

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 758 the so-called “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015” or LARA.

Congress has only seven legislative days left before the government shuts down and vital programs and departments are left unfunded. We should be debating and voting on budgetary measures to make sure that the government can still function and remains open. We are here instead, discussing a bill that has been introduced every Congress since 2011. Instead of voting on ways the government will stay open so we can continue to fund vital national priorities, we are here talking about legislation that does not solve any demonstrated need.

This bill seeks to fix the problem of frivolous lawsuits by enacting a law that used to exist and which judges themselves later rejected. A mandatory sanction of Rule 11 violations was an experiment that was tried in 1983 and was dismissed and abandoned just ten years later in 1993. Almost 100 percent of federal judges surveyed by the Federal Judicial Committee state that Rule 11 should not be altered in the way this Act envisions and 86 percent of judges think the existing rule is fine as is.

This bill will increase the cost and volume of cases and make it exponentially harder to advance civil rights suits. Landmark civil rights cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Griswold v. Connecticut*, and *Lawrence v. Texas* would not have survived if Rule 11 existed as this bill envisions. We should not put up barriers to continuing civil rights progress through the courts.

This bill is opposed by The American Bar Association, The Federal Judicial Center and countless other legal organizations. Their voices are clear: leave Rule 11 and judicial autonomy alone. Congress does not need to “fix” a problem that simply does not exist.

The Judiciary Committee report says that this law would “dispel the culture of fear that has come to permeate American society.” American society does not fear the existing process for Rule 11 sanctions. The American public is concerned about roads not being built, about the government shutting down, and about losing their health care coverage.

The American public does not want the government to shutdown. They have been there and done that. The last government shut down costs the American people \$24 billion dollars in lost economic output. That is why I introduced the Prevent a Government Shutdown Act of 2015. That is what we should be debating and voting on right now, Mr. Speaker. Not a law that was tried and rejected 22 years ago.

## HONORING VIETNAM ERA VET- ERANS OF MAINE'S SECOND DIS- TRICT

**HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I'm humbled by the opportunity to honor and welcome home our Vietnam Era Heroes to Northern Maine and take part in Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day.

I thank The County Vietnam Veterans, and their families, for the sacrifices they made to protect our freedoms and special way of life. The memory of their heroics will inspire Maine generations to come.

One of my true joys has been connecting with thousands of our Maine Veterans. I have had the honor to meet our local heroes from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and in many more settings. Their patriotism, commitment to duty, humility and camaraderie inspire my own public service.

In June, at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, I had the privilege to help properly recognize and welcome home 1,000 of our Vietnam Veterans. It was an emotional gathering for our heroes who did all that was asked of them and served our Country with honor, but did not receive their due gratitude and respect from millions of Americans when they returned home. Our courageous servicemen in The County, Bangor, and throughout the state of Maine deserve our absolute and unwavering gratitude.

I stand with your fellow Mainers in thanks for all that you have given to our Country. We will never forget your bravery.

## RECOGNIZING THE ROLIN FAMILY AS THE 2015 ESCAMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA, OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Rolin Family for being selected as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

SunnySlope Berry Farm, located in Pensacola, Florida, first began as a heifer farm, producing local dairy. However, after five years, Barry and Glenda Rolin decided it was time for a change, and the couple planted their first blueberry field in the winter of 2008. Once the blueberries had become a success, the Rolin family then planted several hundred blackberry canes, selling both berry varieties to local markets in Florida and neighboring Alabama. Finally, after a few years of allowing the crops

to flourish, the family opened up SunnySlope Berry Farm to the public. Now, families from the surrounding areas can build their own memories by coming to SunnySlope Berry Farm and picking their own berries.

The Rolin's first planted berries to teach their children—Kendra, Amy, Starla, and Shawn—about responsibility; and today SunnySlope Berry Farms is truly a family affair. The children wake up every morning and finish their chores before heading into school. For Barry and Glenda, married for 23 years, a typical day includes picking berries until late morning, packaging and delivering berries midday, picking again until dark, and packaging the remainder at the end of the day. Although many people may be unaware of the amount of work that goes into SunnySlope, the community certainly appreciates everything the Rolin family does to keep the farm running, from producing delicious berries to creating priceless memories.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida and our Nation share a proud agricultural tradition built by the hard work of farmers and their families. The Escambia County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of the Rolin's tireless work and their dedication to family and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Rolin family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

## IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSTAS CAFE

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Rostas Cafe. The restaurant, located in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is a city landmark and has continually provided my constituents with a fantastic dining and community experience.

Rostas Cafe was founded by John “Kookie” and Grace Rostas in 1950. The cafe originally opened as a bar, serving only fresh, hot pizza to the public. A true family business, John and Grace's daughter, Alfreda, became involved with her parent's enterprise when she was a teenager. Upon John's retirement, Alfreda and her husband, Tony Calucci, took over the restaurant. Tony's father, Nick, expanded the menu options to include hoagies, sandwiches, sizeable antipastos, and salads.

Tragedy struck in March of 1994 when a fire devastated this Hazleton landmark, destroying the entire interior of the restaurant. Its patrons, faced with losing one of their favorite community gathering spots, called upon the restaurant to rebuild as soon as possible. In a miraculous feat, the cafe reopened in June of 1994, bigger and better than ever. Such a

• 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.

quick renovation is testament to the commitment and hard work of Alfredo and Tony Calucci, as well as the importance of the restaurant's role within the Hazleton community. Today, Rostas Cafe remains a Hazleton staple, and Melissa Calucci has joined her parents in adding to the restaurant's success and character.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Rostas Cafe as it celebrates its 65th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for this community landmark that continues to bring generations of the Hazleton community closer together, and I look forward to the cafe's success over the years to come.

#### HONORING GARRETT NICHOLAS DOWNEY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Nicholas Downey. Garrett 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 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett 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, Garrett has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Nicholas Downey 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 MR. ALBERT "BUTCH" ARENAL

#### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Butch" Arenal, retiring Chief of Police for the Punta Gorda Police Department in Punta Gorda, Florida.

For the past three decades, Butch has been a pillar in our Florida community. Born and raised in Charlotte County, Butch has dedicated his adult life to the Punta Gorda Police Department. He has been with the Department for almost 30 years, and has served as Chief of Police for eight of those years.

Under his leadership, the Department was awarded the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Small Business award as well as a number of other well-deserved accolades. Additionally, he will be sworn in as the President of the Florida Police Chief's Association, which is but a small testament of his leadership ability. As a member of Congress, it has been my pleasure to work with Butch professionally and get to know him personally.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for the Charlotte County Community as we say farewell to

Butch and wish him the best of luck as he joins Coconut Creek Police Department, they are truly lucky to have him.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARY GABRIELE, THE OLDEST ITALIAN-AMERICAN IN THE HAZLETON AREA

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mary Gabriele as she is celebrated as the oldest Italian-American in the Hazleton Area, an honor bestowed upon her by the Hazleton Chapter of UNICO. UNICO is the largest Italian-American service and volunteer organization in the United States, and has a significant, positive impact within my congressional district.

On March 19, 1909, Mary was born to Nicholas and Tomasina Lauro in Medix Run, Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Hazleton Heights in 1916 where she was able to establish strong, communal roots. As one of nine children, Mary began working at the Duplan Silk Mill at the youthful age of 14. The fact that she committed long and arduous hours at the facility did not stop her from obtaining an education, however. She went on to impressively complete her studies at St. Gabriel's High School during the evenings—a feat symbolic of her tireless work ethic.

Mary married Nazario Gabriele in 1935, and the newly married couple moved to Peace Street in Hazleton. It was here where Mary and Nazario raised their four children: Carmel, Nicholas, Mary, and Thomasina. After dedicating years to her family, Mary returned to the workforce at numerous retail stores in the area, including Bon Ton, Leader, Dotte's, and Fashion Bug. Mary and Nazario were married for a wonderful 49 years before Nazario passed away in 1984.

Currently, Mary resides at Providence Place in Drums, where she remains active and enjoys visits from friends and her extended family, including five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mary Gabriele as the oldest Italian-American in the Hazleton Area. My community is extremely fortunate to have now called her a neighbor for close to 100 years. I hope she will be able to celebrate this monumental occasion in the company of her family and friends.

