

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE BYLER FOR RECEIVING THE PATIENT ADVOCATE AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Byler of Martinsburg, PA, winner of the Patient Advocate Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona.

Debbie is cofounder and coordinator of John's Way Medical Equipment Ministry, a faith-based outreach program of Clover Creek Church of the Brethren. John's Way provides wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds and other medical equipment to individuals who do not have the necessary funds or medical insurance.

Debbie has been instrumental in the growth of John's Way which donated 16 pieces of equipment in its first year in 2009. Last year, the program made available more than 4,200 items to those in need. She oversees 40 volunteers who take requests, clean and repair equipment, pick up donations and deliver items to clients.

Debbie and her work at John's Way have had a significant, positive impact on the local community. Given her admirable actions in support of individuals and families facing hardship, Debbie is unquestionably deserving of this recognition. As such, it is my honor to help celebrate her having received this award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LUCIANO 'LUCKY' VARELA

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of a true public servant and a dear friend from my home state of New Mexico.

I have been fortunate in my life to have had the example, the mentorship and the friendship of some truly extraordinary individuals. I was deeply saddened to learn that one of those extraordinary individuals, former State Representative Luciano 'Lucky' Varela, is no longer with us.

Lucky was a political giant in New Mexico, a true public servant who was loved and respected by all who knew him. Representative Varela was seen by many as the conscience of the New Mexico Legislature—caring, knowledgeable, and always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. During his 30 years of dedicated service, he became one of New Mexico's most profound political leaders, and one of our state's best representatives for working families.

Lucky represented a Santa Fe-area House seat in the Roundhouse from 1987 through 2016, where he served as chairman of the influential Finance Committee, among other important committee posts. When it came to state finances and fiscal matters, Lucky's command of the subject was encyclopedic. One of his colleagues once said that Lucky had probably forgotten more about state finances than the experts that appeared before his committee ever knew. Truer words were never spoken. Over the course of his long and memorable career, Varela was a champion for fair wages and reasonable pay increase for state employees, and protecting those who served our state by working in state government. When Lucky saw a problem, he acted to correct it.

His leadership and compassion shined throughout his life. He inspired those who got to know him and many who never met him. His life and his service have left an indelible imprint on the thousands of New Mexicans he helped while in office, but even more importantly, Lucky Varela's legacy will live on through the many people he mentored and relationships he fostered.

Before I close, I want to share some of the remembrances from those who knew him and worked with him.

Senator TOM UDALL said Lucky "represented the people of Santa Fe with honor, integrity and heart. He will be remembered for his honesty about the need to address our challenges in order to move our state forward, and especially for his deep knowledge of the state budget and its impact on everyone in New Mexico."

"Lucky truly made New Mexico a better place. He understood the numbers; just as importantly, he understood the people behind those numbers—their struggles, hopes and dreams. He gave selflessly to the people of Santa Fe and the entire state of New Mexico, and we are better for his leadership. We will miss him dearly."

Former Governor Bill Richardson called Lucky "a master legislator whose expertise on the budget and finances was unparalleled. He was also a gentle soul who cared deeply about his Santa Fe constituents and his wonderful family."

Regarding Lucky, Attorney General Hector Balderas said he was "grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to serve under his leadership in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He was a strong voice for New Mexico's children, families and state employees."

New Mexico House Speaker Brian Egolf called Lucky "a stalwart advocate for working people, for using our resources wisely, and for the people of Santa Fe. Lucky was beloved in Santa Fe for many reasons, not the least of which was that he knew more about the state's budget than most of us ever will. He never shied away from asking tough questions and giving selflessly of his time and energy to make New Mexico a better state."

We will miss Lucky, but we will never forget him.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, September 15, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Judge Philip P. Simon, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On September 15, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Dominic Kwadwo Manu, Anas Hashem Mohammad Salameh, Mikhail Gennadiyevich Kapustin, Beata Joanna Nabrzyska, Jaroslaw Nabrzyski, Radoslaw Jan Nabrzyski, Daniel Joseph Perfilio Smith, Ramiro Malagon Ramirez, Ma Marina Diaz de Malagon, Martha Alicia Vargas Somosa, Raymundo Ibis Quintas Garcia, Sheri Ahmady, Monica Diaz Nevarez, Susana Jasna Diurych Diaz, Lola Li Fuller, Luz Maria Hernandez, Hana Kang, Biljana Loskoski, Leticia Noguez, Jose Angel Recio, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Andres Saragoza, Farhat Naheed Shiekh, Swetha Vinjimoor, and Anna Sijie Xiong.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on September 15, 2017. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD PIERCE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to Brad Pierce, Aurora City Council Member At Large, for his many years of extraordinary work and dedication to the City of Aurora. Council Member Pierce's dedication to the City of Aurora and his leadership and vision has, amongst other accomplishments, contributed to the city's designation as the Safest Large City in America.

