, and ripe fruit with a chocolatey finish.

Fifty years have brought many changes to the original company, but one thing remains the same: Members of the Gaviña family still run the day-to-day operations of the company, with a new generation of Gaviñas poised to continue the pursuit of a great cup of coffee.

Gaviña Coffee's 50th anniversary celebration includes: the opening of their first brick and mortar store in downtown Los Angeles, named Don Francisco's Coffee, Casa Cubana; the special anniversary blend; reaching the goal of 100% zero-waste-to-landfill; a continued commitment to leaving a greener coffee footprint through their Direct Impact™ Initiative, which is based on four core pillars of dedication to farmers, sustainable sourcing, environmental sustainability, and social stewardship; continuing to donate coffee to local shelters and missions; and continuing to support organizations such as the Komen Race for the Cure, Avon Walk 39, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH), EnrichLA and the International Women's Coffee Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in raising our coffee cups to the Gaviña family and F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc. as we celebrate their 50 years of success. We look forward to the next 50 with great anticipation.

### TRIBUTE TO SHERRY AND NEAL HANLEY

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sherry and Neal Hanley for being named the 2017 Earlham Freedom Fest King and Queen. This award is given to a couple that gives back to the community of Earlham.

Sherry and Neal moved to Earlham in 1976 to raise their children and had them attend Earlham schools. Since then, the Hanley's have served on a number of school projects to help bolster the community. They were on the original Freedom Fest committee and love the parade and how everyone comes together at the park. Both Sherry and Neal serve with the Earlham Lion's Club and with Early Chapel Christian Church. Neal is also a member of the American Legion and served as commander and chaplain.

Mr. Speaker, Sherry and Neal's hard work embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them and Iowans like them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sherry

and Neal for receiving this award and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE SALEM  
COURTHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Salem Courthouse Community Center for its outstanding service to New York's 21st District.

Founded by a group of dedicated local citizens, the Salem Courthouse Community Center provides a place for people of all ages to come together. Cognizant of its historic location in the Old Washington County Courthouse, the Center seeks to preserve our region's history while creating opportunities for individuals to enjoy and strengthen our community in the present.

In service of this mission, the Center offers a wide variety of programs that foster artistic expression and community growth. The Center's many facilities, including a community garden, pottery studio, and public kitchen, host instructive and enriching programs for both children and adults. This summer, the Center has hosted nearly 150 local children in their Lunch, Learn & Play program which provides active and educational fun for its participants.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Salem Courthouse Community Center for its dedication to bringing our community together. We commend its incredible service, and look forward to its future endeavors.

HONORING NICHOLAS HROMALIK

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Nicholas (Nick) Hromalik, who is leaving this week after serving in many capacities over the past six years.

Nick graduated from the University of California, San Diego, in 2009, but he began on the path of public service even earlier, working as an intern for Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and then-Mayor of San Francisco Gavin Newsom while still in college. After graduation, he traveled to Washington to intern for my predecessor in Congress, Lynn Woolsey, and was soon hired to work for the Green the Capitol Initiative at the CAO. In that role, he helped to make the operations of the Capitol complex more sustainable and led outreach efforts to Member offices. Nick was called home to California upon that program's defunding, joining my team for the first time.

Drawing on his deep Petaluma roots, Nick built relationships across the North Bay, meeting with community leaders and learning about local issues. Starting as a volunteer, he ultimately became the field director of my newly-announced campaign for Congress. On a break from the campaign, Nick also spent some time in my Assembly district office in

San Rafael that year, where he helped constituents with casework, and served as a liaison to organized labor and Sonoma County elected officials.

After my election to Congress in November 2012, Nick returned again to Washington, this time as one of my first hires in this office. Since my swearing-in in 2013, Nick has served California's second Congressional district with distinction, staffing me on issues as diverse as health care, agriculture, trade, energy, and education.

In the six years I have had the pleasure of working with him, Nick has never lost sight of our mission—to solve problems and make a positive difference—and he has maintained deep connections to California that have served him well in his career. He has championed causes that needed a champion, from special education to clean energy, and he has maintained his good humor and dedication throughout.

My family, my staff, and I all wish him and his fiancée Colleen Kilbride all the best as they travel to Chicago for the next step in their careers.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF  
THE NEW STONEGATE CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY CAMPUS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate StoneGate Christian Academy on the opening of their new school campus, located in Irving, Texas.

Founded in 1976 as a ministry of the Shady Grove Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, StoneGate Christian Academy was built to foster the educational and spiritual needs of the prospering communities that made up its congregation.

In 2008, the Academy's board of directors faced the tremendous hardship of having to relocate their campus to two separate buildings, neither of which possessed the facilities to adequately host StoneGate Christian Academy's growing student body. By the grace of God, StoneGate Christian Academy continued to grow for the next nine years. During this time, StoneGate leased practice venues for its sports teams, band, choir, and drama programs, in order to ensure its students access to their sports and award-winning fine arts programs.

In 2014, word began to spread that the Lakewood Baptist Church in Irving, Texas, was considering selling its property. After two years of discussion and prayer, Lakewood Baptist Church's board of directors reached a decision to sell the property to StoneGate Christian Academy in December of 2016. For the next seven months, StoneGate worked tirelessly to raise enough funds to complete the purchase of its new academy campus, which includes a schoolyard, auditorium, and gym. Through the tireless efforts of alumni, students, parents, teachers, and staff, StoneGate Christian Academy now has adequate facilities to support its growing student body and sustain this growth well into the future.

Today, StoneGate serves as one of the most affordable private Christian schools in

North Texas, providing an outstanding education to its students and teaching valuable lessons about community service and civic duty.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize StoneGate Christian Academy and congratulate them on the opening of their new campus in Irving, Texas. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating StoneGate Christian Academy for this monumental achievement.

HONORING NEW MILFORD  
VILLAGE FAIR DAYS

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the annual New Milford Village Fair Days, sponsored and organized by the New Milford Chamber of Commerce. Village Fair Days is the highlight of the summer in New Milford, and the festival brings thousands of people together for two days of shopping, eating, and playing on the town's village green.

Since its inception in 1967, New Milford Village Fair Days has grown to be the largest annual event in New Milford. Bob Hanna, the Chair of the Fair, planned a special way for the community to commemorate five decades of the festival. This year, fairgoers can make a wish and donate to a local nonprofit of their choice at the Wishing New Milford Well.

Village Fair Days brings together our community to enjoy live entertainment and games, as well as to connect with local businesses and nonprofit groups. The Kids Fun Run is a fun part of the fair that helps children join in the fun and get active. The New Milford Farmers Market also participates in the fair and helps local farmers meet with thousands of neighbors. I would like to recognize the volunteers who have made Village Fair Days possible for the past five decades. Volunteers' love for their town and willingness to dedicate their time to make this event possible show the strength of our community in New Milford.

Mr. Speaker, New Milford Village Fair Days has brought together our neighbors each summer for five decades. Thanks to the event's sponsors, organizers, and volunteers, we can look forward to the annual event for many years to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor New Milford Village Fair Days here today.

HONORING FALLEN CLINTON  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as flags throughout the Commonwealth are lowered to half-staff in honor of Clinton County Sheriff's Deputy Sheriff Stephen Herold who died unexpectedly on Thursday, July 20.

Stephen was 30 years old and had served as a sheriff's deputy for the last year and a

half. He and his wife, Kelly, had just welcomed Brock—their first child 10 days before his death.

On Wednesday, more than 100 members of law enforcement from near and far lined the auditorium at Central Mountain High School to say goodbye to Stephen.

Clinton County Sheriff Kerry Stover said Stephen was the first deputy he'd hired after being elected sheriff. At Stephen's service, he said:

He was outstanding. He took his job seriously. . . . He served his community. He helped people. He confided in people. He was polite and courteous. He projected law enforcement in a positive way. . . . He trusted his heart and he did it right.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen's sendoff was awe-inspiring, which was a fitting goodbye for a man who served his community with distinction and honor. Stephen will be missed, but his memory will live on forever.

### HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY TO ANNIE QUEEN

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annie Galloway Queen, a northeast Georgian who recently celebrated her 104th birthday.

Annie has been a part of our community since her birth in 1913. She learned to value hard work at an early age, and her life illustrates the strength and diligence that characterizes America's Greatest Generation.

Like many in that generation, Annie and her husband struggled through the Great Depression, which taught them to make the most of what little they had. Rather than mourn their lack of physical possessions, Annie educated her children in the spiritual dimension of life, teaching them to rely on their faith during life's most challenging seasons.

Mr. Speaker, it is a blessing to spend birthdays surrounded by loved ones. I am thankful to know that that is how Annie spent hers—sharing with family and friends the wisdom that she has gained over 104 years.

I am honored to be Annie's neighbor and ask that you join me in wishing her happy 104th birthday.

### TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT SAM BALDWIN

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sam Baldwin of Clarinda, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Sam is a 2017 graduate of Clarinda High School and has earned the 21 merit badges that are required to obtain the honor of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the award. It is a performance-based achievement with high

standards that have been well-maintained over the past 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. Sam built a shrine placed near the main entrance of the St. Clare Catholic Church in Clarinda, Iowa as his Eagle Project. The work ethic Sam has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes about 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 am honored to represent Sam and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout rank and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

### RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF DAVENPORT

#### HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Town of Davenport on the occasion of its bicentennial. On March 31, 1817, Davenport was established as a new town in Delaware County, New York. It is named for its founder, John Davenport, who first settled there less than a decade earlier and laid down the roots for what would become the vibrant community that exists today.

For over 200 years, Davenport has participated in the American story, contributing to our great state and nation. On the weekend of July 29, 2017, the residents of Davenport will hold a well-deserved celebration of its history and accomplishments. In the neighborly and hospitable tradition of Davenport, this bicentennial celebration will reflect the values of this beautiful community, bringing families and residents together to commemorate the town they love and share.

I formally thank the Town of Davenport and each of its residents of the past two centuries for their contributions to our Catskills community and our Upstate New York home.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD Davenport Town Supervisor Dennis Valente's statement regarding the Town of Davenport's bicentennial:

An Anniversary is a time to look back. 200 years seems so long ago. However, a look back over the Town's history brings the present Davenport community closer together with our ancestors. It is with a good deal of enjoyment that we explore the past and realize the value of the old saying: the more things change, the more things stay the same.

The first meeting for the Town of Davenport was in April 1817. The town recognized the need for our community to work together between neighbors and the community at large. The delicate balance of open space and individual property rights was addressed first in regard to free ranged animals.

Along these past 200 years the Town has found itself involved in many issues including the establishment of local cemeteries, and community sacrifice in times of war. Immigrants from many countries settled here to be our blacksmiths, work our tanneries, and build our railroads. The work of woman suffrage was engaged by 'bloomer girls' at Sexsmith Lake in 1911. Rural electrification of the 1930s was a struggle so similar to the rural internet broadband availability struggle today.

The acknowledgment of a shared sense of values, with neighbors long ago, adds purpose to present day community engagement. We are a Town that endeavors to settle conflicts with reasoned engagement and a community that offers a helping hand when the need calls.

### YON GOICOCHEA: POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE VENEZUELAN REGIME

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the plight of Yon Goicochea, a 36-year-old political prisoner who is being unjustly detained in a Venezuelan prison. On August 29, 2016, Mr. Goicochea was arrested by the Venezuelan secret police because of his role as a leading advocate for a democratic and transparent Venezuela. Over the past decade, Mr. Goicochea has played a crucial part in leading pro-democracy movements in Venezuela. At one point, he even led the pro-democracy opposition party, "Voluntad Popular."

