

both the human and economic impacts associated with the storm.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Ms. Alice Lippert on being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Medal. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Ms. Lippert and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia’s 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

MARKING THE PASSING OF JAMES  
BRADY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of James Scott Brady, a courageous champion in the fight against gun violence and the legacy of lifesaving leadership he leaves behind. Through triumph and tragedy, Jim Brady remained an insistent and impassioned voice of clarity and consequence in our national effort to strengthen our gun laws. His death at age 73 concludes a life defined by public service and personal bravery—and renews the call to action that he made so well for so long.

Jim Brady, a proud alumnus of the flagship institution in his home state, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discovered a life-long passion for public policy after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.

After graduating, Brady worked with some of the leading American political figures of the late 20th century. As an aide to then-State Senator Everett Dirksen—who would later serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and as the U.S. Senate Minority Leader—Brady deepened an abiding belief in the power of public service to build a better world.

As an advisor to top-level public officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense and the U.S. Senate, Brady became an indispensable counselor and trusted friend to many. He was tapped to serve as Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Reagan-Bush Committee and, following the election, as Spokesperson for the Office of the President-Elect and White House Press Secretary.

On a fateful March in 1981, Jim Brady suffered a gunshot wound to the head during the assassination attempt on President Reagan’s life. The road to recovery would be hard, but Jim and his wife, Sarah Brady, would inspire the nation with their resolve.

Strengthened by their own struggle, Jim and Sarah vowed to take a stand on behalf of all victims of gun violence. This couple’s heroic leadership challenged our nation to act, and because they did, millions of Americans are safer and many of our communities are more secure.

It took the Bradys six years, seven votes, three administrations, endless strength and boundless courage to enact the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act. But, thanks to their dedication, the Brady bill became the law of the land.

By 2010, the Brady law had blocked felons trying to buy guns more than a million times—an average of 171 felons denied applications to buy firearms a day. Almost 300,000 domestic violence offenders were prevented from buying guns. Thanks to Jim and Sarah Brady, countless families have been spared the tragedy of gun violence.

In recognition of this leadership, Jim Brady was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Today, the White House press secretary addresses the media—and the nation—from the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

Every day, the Bradys’ legacy is felt in lives saved by the law that bears his name. Jim Brady’s perseverance challenges all of us to never stop fighting for the common sense gun violence reduction measures our nation needs. Jim Brady was a man of extraordinary wit, charm and courage, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

I hope that it is a comfort to Jim’s wife, Sarah, his children and all of his loved ones that so many people across the country share their grief and mourn the loss of such a valiant and dedicated man.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. KENT HILL, DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONSUMMATE DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kansas City VA Director Kent Hill, a transformational leader with an open door policy that is known for the unselfish public service that he has provided to our veterans, their families, his staff, and to me in my capacity as United States Representative for the Fifth District of Missouri. I think it is important to recognize the accomplishments of those who professionally serve with distinction. Director Hill has done so modestly without bringing attention on himself.

The scope of his work since 2002 at the Kansas City VA Medical Center included an operating budget of approximately \$260,000,000, approximately 1,500 employees and providing healthcare services to more than 45,000 veterans. He had the added responsibility of opening and overseeing clinical programs, including five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and the new Honor Annex. In addition, the Kansas City VA Medical Center has a vibrant research and outreach program.

When Kent Hill took over as Director for the Kansas City VA Medical Center, he came in as a veteran who had attended the Air Force Academy and has spent 40 years in Federal service. During his career, he cultivated a successful management style, centered on personal involvement and respect for his staff and the veterans and their families that he served. He was an advocate of the methodology outlined in the book, “The Servant Leader”. His staff worked within a management style that

delegates power, believes in a team approach, motivation, recognition, and at the core; an understanding for the veterans and their issues. He has been a strong advocate for continuing professional growth through education and initiated a mentoring program.

Under Kent Hill’s direction, the hospital has undergone a complete floor to floor update and expanded to include: new surgical suites, Women’s Clinic, Chiropractic care, state of the art Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hospice Unit, Blind Rehab Center, Cochlear implant program, Sleep Lab, New Ambulatory Surgery Unit, an OIF/OEF Case Management Program and a new Dialysis Unit.

Access to VA healthcare and services have long been a priority for Director Hill. His management and oversight of veteran access included weekly meetings with clinical leaders to review capacity for appointments and wait times as well as decisions on adding staff and new services. To facilitate easy access for veterans to the programs and services of the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Director Hill originated a Greeter program, a Vet 4 Vet navigator program and shuttle service to and from the parking lots; and a successful and long awaited Veterans Transportation Service became operational. He tackled telephone access and electronic messaging to providers. Director Hill did not stop with services and programs at the main hospital—but placed emphasis on taking VA healthcare outside the parent facility and into the surrounding communities. He activated a Mobile Medical Unit, opened Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and built a community-based Radiation Therapy Building. One of his more noteworthy achievements was the opening of a large outpatient building—the Honor Annex—that houses mental health services, primary care and a women’s clinic.

One of the compliments that I have heard often is regarding cleanliness and modernization of the hospital. An example of his receptiveness and desire for a more accessible environment can best be illustrated with the Director’s directive to remove glass partitions that had created barriers between staff and veterans. This important move coincided with many communication and outreach initiatives.