As an Aurora City Council Member, Brad Pierce has consistently and effectively guided city policy towards increased quality of life and growth. He continually provided the City of Aurora with guidance and leadership in his roles as the Chair of the Management and Finance Policy Committee and as the Vice-Chair of the Water Policy Committee.

Council Member Pierce has dedicated his time in elected office to making our community and the State of Colorado a better place for its residents. He serves as the President of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E) and represents the State of Colorado and the City of Aurora as a member of National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee.

In addition to making the City of Aurora a better place to live, I would also like to recognize Brad Pierce's work as the Former President and current Board Member for the Community College of Aurora Foundation. Without a doubt, Councilmember Pierce has enhanced the quality of life for every citizen in the City of Aurora throughout his tenure as an Aurora City Council Member and resident of our great city.

Mr. Speaker, Brad Pierce represents the very best the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I offer my sincere appreciation for his unyielding dedication to public service and I wish him the very best of luck as he leaves the Aurora City Council and moves on to future endeavors.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORENCE DOUGLAS CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florence Douglas Center in Vallejo, California, upon the occasion of its 40th Anniversary serving seniors in our community.

In 1975, Mayor Florence Douglas of Vallejo appointed the late Lou Burgelin, a retired chief progressman at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard and a tireless advocate for seniors, to form a committee to study and organize the best way to open a senior facility. Lou envisioned a place where local seniors could continue to improve themselves after retirement. Mayor Douglas and the committee secured funds to build a new facility on a vacant parcel on Amador Street where the Center stands

today. The Florence Douglas Center officially opened in August 1977.

Over the years, the Center established many traditions and helpful programs. Along with social events, bingo twice a week and ongoing bus trips to casinos, the Center offers many opportunities for seniors to learn. There are several course options, including Zumba instruction and French and Spanish lessons. Technology has changed quite a bit since 1977, and the Center has kept up to date by building their own lab to host computer classes.

The Center hosts many annual events including an International Gala, the Fall FUNraiser, and a popular Luau. The Health and Technology Fair is a one-stop shop for seniors to gather information from multiple healthcare providers. On every Christmas Day since 1984 the Center has hosted hundreds of seniors for a delicious Holiday Dinner. The Dinner gives seniors who otherwise would not have a meal the opportunity to be served by their friends from the Center. In 2009, the Center named this tradition "The Free Lou Burgelin Holiday Dinner," a fitting tribute for a place where seniors gather to serve seniors.

Mr. Speaker, for the past forty years the Florence Douglas Center has been a place where the seniors in our community can gather to take classes, make friends and have meals. The U.S. Census Bureau expects the population of seniors to double between 2012 and 2050. The Center will be an important part of our community's effort to improve the lives of our seniors for the next forty years and beyond. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the Center here today.

RECOGNIZING SHELLY KERCHNER FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shelly Kerchner, one of the winners of the 24th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Shelly has earned that distinction.

Shelly's life changed eleven years ago in 2006 with she fell down a flight of stairs, suffering a devastating spinal cord injury. She was only able to move her eyes and had weak movement in both of her hands. Shelly's medical prognosis was bleak, indicating she would never walk again or use her hands. Yet, through perseverance, hard work and dedication she proved that grim forecast wrong.

Today, Shelly is now walking with braces and a rolling walker and is independent with her everyday tasks. She cooks, cleans, drives, practices yoga and is an author. She is said to be an inspiration to many people through her Internet blog and her published book—*Standing Tall: The Healing Power of Gratitude*.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Shelly has made. Her strength

and positivity in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Shelly the best as she continues to reclaim her health and life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREEN BAY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Green Bay. Since its founding in 1947, this community service organization has made a profound impact across the Greater Green Bay Area by bringing many activities, improvements, and educational opportunities to the youth of Green Bay.

The Optimist Club of Green Bay has been a sponsor of youth baseball and softball, in addition to being a strong advocate of the "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign and the "Winners Wear Helmets" bicycle initiative. The Optimist Club of Green Bay also hosts an annual oratorical contest for high school students designed to encourage them to gain experience in public speaking as a means of providing information to others. The two winners from each year's contest are generously awarded with a college scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding the Optimist Club of Green Bay and the 2,500 other local optimist clubs across world for their commitment to brightening the future of the youth in their respective communities.

HONORING J. MICHAEL ANDERSON UPON RECEIPT OF THE 2017 ZUNIC AWARD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Michael Anderson, the 2017 recipient of the Zunic Award as presented by the Syracuse Football Club.