#### HONORING SEAN CHRISTOPHER McMULLEN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Christopher McMullen. Sean 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 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean 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, Sean has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT S. LAUBACH

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Robert Laubach, a pioneer in adult literacy and lifelong advocate of literacy and education. Dr. Robert Laubach, affectionately known as Dr. Bob, was born in the Philippines and lived there through his high school years. Dr. Bob moved to the United States and completed his undergraduate studies in Ohio. He went on to pursue graduate studies at Syracuse University where he earned a master's degree in journalism and a Ph.D. in education.

Dr. Bob developed his love of literacy and journalism at an early age, working the printing press for his dad's early literacy work. Dr. Bob traveled to over 40 countries in 5 years when he was in his twenties with his father and Dr. Bob carried his passion for literacy, both nationally and internationally for the rest of his life.

In 1952, Dr. Bob founded the Syracuse University Literacy Journalism program and taught hundreds of educators from around the world how to prepare literacy materials. Dr. Bob developed literacy primers in local languages and organized literacy programs in more than 60 countries. In 1959, Dr. Bob began publishing *News for You*, a weekly news source for adult new readers, which is still in publication today. Dr. Bob also founded New Readers Press, which develops and publishes instructional materials for adult learners and adult education teachers. Today, New Readers Press continues to provide over 400 educational titles that help adults learn how to read, write, and do basic math.

Dr. Bob was more than an educator, he was an innovator who helped changed countless lives by giving the gift of literacy. Dr. Bob's legacy of literacy will live on in the Central New York community, and all over the world through the thousands of literacy organizations, tutors, trainers, volunteers, and students who continue to work toward his dream of a world where everyone can read and write.

HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIVERSITY  
OF MOBILE'S PROJECT SERVE**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the students, faculty, staff, and administration at the University of Mobile for their commitment to community service through "Project Serve."

The University of Mobile, which was founded in 1961 by Alabama Baptists as a Christian university, established Project Service during the university's 50th anniversary in 2011. For Project Serve, the university cancels classes for the day, and the classroom moves into the community in order to provide students and faculty with an opportunity to serve others. This year's event will be held on September 25th.

This is a record year for Project Serve with more than 1,200 members of the University of Mobile community signed up. On the 25th, these students will spread out to over 60 locations in Mobile and Baldwin counties to take part in service activities. For example, students from the School of Nursing will administer blood pressure checks, do laundry, and paint fingernails for residents of Little Sisters of the Poor. The RamCorps brass and percussion unit will perform for youth at the Strickland Youth Center. The men's basketball team will partner with Habitat for Humanity to build homes. These are just a few examples of the service projects that will make a big difference for people in Southwest Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the University of Mobile for making community service such an important part of their college experience. Through Project Serve, students will learn that there is more to personal development than just what you can find in a textbook. While Project Serve will only last one day, I am confident the experience will lead to a lifetime of service for everyone in the University of Mobile community.

HONORING ALAN DOAN AND  
SARAH GALBRAITH**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alan Doan and Sarah Galbraith, small business owners from Hamilton, Missouri, on being named the Small Business Persons of the Year by the Small Business Administration, in recognition of their company, the Missouri Star Quilt Co.

After their father lost his retirement savings in the 2008 market crash, Alan and Sarah thought of their mother's skills with sewing and quilting. They decided to take out a loan to purchase a quilting machine to make the quilts and earn extra money to support their family. They began their business in a small building close to their parents' home and that is where Missouri Star Quilt Co. was born. They decided that in order to grow their business, they needed to reach a broader market and began putting quilting tutorial videos on the internet.

Their business grew exponentially and soon they were receiving more orders than they could handle. Today, the Missouri Star Quilt Co. has more than 180 employees in Hamilton, Missouri, they have prompted other small businesses to open up their shops nearby, and have attracted as many as 10,000 tourists a month to Hamilton, which has a population less than 2,000. Their small business has not only profited and thrived, but has allowed many members of their community to thrive as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alan Doan and Sarah Galbraith for their achievement in receiving the SBA Small Business Persons of the Year award, as well as their hard work and commitment to their community.

HONORING GLENN HACKNEY FOR  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC  
SERVICE**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of the most dedicated, selfless and kind-hearted individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, Mr. Glenn Hackney. He is a friend and a true unsung hero for whom I have the deepest admiration.

Glenn moved to Alaska before statehood, arriving in 1948. He served in the State House from 1972 to 1976 and the State Senate from 1976 to 1980. From the time of his arrival, Glenn began a life of service to Alaska. Mere words today cannot express the profound impact Glenn has had on the lives of many; he has truly done so much good, for so many people. Glenn has always lived by the simple words of Abraham Lincoln and I quote: "To ease another's headache is to forget one's own."

In that same vein, Glenn's service to his community runs deep. I recall a time when Glenn was cleaning up the streets of Fairbanks, AK and was struck by a vehicle. He suffered many broken bones and endured great pain, but never held any ill-will towards the driver. In fact, he was more concerned for the driver's well-being than his own. Soon thereafter, he was back on the street once again doing his part to clean up the community. Glenn is a strong, silent leader; a gentleman and a dear friend. I hope that this body will join me in recognizing his contributions to society and the great state of Alaska.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRUCK  
DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week, September 13–19, is designated National Truck Driver Appreciation Week and is set aside to honor the 3.4 million professional truck drivers in the United States. Trucking employs more than 7 million people, making it not just essen-

tial to our economy, but one of our country's largest sources of employment as well.

Citizens in every community around the nation rely on trucks—for the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the products we use. As Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I know firsthand how important truckers are to the strength and well-being of our great nation.

But trucks don't move without highly skilled drivers. I have long fought to ensure the safety of American roads and to preserve American trucking jobs. I have also advanced measures to ensure that all truck drivers have the opportunity make a decent living.

In order for our truckers to do their jobs, they need Congress to do its job and pass a long-overdue, robust highways reauthorization. Truck drivers are on the front lines and face the effects of Congressional inaction every day.

More than 147,000 bridges in the United States are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete (one of every four bridges). Nearly two thirds of the nation's roads are in less than "good" condition. Congestion is a ballooning problem, affecting 42 percent of America's major roads and costing the economy \$121 billion a year.

While our infrastructure has deteriorated, Congress has been asleep at the wheel, passing short-term patches that prolong uncertainty and force states to delay critical projects to fix decrepit, weight-restricted bridges that can't handle freight trucks or pockmarked highways that blow out tires.

As our needs have increased, surface transportation programs have been limping along with flat funding since 2009. The federal gas tax pays for highways and public transit, but it has not been raised in 22 years, and its purchasing power has fallen 40 percent. We need to do more than the status quo.

This must change. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is currently working on a bill to improve the conditions of our nation's roads, bridges, and intermodal facilities by reauthorizing surface transportation programs. A long-term bill is the only responsible action for Congress to take.

Robust levels of Federal investment make a truck driver's workplace—our highways—safer and more efficient. The Federal government needs to continue its leading role in promoting an interconnected interstate system vital to the timely movement of goods and people. This system must be paid for with guaranteed, sustainable funding that will bring our economy into the 21st Century—and not myopic solutions to replace a strong Federal role, such as tolling or privatization.

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is an opportunity to reflect on the vital role that truck drivers play in supporting and sustaining our economy and our society. The best way Congress can honor truck drivers is to pass a fully funded, long-term authorization bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF NAVAL AIR STATION  
JACKSONVILLE**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Naval Air

Station Jacksonville, one of the United States Navy's pivotal bases. For Jacksonville citizens, this anniversary brings back a flood of memories. Many began their journeys here as young sailors ready to go to sea. They enlisted and scattered far and wide. Now, years later, many of these same sailors will commemorate this important base. For these sailors their sea anchor is right here in this military friendly town.

In 1938, before there was an NAS Jax—as we lovingly call the base—there were citizens who lobbied the Hepburn Board as it searched for a new naval base in the Southeast. The citizens voted to support bonds to purchase the property and construction began in 1939.

The base was commissioned on Oct. 15, 1940, with Captain Charles P. Mason serving as its first commanding officer. Walt Disney drew a logo for the new base depicting Donald Duck in flight gear and sporting gold wings emerging from an egg as NAS Jacksonville was given birth.