After working for various opposition movements, Mr. Goicochea found himself and his family increasingly under threat by the repressive Maduro regime. Mr. Goicochea made the decision to leave Venezuela with his family in 2013 and come to the United States to pursue a degree in Law from Columbia University. Three years later, Mr. Goicochea returned to Venezuela to fight for freedom, democracy and human rights.

Mr. Goicochea has remained in prison since his arrest in 2016. As highlighted in a recent report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Arbitrary Detentions Group, Mr. Goicochea has been denied the right to due process and subject to brutal forms of solitary confinement. Unfortunately, Mr. Goicochea is only one of thousands to have been unjustly imprisoned by the Maduro regime.

The United States must address these egregious human rights abuses by fully implementing and applying additional sanctions against Maduro regime officials who continue to violate the most basic principles of human rights and liberty and who are responsible for the plight of the Venezuelan people. Maduro and his thugs must not be allowed to continue to oppress the people of Venezuela without paying a significant price. We must demand the release of all the political prisoners who have been denied their fundamental human rights.

The Venezuelan people have illustrated an unrelenting resolve to bring about a just and democratic Venezuela. Just during the past three months, over ninety people have been



killed, thousands injured, and hundreds have been subject to politically motivated arrests, as the people of Venezuela have taken to the streets to protest the undemocratic nature of this brutal regime. The United States must stand with Mr. Goicochea, all political prisoners, and the people of Venezuela in their pursuit of a democratic society.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 27th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that protects the rights of people with disabilities. The Act stands on the principle that no matter one's disability, whether it be visible or invisible, the Constitution and laws of the United States protect us all. Personally, I appreciate and support how this law protects the rights and opportunities for our wounded warriors. I welcome my colleagues to join me in marking the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its contributions to equal rights in the United States.

CONGRATULATING DISTINGUISHED  
YOUNG WOMEN NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AND D.C.  
RESIDENT SKYE BORK

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating District of Columbia native and resident Skye Bork on being named the 2017 winner of the country's largest scholarship program for girls, the Distinguished Young Women (DYW) program. Skye was awarded \$36,500 in scholarships for her college education.

DYW is a 60-year-old national scholarship program aimed at encouraging high school girls to develop their full potential through a series of scholastic and creative workshops. DYW allows college-bound high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate as long as they maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average. A scholarship is then awarded based upon an interview, academic achievement, talent, self-expression and physical fitness. DYW is well-known nationally, and past winners have included television broadcasters Diane Sawyer and Kathie Lee Gifford, and actresses Debra Messing and Kim Bassinger.

Skye was selected to win the scholarship from among four finalists from schools in wards throughout the city. She attended the Washington School of Ballet for many years, as well as the Akhmedova Ballet Academy in Maryland. For her talent segment, Skye performed a ballet excerpt en pointe, from Bizet's Carmen. Skye, the daughter of Shigeko and Tim Bork, is a 2017 graduate with honors from the National Cathedral School. She is the first

D.C. resident to be awarded the scholarship in the program's 60-year history, due in large part to the fact that the area chapter of the program remained dormant for 30 years. I would like to thank the D.C. chapter of DYW for reviving the program, and also thank the local businesses who supported the program and donated to the scholarship fund. Skye was proud to announce that she will be attending Columbia University this fall, and, in preparation for the career she would like to pursue in international business and government, she will be studying applied mathematics and economics. The District is very proud of Skye. She will be the national representative of DYW for a year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Skye Bork on her impressive achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERTA  
"BOBBIE" BISHOP

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the beloved Roberta Bishop, or to those who knew her, "Bobbie."

Bobbie was a model citizen who dedicated her life to giving back to those in need. Not only did she have a kind spirit and a big heart, she also empowered herself to make a real difference by creating Midwest Service Dogs, a non-profit in South Bend, Indiana, that helps train and place service dogs and companion dogs.

The combination of her love of animals and her desire to give back fueled her participation in multiple charities as well as her work at a local animal clinic. Bobbie strived to make our community a better place, and from her loving family to the many friends she made along the way, her strength in character and compassion for others were hard to miss.

Bobbie lived a meaningful life full of love, happiness, and generosity of spirit. I am grateful that her wonderful legacy is sure to live on in the cherished life lessons she taught her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I'm personally thankful for our decades-long friendship and the impact she had on my life. Our country lost a great human being, and I wish her two sons and extended family all the best.

HONORING ERIKA FEIN ON HER  
88TH BIRTHDAY FOR HER EXEM-  
PLARY RESILIENCE AND  
STRENGTH

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Erika Fein, a Holocaust survivor who turns 88 years old on August 11, 2017. Her powerful story is an example of resilience, perseverance, and strength in character.

Erika was born in 1929 in Yugoslavia, where she lived in a small village with her

family. They were torn apart when Yugoslavia was invaded by Germany, Italy, and Hungary in 1941. Erika, her mother, and aunt were taken by the Nazis, and she never again saw her other family members. Over the next four years, she was kept as a prisoner in three different concentration camps. She was first taken to a German labor camp Guben, then shuttled to Auschwitz II-Birkenau in Poland, and finally brought to Bergen-Belsen in Germany.

During the last years of World War II, when she was just a teenager, Erika was forced to participate in a death march, where she ultimately lost her mother and aunt. The Nazi military organized large scale marches to move prisoners to different camps to evade suspicion of mass killings, and to erase any trace of evidence. Nazi soldiers subjected prisoners to starvation, dehydration, and humiliation during inclement weather. Not only did Erika survive these marches as a teenager, but she endured, despite being ripped apart from her family.

While at Bergen-Belsen in Germany, Erika and the other prisoners were finally liberated by the British Armed Forces in April 1945.

A few years later, Erika moved to the United States seeking a new beginning in pursuit of the American dream. She married her current husband, and they adopted a son. They later moved to Palm Desert, in my Congressional District, where they live today.

Today, I am elated to honor her courage and dedication, as we celebrate her 88th birthday. Her story is a reminder that we must always be steadfast in the fight against intolerance, hate, and injustice. The hardships she overcame are unthinkable, but her strength is admirable. She is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life of Erika Fein. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, it is with deep respect that I extend my best wishes on her 88th birthday. I wish her and her family all my best in the years to come. Happy Birthday Erika.

HONORING DON SIMPSON FOR RE-  
CEIVING A SILVER STAR MEDAL  
FOR HIS COURAGEOUS SERVICE  
TO OUR NATION

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding individual from my Congressional District Sergeant Don Simpson of Hemet, California. Because of his commitment to protecting our nation and his fellow service members, Don received a Silver Star Medal. His story is truly an inspiration and today, I want to recognize his exceptional achievements and courage.

Don graduated from Hemet High School in 1964 and entered the U.S. Army a few years later. During his service, Don was sent to Vietnam where he served as a rifleman, Radio Telephone Operator (RTO), and squad leader.

In February of 1967, Don was a Specialist 4 (SPC) and the RTO for a reconnaissance team that was conducting a sweep of the forward battle area. After disembarking the helicopters, his unit came under intense heavy

enemy automatic weapons fire. Seeking cover behind a small hedge, SPC Simpson returned fire against the enemy.

Over the next hour of intense fighting, SPC Simpson established radio communication with Captain Conlon, Alpha Company Commander, requesting support from helicopter gunships and artillery. Despite continued intense enemy fire, and at great risk to himself, SPC Simpson maneuvered to a position allowing him a better view of the enemy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, SPC Simpson established direct contact with the Air Force Pilot on station, directing an air strike on the enemy. When the first two air strikes did not fully eliminate the opposing forces, SPC Simpson directed the strike that was dangerously close to himself and his own troops, resulting in elimination of the enemy. During the entire combat event, SPC Simpson maintained communication with higher command, calling additional air support.

The engagement resulted in 4 personnel killed in action and 8 wounded in action. His courageous initiative and exemplary professionalism significantly contributed to the successful outcome of the engagement and directly led to the saving of his fellow soldiers' lives. Specialist 4 Simpson's unquestionable valor while engaged in military operation involving conflict with insurgent force is in keeping with the finest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

Five years ago, Don discussed his service and this incident with his doctor when getting a VA C&P Exam. The doctor, Mr. Ronnie Immel, contacted Don's squad leader Sgt. Carl Lawrence and his 1st Sgt. Ralph Cranitz. Both recommended Don for a Silver Star. My office was pleased to partner with them to ensure Don's service was properly recognized. Together, we worked to find the rest of Don's chain of command and submit the Silver Star Medal to the Department of the Army. After a few months, Don's Silver Star Medal was finally received and I was honored to present it to him.

Among the many awards he has received for his honorable service are the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Don Simpson. He is indeed a hero whose actions embody the true meaning of valor. I am very proud to have met him. His years of committed service to our nation are an example of excellence and dedication that all should seek to emulate.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JARROD DAUGHERTY AND HIS MEMORY AS A DEDICATED STUDENT AND LOVING SON

##### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Jarrod Daugherty, a young constituent who unexpectedly passed away in an accident on May 8, 2017. His charisma, energy, and

talent will be enormously missed. I had the pleasure of meeting Jarrod when he visited my office in Washington, D.C. earlier this year as part of St. Theresa Catholic School's tour. I will never forget our conversation.

Jarrold was a bright and talented student from my Congressional District. He was born on June 29, 2003, in Indio, CA and spent his childhood in Palm Springs and Cathedral City. He attended Cielo Vista Charter High School and St. Theresa School where he was beloved by his peers and teachers.

Outside of school, Jarrod was involved in our local community. He was an active member of the Victory Christian Center and the Palm Springs Youth League Baseball Organization. He was passionate about sports, and his favorite teams were the LA Dodgers, Minnesota Vikings, Dallas Stars, and Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Jarrold enjoyed spending time with his family and his dogs. With a smile and a great sense of humor, he brought joy to those who knew him. He was a blessing to his parents, Jarrod and Cassandra, who often referred to him as Jr., Bub, Bubba, or Bubbas. Another one of his nicknames was Country, given his love for country music.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the memory of Jarrod Daugherty. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met such a charming young man and on behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

#### HONORING TEXAS AGGIE WOMEN

##### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network, known as "Aggie Women."

In the summer of 2007, a group of Aggie women started talking regularly and sharing ideas about ways to give back to Texas A&M University and contribute to its reputation as a world-class university. The original idea to form the Women Former Students' Network as a constituent network of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students came to fruition on December 21, 2007. At that time an interim board of directors was formed and the group branded themselves as Aggie Women. Fueled by the excitement of its formation, Aggie Women grew rapidly in its first year.

During its inaugural year of operations in 2008, in addition to recruiting nearly 200 charter members, Aggie Women established its first President's Endowed Scholarship through its "45 Women Campaign", which honored the 45 years of women's admittance to A&M. The year culminated in an inaugural meeting held November 14, 2008 on the campus of the University. Over 200 members and guests attended this historic day. Special guests included Former First Lady Barbara Bush, an honorary member of Aggie Women; members of the first graduating class of Aggie women; and many officials of Texas A&M University and The Association of Former Students. The first member-elected Board of Directors was seated in January 2009.