The Syracuse Football Club is a group of former Syracuse Orange football players focused on making a difference in the Central New York community. The Zunic Award was created to honor Mike and Judy Zunic, who died tragically in a United Airlines plane crash in Sioux City, Iowa on July 18, 1989. The pilot, anticipating landing difficulties, requested volunteers to give up their seats and sit at the exit doors to assist passengers in the event of an emergency. Mike and Judy gave up their seats in first class to sit at one of the doors. They both died in the crash and those in the Zunics' original seats survived. The Zunic Award honors those, like Mike and Judy, who have acted selflessly for the good of others.

This year's Zunic Award recipient, J. Michael Anderson, is a former Orange offensive lineman, and has tragically lost two of his three sons—Jimmy and Eric—to the opioid epidemic devastating our community and our nation. Despite this extraordinary loss, Mike

has channeled his own tragedy into advocacy and volunteerism. He and his wife, Flo, have focused on making a difference in the Central New York community and assisting others who have experienced similar tragedy.

Anderson served as a youth basketball coach for more than two decades at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Liverpool, and coached baseball in the Salt City Little League for 10 years. In addition, the Andersons are frequent holiday volunteers at the Syracuse Rescue Mission, serving meals to those less fortunate, and are active participants in the Liverpool Central School District "Dollars for Scholars" program where they have established a scholarship in their son Jimmy's name. Anderson spends part of each day visiting online grief sites offering assistance to those who are struggling with tragedy.

For his tremendous efforts to make a difference in ending this scourge and to make our community a better place, I am proud to join the Syracuse Football Club in honoring J. Michael Anderson.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY BATTISTA

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Battista, a man who possesses the qualities that are present in the very best personnel in our national government in full measure. Tony was the research and development director of the House Armed Services Committee for many years. His engineering background and ability to ignore political pressure brought him down on the right side of many important decisions that ushered in dominant U.S. military technology during the 1980s and 1990s.

To succeed, our country needs stand-up, intelligent, honest brokers in key decision making positions. Tony Battista was all that in his service to the House of Representatives and America. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for his honesty, brilliance, and unfailing dedication to Americans in uniform. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony's service to our government, our military, and our nation.

CONGRATULATING AMBASSADOR DANIEL MULHALL

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a deep, unbreakable bond unites the United States and Ireland. We are linked through many sectors—historical, cultural, social, sporting, business and political.

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Daniel Mulhall as he presents his diplomatic credentials to President Donald Trump. Ambassador Mulhall will be Ireland's 18th Ambassador to the United States. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a Member of Congress with an Irish born parent, I look forward to working with closely Amba-

sador Mulhall on the U.S.—Ireland relationship.

After joining Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs in 1978, Ambassador Mulhall has gained extensive experience working in New Delhi, Vienna, Brussels, Edinburgh, Malaysia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Germany and then London. During his diplomatic career, Ambassador Mulhall has also held a number of positions at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including as Director-General for European Affairs. He also served as a member of the Secretariat of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation which was set up in 1994 in order to promote political dialogue between different political traditions in Ireland. From 1994 to 1998, he was the Department's Press Counsellor and in that capacity was part of the Irish Government's delegation at the time of the Good Friday Agreement 1998.

HONORING JEFF ROSSER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM RAYCOM MEDIA GROUP

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman MIKE ROGERS to honor Mr. Jeff Rosser for his exceptional career in broadcast journalism and his almost 50 years in television news.

Mr. Rosser was named Vice President of Raycom Media Group in Montgomery, Alabama in 1999. He will retire this September after serving 18 years in this distinguished role.

Mr. Rosser received his Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism from Brigham Young University and went on to work at multiple news outlets across the country in cities including Salt Lake City, Dallas, Tulsa, New York, and Boston. He then served as General Manager at WVTM in Birmingham, KDFW in his hometown of Dallas, and stations in Providence, Ft. Smith, Fayetteville and Oklahoma City.

Over the years, Mr. Rosser has been recognized as a leader in his field through many honors including serving on the ABC Affiliate Board of Governors, the National Association of Broadcasters Television Board of Directors, and the FOX Affiliate Board of Governors.

Mr. Rosser has been an invaluable asset to Raycom Media Group, being credited with helping to achieve numerous shared services agreements in Raycom markets and now overseeing ten Raycom television stations. He is highly respected among his peers and his talents will not be easily replaced.

Television news stations provide a great service to the communities that they reach. A Raycom Media Group affiliate, WSFA in Montgomery, provides Central Alabama with up-to-date, relevant news and I am thankful for Mr. Rosser's role in keeping the people of Alabama informed of what matters most to them.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to join Mr. Rosser's colleagues, family, and friends in congratulating him on his retirement and honoring his successful career. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fayette County Community Action Agency for 50 years of service to the communities of Fayette County in western Pennsylvania.

The work of this agency has set an example for Community Action Agencies nationwide causing FCCAA to be recognized on numerous occasions for its community and economic work, as well as the quality of services which its employees provide. In addition to recognitions by the United States Department of Agriculture and the AARP foundation, just last year the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency recognized FCCAA with its Lender Partnership Award.