As America entered World War II, construction and the pace of training increased at NAS Jax. Soon, there were three runways operating as well as seaplane ramps. An overhaul and repair facility was begun to rework the station's planes. Today, that facility is called the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, and they still inhabit some of the original buildings from the 1940's.

By 1949, NAS Jacksonville was the plane capital of the East Coast and handled 60 percent of the fleet's air striking force in the Atlantic area from pole to pole. As the Navy led the dawning of the jet age, the first jet carrier air groups and squadrons came to Jacksonville. So it was only natural that the Navy's first Flight Demonstration Team—later known as the Blue Angels—got its start at NAS Jacksonville. Fleet Air Wing 11, now the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, relocated to the station followed in the 1970s by Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, U.S. Atlantic, and its squadrons.

Over the ensuing decades, NAS Jacksonville supported the Navy's efforts during wartime and peace. Its pilots and planes flew in combat and training. Planes and other airframes were retired and new ones put into the inventory. As with other bases, buildings were added, old buildings were renovated, and personnel came and went.

Today, the runways are being totally rebuilt. The new airframe is heavier and larger than its predecessor and after 75 years of service, those original runways are being recycled. In a way, today's pilots will still be taking off and landing on the history of those who went before them.

NAS Jacksonville is a recent two-time winner of the Commander's in Chief, Naval Installations Command Excellence Award and is home to the newest manned and unmanned systems that Naval Aviation has in its inventory.

The Navy has led in advancing innovation because the Navy must ensure our maritime supremacy and national security. NAS Jacksonville has for 75 years been the face of that strength in Northeast Florida. Our citizens hear the sounds of freedom in support of our Nation's defense. NAS Jax has been a constant in my life and in the lives of all in Jacksonville. The greatness of this premier base is woven into the memories of all who have shared in the pride of having NAS Jacksonville within our city limits.

I salute the 75th Anniversary of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, which continues to be a major employer and economic stimulator, but more importantly, its personnel continues to contribute through their hard work and dedication to the important missions of our Nation's defense.

#### HONORING CALEB PRETTYMAN

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Prettyman. Caleb 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 75, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Caleb 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, Caleb has earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Caleb has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Caleb sanded and repainted all 24 of the fire hydrants in Barnard, Missouri, and installed locator antennas on them so that they may easily be located in the event of an emergency.

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

#### HONORING JACK COGHILL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

##### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great Alaskan and someone I am honored and privileged to call my friend, Mr. Jack Coghill. Without Jack, I would not be here today as the Congressman for all Alaska; I might very well be retired or even buried near the banks of the Yukon River.

Jack's commitment to public service goes back long before Alaska statehood. He served as the Mayor of Nenana for 22 years, served in the Territorial House from 1952 to 1956 and was a State Senator for the first three Legislatures. He rounded out his time in elected office as Alaska's sixth Lieutenant Governor from 1990 to 1994.

Beyond his elected political career, Jack—dubbed “Mr. Republican”—has had a profound impact upon all of Alaska as one of the 55 framers of the state constitution.

On a very personal note, in 1972 Jack was one of the few people who believed in me enough to encourage me to run for Congress. Jack not only encouraged my run but worked tirelessly in his support of my candidacy. None

of us knew at that time there would be a horrific accident in which Congressman Nick Begich and House Majority Leader Hal Boggs would be lost in a flight from Anchorage to Juneau. Due to this loss, it was up to the Republican State Central Committee to appoint a Republican candidate for the Special election rather than go through a formal primary process. Despite many other qualified candidates, Jack stood by me and convinced his colleagues on the Central Committee to vote in my favor. I am forever thankful for his role in shaping the path that has led me to serve as the Congressman for all Alaska these past 42 years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of September 17, 2015, a vote was held. Had I been present for this roll call vote, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 497—I vote “NAY.”

#### HONORING DONALD F. HARRISON

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald F. Harrison, a teacher at Parkview Elementary in Cameron, Missouri, who was recently named America's Top Teacher by Live with Kelly and Michael.

Donn is more than just a teacher in Cameron. He also serves as a crossing guard, a volunteer firefighter, and an EMT for Cameron. He also serves as the unofficial voice of Cameron, announcing track meets, basketball games and any other church and school events he can make. Known for his affinity towards bowties and Chuck Taylors, Donn's nomination created an instant sensation in Cameron. Every business in town changed their signs to encourage folks to vote for Donn, ‘Vote for Donn’ yard signs sprung up across town, and social media posts drove the vote for Donn. Winning this award not only earned him a well-deserved vacation and new car, it also provided the Cameron R-I School District with computers to facilitate the classroom experience.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, his wife, Lynette, and their family and friends in commending Donald F. Harrison for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom and for his efforts put forth in achieving this high distinction.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JON WOODS

##### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Jon Woods,

the long-time director of The Ohio State University Marching Band. He passed away on Saturday, September 12th fittingly on a day when so many of his former students were gathered together for the alumni game to perform with the current band during pre-game and half-time shows. I was privileged to be one of his students when I was a member of The Best Damn Band In The Land (TBDBITL).

Dr. Woods grew up in Pennsylvania, studied music education, and received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Penn State University, and a doctorate from "that school up North"—the University of Michigan. After serving 10 years as an associate director he became the director in 1983.

For 28 years he led TBDBITL. He was an innovator, creating computer-designed halftime shows that are now one of the band's trademarks. He led by example, quiet but firm, encouraging comradery and promoting a tradition of excellence. Notably, he always strove to improve the band's performances and inspired that drive in his students. Unusual among his peers, Dr. Woods was also a professor and an advisor. In fact, he felt his greatest legacy was his students.

During his career his name became synonymous with the band as he directed shows at 35 bowl games and three presidential inaugurations. It was my honor to work with him to secure the band's ability to march in the 1989 inaugural parade for President George Bush, the 2001 inaugural parade for President George W. Bush and the 2009 inaugural parade for President Barack Obama. He said his favorite game was the 2002 National Championship overtime win against The University of Miami. Dr. Woods' greatest honor was dotting the "i" during his final season.

A trombone player himself, Dr. Woods looked forward to retiring so he could be more involved in his own musical group, Trombones Plus. He was also looking forward to travelling with his wife, Donna and spending time with his children and granddaughter, Reese. While his family will deeply feel his loss, Dr. Woods touched countless people's lives. He will be missed by his students, the university, and the TBDBITL community.

HONORING MARY BINKLEY FOR  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC  
SERVICE

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an Alaskan Pioneer—a woman who helped shape our great State and a dear friend of mine—Mary Binkley. From her humble beginnings with Jim on the Chena and Tanana Rivers to her dedication to public service, Mary has been a solid foundation to her family, Fairbanks and the state of Alaska.

Mary arrived to Alaska in 1944. As the matriarch of the Binkley family, Mary was crucial to the growth of their family business—from the Godspeed, a 25-passenger vessel, to what would become the Binkley enterprise. She has been the backbone of the Discover Riverboat Touring Company since its founding in 1950;

a business which still operates today. When her husband, Jim, entered the Alaska State Legislature, Mary stepped up to successfully manage the family business. The company played a vital role in helping grow and modernize the entire region. When I traveled in Fairbanks, I traveled on the Riverboats Discovery.

Mary has been a leading Alaskan woman her entire life. She has always had a big heart and deep respect for the rich history and culture of the Alaska Native people. She consistently went out of her way to hire Alaska Natives, learning everything she could about their culture and graciously sharing hers in return. Those relationships echo her tireless efforts to build community.

Her dedication to improving the economy and her resilience to the unforgiving Alaskan frontier make her the definition of determination. I will always consider Mary a dear friend and pivotal stalwart in moving Alaska into the future. I could not be more honored to recognize her lifelong efforts as an Alaskan and one who sets the standard for others to follow.

HONORING TRENTON YATES  
CALTON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trenton Yates Calton. Trenton 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 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trenton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trenton 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, Trenton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING KATHLEEN "MIKE"  
DALTON FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an Alaskan pioneer, a lifelong dedicated civil servant and volunteer, Mrs. Kathleen "Mike" Dalton. Life was not easy in any way for the pioneers of Alaska; only the strong in heart and mind would thrive in such an unforgiving environment. Mike's life epitomizes the spirit of resilience and strength which advanced an early Alaskan frontier.