The mission of Aggie Women is to enhance excellence at Texas A&M University by pro-

moting the active engagement of women in the educational, charitable, and cultural life of the institution. The mission is fulfilled through increased engagement of Women Former Students in academic, research and service activities; through their expanded role as mentors of current women students, and future generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

Aggie Women have raised over \$200,000 for President's Endowed Scholarships, three of which have been awarded, providing women students with needed academic funding.

Another Aggie Women initiative is the Eminent Scholar Award which is a joint project of Aggie Women and the President of Texas A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary women play in serving as models for all women students at the University. There have been three recipients of the Eminent Scholar Award and they received significant recognition on campus as well as a monetary stipend.

Over 400 students have been reached through Aggie Women's mentoring program. The program, known as "JumpStart," is a unique and engaging initiative in which Aggie Women partner with student organizations to provide tailored programs that are flexible in topics and length.

The "Aggie Women Legacy Awards" program has honored thirty women to date who have achieved excellence as an Aggie student or Former Student, and whose accomplishments have had an impact on future generations of Aggie Women worldwide. Aggie Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition from the Association of Former Students and the University.

Over fifty Aggie Women have signed up for another sponsored program entitled "Aggie Experts." This endeavor engages Aggie Women in roles throughout the University by providing leadership and speaking opportunities for dynamic women to give back the University through their vast experience.

At an annual reception, Aggie Women honor those women achieving top student leadership positions, including the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and Student Government. Throughout each academic year, they also provide monthly programs for students on a variety of topics—chosen by the students themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Aggie Women are working tirelessly to continue the Aggie core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. As an all-volunteer organization, Aggie Women continues to rely on the contributions of time, talent, and treasure of its board, its members and supporters. Together, they are building a legacy of strong women role models for all students—female and male—who come after them.

My wife, Gina, and I, as well as all of the Aggie Network, are proud to honor Aggie Women today. We thank them for their hard work and commitment to making Texas A&M University a better place for current, former, and future Texas Aggie students.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our nation's Capitol today to

honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us in our communities.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
ALBERTO PATRICIO CARDENAS

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Alberto Patricio Cardenas of Laredo, Texas, who proudly served the people of Laredo in public and higher education for nearly forty-four years.

Alberto Patricio Cardenas was born on March 17th, 1937 in Laredo, Texas. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, Alberto began his studies at The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas where he would successfully graduate in four years with a degree in history and as a member of the Corps of Cadets.

After college, Alberto began a 13-year career with the Laredo Independent School District, where he taught students at Urbahn Elementary, Lamar Middle School, Nixon High School, and Martin High School. He earned his Master of Education degree from Texas A&M University and thereafter was recruited to be a faculty member of Laredo Junior College where he would meet the love of his life, Maria de la Luz.

Mr. Cardenas spent the next 31 years serving as a counselor and eventually Director of the Counseling and Assessment Center at Laredo Community College. He influenced thousands of students by helping them navigate their degree plans, personal challenges, and by teaching multiple courses. He also raised money for scholarships, organized school floats for parades, and counseled student organizations.

Mr. Cardenas lived a long and service filled life. Not only was he an accomplished educator, but a dedicated community leader. He served in the United States Air Force Reserve, on the Board of Directors and as President of the Laredo Boys & Girls Club, as President of the Laredo Chapter of the International Good Neighbor Council, and on the Laredo-Webb County Child Welfare Board. He also was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem for 15 years, achieving the rank of Knight Commander with Star.

Above all, Alberto was a committed husband and father to Maria de la Luz (Lucy) Rodriguez and their three children Cristina Doda, Alberto Jr., and Maradelle Lilliam.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Alberto Patricio Cardenas for his many years of service to the city of Laredo.

CELEBRATING DR. DALE  
HEASTON'S DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE AWARD

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**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale Heaston of Richland, Washington for being awarded the American Optometric Association's 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

This award signifies above-and-beyond service in the field of optometry, which Dr. Heaston exemplifies. Since graduating from the Illinois College of Optometry, Dr. Heaston has been providing quality care to patients in Central Washington and ensuring that the needs of underserved communities are met.

He has advocated on behalf of optometrists at both the state and national levels, working with local and state organizations to educate communities about vision and eye health and to create public awareness of the profession. He has worked with lawmakers across Washington State to promote legislation that supports optometry and currently serves as a Federal Legislative Key person for the American Optometric Association.

Dr. Heaston's dedication and contributions to his profession are admirable and right to be recognized. Please join me in celebrating his accomplishments and congratulating him on this award.

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TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA  
CARPENTER

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**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Roberta Carpenter from Adair County Health System in Greenfield, Iowa. Roberta was awarded the 2017 DAISY Award at a ceremony earlier this spring.

Roberta is always willing to step up and take on additional responsibilities with the management of EMS as well as her duties in the Emergency Department. She has been instrumental in implementing programming to increase patient satisfaction and takes every opportunity to serve her patients well with empathy and great care.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Roberta for receiving this award and for providing excellent patient care in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District. I am proud to represent her and all the members of the Adair County Health System in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Roberta and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN MEMORY OF FIRST SERGEANT  
MARGARET BARKER

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**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of First Sergeant Margaret Barker, an honored veteran who passed away just last week. Sergeant Barker was a highly-respected service woman and a loved community member, and she would have been 100 years old this August.

Raised in Boston, Massachusetts, Sergeant Barker was the third eldest in a family of nine children. When World War II broke out, Sergeant Barker felt called to serve this nation she loved and enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.

She was sent out to Angel Island just off the coast of San Francisco and moved on to Fort McDowell, where she served until the War ended as a First Sergeant in charge of one of the first all-female, all-black companies in the Army. In 2015, Mrs. Barker traveled to Washington, D.C. with 19 other World War II veterans to view the national war memorial and be honored, and she was the only woman in the group.

Sergeant Barker was a trailblazer and a maverick, serving with grace and distinction in a time when forces were still segregated and gendered. Her devotion to duty and her Company earned her the nickname "Top" in the Military, a name usually given to Sergeants for their commitment to especially caring leadership. This is just one instance of her selflessness, and how highly she valued those around her. Sergeant Barker was known for her warmth and resilience, which is reflected in the close relationships she shared with her family.

After serving in the Military, Mrs. Barker returned to her home in Boston, where she then married longtime friend, Vernon Barker, who was a fellow service member. Together, they decided to move to California, where they started their family and made their home in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and remembering Sergeant Margaret Barker, whose strength and steadfastness identifies her as a role model to us all. Her generous and always kind spirit will live on in the hearts and lives of everyone she touched, and I extend my deepest condolences to her children, Gail and Beverly, and the rest of her family. May God bless her soul and her family.

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IN MEMORY OF DR. FRANK S.  
MOORE

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**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, July 28, 2017, a Celebration of Life was conducted for Dr. Frank S. Moore at New Covenant Presbyterian Church with services by Pastor Drew Kornreich. A resident of Aiken, South Carolina, for 25 years, Dr. Moore was a dedicated family man, beloved member of the community, and respected nuclear physicist. He will be greatly missed.

The following thoughtful obituary was appropriately published in the Aiken Standard on June 20, 2017:

Frank S. Moore Jr., Ph.D., passed away Monday, July 24, 2017 at his residence at the age of 81. Dr. Moore was born July 25, 1935 in Norfolk, VA to the late Frank S. Moore Sr. and the late Margaret Moore. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College, his Master's degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and his Doctorate from the University of Georgia. He has been a resident of Aiken for the past twenty-five years. Dr. Moore retired as a Nuclear Physicist at the age of 70 from Westinghouse at the Savannah River Site. He was an avid marksman and runner all his life.

In addition to his parents, Dr. Moore was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Mac Moore. He is survived by his beloved wife, Kathleen Moore; two daughters, Elizabeth Corneluis (David) and Martha Ruthven (KT.); two sons, Christopher Moore and Matthew Musolf (Michelle); and four grandchildren, Allison Corneluis; Michael Corneluis, Dylan Crowell, and Jacob Crowell.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 PM Friday, July 28, 2017 at New Covenant Presbyterian Church with Pastor Drew Kornreich officiating. Interment will follow in Southlawn Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Elmer Wilhite, Don Drinkwater, John Cook, Ken Odell, Jim Harris, and Claude O'Donovan. The family will receive friends beginning one hour prior to the services at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Can Hope Foundation, PO Box 3694, Aiken, SC 29802.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARY R. STAUFFER

##### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary R. Stauffer on her upcoming 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on August 27, 2017, in Downey, California.

Born in Toledo, Ohio on August 26, 1917, to Amelia and Reverend Henry Schuh, Mary Ruth Schuh was raised in a home of three generations of Lutheran ministers. At age six, she started teaching Sunday school. Her early teaching experience and involvement with the church introduced her to a lifelong interest in education and philanthropy.

Mary loved reading and studying, and in 1935, she was the class valedictorian of Bexley High School, near Columbus, Ohio. With a scholarship, she attended Capital University, a Lutheran College. By working as an unpaid assistant for a pathologist at White Cross Hospital, she gained invaluable experience and a glowing recommendation for medical school. She graduated summa cum laude from Capital University in 1939.

Mary was admitted to Ohio State University Medical School, where she was one of just five women in a class of 75. She graduated top of her class on April 15, 1943. Concurrent with her MD, she earned her MS in Pathology by applying the first electron microscope in the U.S. to biological research.

On December 18, 1943, she married a co-resident in pathology, Dr. Floyd (Dal) Stauffer, a scholar and an athlete. Dal was commis-

sioned into the Navy on their wedding day and reported to duty in Bremerton, Washington, on January 1, 1944. In Bremerton, Dr. Mary completed her residency, but just when she opened her own practice, Dal was transferred to Pensacola, Florida. In 1953 after Dal completed his service in the Navy, the family moved, and settled in Downey, California.

After briefly working as a physician for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Dr. Mary Stauffer opened her own OB-GYN practice and in 1954 joined the Downey Community Hospital Medical Staff. As her practice grew, she always kept Tuesday and Thursday afternoons open for her five children's activities.

Dr. Mary Stauffer was one of the first obstetricians to offer expecting mothers an educational program. Based on Grantly Dick-Read natural childbirth (before Lamaze), she developed a series of three lectures. The third was held with spouses at her home and included an 8-mm film of her delivering twins. In 1976, after delivering babies for 23 years in Downey, she transitioned into general practice.

In 1972, Dr. Mary was chosen Chief of Staff at Downey Community Hospital. In 1987, with a donation of \$100,000, she was the first physician to qualify as a member of the Founders Gallery of the hospital. She hoped to be the first of many.

Dr. Mary's other honors include the 1983 Ohio State Medical School Alumni Achievement Award, the 1997 Distinguished Service Award from Capital University, and the 2007 Delta Kappa Gamma Chi State Distinguished Public Service Award. She was also named California State "Woman of the Year" in 1998 by California State Senator Betty Karnette and in 2010 by State Senator Hector De La Torre, and was a 2012 Downey High School Hall of Fame Honoree. In 2007, Dr. Mary was one of the founding directors of the Columbia Memorial Space Center. Later she rescued an *Apollo* capsule from unclaimed freight to become the center's welcoming icon. In 2014, the Downey Unified School District renamed West Middle School the Mary R. Stauffer Middle School.

In 1993, her passions for education and philanthropy came together in the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation, a private educational foundation she established to give back to Downey, the community where she had had a successful medical practice. On June 30, 1997, at nearly 80 years old, Dr. Mary retired from her medical practice and became the full-time CEO of her educational foundation. Since starting the foundation almost 25 years ago, she has donated well over \$5 million for innovative educational projects in the Downey Unified School District and scholarships for Downey students. Among the projects that the foundation helped with initial startup funds are Academic Olympics for middle schools; Project Lead the Way; Robotics Clubs; and Character Counts, a city-wide program.