The agency's Board of Directors is composed of elected officials, business leaders and community representatives, and has built an agency which is an example for other communities. Their work touches thousands of people each year by providing services such as emergency food and shelter, housing development, services for older residents, education and support for first time mothers, and training and education programs. Fayette County Community Action Agency is fulfilling their mission of helping people and changing lives, and I am proud to have such a fine agency in my district. Fayette County is lucky to have an agency so committed to improving the livelihood of its citizens, and I am thankful for their dedication to this community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE JO ANN EMERSON CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS TO THE KENT LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES AT SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formal contribution of the Jo Ann Emerson Congressional Papers to the Kent Library Special Collections and Archives at Southeast Missouri State University. Today, we celebrate and congratulate our district's matriarch, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. During Jo Ann's sixteen year tenure in the United States House of Representatives, she was a champion for the people of not only Southern Missouri, but the entire state. She fiercely defended the conservative values shared by the citizens of southeast and south central Missouri while also knowing how to reach across the aisle to pass legislation to the benefit of those she represented.

The Jo Ann Emerson Congressional Papers contain more than one-hundred boxes of documents that follow Emerson's time in Congress. The collection includes official press releases, documents from committee hearings,

personal correspondence, speeches, certificates, and over eleven-thousand photographs.

Emerson was the first Republican woman to represent the state of Missouri in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was reelected eight times, representing Missouri's Eighth Congressional District from 1996 to 2013. During Emerson's time in office, she successfully promoted economic development, secured federal dollars for rural improvements, healthcare, and agriculture, while building the framework for a brighter future for our region.

I want to express my gratitude to Southeast Missouri State University for dedicating the Jo Ann Emerson Congressional Papers to the Special Collections and Archives in the Kent Library, and to Jo Ann Emerson and her family for contributing her photo collection and Congressional Papers. Finally, I want to share a deep and heartfelt thank you to Jo Ann not only for her service and influence on the Eighth District of Missouri, but also for being someone who I looked up to and whose legacy I strive to honor every day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHEILA BAKER

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sheila Earline Baker, a generous and warm member of the Fort Worth community who passed away on Monday, August 28, 2017, following a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Sheila was born on August 30, 1950 to her parents Herbert and Ruth Baker, and was the third of five Baker Girls. A longtime resident of Fort Worth, Sheila graduated from I.M. Terrell High School where her energy and spirit shined as a cheerleader for her school. Following her graduation from I.M. Terrell High School, Sheila attended Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas.

Sheila lived in Los Angeles for 20 years where she worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield before moving up in responsibility from an administrative assistant to a supervisor and trainer. She never met a stranger she didn't instantly connect with and had countless friends around the local DFW area.

Sheila was committed to serving her community. She was an active member of the Baker Chapel AME, serving as a class leader, greeter, usher, missionary and part of the Membership and Evangelism and Social Action Commissions. Sheila's passion for photography assisted her as she took on the role of resident photographer for Baker Chapel and consistently chronicled church activities and programs. In addition, Sheila worked on the Commission for Social Action in Fort Worth and served on the board of Tarrant Churches Together, assisting with the MLK Day of Service. She was actively involved with the Stephen Stallworth Scholarship Foundation, an avid supporter of the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and worked fiercely in support of the homeless, school children, and breast cancer survivors.

Most importantly, Sheila was her family's historian and her daughter, Ashley Hayes's, biggest cheerleader and supporter. Sheila's

spirit of service is greatly reflected upon Ashley, who proudly serves as the Legislative Director in my Washington, D.C. office.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sheila Earline Baker, whose warm and generous heart touched many lives. I offer my condolences and deepest sympathy to those who loved her: mother, Ruth Munchus Baker; sisters, Ruth "Cookie" Baker; nieces and nephews, Eric (Linda), Ronald, Lisa (Sean), Misty (Carl), Keosha, Monique (Lemond) and Michelle (Jonathan); Godson, Andre' C. Dennis; dear friend, Cynthia Hicks Brown; several generations of other nephews and nieces; other family members and many friends. Among those are her beloved daughter, Ashley Hayes and her husband Michael.

I honor Sheila Earline Baker, a spirited member of the Fort Worth and Texas community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO BEE'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Bee as it celebrates its 160th anniversary. As the community, supporters, and Bee staff members gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them and their long history of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

On February 3, 1857, the Sacramento Bee released its first issue, proclaiming that "the object of the Sacramento Bee is not only independence, but permanence." It is that permanence that we come together to honor today. For five generations, the McClatchy and Maloney families have strived to provide the greater Sacramento area with quality news rooted in independent, honest journalism. The Bee is not only a family institution, but a staple of our Sacramento community as well.