As a young girl, Mike moved to Alaska in 1949. She began her lifelong involvement in

politics and public service in 1962, and quickly became the backbone of the Fairbanks Republican Women. She has proudly served in numerous political positions throughout her life, and played an integral role in the office of Senator Ted Stevens.

Civic service was only one effort of the Dalton family. Mike's husband, Jim was instrumental to advancing U.S. energy and defense as a pioneer engineer of the early oil exploration efforts in the Arctic and the Distant Early Warning radar line (DEW line). Both of which made a great impact to the nation.

On a personal note, the Daltons have always treated me as one of their own. I will never forget the many times they opened their house off Dalton Trail to my late wife Lu, my daughters and me. I will always cherish the memories, friendship and unwavering support we've shared over the years. Alaska would be a different place without Mike, and it is only fitting that she be recognized for all her efforts.

HONORING JACOB I. HUTTON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob I. Hutton. Jacob 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 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob 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, Jacob has earned the rank of Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob planted landscaping around the sign for the First Christian Church of Cameron, Missouri.

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

HONORING THE USS SIMPSON

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the fine Sailors who have served on the USS *Simpson* (FFG 56). On September 30, 2015, the *Simpson*, which is the last active Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate, will be decommissioned and leave the active United States Navy fleet.

The *Simpson* is named for Rear Admiral Rodger W. Simpson (1898–1964), who was a distinguished officer during World War II. RADM Simpson was awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star and Legion of Merit for rescuing and evacuating more than 7,500 Allied prisoners of war and civilians interned in Japanese concentration camps. The USS *Simpson* was commissioned on November 9, 1985.

From its first overseas deployment, the USS *Simpson* and her crew have distinguished themselves in combat. On April 18, 1988, along with two other navy ships, the *Simpson* responded to the Iranian mine attack on the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* by destroying an Iranian oil platform and sinking the Iranian Navy mission patrol combatant, *Joshan*.

Over her 30 years of service, the *Simpson* made 14 deployments. Her final deployment was for seven months to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation in which she conducted theater security cooperation exercises. As in the past, the crew was called on to support various task forces and performed perfectly never missing an operational commitment. Every sailor made a difference every day. In addition, some of the newest technologies in the Navy were aboard, four Fire Scouts (MQ-8B) vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicles.

The crew on the last deployment was comprised of reservists as well as active duty individual augmented personnel with zero previous experience with UAV's. Despite the challenges, the officers aboard reported the crew achieved the highest ever recorded maintenance readiness and sortie completion rate of any Fire Scout deployment in the program's history.

The *Simpson* will be decommissioned but the friendships and camaraderie this ship established on its decks will last for ages. It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve in the 4th Congressional District of Florida and to see them successfully complete the mission of the USS *Simpson*. Their hard work and dedication contributes to the important missions of our Nation's defense and reiterates our community's importance as an anchor of national security.

CONGRATULATING MRS. GLORIA GALLOWAY ON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Gloria Galloway, a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congressional Liaison Service, on the occasion of her retirement. Gloria has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. She has served with the Department of Veterans Affairs for more than 36 years and her career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion. As Gloria embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions she has made to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send her my best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors, and may her life be filled with health and happiness.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 497, I was absent during roll call number 497 (the Previous Question on H. Res. 420) the afternoon of September 17, 2015 because I was meeting with constituents from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

### A TRIBUTE TO CARL AND DENISE JARDON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl and Denise Jardon of Randolph, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award presented by the Fremont County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Carl and Denise were selected for this award based on their outstanding work in incorporating terraces, no-till farming, nitrogen stabilizer, and cover crops into their 368-acre farm operation. These practices are instrumental in helping preserve clean water and soil for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Carl and Denise for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication to protecting the environment will benefit their property and others. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Carl and Denise for this achievement. I wish them nothing but the best moving forward.

### THE FAIR ACCESS TO EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fair Access to Education Act of 2015. This legislation would bring fairness to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which determines federal student aid, and currently asks eligibility questions about a student's drug conviction history.

Under this legislation, an applicant with misdemeanor marijuana possession offenses will not have to check the box when applying for federal financial assistance. It also immediately provides eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance to those whose applications were suspended due to a marijuana misdemeanor offense.

Too often those with misdemeanor drug offenses, such as simple marijuana possession, continue to be discriminated against or stigmatized long after they've paid their fines or served their time. Such is the case when it

comes to higher education. One of our greatest opportunities as Americans to better ourselves and start anew is pushed out of reach for many because of an outdated bias built into our federal student aid application.

Under current law, the FAFSA requires applicants to disclose any drug-related offense they've had while receiving federal student aid. This outdated question is on the application because of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which authorizes federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession.

If that box is checked when a student submits an application, the application is immediately placed on hold and the student is informed that the application cannot be processed and additional steps are required to determine eligibility. This intimidating process often has the effect of discouraging students from continuing.

Public opinion and state law is shifting dramatically on questions related to marijuana. Prohibition is outdated and does not reflect how Americans think, nor how they actually behave. Nearly half of the population has smoked marijuana at some point in their lives, and now in four states and the District of Columbia, people can do so legally.

It is senseless that we would limit a student's future for any drug offense for which they have served their sentence, and even more senseless that we would do so for an offense for a drug that a majority believes should be legal.

The FAFSA question—number 23 for the 2015–16 school year—is outdated, unfair, and traps those seeking to recover from mistakes and create opportunities for themselves. Current policy is inevitably more harmful to those with the greatest need. If a student has a misdemeanor marijuana offense but is fully able to afford an education on their own, their future is not limited. But if a student has taken strides to recover from past mistakes and is seeking help in getting an education, current policy will only hold them back.

The Fair Access to Education Act would help reduce recidivism and strengthen our communities.

### RECOGNIZING THE MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud an organization in my state on its 25th anniversary year of studying the effects of toxic chemicals on environmental and human health.

The Marine & Environmental Research Institute (MERI)—based in Blue Hill, Maine—began in 1990 with a group of scientists concerned about the impact of pollutants on marine mammal populations that were experiencing massive die-offs and disease outbreaks. Led by Dr. Susan Shaw, the organization has done incredible work since then investigating the effects toxic exposure has on health outcomes in the marine environment.

Moreover, the group has shown that toxic exposure has significant consequences for

human health as well. I especially appreciate MERI's groundbreaking studies of the effects of chemical exposure on firefighters, a group that encounters high incidences of cancer. The organization has conducted the most extensive bio-monitoring assessment of firefighters to date and continues to gather information that can be used to protect the health of the first responders who keep our communities safe.

As beings on this planet, we cannot separate ourselves from the environment. What we do to it, we do to ourselves. I truly appreciate MERI's work to remind us all that wildlife and humans alike benefit from protecting the environment and limiting the spread of dangerous chemicals. May it continue to do this important work for many years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW SHAFNER

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Matthew Shafner, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Matt was a beloved native son of the Groton-New London community, and a legendary attorney who never wavered as a champion of the underdog.

Born in New London in 1935, Matt attended the Bulkeley School and graduated from New London High School in 1953. Growing up, Matt worked for his family's renowned furniture business headed by his father, who also served as a state representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. Matt earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and was awarded a law degree from UConn Law School in 1959. Shortly thereafter, Matt opened and built a workers' compensation practice with John O'Brien in New London, representing the region's shipyard workers. These deep roots in the southeastern Connecticut community indelibly connected Matt with the citizens—his neighbors—whom he would represent in the courtroom.

In the early seventies, Matt took the case of a shipyard worker who died of lung cancer and then took on asbestos companies. The lawsuits started with one asbestos case and one lung cancer case and quickly grew to 12 cases and then 50 cases including asbestos, lung cancer, mesothelioma, laryngeal cancer, esophageal cancer and GI cancer. By the end of the decade, the first 50 asbestos cases settled for \$6.5 million—winning surviving families justice and compensation for their losses.