The foundation invites teachers annually to propose grants for creative projects, such as a Cooking Cart with lessons in math and science. Other projects have become traditions and encourage use of local resources, such as the Autry Museum and the Mission Control Program at the local Space Center.

In the 2016-17 school year, over 800 students received these now-traditional merit awards: Junior 4.0 GPA; Scholar-Athlete for students who have lettered in a sport with a 3.5 GPA (created by Dal, Mary's late hus-

band); and the Stauffer Scholar award to start a college savings plan for 4.0 GPA 6th and 7th graders. In the same year, 90 students received scholarships to attend community college or trade school.

Dr. Mary's favorite saying is "be the best you can be." Her decision that the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation will continue in perpetuity will carry on her legacy of helping to make Downey students the best they can be.

On Sunday, August 27th, the community will celebrate Dr. Mary's birthday at the Columbia Memorial Space Center. A full program will commemorate this momentous occasion with local school projects throughout the facility, special guests, and, of course, a birthday cake. Light refreshments will also be provided by the culinary arts students of the local Downey schools.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Stauffer and her family: sons Jim and John; daughters Dorothy Knight, Judi Saunders, and Janet Suzuki; granddaughters Dawn Martens, Diane Saunders, Katherine Rieth, Mary Owens, Jessica Stauffer, and Jordan Nichols; and great grandsons Phoenix Rieth and Quillan Owens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Dr. Mary R. Stauffer for her many years of enriching the lives of others so they can be the best they can be, and wish her a very Happy 100th Birthday.

#### FARISHTA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

##### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karim Farishta of Sugar Land, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to do research in Sri Lanka.

A graduate of George Washington University and a Truman Scholarship recipient, Karim is focused on the core of youth engagement, urbanization and reconciliation. Prior to leaving for Sri Lanka, Karim worked for the White House and was one of the youngest political appointees in the Obama Administration. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Karim for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY COLLINS

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Collins of Shenandoah, Iowa on the occasion of her 103rd birthday. Mary was born on July 30, 1914.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-six Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING DR. WANDA WILSON,  
CRNA, MSN, PhD, CEO OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Wanda Wilson, CRNA, MSN, PhD, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Wilson will soon complete her tenure as the CEO of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) whose headquarters are located in my district. I am proud that Dr. Wilson has led the AANA as their CEO and Executive Director since 2009, a job she began after serving as President of the AANA in 2007. She has been an extremely effective leader on behalf of her CRNA colleagues.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 43 million anesthetics to patients each year. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

Prior to her time at the AANA, Dr. Wilson enjoyed a career as the nurse anesthesia educational program director and professor of clinical nursing for the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Major. The highly regarded Cincinnati program includes a primary clinical site at the University Hospital in Cincinnati, where she maintained her clinical skills while directing the education of 28–32 nurse anesthesia students per year. Dr. Wilson received her doctorate degree in nursing science and physiology and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati. She also earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Cincinnati; her nurse anesthesia diploma from Cincinnati General Hospital; and her nursing diploma from Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio.

During her time as CEO of the AANA, Dr. Wilson has been a prominent advocate for pa-

tients, practitioners and students of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. She has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system, recognition of CRNAs as Full Practice Providers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), proper implementation of the provider non-discrimination, and appropriate recognition of the full scope of CRNA practice including pain management and related services in Medicare.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Wilson today on a job well done. Her service to the AANA, her patients, and her students and her commitment to advancing the nurse anesthetist profession as a leader, educator and advocate are unrivaled.

ANTONIO "TONY" VEGA

**HON. DON BACON**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a leader in the Hispanic, small business community of my congressional district in Omaha, Nebraska. A Nebraska immigrant, Mr. Antonio "Tony" Vega's career of entrepreneurship and mentorship is recognized through his commitment to service and upholding the values of hard work.

Mr. Vega was born and raised in Zapotlán El Grande, a city about 80 miles south of Guadalajara, in Mexico. He was raised by a single mother who considered his education to be her highest priority. She sacrificed greatly for his higher education by immigrating to the United States to earn enough money to pay for Tony's education back in Mexico. Tony also attributes his strong morals, values and work ethic to his grandparents, who influenced him during his childhood. As a result, Tony successfully completed a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Travel Management at the Universidad de Guadalajara in 1987.

Following graduation, Tony's first job was with the State of Jalisco tourism agency as the Deputy Delegate, overseeing 16 counties and developing relations with all county dignitaries. He later became the Director of Small Business Development for his hometown of Zapotlán El Grande, where he was the coordinator for the annual festival Feria Zapotlán, which runs during the entire month of October with a variety of cultural activities and national attractions.

In 1994, he immigrated to the United States to reside in San Gabriel, CA. It was there that he met a wholesale leather goods distributor who taught him about Hispanic, small businesses. Mr. Vega worked Monday through Friday at Arambula Hats. During the weekend, he explored ways to develop more efficient shipping routes throughout the Pacific coast from Southern California to Oregon.

Tony came to Omaha, Nebraska in 2000 to work as an administrator at Plaza Latina. Mr. Vega implemented a new management style for retail through an inventive strategy of connecting small businesses in a single retail, one-stop location. His concept was praised by the owners of Plaza Latina, who offered to sell the whole business and building to Mr. Vega along with a 5-year financing deal, requiring

no lawyers be involved. This led Mr. Vega to construct an incubator for a Hispanic, small business. Using the small retail spaces and resources at Plaza Latina, new entrepreneurs had an opportunity to succeed within one community and location.

This concept for small business development caught the attention of Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a faculty member at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, who wanted to know more about Mr. Vega's modern marketing and business approach. Dr. Benjamin-Alvarado brought the University of Nebraska's College of Business' students from all campuses to experience his business concept. This partnership was the initial catalyst that led to the success of the many businesses that Tony helped.

In 2005, the Hispanic business community in South Omaha started to take off and the first major bank moved into the area. First National Bank of Omaha broke ground on a new Spanish-speaking branch, solely focused on Hispanic clients and businesses along the 24th Street corridor. This would eventually become the main financier in South Omaha. The move by the bank was initially received with reluctance by local Latino business. However, due to the quick actions of Mr. Vega, seven core businesses gathered for a meeting at Guacamaya Restaurant on the 2nd of March. Mr. Vega proposed the local Hispanic Business Community integrate with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC).

On April 7, 2005 by unanimous vote, Mr. Vega's Hispanic Business Group became a member of the USHCC and grew from 7 Hispanic businesses to 28 in their first month. Tony became the first President of the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and held the position for the first 3 years. He paved the way for the current business model of incubating, developing and empowering small business success.

Today, Mr. Vega is the owner of Factor Latino magazine. Published monthly in Spanish, it is catered to the Latino and Hispanic business community leaders in Nebraska. An avid fan of Mexican Lucha Libre (Wrestling) since childhood; he is the founder and President of Midwest Mexican Wrestling. Additionally, he created TV Latina Nebraska to serve the online Latino community. It is a platform that provides coverage on local politics, community support programs and leaders within the Hispanic community in Omaha.

Mr. Vega is happily married to the love of his life, Eliana Ortiz since 1992. He is a father to three boys: Braulio, Omar and Nicolás, and two girls: Jessica and Grecia. His everyday passions include communications, road trips, Mexican wrestling and hosting gatherings of friends and family. I am proud to recognize all of Mr. Vega's accomplishments and am confident that he will continue to inspire and enhance the Hispanic, small business community in Nebraska.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four northeast Georgians

who recently completed time abroad as part of the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program has given more than 370,000 American students the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones in order to live and study in a different country. The travels that these young Americans have embarked on each year highlight our nation's commitment to expanding our knowledge and building relationships.

I would like to recognize the following four Fulbright recipients: Franziska Brunner, Kimberly Buice, Isaac Hopkins, and Dr. Mihai Spariosu. This past year, these four scholars lived in Austria, Laos, Canada, and Romania, respectively, studying topics ranging from literature to music.

These students teach us that instead of fearing the unknown, we should commit ourselves to seeking it out. As Fulbright Scholars, these individuals returned with a newfound appreciation for different cultures and new ideas about how we can cultivate strong ties with others all across the globe.

It is an honor to represent these bright, young scholars.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY OF HELEN S. LIU

#### HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time resident of my district, Mrs. Helen Liu, as she celebrates her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Mrs. Liu spends her days embodying the qualities of kindness, generosity, and selflessness, all of which have been gained after many years spent as a mother and a woman of faith. She was born August 19, 1917 in a small village outside the city of Tangshan, China. The youngest of six children—three older brothers and two older sisters—Helen found a passion in pursuing higher education in an environment that discouraged it.

After completing her exams at Shen Hung Girl's High School, Helen was accepted to two prestigious universities: Yanjing University in Beijing and Nankai University in Tianjin. In order to remain close to her family, Helen attended school in Tianjin. It was here where she later met and married her husband, Yung Kwei Lui, on April 7, 1941.

Helen and her husband raised a beautiful family of four, two sons and two daughter, one of which she currently spends her days with in the City of Montclair. In her spare time, Helen teaches bible study and the lessons she has learned throughout her long, but fulfilling life. Many of these lessons are well documented in her autobiography.

When asked her opinion of such a monumental celebration, Helen said she finds it difficult to believe that she has lived to see 100 years. She only hopes to see many more.

For her endless dedication to her family and her community, and for being an example of love and kindness, I would like to recognize Mrs. Helen Liu, proud American citizen, and wish her a very Happy Birthday.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DESIREE LANGSTON CARN

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Desiree Langston Carn, a revered member of our Toledo community. Mrs. Carn passed from this life on June 26, 2017 surrounded by her family.

Desiree Langston Carn graduated from Jesup W. Scott High School in 1973 and earned her Bachelor's Degree from the Ohio State University and a Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University in guidance and counseling.

She served the Toledo community and touched the lives of countless students as a Counselor, retiring after 34 years from the Toledo Board of Education. Her compassion, her smile, and her words of wisdom guided many young people on paths forward.

Desiree had a beautiful voice which she used in worship at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo. So special was her gift, that a citywide musical celebration was held at the church as part of her homegoing.

Desiree leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Ernest Carn, Jr., her sons Jamal and Jasyn, her five grandchildren, her mother, Elzena Langston, her brother Calvin Thompson, her sister Antoinette Langston, and many loving relatives. We offer them our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of what Desiree had meant to each of the people who shared in her life.

Psalm 59: 16-17 sings, "But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your loving kindness in the morning, For You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me loving kindness." Desiree Langston Carn shared this message through her angelic voice. Now she joins the Angels in song.

Desiree led a full life and gave so much to all those who knew her. Her legacy grows in the wisdom she shared and the hope she inspired in the young people she counseled. Her voice still shines as it is carried forth.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JUDGE BEN MORALES

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Judge Alvin James "Ben" Morales, who proudly served the people of Laredo for more than 20 years.

Judge Ben Morales was born in 1950 in Taylor, Texas. He graduated from Taylor High School and joined the United States Army during the Vietnam War. After he was honorably discharged, Judge Morales completed his studies at Southwest Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in political science and history.

After college, Judge Morales married Liz Gamez. They then moved to Houston where

he pursued a degree at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, graduating in 1979. After passing the bar exam Judge Morales moved his family to Laredo, where he started a career as an attorney before serving as a judge, a position he held for over twenty years.