The Bee has been awarded six Pulitzer Prizes and continues to produce a quality newspaper that serves the needs of its community. As the longest running newspaper in Sacramento's history, the Bee consistently exemplifies its core values of integrity and independence. Its dedication to transparency and ethical journalism has garnered the Bee immense praise and countless industry awards for its superior journalism, setting the standard for the 29 other McClatchy Company newspapers located across the country.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Bee celebrates 160 years of service to the Sacramento region, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the paper and its employees for their dedication to journalism and to our community.

HONORING ANNUAL APPRECIATION BANQUET AT SRI VENKATESWARA SWAMI (BALAJI) TEMPLE ON SEPTEMBER 9TH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple's significant, enduring contributions to our community, state, and country.

The Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple has opened its doors to devotees for more than 30 years. Its mission is to promote the highest values of Hindu culture, philosophy, religion, spirituality, and tradition in the United States with benevolence, compassion, and tolerance. It holds a prestigious reputation as one of the most beautiful and authentic Hindu temples outside of India.

Each year the annual Appreciation Banquet is held to honor all who worship and participate in the Temple's social and cultural gatherings. The Banquet also serves as an opportunity to show Hindu traditions to our children, and to promote getting youth further involved in temple activities.

Every time I visit the beautiful Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple in Aurora, Illinois, I am inspired by the congregation's devotion and its commitment to making our community stronger. Hinduism is a religion that prides itself on pluralism, inclusion, tolerance, non-violence, and the embrace of diversity.

These are not only the values of the temple; they are also our shared American values. When people try to divide Americans or separate us, we need to remember that all of us belong together and that diversity and inclusion make us stronger as a country.

I honor the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple's annual appreciation banquet in Aurora, Illinois on September 9th.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF KESLER TEMPLE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kesler Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, located in my congressional district in the City of Henderson, North Carolina, as the Church and its faithful congregation celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Kesler Temple has been a beacon of light in the Vance County community and has positively impacted generations of families in eastern North Carolina.

What would eventually become Kesler Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was founded in 1867 when members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion faith established a new church. Its first pastor was Reverend A. F. Goslen. In 1872, Reverend A. G. Kesler was assigned to the Granville County Circuit by the legendary Bishop James Walker

Hood who established the AME Zion Church in North Carolina. The Church was formally named in honor of Reverend Kesler five years later.

Presiding Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church have appointed fifty pastors in the Church's 150 year history including the current presiding pastor and my college friend, Reverend Dr. James C. White.

Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. James C. White, Kesler Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church continues to grow in size and strength. His strong faith in God and preparedness for the ministry, has earned him a stellar reputation among Christian believers throughout our great state.

Mr. Speaker, by the grace of God, Kesler Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has been blessed for 150 long years as it has witnessed for Christ each and every day. The Church's faithfulness and scripture-based ministry will ensure that Kesler Temple continues to thrive for generations to come.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I extend to the Pastor and members of Kesler Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church my best wishes on this auspicious occasion.

RECOGNIZING KIM EMES FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Emes, one of the winners of the 24th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Kim has earned that distinction.

Kim was diagnosed in January 2017 with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare disorder in which your body's immune system attacks your nerves causing weakness and temporary paralysis throughout the body. Kim was completely dependent as she began rehabilitation therapy with very little functional movement. But she showed determination, hard work and a desire to be challenged during each treatment visit and continued to make excellent progress. By discharge, Kim had totally regained her strength, balance and mobility, and was able to walk without braces or a rolling walker.

I am honored to help celebrate Kim's impressive efforts and recovery, as I believe her dedicated and positive attitude is something many of us can learn from as we attempt to overcome the hardships in our lives. Furthermore, I am happy to recognize Kim for her perseverance, and I wish her the best as she returns to a life of full health.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MS. LAUREL ROSENTHAL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Twain Elementary School in Carthage, Missouri, on its 100th Anniversary as well as its principal, Ms. Laurel Rosenthal, on 50 years of service.

On September 17, 2017, Mark Twain Elementary School will celebrate a major milestone in its history, that of 100 years of educating many generations of Missourians. Today this school educates more than 300 students from kindergarten until the fourth grade. This school was the pilot school for the Vision Program, which helps young students with their reading.

Ms. Rosenthal started at Mark Twain in 1967 and has remained in the same building throughout her career. Over the years, Ms. Rosenthal turned down many offers from different school districts, demonstrating her loyalty and dedication to serving the kids of Mark Twain Elementary School. Her leadership through the years has provided generations of young children in Carthage with a quality education.

On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to congratulate Ms. Rosenthal on her years of service, and Mark Twain Elementary School on 100 years of educating the young minds of southwest Missouri.