Matt continued to handle many other cases, including 90 aerospace workers who had developed brain tumors after working in the same factory. Another powerful case for Matt arose out of a fabricated glove and aprons manufacturer in northeastern Connecticut using chrysotile asbestos cloth and gas masks with crocidolite asbestos filters. The plant manager's son, who worked during school vacations and was a biking champion of Connecticut, developed pleural mesothelioma at age 41. He died soon after, leaving a young wife and two infant children. Matt won the case for this family in court.

In the New London Day, Senior Superior Court Judge Robert Martin described Matt as

a “unanimous first ballot hall-of-fame lawyer. He had no peer in the personal injury field. We have a lot of good lawyers in New London County, but Matt really set the bar and I think everybody played off him. I don't know any lawyer who cared about justice more than Matt Shafner.”

Matt served his community as faithfully he served individuals in need, as the attorney for the City of Groton for 20 years.

Matt was named among the Super Lawyers of Connecticut every year from 2007 to 2012, as well as in New England and Metropolitan New York. Matt served as President of the New London County Bar Association, on the Board of Governors of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association and as State Delegate to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. His lectures included a 1981 address to the XI Triennial World Congress of Pathology in Jerusalem on the legal aspects of asbestos disease. Matt was awarded the first Paul Tremont Award for Advocacy recognizing the first asbestos litigation in the Northeast filed in 1975.

In addition to his prolific professional career, Matt was a stalwart, grassroots activist in local, state, and national politics. A member of the Groton Democratic Town Committee, Matt faithfully worked at party headquarters, attended conventions as a delegate, and shared his compassionate perspective on issues of the day in the press and with public officials and candidates.

I benefited greatly from Matt's strong support during my two campaigns for Congress as a challenger. In 2006, when my race was decided by 83 votes out of 242,000 cast, Matt volunteered to help with the recount process—a very tense and challenging task. His training and experience as a lawyer and his passion for democracy were a perfect blend, from which I feel honored to have benefited.

For someone so accomplished, Matt was known equally for his extraordinary humility. His gentleness belied a tenacity in the courtroom that was unparalleled for his clients and achieved major victories for them.

Matt is survived by his wife Denise, four children, three step-children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sorrow for their loss and to the southeastern Connecticut community who lost a humble legal legend, who never stopped fighting for the underdog.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELLEN GRACE BROWN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellen Grace Brown on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Ms. Brown celebrated her 100th birthday on August 30th, 2015 in Lenox, Iowa.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Ms. Brown'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. Ms. Brown has lived

through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

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

#### COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEXINGTON

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the centennial year of the Rotary Club of Lexington, Kentucky. This honorable humanitarian organization has been bringing men and women together to serve the Bluegrass community since 1915. It is one of the oldest and best established community-oriented organizations in the state and was Lexington's first civic club. The newly established Rotary Club first met in the historic Phoenix Hotel, which has been host to numerous celebrities and public figures including six United States Presidents. The club has grown over the years to become the twenty first largest in the world.

The motto of the Rotary Club is “Service over Self” and the Lexington club certainly exemplifies that. They are a shining example of individuals with servants' hearts coming together to better their community. Rotary organizes and implements several significant service projects that benefit our community, our commonwealth, and the world. Hundreds of community projects have been completed by the Rotary Club of Lexington, including providing clothing for children in the Fayette County School System, organizing the Southern Lights Santa Project, funding the Surgery on Sunday program, mentoring and assisting in school classrooms, funding the Born Learning night classes for parents, awarding sizeable college scholarships, and sponsoring international youth exchange programs. Rotary raises money and donates thousands of dollars each year to worthy programs such as the End Polio Now campaign and the Cardinal Hill Foundation.

Rotary membership consists of business owners, professionals, managers, and community leaders who take great interest in the happenings and welfare of the community. Lexington's Rotary Club members have been instrumental in community action for the betterment of Lexington and the quality of life of its citizens for one hundred years and this is cause for celebration. It is my honor to stand before the United States House of Representatives to acknowledge the historic celebration for the Rotary Club of Lexington. I wish them the best for a successful future in their next one hundred years.



SGT. RAYMOND J. KOOMAN

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Raymond J. Kooman, who served bravely in World War II and survived as a prisoner of war in a German prison camp. Sgt. Kooman is being honored today at the 2015 POW/MIA Recognition Month Ceremony in Hackensack, NJ for his service.

In 1942, Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Kooman, enlisted in the service at the age of 19, serving in the United States Army, 28th Infantry Keystone Division. The red keystone, official emblem of the State of Pennsylvania, is the official shoulder sleeve insignia of the 28th Division which was originally a Pennsylvania National Guard organization. The Germans called it the 'Bloody Buckle' because of the blood-red keystone insignia and vicious fighting tactics during the Normandy Campaign. It was the 28th Infantry that paraded through the streets of Paris after the city's liberation. The division traces its history back to Benjamin Franklin's "Battalions for Associators" organized in 1747.

In October 1943, Sgt. Kooman was deployed to the European battlefield. He had been in action since D-Day and served with reconnaissance patrols, and in attacks on enemy strongholds. He continued to serve as a rifleman with the infantry in the European Theatre. On September 14, 1944 Sgt. Kooman was wounded when a German sniper shot him in the leg. He recovered quickly from his injuries and three weeks later he was sent back into action. After five months of fighting in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, the 28th Infantry was deployed along a 25-mile stretch of the Our River, from north-eastern Luxembourg to Wallenstein, Germany.

On December 18, 1944, just three months after being injured, Sgt. Kooman was captured and taken prisoner by enemy German troops in Luxembourg. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and was eventually held as a POW in Stalag IV B in Germany. Sgt. Kooman weighed 155 pounds when he enlisted and weighed only 80 pounds when he was liberated by British soldiers. He also fell ill to dysentery, as had all prisoners. However, somehow, Sgt. Kooman found the will to survive. He still carries the prisoner identification tag he was forced to wear. Sgt. Kooman describes his experience as such: "We had 3,007 prisoners in our camp. Everybody slept on the floor in this prison. There were no beds and no toilets. There was nothing to eat—35 men to one loaf of bread. I never took my socks off, yet walked 800 miles in 35 days, the death march. I buried a lot of people, a lot of soldiers. Every day, I buried them."

After a year in captivity, he was eventually liberated by the British Army in 1945. His story of survival in the midst of so much agony is both inspirational and a snapshot of the true brutality of war.

In recognition for his service in the U.S. Army, Sgt. Kooman received several military decorations: the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal—1st Oak Leaf Cluster, World War II Victory Medal, ETO Campaign Medal, and the Bronze Arrowhead—Omaha Beach Assault.

It is an honor for me to recognize Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman, who hails from the Borough

of Little Ferry, which I am proud to represent within the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the life and achievements of individuals such as Sgt. Raymond J. Kooman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sgt. Kooman's family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the life and service of Sergeant Raymond J. Kooman.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD AND  
SANDRA BINTZ

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Harold and Sandra Bintz of Minden, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Harold and Sandra's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR  
FLIGHT OREGON

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to welcome the 35 World War II veterans visiting Washington, DC this week from our home state of Oregon. Their trip was made possible by Honor Flight of Oregon and their presence in the Capitol today is a humbling one.

We are joined by Navy, Army, Marine, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard and Army Air Force veterans who have faced terrors and dangers with bravery that continues to inspire. In this group are veterans who fought in Iwo Jima; those who fended off and survived the harrowing attack on the USS *Franklin*; documentarians who photographed the war; cryptographers who kept our secrets safe; and mechanics of all branches that kept us marching forward. These are just a few examples of the contributions these heroes made, but each deserves individual recognition:

Kenneth Anderson; John Fellas; RD, Sr Fortner; James Riopelle; Stanley Wheeler; Donald Bean; Marvin Johnson; Leo Schammel; Earl Uptegrove; Clyde Harrop; Roland Halberg; Lawrence Torrey; Donald Fowler; Patrick O'Brien; Eldon Dyer; Raymond Stahly; Robert Bortvedt; Lawrence Kissinger; Everett Lee; Gerald Midbust; Harold Goff; Raynold Deluca Sr; Murray Watts; Lyle Wescott; George Prusynski; Donald Cresap; William Birkeland; Harold Englet; Kenneth Kerns; Juanita Price; Donald Ford; James

Sperling; Robert Zimmerman; Rupert Fixott; and Joe Bruer.