Judge Morales was a widely respected and admired judge and individual. Among his many achievements, he launched Webb County's first-ever juvenile drug court program in 2013. He also served as a member of the American Judge's Association, as a Chairman of the Webb County Bail Bond Board, and as an Assistant Webb County Attorney. In 2014, Judge Morales retired, and he and his wife moved to Pflugerville to be closer to their daughters, friends, and extended family.

Judge Morales is survived by his loving wife Liz Morales and two daughters Marisa Morales and Raquel Leal.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Judge Morales for his years of service to the city of Laredo.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOIS HOCKABOUT

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois Hockabout of Tabor, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Lois was born on August 9, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Lois' life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Lois has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Lois in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Lois on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### HONORING CYNTHIA K. DOHNER FOR 24 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service career of Cynthia K. Dohner. Cindy served the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with distinction and honor for more than 24 years and will leave the Service on August 30, 2017.

Cindy's love of the outdoors began while fishing Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River



with her father and tagging along on his deer hunting trips. It was at this point in her life that she knew that she wanted to make a positive difference. Those experiences set her on a course that led to a bachelor's degree in marine biology, a master's degree in fisheries and aquaculture, and a long career protecting fish and wildlife and the untamed places upon which they depend.

Cindy made conservation her career. She has worked for a private environmental consulting firm and held positions in several state and federal agencies before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993. Prior to her time in the Southeast Region, Cindy worked with the Service's Division of Fish Hatcheries and as the Branch Chief for Recovery and Consultation in Washington, D.C. She came to Atlanta in 1999 to serve as the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services and later served as Deputy Regional Director.

For the last seven years, Cindy has led the Southeast Region in a daily mission to make a difference for fish, wildlife, plants and the people who live and work in communities across the region. As Regional Director, she provided vision and leadership for more than 1,300 employees in 10 southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and has continuously worked toward producing successful management solutions that have positively influenced our national conservation efforts. On any given day, you are just as likely to find her working with employees and partners on issues as big as the restoration of Louisiana's coast and as small but no less consequential as the partnership work and proactive conservation that led to removing the Georgia aster from the list of candidate species under the Endangered Species Act.

I witnessed Cindy's dedication to protecting and conserving America's natural resources firsthand while working together with her to restore Louisiana's coast and the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. At the time of the spill in 2010, she led an extraordinary effort to respond to this unprecedented event that deployed thousands of employees to stations in four Gulf Coast states over the first year. Additionally, she was instrumental in securing funds to rebuild Breton Island—an area that has provided protection for our bird habitat as well as fishing habitat for Louisiana's saltwater anglers. Whether the need was simple or more complicated, she worked tirelessly to solve a host of environmental and economic needs. While serving as the Department of the Interior's Authorized Official for the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, Cindy was a committed partner to the State of Louisiana and the other Gulf states in working collaboratively to help us get on the right path to repairing our ecosystem, and restoring the Gulf's abundant natural resources and the economy its people depend upon.

She is recognized throughout the Southeast as an honest partner and innovative conservation leader. Under her leadership, the region has joined forces with states, private landowners, other federal agencies, the Department of Defense, and several sectors of industry and business including energy, timber, and finance among others to find creative ways to conserve fish and wildlife resources. This collaboration has resulted in notable con-

servation successes including removing the Louisiana black bear from the endangered species list, upgrading the status of the West Indian manatee and wood stork and precluding the need to list more than 100 fish, wildlife, and plants petitioned for federal protection in the past seven years. She worked closely with many partners to restore more than one million acres of bottomland hardwood habitat in the South and reverse the decline of longleaf pine forests so critical for migratory birds and wildlife in decline. Her recognition of the little things to build lasting relationships that so often have big implications and make conservation success possible on larger scales is something I will miss. I commend Cindy for her desire to make a lasting difference and hope the Service will continue to build on her outstanding conservation legacy.

I speak for myself and I think for many policymakers, business leaders, and lovers of the outdoors when I say Cindy Dohner and her passion for wildlife will be missed. I appreciate the many years of public service she has to the Southeast Region and people that call Louisiana home and make it a Sportsmen's Paradise. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude for her public service and wishing Cindy success and happiness in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN  
KELMENDI FOR HIS WORK WITH  
THE METRO DETROIT COMMUNITY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Kelmendi for his career as an educator and involvement in the southeast Michigan community. Mr. Kelmendi has been a dedicated advocate for students during his career with the Detroit Public Schools and involvement with local community groups.

Mr. Kelmendi, a native of Albania, began his career with Detroit Public Schools in 1993 and established a reputation as a dedicated teacher invested in the success of his students. Mr. Kelmendi initially taught social studies to students at Pershing High School and became curriculum leader of the school's social studies department in 2003. In this role, Mr. Kelmendi helped coordinate the staff and manage the instructional material in the social studies department. He also served as an instructional specialist, where he helped observe and evaluate other educators in addition to teaching students. Mr. Kelmendi's work with the students at Pershing resulted in significant improvements in academic achievement, including a strong upward trend in social studies test scores relative to other DPS students.

Mr. Kelmendi's time as an educator and community activist was critical to improving student achievement and establishing a culture of excellence within the social studies department at Pershing High School. As a result of his actions, Mr. Kelmendi received a lifetime achievement award from Detroit Public

Schools and was well-known for his passion for teaching. Additionally, he was active in the Metro Detroit Community, having served as a member of Detroit's School-Community Relations Committee, which helped establish and improve collaboration between the DPS academic community and residents of Detroit. Mr. Kelmendi went above and beyond what was expected in the classroom and the community, and his efforts are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. John Kelmendi for his work as an educator and in the Metro Detroit community. Mr. Kelmendi's actions have impacted countless lives.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA TROOP 533

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important Hoosier institution, the Boy Scouts of America Troop 533 from Munster, Indiana, which is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary this year.

Boy Scout Troop 533 was organized in 1927 by Mr. Maury Kraay, an eighth grader attending Munster Public Schools. He gathered classmates, local boys, and a retired school principal to form Munster's Boy Scout Troop. Troop 533 was present on June 14, 1927 when President Calvin Coolidge dedicated Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana. The Troop was also heavily involved in the World War II effort by organizing parades and rallies for war bonds, planting and maintaining gardens for local consumption, practicing blackout drills, carrying warden messages and reports to sector headquarters, and participating in wartime recycling programs.

More recently, Troop 533 organized Cub Scout Packs in Munster elementary schools in the 1960s. In 1982, the Troop presented the colors during the dedication of the first Munster Town Council meeting in the town's newly constructed municipal complex, and began leading the Independence Park Fourth of July Parade a year later—an honor it still holds today. During the Little Calumet River flooding in 2008, Troop 533 assisted with filling sandbags to protect public and private property and later helped with yard clean-up, raking, moving dirt, and re-graveling driveways after the flood waters subsided.

Troop 533 has positively influenced countless Munster families by leading many boys to success, including producing over 100 Eagle Scouts. The scouts and their adult leaders have long served the community in which they live and love. They have lived by the Boy Scout Oath and Motto, and my hometown of Munster is better for having Troop 533 a part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud father of a young Cub Scout, I am honored to congratulate Munster Boy Scout Troop 533, on its ninetieth anniversary and look forward to their continued service to fellow Hoosiers and our nation.

IKWUEZUNMA RECIEVES  
PRESTIGIOUS FULLBRIGHT AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ijezie Ikwuezunma of Richmond, TX, for receiving a Fulbright award to do research in the UK.

Ijezie, a student at Washington and Lee University, was awarded a Fulbright grant for his project, "Cardiovascular Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacokinetics of Warfarin (an oral anti-coagulant)." His research will be based around cardiovascular agents and their pharmacology, with a particular focus on the drug warfarin. While completing his Fulbright, Ijezie will also be pursuing his Masters of Research in biomedical sciences and transnational medicine at the University of Liverpool. Each year the Fulbright Program grants students the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable US relationships.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ijezie for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING MIKE MILLER, NEW  
U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES CHAIRMAN

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent from my district, Mike Miller, of Ritzville, Washington, who was recently selected as the new Chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates.

Mike is a fourth-generation farmer and a family man who has served on many local, state and national boards. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Washington Grain Commission and has been representing Washington as a U.S. Wheat Associates Director for six years.

He has been very active in supporting wheat research and development, and I know he will be an excellent leader for the U.S. Wheat Associates, as they continue to promote the quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to international markets.

Please join me in congratulating Mike on his new position.

OPPOSING PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT THREATENS THE  
BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE  
AREA WILDERNESS

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to the Chairman and

Ranking Member of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. The letter expresses my strong opposition to a discussion draft the Committee held a hearing on this week, proposed by Representative TOM EMMER, that would undercut existing environmental and public lands laws to allow a Chilean mining conglomerate to conduct dangerous sulfide-ore coppering mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 27, 2017.

Hon. PAUL GOSAR,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Hon. ALAN LOWENTHAL,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOSAR AND RANKING MEMBER LOWENTHAL: I write to express my strong opposition to the discussion draft proposed by Representative Tom Emmer considered today, July 27, in the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. This proposed legislation would undercut existing environmental and public lands laws to allow a Chilean mining conglomerate to conduct dangerous sulfide-ore coppering mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Located in northeastern Minnesota along the United States' border with Canada, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) comprises approximately 1.1 million acres of unspoiled woodlands and more than 1,000 pristine lakes. It is home to iconic species such as loons, moose, and lynx, while the waters support thriving populations of walleye, bass, and trout.

Congress recognized the value of this unique national treasure when it passed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act in 1978. This critical legislation established necessary protections for the BWCAW, prohibiting logging and mining and placing limits on the use of motorized vehicles to preserve the unspoiled nature of this special area.

That law strengthened the federal role as caretaker of this area of unparalleled natural beauty, and in doing so built upon more than a century of actions by federal and state governments. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Superior National Forest to protect the surrounding area. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law, and set aside one million acres of the Boundary Waters as a wilderness area. In 1976, the state of Minnesota banned mining on state lands within the Boundary Waters.

These policies have ensured that Minnesota's Boundary Waters are one of the few remaining wild places in the United States.

The BWCAW does not exist in isolation, however. It is a critical part of a vast, interconnected watershed that flows through the Superior National Forest and into Voyageurs National Park and Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. While the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978 prohibited mining within the Boundary Waters itself, it did not address existing mineral leases located within the parts of the watershed in the Superior National Forest.

In 2011, Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta announced plans for its Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mine on federal land within this watershed. Antofagasta planned to pursue this mining under mineral leases issued in 1966, before the enactment of

modern environmental legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act. However, those leases expired in 2014, requiring Antofagasta to apply for a renewal.

Under the terms of the leases, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reviewed and denied those renewals in December 2016, based on a denial of consent from the United States Forest Service (USFS). The USFS determined that copper-sulfide ore mining on these leases would pose an unacceptable risk that "might cause serious and irreplaceable harm to this unique, iconic, and irreplaceable wilderness area".

Sulfide-ore mining is the most toxic industry in America, polluting waterways with acid drainage that contains arsenic, mercury and lead.

Researchers that surveyed sulfide-ore copper mines in North America found that every mine had leached pollution into surrounding water, with 92 percent failing to contain mine seepage and seriously affecting water quality. Underscoring the danger of sulfide-ore copper mining, the failure of the Mount Polley copper mine in British Columbia in August 2014 released a toxic slurry of 10 billion liters of wastewater and 5 billion liters of solid tailings. This immense pollution destroyed the surrounding landscape and permanently damaged an irreplaceable salmon spawning area.