HONORING JUDGE GREGORY G. MALLON

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Judge Gregory G. Mallon of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Judge Mallon has honorably served Delaware County since 1982 as both a Magisterial District Judge and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

After completing law school, Judge Mallon began his distinguished career in public service as a district judge for Rutledge and Eddystone in Delaware County. In 2008, he was appointed to Judgeship in the Court of Common Pleas Criminal Division. Many of his most notable cases came during his time on this bench. His decisions show a clear respect for due process and an unbiased judiciary.

I commend Judge Gregory G. Mallon for honorably serving our community with his passion for justice. He has earned the respect of both his colleagues and the public he served. I wish him well in retirement.

SAFELY ENSURING LIVES FUTURE DEPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH IN VEHICLE EVOLUTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the sponsors of this legislation, BOB LATTA and JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work on H.R. 3388, the SAFE DRIVE Act. The development of "self-driving" vehicles has the potential to make a quantum leap in road safety and access to transportation. The SAFE Drive Act begins the important process of developing the regulatory framework for this new technology. As Congress continues its work in this area, it is important that we make sure that the new regulatory landscape works well for all stakeholders. Accordingly, I would like to highlight some issues that we need to continue to be mindful of because of their impact on insurers. Clearly, for automated driving technology to fully develop, insurers are an important component for managing the associated risks.

Highly automated vehicles hold great promise for reducing the number of deaths and accidents on our nation's roads as well as providing increased mobility for those who are not able to drive due to age or disability. This transition to "self-driving" vehicles will take place over many years during which these vehicles will interact, and sometimes collide with, vehicles driven by humans. Our legal system has a vast amount of experience apportioning liability after auto accidents, but that task could be made more difficult if access to data (including photos or video) generated by automated vehicles involved in accidents is restricted.

As such, vehicle owners should have primary control over vehicle data from highly automated vehicles. Automated vehicle data must be made available to the parties involved, their insurers and authorized representatives on reasonable terms. State and federal governments should not set limits on access to vehicle data by law or regulation that could delay compensation to accident victims and increase automobile insurance costs, nor should vehicle manufacturers be permitted to limit access to vehicle data.

For any vehicle, safety issues are paramount. While automated vehicle technology has the potential to greatly reduce crashes, it is unlikely to eliminate them entirely. Therefore, maintaining existing standards for vehicle crash protection for automated vehicles is essential. Granting of exceptions should only be considered through an evidence based approach and should not be rushed—automated driving capabilities do not necessarily guarantee improved safety.

Again, I commend my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work on this legislation. I look forward to supporting it and to continuing to work towards achieving the objectives I have outlined.

HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN
OREGON**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the ten World War II veterans from Oregon who visited their memorial on the National Mall on Friday, September 8, 2017 through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes from the "Greatest Generation," I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you."

He was right then, of course, Mr. Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That's why it is my privilege to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today.

The veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth Brandt, Army; George Droz, Army; Charles Robertson, Army; George Schoppert, Army; William Evarts, Army Air Force; Alfred Kruckman, Army Air Force; August Evert, Navy; Ben Lemire, Navy; Otto Schaffer, Navy; Billy Baucum, U.S. Coast Guard.

Some of these brave men served on land in France, Germany, Austria, England, Normandy and throughout the European and Pacific Theatres. Some served at sea in the South Pacific and the Philippines, on patrol frigates and Navy vessels. Some served as air crewman and infantrymen. While each of their roles was different, their dedication to their country was the same.

These ten heroes join the over 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the four guardians traveling on this trip who have served our country: Terrie Evarts, Jerry Rozelle, Harley Keiley, and Candy Kelley.

I also want to thank and recognize the group leaders on this night, as well as the dedicated Board Members of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and the Bend Heroes Foundation, who worked so hard to make this trip happen.

Mr. Speaker, at the height of the Civil War in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause." Each of us in this chamber and in this nation should be humbled by the courage of these brave veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

HONORING GEORGE ALTAMURA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President and Founder George Altamura upon the 25th Anniversary of Hands Across the Valley, an outstanding annual event that benefits Napa County safety net food programs.

As a young man growing up in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Altamura dreamed of living in California. When he graduated from high school in 1949, he made his dream a reality by hitchhiking his way across the United States, working first as a carpenter's apprentice and eventually obtaining a general contractor's license. In 1952, he established Altamura Enterprises, a successful property development company. He has worked hard to help make Napa Valley a wonderful place to live.

Mr. Altamura founded Hands Across the Valley when he learned that hundreds of people in our community were going hungry every day. He and other leaders in our community decided to come together "to do something about the hunger in Napa Valley." They formed a committee to plan a fundraising event, not knowing how the community would respond. Over five hundred guests attended the inaugural event. Hands Across the Valley has become a popular annual event in our community, succeeding in raising well over two million dollars to benefit Napa Valley's safety net food programs.

Hands Across the Valley raises funds for the Napa Valley Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, and The Table, a local charity focused on providing nutritious meals to anyone that is hungry. In addition to providing much needed funds to these safety net services, Hands Across the Valley helps the Food Bank, Catholic Charities, The Table and American Canyon Family Resource Center provide holiday turkeys and food baskets each year.