The world as we know it would not be the same were it not for their courage, their bravery, and I hope that this trip bestows upon them a tiny fraction of the respect and gratitude that can never be fully repaid. To our Greatest Generation, I wish them my very best on their visit and thank them for their service.

These events are so important, connecting our veterans with the memorials erected to honor their service and with younger generations to ensure they know this important history. And a trip such as this would not be possible without the help of the volunteers who donate their time, resources and passion to Honor Flight Oregon. They ensure that each visit is met with the heroes welcome these veterans deserve.

OBSERVING SEPTEMBER AS CHILDREN'S  
CARDIOMYOPATHY  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, when my constituent Matthew Nehaus was 9, he suddenly lost weight, became too tired to participate in sports, and was frequently overcome by coughing bouts. Concerned, his parents took him to the doctor, who initially thought the cause was an infection or pneumonia. But an X-ray led to a much scarier diagnosis—cardiomyopathy.

Cardiomyopathy is a degenerative disease of the heart muscle that weakens its ability to efficiently and effectively pump blood around the body. Though more common for adults, it is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest and heart transplants in children.

This September is the second annual Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month, an opportunity to educate people about the condition, its signs and risk factors, as well as advocate for policies that help address it.

One of those policies, which I'm proud to support, is H.R. 829, the SAFE PLAY Act. Introduced by Representatives LOIS CAPPS and BILL PASCRELL, the bill would take a number of needed steps to protect the safety of student athletes, including developing emergency response plans at schools, communicating the risks of overexertion in hot weather, and teaching students to conduct CPR and use defibrillators. Another important measure of this bill is identifying students with cardiomyopathy to help them get treatment and reduce their risks.

Luckily, Matthew Nehaus and his family found out about his condition in time to stabilize his health and, after years on the donation list, he received a heart transplant. I'm so grateful that Matthew has the opportunity to pursue a bright future and dearly hope that other children facing cardiomyopathy get the same chance. Please join me in spreading awareness about this condition and supporting policies that can lead to early detection and better health outcomes for these kids.



## TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY BUCH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dorothy Buch on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Dorothy celebrated her 100th birthday on August 12, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Dorothy's life. Dorothy grew up on a farm in Mills County, Iowa. She would walk a mile to and from school every day. She was a 1932 graduate of Glenwood High School. Dorothy and her late husband, Carl, worked their farm for 61 years and are the proud parents of three daughters, five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. For years, Dorothy was the pianist and organist at the Trinity Lutheran Church where she still attends Sunday services.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Dorothy. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dorothy on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

## THE JOHN WAYNE IN SCRUBS—DR. JAMES HENRY "RED" DUKE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on 25 August 2015, the Great State of Texas lost one of its greatest sons. A world class trauma surgeon, educator and family man, Dr. James "Red" Duke is a legend of the Houston and Texas A&M communities.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of this good man and my friend.

Dr. Duke—or as I liked to call him "the John Wayne in scrubs"—was Texan to the core. His trademark bristly mustache, gold rimmed glasses, lanky Texas swagger and heavy twang were second only to his colorful personality.

I met Dr. Duke in the '80s when he appeared as an expert witness in criminal cases in my courtroom. (I was a felony court judge.) A few years later we teamed up as doctor and judge to teach high school students lessons about drunk driving.

Working with him to make those kids think twice about their decisions is something I will never forget.

But while Dr. Duke may have been a straight shooter from humble roots, he was also one of the most celebrated folks in his field. He founded the Life Flight air ambulance service, wrote over forty publications, eighteen textbook chapters and gave almost 600 lectures. He became a household name through his educational TV series Bodywatch and the Texas Health Reports.

A man dedicated to serving others, Dr. Duke completed a two-year tour of duty as a tank officer in the 2nd Armored Division, before returning home from Germany to enter a theological seminary in 1955.

Shortly thereafter he switched from one life-saving vocation to another, qualifying as a physician and taking up a residency at the Parkland Memorial Hospital, where in 1963 he was the first surgeon to receive President Kennedy after he was shot on that fateful day in Dallas.

For the next 50 years, Dr. Duke dedicated himself to treating trauma victims and educating young doctors, while in his spare time, generously giving his time to the Boy Scouts and wildlife conservation efforts.

In 1989 he was considered for the position of Surgeon General of the United States, one year after being named Surgeon of the Year by the James F Mitchell Foundation.

While the United States did not receive the pleasure of Dr. Duke's service in this role, we in Texas were happy to have him stay. We were fortunate to call Red our own.

He was bigger than life.

He was "John Wayne in Scrubs."

And that's just the way it is.

## RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE STEVE HAYES OF THE COPPELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Steve Hayes on receiving the Star of Texas Resolution for his service and dedication to the community.

Detective Hayes has been a hardworking and respected member of the Coppell Police Department in Coppell, Texas, for several decades in different capacities. One routine traffic stop on March 31, 1995, changed his life forever. During the stop, a different vehicle struck his patrol car and left him with severe injuries to both his legs. Yet this didn't stop him from returning to work and continuing to make a positive impact on the community in any capacity he could.

After Steve lost his right leg to amputation, endured multiple surgeries, and many months rehabbing and caring to his injuries, he came back to the police department as a training officer and dispatcher and has since been promoted. Today Steve works as a crime scene investigator and property crimes detective. His story is an inspiration and a strong message to all.

Steve also volunteers and has become a board member of the Peace Officers Angels foundation. He regularly calls, travels, and meets with injured officers across the state as part of their program. He has been an integral part of the foundation and provides emotional support to other members of law enforcement injured on the job. It's admirable and inspirational that he uses his unfortunate accident as a positive influence to aid fellow members of law enforcement with their struggles from being injured in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the hard work and support Steve contributes as well as being awarded the Star of Texas Resolution. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Detective Steve Hayes of the Coppell Police Department.

## TRIBUTE TO THE FARMERS TELEPHONE COMPANY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Farmers Telephone Company of Essex, Iowa. This year marks the 60th year of operation for the telecommunications company, which opened its doors in 1955.

The Farmers Telephone Company was formed by a group of area farmers. The company has grown a great deal over the past 60 years, but they have kept their roots and remained at 615 Iowa Avenue in Essex since it first opened. While their location hasn't changed, the way they operate their business has. The biggest change is the growth of internet service and the effects it has had on businesses and residents alike. General Manager Tim Hill attributes the longevity of the Farmers Telephone Company to its core base of local customers and its constant willingness to evolve to keep up with the times.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Farmers Telephone Company and its staff for providing cutting-edge telecommunication services to the Essex community and southwest Iowa for the past 60 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Farmers Telephone Company for their numerous achievements in the communications industry. I wish them and all of their employees nothing but the best moving forward.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN LESCOE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of John Lescoe, Jr. of Willimantic, Connecticut who passed away on September 14, 2015. John was a lifelong resident of Willimantic, where he lived with his wife Pauline "Bunny" Lescoe. He served as a State Representative for the 49th District in the Connecticut General Assembly for 12 years and First Selectman for the Town of Windham for two and a half years.

John graduated from Windham High School in 1956. Following his two year service in the Marine Corps, John worked at Pratt & Whitney for eight years as a machinist. John then entered another phase of his life by enrolling in Eastern Connecticut State University in 1966, and graduated with a degree in Physical Education.

John put his new degree to work by teaching physical education, social studies, and language arts for 30 years at Horace Porter Elementary School in Columbia, CT. In 1986, John won election to serve as State Representative of the 49th District in the Connecticut General Assembly. After representing the 49th District in Hartford from 1987 to 1999, John shifted to serve two and a half years as First Selectman for the Town of Windham.

John also served the town as Alderman, Selectman, and was the last mayor of Willimantic and the first mayor of Windham. Among John's signature accomplishments, were helping to secure funding for the town to install lights and a playground at Recreation Park, the Textile Museum, and the iconic "Frog Bridge" downtown.