Simply put, sulfide-ore copper mining is not suited in the vast, interconnected watershed that contains the BWCA, which is exactly why the BLM and USFS determined that the sustainable management of the forests, lakes and streams in this area was best served by not renewing Antofagasta's leases.

This decision was also supported with action taken by the state government. In March 2016, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources "not to authorize or enter into any new state access agreements or lease agreements for mining operations" on state lands in close proximity to the BWCAW.

Following the denial of the leases, the USFS submitted an application to the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw portions of the watershed that flows into the BWCAW from future mineral permits and leases, to remove the threat of sulfide-ore mining throughout this sensitive landscape. Today, the USFS and the BLM are conducting a thorough environmental analysis to determine whether the lands should be withdrawn from mineral leasing for a period of 20 years. In addition to relying on sound science, this review includes input from the public and key stakeholders. In just the past two weeks, more than 1,500 people have attended public meetings held by the USFS in Virginia, Minnesota and St. Paul, Minnesota.

This environmental review and public input process is the best path forward, as Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue affirmed to me during a hearing of the House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee on May 27, 2017. In response to a question about the study, Secretary Perdue responded: "We are determined to proceed in that effort and let it run its course. No decision will be made prior to the conclusion of that."

Unfortunately, the discussion draft presented by Representative Emmer entirely short-circuits this careful and deliberate review process, recklessly overturns the science-based denial of consent decision from the USFS, and attacks existing environmental and public lands laws—all for the benefit of a foreign conglomerate's mining project.

I have several serious concerns about the far-reaching impacts of the discussion draft presented by Representative Emmer:

It automatically grants Antofagasta two federal mineral leases on Superior National Forest lands, ignoring the strong federal and state opposition to sulfide-ore mining in this area. One federal mineral lease is immediately adjacent to the BWCAW and the second is within three miles of the BWCAW boundary. Peer-reviewed science documents that acid mine drainage from sulfide-ore copper mines on these leases would flow through the Boundary Waters, Voyageurs National Park, and Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. Attached to this letter is a map that illustrates the extent of the pollution risk to this interconnected watershed.

It voids the Forest Service Record of Decision in which the USFS denied to consent to the renewal of Antofagasta's federal mineral leases based on the risk of harm to the Boundary Waters if the leases were granted. The Forest Service's decision on the lease renewals was made by professional career USFS staff after a 3-year review, with extensive opportunity for public comment. The decision cites sound scientific evidence of harm to the BWCAW and considerable public opposition to the projects. The discussion draft ignores these facts entirely and recklessly overturns the well-considered decision of the Forest Service.

It undermines established laws governing mineral leasing in the Superior National Forest, bypasses the National Environmental Policy Act, and interferes with an ongoing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This proposal would amend the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act and override the law that gives USFS the right to consent to mining in the Superior National Forest—making substantive changes to these carefully established laws. By retroactively reinstating the Twin Metals leases, the bill would also waive the requirement that federal mineral leases in the watershed go through a NEPA analysis. Furthermore, by reinstating these leases and requiring Congressional approval for the withdrawal of future leasing, this bill would shove aside the scientific analysis and public input process of the current EIS. All of this interference in the established legal process governing federal mineral leasing will primarily serve to benefit a foreign mining conglomerate.

It fundamentally alters the 1906 Antiquities Act by mandating Congressional approval for national monuments in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests. This is a virtually unprecedented attack on the Antiquities Act. This bill chips away at fundamental conservation principles in the United States by establishing a carve-out from one of our nation's essential public lands laws.

These concerns have been echoed by leaders at some of the United States' foremost organizations advocating for the protection of our environment and the conservation of our public lands. I have attached statements from them to this letter.

If this legislation were allowed to move forward with these troubling provisions intact, it would not only undercut existing environmental and public lands laws. It would also undermine the environmental and economic health of northern Minnesota.

Drawn by the pristine landscape, the BWCAW today attracts more than 250,000 visitors each year who take advantage of unparalleled opportunities to canoe, fish, and explore this area.

These visitors have been a boon to a thriving outdoor recreation economy in the area. According to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board, tourism in Northeastern Minnesota supports 18,000 jobs and brings \$850 million in sales annually to the region. These jobs are dependent on a healthy watershed, and Representative Emmer's plan to

reinstate leases for copper-sulfide ore mining would put these jobs and the growing economy they support at risk.

As the previous administration explained when issuing their denial of the Twin Metals leases: "It is well established that acid mine drainage is a significant environmental risk at sulfide ore mine sites like the one proposed for these leased lands and in a water-based ecosystem like the Boundary Waters because contaminated water could have dramatic impacts to aquatic life, sport fisheries, and recreation-based uses and communities."

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to be good stewards of our nation's natural resources. It would be a grave mistake to allow dangerous mining to take place on the edge of the Boundary Waters, one of the last wild places in our country.

I urge you to oppose the discussion draft presented by Representative Emmer.

Sincerely,

BETTY MCCOLLUM,  
*Member of Congress.*

Enclosures.

STATEMENTS OPPOSING THE DISCUSSION DRAFT FROM LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC LANDS ORGANIZATIONS

Lena Moffitt, Director of Our Wild American Program, Sierra Club:

The waters of Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters are a precious national resource, depended on and enjoyed by millions of Americans. Sadly, members of Congress are clearly prioritizing the interests of multinational mining companies over the needs of both local communities and the American public. We strongly oppose these attacks on our public lands and waters, and call on Congressional leaders to do the same.

Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society:

The Emmer mining bill is yet another dangerous attack on our public lands. Anti-conservation interests are determined to let Congress sell or lease to private profiteers our nation's natural treasures that are owned by all Americans. In addition to opening the door to sulfide-ore mining in the priceless Boundary Waters watershed, the bill undermines bedrock conservation laws including the Antiquities Act, used by Republican and Democratic presidents alike to protect places of historic or natural significance. The Boundary Waters is one of the original places protected by the 1964 Wilderness Act, is America's most visited wilderness area, and its waters must be protected from industrial mining.

Alex Taurel, Deputy Legislative Director, League of Conservation Voters:

This radical legislation would harm Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy by allowing a foreign mining company to build a risky mine that threatens the health of America's most visited wilderness area in the spectacular Boundary Waters. We urge members of Congress to oppose this harmful bill that greenlights a decision on the project based on politics and shamefully cuts out the voices of Minnesotans and people across the country that have engaged in a lengthy public process.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND WENDELL VOLKENS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Wendell Volkens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on

the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 16, 1957 at Zion Lutheran Church in Auburn, Iowa.

Jean and Wendell's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together, and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING IMPD DEPUTY CHIEF JIM WATERS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of sadness, as I grieve with the City of Indianapolis and the entire law enforcement community, over the loss of a true public servant. Today, we remember Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Deputy Chief Jim Waters, who dedicated his life to serving others.

Deputy Chief Waters served our city for nearly 30 years, in a variety of roles in city government and on the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. In all his roles, Deputy Chief Waters was known as a bridge builder and someone who worked alongside community members to improve and protect our city.

Deputy Chief Waters was a decorated police officer who came from a long line of public servants. He rose through the ranks of IMPD, serving as District Commander of the East District, Assistant Chief, as well as Deputy Chief. His service did not go unnoticed; he was awarded the Medal of Bravery and Mayor's Community Service Award for his commitment to protecting Hoosiers.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Deputy Chief Waters' wife, Sherry, his children and his entire family. Deputy Chief Waters left a lasting legacy on the Indianapolis community and I am grateful for his years of dedicated service to our city.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE POKE-O-MOONSHINE FIRE TOWER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower.

Sitting atop Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain since 1917, the historic fire tower has played an important role in protecting the Adirondack's environment and wildlife by allowing lookouts to detect and report early signs of wildfires. Although it was decommissioned by

New York State in 1988, the fire tower has been fully restored and continues to offer hikers incredible views of the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Champlain, and Vermont.

In honor of the fire tower's centennial, the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine is hosting several celebratory events including hikes up the mountain, a silent art auction, and live performances. The organization, which was largely responsible for the restoration of the fire tower, is dedicated to preserving Poke-O-Moonshine and to educating the public about the mountain and its surrounding areas. Their efforts have expanded public access to this special place and increased awareness of our region's rich environmental history.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower. It is an important piece of the Adirondack Park and a symbol of the North Country's long tradition of outdoor engagement.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF IRV HOLLAND

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Irwin Holland. Irv Holland was a brave and courageous man who served our country in a multitude of ways and will forever be remembered as a member of one of the great generations.

Mr. Holland was born in 1917, eldest child to first generation immigrants. He grew up in New York where he graduated high school and attended night school but never graduated with a college degree. In 1943, he joined the United States Army Air Corps, and became an Army Air Corps navigator, eventually reaching the rank of Second Lieutenant. In the midst of World War II, and on his maiden mission, the navigational instruments on his B-17 failed. In the dark and over the ocean Mr. Holland led three B-17 airplanes to the Ashen Islands where they landed safely. After taking off from the Ashen Islands they continued to the European Theater and in June 1943 he and several other crew members were shot down over Germany. Irv bailed out and was taken as a prisoner of war. He was a prisoner of war from June 13, 1943 to May 22, 1945, and endured difficult conditions in camp Stalag Luft 3—Sagan-Silesia, Bavaria, eventually moving to Nuremberg, Germany. Mr. Holland was liberated by the Americans at the end of the war.

After his release in 1945 from Prisoner of War Camp, he returned to the U.S. and shortly afterwards traveled to the west coast to begin a new chapter in his life. In 1947, he met and married Barbara Donner Schwartz and soon became the father of three.

"Irv" and Barbara moved to Fresno in 1952 from the Bay Area and Irv established the Irwin Holland Advertising Agency. He was a community minded individual with involvements in the civil rights movement, community education and the Jewish community, but politics was his real love and passion. Irwin Holland was a political animal and felt a commitment to participate and improve his community. With that in mind, he ran for several political offices in the San Joaquin Valley as well

as becoming the advance man for every National Democratic Candidate who traveled the Central Valley from the mid '50's to the end of the 1970's, including John F. Kennedy (before his presidency), Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Rose Kennedy, Pierre Salinger, Humbert Humphrey, and others.

All during this time he was active in the Fresno Democratic Central Committee. From 1962 to 1970 he served as Administrative Assistant for former California State Assemblyman and Senator George Zenovich and in 1974 Irv was named District Director for former U.S. Congressman John Krebs, serving at his pleasure for the two terms that Mr. Krebs was in office.

In 1979, following a dream, Irwin and Barbara moved to Jerusalem, Israel. Once they became established in Israel, Irv worked as a freelance writer, writing articles about his experiences in Israel for the McClatchy Newspapers. While adapting to a new country and language Irv continued his community involvement and was involved with the Americans and Canadians in Israel, Democrats Abroad, and the San Francisco Jewish Federation's Office in Jerusalem for several years.