Mr. Speaker, the Hands Across the Valley benefit and George Altamura have been helping our community organizations with their goal of creating a "community without hunger." Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING RON CLAWSON FOR
RECEIVING A PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Clawson, one of the winners of the 24th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Ron has earned that distinction.

Ron was at work atop a tanker car when it exploded in January 2017. He sustained sig-

nificant trauma and multiple injuries including nine rib fractures, multiple spinal fractures and burns all over his body. The accident dramatically changed his life, causing him to endure many trips for medical treatment including outpatient therapy three times a week, follow-up appointments with multiple doctors and a surgical procedure on his right shoulder. Yet, through all of these troubles, Ron, with the boundless support of his wife Diane and their four children, has approached his situation with strength and calm determination.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Ron has made. His steadfast perseverance in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Ron the best as he continues to reclaim his health and life.

HONORING CITY OF CENTENNIAL'S
MAYOR CATHY NOON**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the City of Centennial's Mayor Cathy Noon as her final term as mayor comes to an end. Mayor Noon's extraordinary work and dedication to the City of Centennial has positively transformed the City of Centennial over her time in office. As Mayor of Centennial, her leadership has proved to be a key factor in many of the city's most successful programs and initiatives.

Mayor Cathy Noon has shown time and time again what a dedicated public servant can do to make a difference for her community. Mayor Noon was a leader in the process to draft the original home-rule charter for the city when it was established in 2001 and her service to the City of Centennial has truly extended from its conception to the present day. She has also taken a prominent role in furthering the interests of the entire metropolitan region through her service on numerous boards and commissions such as, the Metro Mayors Caucus, the C-470 Executive Committee and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Under Mayor Noon's leadership, projects such as the Intelligent Transportation System Master Plan and Go Centennial have helped the City of Centennial to grow and prosper beyond anyone's expectations. It is clear her tireless service to the people of Centennial has made this community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as her final term of service to the citizens of the City of Centennial nears its end, I offer Mayor Cathy Noon my sincere appreciation for her many years of accomplished public service and I wish to extend my grateful thanks to her for her unyielding dedication to the people and the City of Centennial.

JOE AND MARTHA MCCAFFREY
HISTORIC TROLLEY BUILDING**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the

new state-of-the-art Media Arts and Technology Department facility at New Mexico Highlands University, my alma mater, will be named the McCaffrey Historic Trolley Building in honor of two outstanding New Mexicans and my dear friends, Joe and Martha McCaffrey.

Joe and Martha have been generous in establishing the McCaffrey Family Endowment to support students in the new Highlands Master of Fine Arts degree program.

Leveo Sanchez, Chairman of the Highlands Board of Regents, took note in making the naming recommendation, "Joe and Martha McCaffrey have been highly involved with Highlands media arts for a number of years and have been very generous in making gifts to the department," Sanchez said. "It's rare to have dedicated alumni like the McCaffreys who graduated so many years ago and are willing to donate some of their wealth to the university."

But for those of us who know Joe and Martha McCaffrey, their generosity of spirit is not surprising. The McCaffreys have often noted the important role that Highlands played in their lives, and I have seen first-hand their love of the university and the Highlands community.

Joe said, "As young newly married students, we were given a firm educational foundation that allowed us to pursue our chosen careers. Without the help of caring professors, we would not have achieved our goals."

"This endowment is a small way for us to repay what Highlands gave to us so many years ago. We wanted media arts students at Highlands to have the same opportunities we had," Martha explained.

"The McCaffreys have supported media arts student projects, purchased equipment, and funded retreats to create the MFA program," said Kerry Loewen, media arts and technology chair at Highlands. "They consistently support our program in other ways too, such as regularly attending student events. The McCaffreys are deserving of this legacy."

I am also reminded that the McCaffrey Family Endowment was also established to honor the memory of Joe and Martha's family.

Joe was born in Albuquerque and graduated from St. Mary's High School. His maternal grandfather came to New Mexico in 1879 and later founded the Albuquerque Carpenters Union. Joe's paternal grandfather came to New Mexico in the 1920s. He was a member of the New Mexico Legislature in the thirties and spent forty years working for New Mexico Senator Clinton P. Anderson. Joe's father, Bill McCaffrey, was the founder of the Rio Rancho Observer. Bill's brother, Fred McCaffrey, was the premier New Mexico political columnist, a Santa Fe Living Treasure and was a good friend of my father.