Beyond his 32 years of service as a public servant, John's reputation for civic engagement was legendary. He was passionate about recreation, and not only played on a softball team himself for over 50 years, but also ran the Elk's "Hoop Shoot" and the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest for over 40 years, was a member of the Town Recreation Commission, and was involved with Little Pal basketball, Little League baseball, WYO and the intermediate junior high basketball travel team.

No sporting event did John care about more than his children's athletic events—he even created a shortcut on his computer to track his daughter's statistics for the Springfield College basketball and rugby teams. John's hard work to promote civic engagement and youth recreation was recognized when he was honored as the P.O.B.E. Elks Club Elk of the Year in 2003–2004, as president of the Polish Club, and an honorary member of the Franco-American Citizens Club.

The Windham community will miss John deeply. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to his wife, Pauline, and his family as they mourn the passing of a good man.

**HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER  
COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, nestled on the corner of Chapel and College Streets in Downtown New Haven is Claire's Corner Copia, a gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among one of the most popular and beloved restaurants in the City. Founded by Claire and the late Frank Criscuolo, this community treasure is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and I am proud to rise today to join the community in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable milestone.

A registered nurse by training, Claire decided she really wanted to find a way to work with her husband, Frank. Disappointed with some of the fare she was getting from local restaurants at the time, she and Frank opened Claire's Corner Copia in 1975. Claire was determined to bring the essence of her home-cooked meals to her restaurant and to create what she calls her "own utopia."

Claire's is, in a word, eclectic. Its two walls of windows allow customers to enjoy the bustling crowds on Chapel and Church Streets, the tables and chairs do not match, and the menu is a series of blackboards with your choices written in colorful chalk. You wait in line to place your order, give your name to have it brought to you, you get your own cutlery, and bus your own table. Claire liked the idea of her customers "participating" in their dining experience. Over the course of its 40-

year history, Claire's Corner Copia has built a loyal following not only locally but for travelers as well. A Seattle resident who travels to New Haven on business recently told the local paper, "It's the only restaurant I go to every time I come to New Haven. Everything is fresh and there is a wide assortment of characters." That is Claire's Corner Copia.

What makes Claire's Corner Copia so special—aside from the all-vegetarian menu, the use of fresh ingredients, and its famous baked goods—is the atmosphere that Claire has created. Nearly everything on the menu is made in-house, you can always find Claire buzzing around the restaurant, and her employees, many who have been with her for more than a decade love their work. Instead of relying on tips, her staff is paid a fair wage, provided health benefits, and paid time off. Claire and her staff dedicate themselves to providing their customers with a unique experience. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 40th Anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO RONNIE AND SHARON  
FOSTER**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ronnie and Sharon Foster of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Ronnie and Sharon were married on August 8, 1955 at the New Market Methodist Church of New Market, Iowa.

Ronnie and Sharon's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Beth, the late Dan, Don, the late Dusty, and Leesa, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "Yes" on Roll Call 503. I intended to vote "No."

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,038,086,972.10. We've added \$7,524,161,038,059.02 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND  
CAROLYN MILLER**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard and Carolyn Miller of Neola, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 28, 1965 at the Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church in Story City.

Richard and Carolyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Tami and Jeff, as well as their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa's values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND  
OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL  
OF NURSING AT THE UNIVER-  
SITY OF MICHIGAN**

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the new academic building at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

The University of Michigan School of Nursing is a premier institution that is committed to teaching and training the next generation of nurses. Consistently recognized as one of the best nursing schools in the country, they have trained many individuals who have gone on to excel in the field of nursing and give back to their communities. In fact, just this year they were recognized for having six subspecialties ranked in the Top 10 of the U.S. News and World Report's annual rankings. This includes the Nursing Administration program, which is ranked second, and the Family Nurse Practitioner and the Gerontology Primary Care program, which were both ranked third. This strong praise affirms the University's commitment to training the "leaders and the best."

Our nation needs more well-trained nurses who are committed to giving back to their

community. It is great to have a national leader in the field in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This new academic building will further enhance their ability to train the next generation of nurses who will be on the front lines of providing much needed care to those who need it most. It is especially exciting that the modern tools within this facility will teach students to work in contemporary and collaborative environments, which will help them prepare to excel at their jobs. Through this 75,000 square-foot new structure, new nurses will continue to expand upon the University of Michigan's reputation of excellence and high achievement.

My friend, Dr. Kathleen Potempa, the Dean of the School of Nursing, deserves our praise for her leadership in spearheading the opening of this new facility and for her dedication to teaching. It is my hope that this grand opening will be the start of a new and continued era of excellence at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the opening of the new School of Nursing Academic Building at the University of Michigan. I wish each and every new student the best of luck and much success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
RICHARD DUDA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of Richard Duda of Griswold, Connecticut who passed away late last week. Dick was a fixture in Griswold, where he lived all his life with his wife Barbara and their two children. He was the quintessential "citizen" who believed giving back to the community was his duty. He served five terms in the Connecticut State Legislature representing the 58th district and as the Town Attorney for Griswold for many years.

Dick was a lifelong Democrat, and served as the Chairman of the Griswold Democratic Town Committee for over 30 years. Outside of government, he was a board member at the local library, a member of St. Mary's Church, and a member of the board of directors for Jewett City Savings Bank. His involvement in local government and advocacy was extensive, and his capacity to help was boundless. Dick saw his local law practice as a way to give back to the Griswold community. He embodied the ideal of the profession, serving as a resource and advocate for his neighbors—often taking cases that others would have passed over or accepting rates far lower than average for the time. His goal was to serve as a resource and as a true community lawyer. The law was his calling, and his passion.

In politics and law, fields that can turn acrimonious, Dick was a true gentleman. He stayed above any bitterness, and his friends recall how he remained polite and deferential. His amiable manner, dedication to his community, and upbeat attitude will be sorely missed in Griswold. I ask my colleagues to please join me in offering our condolences to his wife Barbara, his son Christopher, and grandchildren Cameron, Caitlyn and Gavin.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WEIL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie Weil of Afton, Iowa, for his retirement from Wellman Dynamics in Creston after 50 years of service.

On August 25th, 2015, Mr. Weil marked 50 years working as a molder for Wellman's, which manufactures aluminum and magnesium sand castings for aerospace applications. He also spent a year serving our country in Vietnam and when he completed his service, he demonstrated great commitment to Wellman's, immediately returning to work there.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie's hard work and dedication to his craft embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on his achievement, and I wish him nothing but continued success and happiness in his retirement.

PERPETUAL POW/MIA STAMP ACT  
OF 2015

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's POWs and MIA service members.

Today is National Prisoner of War, Missing in Action Day. As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs I am constantly in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services.

Tragically, according to the Department of Defense, more than 83,000 service members remain missing since World War II. These individuals represent a unique segment of the men and women who serve or have served in the Armed Forces—men and women who are missing or captured, unable to come home.

I am proud to introduce H.R. 3558, legislation to create a forever stamp depicting the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

This bill will help demonstrate our nation's gratitude to this special segment of heroes, both past and present. I am forever grateful for their service.

H.R. 3504 AND H.R. 3134

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted against H.R. 3504, which would limit women's health care choices and interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, and against H.R. 3134, which would defund Planned Parenthood.

It is bizarre to watch the manufactured controversy surrounding ambush-type, heavily-edited journalism used to discredit Planned Parenthood.

It's not just the blatantly manipulative and misleading tactics that are being used, which should be enough for most people to reject the allegations on their face. These attacks do not reflect my experience and knowledge of the amazing, dedicated, civic-minded men and women who have built, supported, and led Planned Parenthood in my community.

For decades, I have admired these pillars of community, leaders in education, religion, business, and other civic affairs that provided the vision, the volunteer effort, and personal contributions to women's health and reproductive freedom. There is no question that because of their efforts, tens of thousands of abortions never occurred in our community and those that did occur, did not result in harm to women.

Because of their efforts, Oregon's 11 Planned Parenthood centers provided care to over 70,000 women in 2013, including over 25,000 breast and cervical cancer screenings. Nationally, Planned Parenthood cares for more than 2.5 million women annually. Planned Parenthood centers serve a greater share of safety-net clients than any other type of safety-net providers. Nearly 80 percent of women using Planned Parenthood have incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty—these clinics offer affordable health care options for women who may have no alternate source of care.