After fully retiring he began his "personal campaign" to provide "behind the scenes" insights about politics in the region to his friends and family at home. He forever felt that connection between the place of his birth and his new home.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize a mentor and a friend, Irv Holland. A gentleman, who felt the obligation to serve both his community and country of birth as well as his new-found home. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Barbara, who still lives in Israel and their three children: Francine, Amy, and Robbie, their five grandchildren: David, Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, and Naomi, and their four great-grandchildren: Ami, Ophir, Arbel, and Ella.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 27, on Roll Call vote 414, I did not vote. Had I been present, it was my intention to vote NO.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SERGEANT ANDREW BRUCHER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5499

##### HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Sgt. Andrew Brucher Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5499, located in Kauneonga Lake, New York, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on August 5, 2017.

At its anniversary dinner, the Post will honor two very special people: Mrs. Mabel Brucher, a Gold Star Mother, and Mr. Raymond Jankowski, a veteran of the Second World

War and founding Charter Member of Post 5499.

Post 5499 is named for Sgt. Andrew Carl Brucher, son of Leo and Mabel Brucher of Smallwood, New York. Sgt. Brucher was inducted into the Army on November 8, 1965, arrived in Vietnam on January 6, 1967, and died on April 4, 1967, in Da Nang, Vietnam. Having served honorably, Sgt. Brucher was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with a Bronze Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Honoring those who serve our nation should be a top priority for all Americans, and the VFW is an essential organization that fosters camaraderie among American veterans and advocates on their behalf. Congratulations to Post 5499 on this milestone anniversary.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NAVY YEOMAN 3RD CLASS EDMUND RYAN

##### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Edmund Ryan of Wilbraham, Massachusetts was killed when the Japanese sank the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. For 75 years, Yeoman Ryan was one of the nearly 400 sailors from that vessel whose identities were deemed "non-recoverable." But thanks to the advancements in DNA testing and the efforts by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Yeoman Ryan's remains have been finally identified. This was possible by matching the mitochondrial DNA to family members of the deceased. This achievement gives hope to the family members of the 26,000 servicemembers from World War II that possibly they too can be identified.

Next week, Yeoman Ryan will be interred in his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. On behalf of the First District of Massachusetts and the United States, we are eternally grateful for his service and sacrifice to his nation. And on this solemn occasion, I want to extend my best wishes to his family.

#### RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST GEORGIA'S STEM STUDENTS

##### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seventeen of northeast Georgia's brightest high school students. The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists and the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists selected these young scholars to represent the state of Georgia at their respective national conventions held in late June.

Despite the fact that these students hailed from different parts of the district, they share a common interest in science and medical-related fields. Representing our state as delegates gave them a chance to discuss their interests and ideas—whether they involved becoming our nation's next leading scientist or

becoming the brain power behind the next iPhone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following outstanding young people: Omeka Bhatia, John Bradley, Justin Mayo, Tyrese McIntosh, Andrew O'Brian, Thinh Pham-Hoang, David Tran, and Ana Woodside for attending the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. Additionally, Briana Bishop, Keah Gruduah, Andres Meza, Garrett Raxter, Angela Rivera, Lorenza Rojas-Gonzalez, Helen Viece, and Amber York have made northeast Georgia proud by attending the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

These talented students are carving out a future for STEM fields and will help lead the next generation of innovation in our country. I am honored to represent them in Congress, and I wish them the best as they run after their dreams.

#### CELEBRATING TONY ZAPATA

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tony Zapata, who recently concluded his service as Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4696 in East Los Angeles. As a representative of East LA in Congress, I have had the honor of getting to know Tony over the years, especially in his capacity as the organizer of the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events at the Cinco Puntos intersection.

Tony, a Vietnam veteran, comes from a family with deep military roots. His grandfather served in World War I, his father and two brothers served in WWII, two of his uncles served in Korea, and his son went to Kuwait. It should come as no surprise, then, that Tony has shown an unstinting dedication to those who serve and have served in our nation's armed forces.

Tony was born in Del Rio, Texas, and graduated from high school in 1963. In January 1965, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After boot camp in San Diego, California, in April 1965, he went aboard the U.S.S. Evans (DE-1023) in Bremerton, Washington, as a Machinist's Mate Fireman Apprentice. In August 1967, he was assigned to North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado, California, as an Airman Aviation Ordnance man. He was trained in Search and Rescue operations on NHU1 Helicopters, also known as Hueys.

In November 1967, Tony was sent to Okinawa, where he joined a Search and Rescue Unit with the 3rd Marine Division Temporary Attached Duty (TAD). From Okinawa, he went to Cubi Point in the Philippine Islands. At Cubi Point, he qualified with an M-60 Machine Gun(mounted). In January 1968, he went on to Da Nang, South Vietnam. After one year in Vietnam, he returned to North Island Naval Air Station, where he was Honorably Discharged in February 1969. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Expeditionary Medal, and Meritorious Service Ribbon.

In May 1969, Tony went to work for Travelers Insurance Company as a Workman's Compensation Investigator. After Travelers, he

worked as an inspector at U.S. Can in Commerce, California, until his retirement in 2006.

In 1992, Tony began to become involved with the VFW, and began full-time VFW involvement following his retirement. In 2010, he was appointed Commander of VFW Post 4696.

Tony has shown an inspiring commitment to assisting veterans and their families with their benefits. He has also been involved with helping homeless Veterans get into VA programs, including help with housing, education, and medical benefits. He has also enjoyed working with local elementary school students. In his talks with students, he has described the importance of patriotism, spoken about Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and reminded his young listeners that freedom is not free. He has also described how they can support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by writing letters and sending care packages to our servicemen and women overseas.

On May 29, 2017, Tony stepped down as Commander for Post 4696, but I am pleased to hear that he will still be involved with the VFW as an at large member. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending Tony Zapata our deepest gratitude for his record of service overseas and here at home. His defense of our country, and his faithful support of our veterans and current servicemembers, is an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING FIRE CHIEF DAVID SKORYI

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief David Skoryi who is retiring after serving the Lockport Township community for over 25 years.

Chief Skoryi was raised in Lockport and attended Taft Grade School and Lockport Township High School. He joined the Lockport Township Fire Protection District in 1980 as a firefighter and quickly rose through the ranks. He became a Lieutenant in 1993, Battalion Chief in 1998, and Assistant Chief in 2001. In 2010, Skoryi was named Lockport Township Fire District Chief.

During his time with the fire district, Chief Skoryi reached a number of milestones. He was the first Battalion Chief in the department's history and the first full time Training Officer. He also served as the Operations Chief, the Technical Rescue Team Leader, and the Swift Water Rescue Technician. Chief Skoryi has also overseen five fire station construction projects in the district.

Chief David Skoryi is married to Deb Skoryi and has three grown children, two of whom still live in the area. He plans to spend his retirement with his wife, tending to a small farm the couple purchased and traveling in their motor home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief David Skoryi for his public service and congratulate him on his achievements. He has spent many years protecting the people of Lockport and the surrounding areas. His dedication is greatly appreciated by the residents of the Third District of Illinois. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING BENTON POLICE CHIEF KIRK LANE

#### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Benton Police Chief Kirk Lane's appointment as the new Arkansas Drug Officer. His experience and activism truly embody what all states need in the fight against illegal narcotics.

Chief Lane is a graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and the FBI National Academy.

After graduation, Chief Lane spent 20 years with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, where he served as the Captain of Criminal Investigations.

Chief Lane has gone above and beyond his duty in the fight against illegal narcotics by participating in many organizations, including the Arkansas Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Council, the Arkansas Prescription Drug Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Board.

As a recipient of the 2010 Benton Citizen of the Year Award and the 2012 Marie Interfaith Award, Chief Lane is recognized for his exceptional character and devotion to community.

I'm proud of my friend Chief Lane, who has proven his devotion to law and order, and he will be a great addition to Arkansas's Drug Enforcement Agency to fight against narcotics and reduce the crime rate.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN THOMAS ZAMORA

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Stephen Thomas Zamora, who proudly served the people of Houston, Texas, as a professor at the University of Houston Law Center for nearly thirty-six years.

Stephen Zamora was born on June 26, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. Steve graduated from Servite High School in 1962, and earned a B.A. from Stanford University four years later. It was there where he met and married his wife, Lois. Together, they worked for the Peace Corps for two years. Afterwards, Steve graduated first in his class with a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972.

After law school, in 1973, Stephen served as a Postgraduate Fellow at the University Consortium for World Order Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. He would then practice international law at the World Bank in Washington D.C. from 1974 to 1978 before settling in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Zamora joined the University of Houston Law Center's faculty and served as the first dean of Hispanic origin from 1995 to 2000. He also dedicated his independent research at the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law to Mexican law and relations. For his work, he was awarded the highest distinction by the Mexican government to a foreign national, the

Order of the Aztec Eagle, in 2006. He continued to devote his time to his professional interests until 2015.

Mr. Zamora lived a long and service filled life. He was an accomplished educator, a role model to his students, and loving father and husband to his wife, Lois Zamora; his daughter, Camille Zamora, and her husband Thomas; grandsons Landon and Nate; and siblings Carol, Anita, John, Mary, Paula, and Tony; and his many nephews, nieces, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Stephen Zamora for his many years of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO WALTER HARRISON

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter Harrison, who retired as the president of the University of Hartford on June 30, 2017 after serving in that position for 19 years. In his time as president, the University of Hartford has truly flourished. Under his leadership, UHart has grown by leaps and bounds through increased enrollment, continued academic success, new academic programs and centers, and major renovations to campus facilities. He leaves the university as a place with a national reputation as a renowned academic institution.

Walt is first and foremost an educator and a scholar of American literature and culture. A native of Pittsburgh, he first came to Connecticut to study at Trinity College in Hartford where he received his bachelor's degree. He then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from the University of California—Davis. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as an officer.

During his time as chair of the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance, he became one of the nation's most influential voices on higher education and collegiate athletics. He has always been a champion on behalf of student-athletes and ensuring that collegiate athletics are always a part of an enriching academic experience. This culminated with Walt's receipt of the NCAA's Gerald R. Ford Award.

Walt has not only been an extraordinary leader of the university, but has been a pillar of the Greater Hartford community. That can be seen in the two magnet schools opened by the university under his tenure and through his service on the boards of the Hartford Stage, St. Francis Hospital, MetroHartford Alliance, Suffield Academy, Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, and the Connecticut Science Center. Walt has contributed immensely to the fabric of our civic culture.

I am proud to call Walt a friend. Anyone who knows Walt knows that he is a passionate baseball fan, particularly of his Pittsburgh Pirates. His doctoral dissertation was on baseball's influence on the nation's culture and he is the most knowledgeable baseball fan that one will ever meet. I wish him the best in retirement and I hope he takes his newfound free time to enjoy his family and to finally visit every big league ballpark.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the undergraduate and graduate commencement addresses delivered on Walter's last graduation ceremonies as president by my colleagues, Congresswoman MIA LOVE of Utah and Congressman RICHARD NEAL of Massachusetts, two proud UHart alumni.

#### THE HONORABLE MIA LOVE

It is wonderful to be with you all today. It is great to be back to a place filled with so many memories. My mind has been racing back to places and spaces on this campus; to so many lessons learned, and to so many people who made a difference in my life. My time here as a student stretched me, strengthened me, and positioned me to recognize opportunities so I can rise to my full potential.

One of those amazing faculty members who challenged me to rise was Peter Flint. He was our teacher and sadly, he passed away far too soon—but he is forever a part of my life and the lives of those who were blessed by his vision and direction. Peter had a motto for those of us in musical theater. He had us memorize it—but more importantly he challenged us to live it.

The motto said, "I am an artist. These are my emotions and I own them. And I like them. My talent comes from something other than myself, but I alone am responsible for it. I will dare to be bad, so that I may be good. I am an artist. I am that I am."