Martha said that the Media Arts and Technology Department reminded her of Speech and Drama Department at Louisiana State University, chaired by her grandfather. "This gift honors my grandfather's memory and his teaching philosophy. He once wrote, 'A good teacher believes in accessibility to students and companionship with them, promotes attitudes of professional ethics, and gives them hard tasks to do in friendliness.'" The professors in the Media Arts Department demonstrate that philosophy. This gift also honors the memory of Martha's father, whose proudest achievement was his contributions to the

eradication of smallpox, while working for the World Health Organization in India and Somalia and her mother, a life-long educator.

I am reminded that Joe earned a B.S. and M.S. in physics and mathematics from Highlands in 1960 and 1961 respectively. Martha completed a B.A. in history, with a minor in English, in 1961. Joe completed a Ph.D. in physics from Colorado State University. Joe worked at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory for 30 years as a bench scientist and science administrator and for five years as a Professor of Computational Engineering at Mississippi State University. His many technical achievements during this period were documented in a Memorial declaring February 21, 2013 as "Dr. Joe McCaffrey Day" in the New Mexico Senate. None of these achievements would have been possible without the educational foundation provided by Highlands University.

I recall that Joe was named a Highlands distinguished alumnus in 2004, served on the Highlands Foundation board beginning in 2006 and continues as an emeritus member. He also has taught several classes at Highlands. Martha completed her master's degree in library science at the University of Maryland, and was a longtime librarian and media specialist at Mandeville High School in Mandeville, Louisiana. Martha received the Modisette Award from the Louisiana Library Association for her pioneering efforts in library automation. I know that Martha is a member of the Highlands Alumni Association board. As a Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation board member, she has mentored several media arts students in local internships through the university's one-of-a-kind AmeriCorps Cultural Technology program.

So it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Highlands on the new Media Arts and Technology Department facility and thank Joe and Martha McCaffrey for their generosity and their vision for generations of future fine arts students at Highlands.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE WILLIAM E. ALEXA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Judge William E. Alexa, and to wish him well upon his retirement. Throughout his many years of public service, Judge Alexa has been dedicated and unwavering in his support of the local community. After more than thirty years of public service, Judge Alexa will be retiring in October of this year. To commemorate this special occasion and to pay tribute to Judge Alexa's extraordinary career, a celebratory event will take place on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the Old Towne Banquet Center in Valparaiso, Indiana.

William Alexa is a veteran of the United States Army, having served between 1962 and 1964. Following his military service, he went on to graduate from the Valparaiso University School of Law in 1973. Not long after law school, from 1975 to 1978, Judge Alexa held the positions of Porter County Deputy and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. In

1988, he was elected to the Indiana State Senate, faithfully serving his constituents of the Fifth District for the next fourteen years. As a member of the Indiana General Assembly, Senator Alexa served on the Judiciary Committee, the State Budget Committee, the Commission on Courts, and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Military. As a legislator, he co-authored a bill that established the Indiana Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs. From 2000 to 2002, Judge Alexa also served as Chair of the Indiana Criminal Law Study Commission.

In the private sector, Judge Alexa practiced law from 1978 to 2002, at which time he was appointed to serve the remainder of the term of Judge Thomas W. Webber Sr. He was re-elected in 2006 and 2012 to continue serving as Porter County Superior Court Judge. For his admirable and devoted career in public service, Judge Alexa has received numerous accolades and awards, including the Sagamore of the Wabash, bestowed upon him by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon, and the Distinguished Public Service Award, presented to him by the American Legion of Indiana. Aside from his work, Judge Alexa gives much of his time to numerous charitable endeavors, and for that he is worthy of our respect and appreciation.

Judge Alexa's commitment to the community and to public service is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. He and his wife, Joyce, have two loving children and three beautiful granddaughters.

I am honored to call Bill Alexa a friend and I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done for me over the years. I am even more grateful for what he has done for so many for so long, stranger and friend alike. His service has improved the future we will live in.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Judge William Alexa for his outstanding service to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. His unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for all Hoosiers is truly admirable, and we have been honored to have had his presence in the judiciary for so long. Please join me in thanking Judge Alexa and wishing him well upon his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA STELLA-BOTTE FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Stellabotte, one of the winners of the 24th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Jessica has earned that distinction.

Jessica was diagnosed in April 2017 with Acute Demyelinating Encephalopathy, an inflammation of the body's central nervous system that affects the brain and spinal cord. At

the time, Jessica was just a typical young woman pursuing her Master's Degree in Grief Counseling.

She faced many obstacles being unable to speak, sit without support or simply wheel her wheelchair. However, through her hard work, motivation and family support, Jessica has

made tremendous gains in speech and occupational therapy and now even walks with a walker. She is completing a graduate program to become a grief counselor, and is an inspiration to many.

I am honored to help celebrate Jessica's impressive efforts and promising recovery, as I

believe that her dedicated and positive attitude is something many of us can learn from as we attempt to overcome the hardships in our lives. Furthermore, I am happy to recognize Jessica for her perseverance, and I wish her the best as she continues to reclaim her health and life.