The fact that we are engaged in a concerted assault against the provision of essential services to women, especially women of color and low-income status is appalling. If people would take the time, as I have, to visit these facilities, meet the employees, and most importantly, know these community leaders that have made it possible to protect women's health, to prevent countless abortions, and to promote wellbeing and education, would see the lies behind this heated rhetoric and misguided attacks.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARINDA  
COMMUNITY THEATRE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Clarinda Community Theatre of Clarinda, Iowa for celebrating their 60th anniversary. The Community Theatre was founded in 1955 by a group of theatre enthusiasts.

The mission of the Clarinda Community Theatre is to encourage and promote an interest in participating, observing, and supporting amateur theatre in the community of Clarinda. Clarinda resident Jolly Ann Davidson has played an important role in the success of the community theater. She felt it was important for Clarinda to have some form of live stage performances in town and has been the driving force in bringing numerous productions to Clarinda for the community to enjoy. Jolly Ann has performed in many of the plays and has seen the theatre grow into a top-notch performing arts facility.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Clarinda Community Theatre for reaching this 60-year milestone. I am proud to represent all those who have been involved in creating this outstanding theater. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on a job well done and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. CHARLES DORCH

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles Dorch, a remarkable leader whose passion for music and teaching has touched so many young people in Kansas City. Mr. Dorch attended Arkansas AM&N University in Pine Bluff on a music scholarship, and then turned down a job in Detroit to teach in Kansas City at Southeast High School after his wife was hired at Paseo High School. As we celebrate the distinguished and acclaimed history of Southeast High School in Missouri's Fifth District, it is necessary that Mr. Dorch be celebrated as well. His dedication to his students as the band director reached far beyond expectations.

Starting at Southeast Junior High in 1970 and continuing to Southeast High School in 1973, Mr. Dorch was a gift to the music department of the Kansas City School District for over fifteen years. He was determined to revitalize the band program at the high school, by encouraging students to enjoy playing music in and outside of the classroom. While he was band director, the high school participated in numerous publicized appearances, including varsity football games, pre-games, and half-time shows; annual American Royal parades; the once Kansas City Kings basketball games; and even a bicentennial half-time performance at the Kansas City Chiefs football game. The regard of the band program, under his leadership, is clear when looking at this list of striking performances.

In addition, Mr. Dorch led students through the jazz lab, stage band, and symphonic concert band. All of these opportunities were ways in which students could be involved in activities outside of the classroom. Prospects for students to perform at such occasions as the Goombay Festival on a Bahamas cruise, the nationally televised Republican National Convention at the Charlie Parker Center, or move on to compete in district or all-state bands, were all ways in which students were enthused to further appreciate music and continue their education.

Mr. Dorch urged students to pursue music beyond high school. He knew the importance of a college education, and many students continued on to schools such as Bishop College, Florida A&M, Langston University, and Prairie View A&M University, which I proudly call my alma mater. His effort to help his students' musical interests did not stop with his students either. Mr. Dorch also created the Band Parents Association in order to get the students' parents involved, as well as help with fundraising, which provided such amenities as new uniforms.

His instruction through music also brought him to direct the St. James United Methodist Church choir for nine years. His musical aptitude shined in his ability to not only prime and motivate the choir during worship, but also expand their reach by adding instruments and genres of music to their ensemble.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our fellow colleagues in conveying our gratitude to a teacher, a man of worship, and a man of music. Mr. Charles Dorch has spread his passion for music and has inspired thousands of his students, young and old alike. He has provided them with opportunities to show off their full musical talent and adoration, where they may have not been able to before or under different guidance. We join the alumni and leadership of Southeast High School in honoring the accomplishments of Mr. Charles Dorch for his tireless enrichment of our community and country.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL R. FREY  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SULLY DISTRICT  
SUPERVISOR

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend my former colleague Michael R. Frey on the occasion of his retirement after a distinguished 38-year career in public service, culminating in his six terms representing the residents of the Sully District on the Fairfax County, Va., Board of Supervisors.

Michael has represented the Sully District in western Fairfax since it was created following the 1990 census. Prior to seeking elected office, he served 14 years as a staff member to former Springfield District Supervisor and Chairman Jack Herrity and former Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell. The Sully District was carved largely out of the Springfield District, so Michael was intimately familiar with the community. I had the great pleasure of serving with him during my 14 years on the Board, first representing the Providence District and then as Chairman.

Fairfax County is the largest local jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital Region, and Michael had a front-row seat for much of that growth, particularly in the western part of the county, where the once sleepy rural community has become the largest magisterial district in the County. As a testament to his skill in working with those growing communities and managing the growth in Sully, Michael has chaired the Board's Development Process Committee since 1992.

In a career spanning four decades, Michael's accomplishments are many, but let me cite just a few to convey the magnitude of the imprint he will leave on the community and our county. Michael and I both share a passion for history, and the Sully District is a historically-rich community. It is home to several landmarks, including the Centreville Historic District and Park, which Michael helped to initiate and expand. The park contains remnants of one of the first fortifications constructed by the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was actually occupied by both sides during the

conflict. He was instrumental in preserving historic Mount Gilead and the Sears House as well.

Michael was active in the effort to launch Centreville Days, an annual community festival that attracts families from throughout the region. He championed the expansion of public facilities into western Fairfax, from new schools and libraries to parks and recreation centers to meet the explosive growth and demand from new residents. Of course, he was intimately involved in the project to construct the Sully District Police Station, in which his office is now located. I know I and the community will never forget the leadership and compassion Michael displayed following the May 8, 2006, tragic shooting outside the station in which two officers were killed.

For those who don't know him, Michael has been a lifelong sports fan. He has coached youth baseball and basketball for multiple community sports leagues, and we worked together during my tenure on the board to convert playing fields to synthetic turf in Fairfax to expand such opportunities for our youth. Michael was active in the bid to lure a Major League Baseball team to Northern Virginia. He served on, and at one time chaired, the Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority. As we all know, the team ultimately relocated into Washington, D.C., but the efforts of Michael and the Authority were instrumental in baseball's return to the National Capital Region.

Of course, I cannot mention Michael without bringing up his steady canine companions. Since I've known him, Michael has owned a series of German shepherd rescue dogs—first Mosby, then Marley, and now Boomer—that have been a fixture by his side at community events and in his office. They made frequent appearances at Board meetings and retreats. Our love of animals is another shared bond, and I was pleased to work with Michael on various efforts to support the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the construction of its new headquarters.

During his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Michael has represented Fairfax on a number of regional organizations, including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Transportation Planning Board and the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee. He has served on the Inova Health Care Services Board. In addition, Michael has represented Fairfax as part of regional or statewide delegations traveling overseas.

In fact, I had the pleasure of traveling with Michael to Israel as part of a trip hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council, in which we visited the Dead Sea. Wanting to have the full experience, we thought we'd partake in a mud bath, which we were assured held healing powers. Well, there's a very unfortunate picture of the two of us that will never see the light of day under a "mutual self-destruction pact" we've made and continue to honor, and I will remind Michael that our agreement endures past his life in elected office.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Frey's commitment to our community and the mission of local government is unparalleled. He leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. His career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. When I was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Michael often heard me joke at retirement announcements that we

should not allow retirement for such talented and dedicated public servants. I know the residents of the Sully District certainly wish that was the case here. I join the community in wishing Michael the best of luck in his retirement, and Task my colleagues in the House to join me in expressing our appreciation for his commitment and service to not just the Sully District but all of Fairfax County.

---

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE AND RUTH  
DIX

---

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie

and Ruth Dix of Council Bluffs, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Charlie and Ruth were married in 1955.

Charlie and Ruth's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Cheryl, Eric, Mark, Andy and Paula, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I salute this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF  
REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER

---

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 14, my family and I said goodbye to a remarkable woman, my mother, Ruth Ann Trousdale. A devoted wife to our father, Earl, for 51 years until his death in 2012, she was a strong woman with an even stronger faith. As we mourn her passing, we also find comfort in knowing she is in the arms of our Lord and reunited with her beloved Earl, whom she missed so much. She was an inspiration to us all, and we will hold her memory in our hearts until we are reunited in heaven.