During my time in office, I have watched the Kansas City VA gear up for returning veterans from current conflicts while maintaining services to all of our existing veterans. An example of Director Hill’s proactive style became evident as the current conflicts brought new mental health problems and illnesses, he called for focused education for his staff on how to identify and help veterans coming home from combat. With the continual evolution of hidden wounds from war, he ensured the staff was trained to identify signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and possible suicide. Expanding of mental health services included veterans having access to Veterans Court as well as a multitude of homeless programs and initiatives. An example of the influence and impact of Director Hill’s leadership is the widespread participation of the KCVA staff in the spring and fall community Heart of America Stand Down for homeless veterans. Director Hill can be seen every year personally distributing boots to homeless veterans. Since arriving in Kansas City, Director Hill has championed inner city and rural outreach programs to ensure veterans are aware of their many benefits. His

outreach efforts have touched veterans in many different locations throughout the Heartland. In 2013, Kansas City VA staff hosted and/or participated in more than 40 veteran-focused events. Director Hill can be seen at many different events always supporting causes and programs for our veterans. He has a strong dedication and commitment to the veterans he serves. One of the most compelling stories about Director Hill is when he attended the funeral of a civil war veteran, whose family had long-awaited formal burial. These are only a few of the many examples of how Kent Hill has torn down barriers and gained the respect of our veterans.

Perhaps the most gratifying praise one can receive is to have the respect and appreciation from those they serve. Among the veterans of Missouri's Fifth District, Director Hill is regarded as a listener who takes their concerns seriously and will take the time to discuss solutions, explains his position with diplomacy and compassion. In an effort to have a closer relationship with our veterans, he meets periodically with the Veterans Focus Liaison Committee. This committee concept was presented to Director Hill by a group of veterans who received services at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. The idea was readily accepted and this grassroots committee took shape. The members talk to their peers and relay their concerns to the Director. He has been receptive to their suggestions and always willing to investigate their grievances. This partnership has resulted in more honest communication and better relations between staff and the veterans they serve. Veterans have commented that when meeting with Director Hill, he already was aware of the issue and had been working on solutions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Mr. Kent Hill, Director of the Kansas City VA Medical Center upon his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While he embraces this next phase of life with his wife, Anita; children, Blake, Kirk, Keith and Stephen; and grandchildren, he leaves with the respect and admiration of those who have had the pleasure of working with him. I wish to personally thank him for his tireless service to our country and his unquestionable dedication to our veterans. His imprint will long be felt by future generations at the Kansas City VA Medical Center and in our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAY PEANUT FESTIVAL

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Jay Peanut Festival and recognize its founders, Gene and Brenda Gabbert and the community of Jay, Florida.

The Town of Jay, situated in northern Santa Rosa County, Florida near the Florida/Alabama line, is home to over 500 residents and the annual Jay Peanut Festival.

A quarter of a century ago, Gene and Brenda Gabbert founded the festival in honor of their daughter Melissa, who had lost her battle

with cancer at the young age of 19. Melissa found great joy in frequenting agricultural festivals throughout the Gulf Coast and the special sense of community that festivals often bring to life. After her passing, the Gabberts started the Jay Peanut Festival to keep Melissa's memory alive and bring together the entire Northwest Florida community in celebration of the area's deep agricultural history.

In the 25 years since, the festival has flourished. While the pig chase has remained a highlight, what began in 1990 as a one-day event with 30–40 vendors is now a two-day event with 230 booths, live entertainment, carnival rides, 5k run, and a parade. The staple of the festival—the peanut—may attract the tens of thousands of visitors from all over; however, to the Town of Jay, the festival is much more than that. It's also a celebration of community, that Melissa was so fond of, and its members who have helped carry on this proud tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 25-year history of the Jay Peanut Festival. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing the Gabberts and the Town of Jay all the best for continued success.

HONORING ATASCOSA COUNTY  
JUDGE DIANA BAUTISTA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Atascosa County Judge Diana Bautista. Judge Bautista has served the people of South Texas since she was elected in 2002.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Diana Bautista worked for the county as a clerk, as a Secretary for the jail Administrator, and then became a Pleasanton police officer and Atascosa County Sheriffs Deputy. During her time with public service offices such as these, Judge Bautista learned how she could best serve the people of Atascosa County. Taking her oath in 2003, Judge Bautista has served admirably for over a decade, boldly advocating for the citizens and employees of the county. In addition to her exemplary career, Judge Bautista is a committed wife and mother and a cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Diana Bautista. Her dedication to the citizens of Atascosa County has truly made her community a better place to live and work.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past quarter century, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation was established in 1989 when the need for housing for the mentally ill became apparent. The first group home, "Shepherd House I," opened in 1989 with a \$1,500 donation from co-founders, Horace and Virginia Baker. As the parents of an adult child with mental health issues, the Bakers knew firsthand the challenges in finding safe housing options that would allow their son to live as independently as possible while receiving the care he needed. Mr. and Mrs. Baker, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, worked closely with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

Since its inception, Good Shepherd Housing Foundation has grown substantially in both clientele and breadth of mission. Now in 25th year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 77 single adults and 45 families in 70 households throughout Prince William. Assistance is extended to those with chronic low income and mental or physical disabilities. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses, and churches, and it receives assistance from local, state, and federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally-ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II, and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. The Foundation also provides eight apartments, one townhouse, and one affordable rental house maintained by the Foundation offering the mentally ill, some of whom are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Over the years, the Foundation has expanded its mission providing a broader scope of resources to the community to aid in providing housing to individuals and families who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The Foundation offers a holistic program approach aimed not only at providing housing but also teaching program participants the importance of education and financial management. Programs and services include the Affordable Rentals Program, Shepherd Homes, Shepherd Leasing, and a two-year Transitional Housing Partnership. Tutoring and child-care services are also available for the children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the work of Good Shepherd Housing Foundation in Prince William and in congratulating it on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The Foundation exists thanks to the dedication and generosity of its board, staff, volunteers, and many community supporters, and it is another example of what makes Prince William such a wonderful place to live.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S DEBORAH "DEE" COPELAND

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Deborah "Dee"