Peter continually challenged us to rise. He gave us the courage to know it was ok to be bad in the beginning and that working through the bad was the only way to rise to the good and ultimately to the best we had within us. Above all, Peter expected us to take responsibility and ownership for our talents and gifts.

Winston Churchill said it this way, "To each there comes . . . a special moment when we are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do something very special, unique to our talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds us unwilling, unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour." The great question you will face in the days and years ahead is this, "Am I prepared to rise in such moments?" I hope you consider today, graduation day, the first step to accepting taps on the shoulder that will lead you to a lifetime of fine hours as you rise to the full measure of your potential.

Two things for you to keep in mind as you get ready to rise.

First your ability to rise will be bolstered or shackled by your ability to engage in elevated dialogue. It may seem crazy for a member of Congress to be talking about elevated dialogue—but I believe it is the key to all of our finest hours. As a nation, as individuals, and as communities we must get comfortable having uncomfortable conversations. We cannot rise if we are constantly spewing divisive and demonizing rhetoric. It is so tempting to melt-down someone's twitter feed or blow up their Facebook page with anger-filled words of frustration. Someone wisely said, "Speak in anger and you will give the best speech you ever live to regret." Even if it's sharing a virtual speech on social media—the result is the same. Remember this, moments captured are forever and friends keep friends off YouTube. The solution to any problem begins when someone says, "Let's talk about it." We have a long way to go as country—but it starts with each of us individually being willing to have an elevated conversation about the challenges of our day. It is impossible to rise without being comfortable and confident in higher dialogue.

Second, remember that your goal is to rise with, not over, others. There is an old Scot-

tish saying, "Thee lift me and I'll lift thee and together we'll ascend." Sadly our society tells us more and more that we should just look out for number one and not worry about anyone else.

My dad came to this country with \$10 in his pocket in an attempt to rise above the poverty and strife of his native Haiti. Through grit and determination he and my mom provided me, and my siblings, the opportunity to rise in pursuit of our own version of the American dream.

I will always remember the day my dad dropped me off here on campus on orientation day. He was so excited and giddy as if he were the one ready to start the adventure on campus, away from home. At one point he became serious as he looked me in the eye and said, "Mia, your mom and I have worked hard to get us to this point today. You will not be a burden to society. You will give back. You will contribute. You will make a difference for others." What he was telling me is that it was part of my responsibility not only to rise myself, but to bring others along with me. Just as he had done with me.

I will confess that stepping onto this campus that day the thought of being a mayor, a mother or a member of congress were not remotely in my mind. But when I stepped off of this campus, as each of you will today, I was ready to rise to new roles, responsibilities and opportunities. Each of those roles has given me an opportunity to learn, to engage in elevated dialogue and help others rise to their potential.

You are the rising generation. You are the leaders, not just for tomorrow, but for today.

Today I challenge you to raise your sight, not just your status, as you enter the workforce and a world desperately in need of your energy, talent and commitment.

Remember the second half of Churchill's statement about those taps on the shoulder and those opportunities to rise. There is one more quote I'd like to share, by a man named John Greenleaf Whittier. He wrote, "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been.'"

Guys, we cannot accept "what might have been." It is a haunting horrible phrase. Fifty years from now you will have far more regrets about the opportunities you didn't take, the mountains you did not climb and the adventures you did not pursue than you will ever have for opportunities you took—even when you tried and failed.

When we fail to continuously learn—we will be left to live with what might have been.

When we fail to engage in elevated dialogue in our homes, communities, and places of employment—we will be left to live with what might have been.

When we fail to lift others as we ourselves rise—we will be left to live with what might have been.

A few years ago my family and I were at an event in our community. There was a large hot-air balloon there as part of the fun. An opportunity arose for me to go up in the balloon. As I approached they told me to bring one of my children along for the ride. I called to my son Peyton, who was 7 years old, to come jump in the basket with me. He hesitated and resisted. The balloon was ready to launch and we couldn't wait for Peyton to decide so I called to my daughter Abi who jumped in and off we went. After rising in the crisp, cool air and enjoying the amazing view of my district in Utah we started our return to the ground. As we began to descend the winds picked up and let's just say the landing was a bit of an adventure. Peyton had watched all the fun from the ground. As we got out of the basket he came running over shouting that he was ready for his turn. Unfortunately with the now windy conditions, the balloon had to stay on the ground.



The opportunity to rise and soar in the sky came and was gone.

I took Peyton aside and told him to remember this experience. Because in life, especially here in America, if you don't take an opportunity—it quickly passes and you never know if it will—come back. Presented with opportunity—we must rise to the occasion.

Graduates—your experiences on campus have given you a view from higher up. Remember those experiences—remember what it felt like to gain that new perspective, understand that new knowledge, ace that test, master that new skill or maximize your talent. So that when life knocks you down—and surely it will—you will get back up because you know what it takes to rise.

So my challenge to each of you is the same one I make to my colleagues in Congress—create opportunities every day for yourself, for those you love, and for good people everywhere to rise.

To you graduates I say —You got this. This is your tap on the shoulder. This is your time. These are your days—Rise.

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD GRADUATE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, MAY 20, 2017

THE HONORABLE RICHARD NEAL

Good morning President Harrison, President-Designate Woodward, parents, friends and guests. And of course the graduate school class of 2017. I am so honored to speak at University of Hartford's 60th Commencement Address. For me, it is a homecoming.

Looking around campus and at the students and faculty brings back fond memories of when I studied here for my Master's degree. For my first year, I worked in the Mayor of Springfield's office during the day and went to school at night. The second year, I went to school as a full time day student. The education I received here allowed me to serve as a lecturer at UMass Amherst and other institutions for the last 28 years.

The faculty certainly deserves special recognition. You blend your experience and teaching talents to help students reach their potential. As I have always said, when you reach your potential, your potential expands.

I applaud you for pushing students to rely on facts and listen closely to both sides of an argument. You encourage students to be curious and examine evidence while at the same time, discourage them from insulating themselves from opposing views. It is admirable and critical at a time when many students and activists refuse to hear both sides of an argument. The university is not the place for the incurious!

As a graduate student, your professors expected more from your writing, presentations and papers. In turn, you had to ensure your work and arguments were backed up with facts, not opinions.

Since the beginning of this Congressional session, the House Ways and Means Committee, of which I am the leading Democrat, has been at the heart of almost every major public policy debate about issues that directly impact our nation's economy, including: health care, tax, trade, and Social Security. My Committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle rely on facts and ensure we take time to listen to both sides of each argument. And like me, my colleagues think it is important to talk in complete sentences and give thought to something before we say anything. There is very little substantive thought and analysis that can be done in 140 characters or less.

Thanks to the education I received at University of Hartford and the support of its great faculty members, it taught me to think critically and prepared me to be the new Ranking Member of the Ways and Means

Committee. As a child who was raised by my aunt and grandmother on Social Security Survivor Benefits, the fact that I am standing here today having accomplished as much as I have is in due part to the great education I received throughout my lifetime.

As you move forward in your careers or toward your next degree, it is imperative you keep a critical eye on facts. Because today more than ever, facts should count. And not be seen as decorations to clever arguments.

Unfortunately, today facts are hazy or simply non-existent. The 24 hour news cycle creates a constant race to get news out before anyone else.

And often, facts are cast aside and "infotainment" takes over—entertainment is more and more disguised as news. News should not be entertaining, especially in today's political environment. Opinions draw ratings and provide a ripe environment for fake news to thrive.

Merriam Webster Dictionary is headquartered in Springfield, Massachusetts. They have become the referee in this new-aged news cycle—having to point out what words are being used correctly and when they simply are not. Who would have ever thought "bigly" would become part of our political vernacular?

Fake news is not based on fact, instead reflects the "only if you agree with me" mentality. This is a dangerous precedent. As we saw at Middlebury and Berkley earlier this year, the social media mob can disrupt a campus. It reflects the common misperception that you are entitled to your own set of opinions, but not your own set of facts. The university must remain the citadel of free speech and thought.

A former Clinton official recently said UC Berkley made a "grave mistake" when they originally cancelled an appearance earlier this year by a conservative commentator. These two people agree on almost nothing, but both fiercely defend the first amendment. Why? Because cancelling events like this sets the stage for a slippery slope towards dismantling the first amendment. A similar situation happened at Middlebury—student backlash in response to a conservative speaker sparked violence and other inappropriate behavior. Men and women in masks are inimical to representative democracy.

This goes to exactly what I am talking about. Cancelling events like this lacerate the first amendment. Many students like free speech—but only if they agree with the issue. When our founding fathers wrote the constitution, they didn't include an asterisk next to the first amendment that said "except if I don't agree with you." Students could have had an opportunity to hear a view different than their own, and used the experience to further develop and challenge their own fact based analytical thinking.

Biased news does not benefit anyone. Instead, it creates a toxic environment that breeds misinformation, anger, paranoia and stifles compromise and dialogue.

My staff knows not to even ask me if I will go on cable TV shows because the answer is always no. It is guaranteed to be filled with inflammatory language that is more focused on finding conflict than understanding the facts. It becomes incoherent!

Experience informs our judgement. It is critical for students to engage with people with whom you don't agree. It shapes your experience and ultimately your judgement. That's how I informed myself. I read articles and publications that may not agree with my opinion. I talk to those across the aisle. I meet and listen to constituents from all walks of life. And I always leave knowing more than I did when I walked in. It's all about broadening your scope. Democracy is supposed to be noisy.

Backlash at Berkley and Middlebury both point to how the first amendment is put at risk—those who think free speech is fine and safe until they are offended and in turn refuse to hear or even allow other opinions to have the opportunity to share their side of the story. The first amendment is the cornerstone of our constitutional system—the first amendment guarantees a second opinion.

How did we get here? Well one reason is the passage of time. I am a child of the 1960s. Younger people played a critical role in the civil rights movement and were focused on ending discrimination. As time has passed and the central figures of the 1960's have aged, the younger generation and organizations that have historically focused on civil rights have readjusted their focus to economic justice. While not to belittle economic justice, unfortunately, free speech and non-partisanship have fallen by the wayside.

How do we get back to a place where free speech is not only protected and guaranteed, but can flourish? One simple, important first step: listen. I was recently asked how I engage with younger people. The answer was easy—the same way I engage with anyone—I listen. Today, we talk too much and don't listen enough. We care more about our phones and posting information rather than listening. So much can be gained from listening—it generates thoughtful discussion, shows you care, expands your horizon, and often leads to new ideas and compromise.

I am certainly not saying this is easy. It's uncomfortable, but ultimately, it is an important step to protect free speech. The closing of the American mind is not helpful to growing democracy.

Columnist and Harvard Professor Cass R. Sunstein put it well in a recent Boston Herald opinion piece. He talked about the energy that goes into protests and encouraged students to think through how their actions and protests will ultimately help people rather than looking inward at college life.

As complex as things are today, facts are more important than ever. I challenge you to expand your potential, engage with people with opposing views, and take time to examine evidence to protect facts and discourage fake news. All of these actions ultimately protect the cornerstone of our democracy the first amendment.

Thank you President Harrison, President-Designate Woodward and the entire University of Hartford community. Congratulations on behalf of the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO EILEEN DENNIS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eileen Dennis of Atlantic, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Eileen was born on July 27, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Eileen's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Eileen has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Eileen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Eileen on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.