

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. JIM AND BETTY HELD'S OWNERSHIP OF THE STONE HILL WINERY COMPANY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Betty Held's ownership of the Stone Hill Winery Company. Stone Hill Winery continues to be one of Missouri's most pre-eminent businesses, and has received numerous accolades throughout the Helds' 50 years of ownership. Today, the winery farms seven vineyards and purchases grapes from five independent growers in the state; thus, producing more than 250,000 gallons of Missouri grown wine and contributing over \$7 million to the state's economy each year.

The story of the Stone Hill Wine Company begins in 1847, when it was founded by Mr. Michael Poeschel. The winery quickly grew in popularity and size, and soon became the second largest winery in the United States. In the 1880's, Stone Hill's thriving business allowed Missouri to become the leading wine producing state in the nation. On December 28, 1901 an ornately decorated bottle of Stone Hill Wine Company "Pearl of Missouri" Extra Dry Champagne was used to christen the first USS *Missouri*, Battleship (BB-11).

Unfortunately, prohibition would soon take a hit on the state's wine production and Stone Hill; killing the thriving industry in Missouri. This despair would not last long. In 1961, after returning home from his service in the Navy, Jim Held planted a four acre vineyard of cawtawba grapes near Hermann, Missouri. Only four years later, Jim was asked by the then current owner of Stone Hill to reopen a winery on the property, and on July 5, 1965, the Held's officially reopened the Stone Hill Winery.

Since its reopening, the winery has restored the wine industry in Missouri. In 1969, Stone Hill Winery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several years later, the Held's traveled to Washington, D.C. in 1982 to receive the award for Missouri's Small Business of the Year, presented by President Ronald Reagan. The awards did not end there, as the Held's received Hall of Fame recognition from the Missouri Division of Tourism and the Pioneer Award from the Missouri Grape and Wine Program. Additionally, the winery has been awarded the Missouri's Governor's Cup on nine occasions for producing the best wine in Missouri and has received three C.V. Riley Awards for the Best Missouri Norton, the official state grape of Missouri. In 2014, in honor of his accomplishments and revival of the Missouri Wine Industry, Jim was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

The Helds have come a long way since first reopening the Stone Hill Winery with only \$1,500 to their name. Jim and Betty's hard work and dedication have not only afforded enjoyment for Missourians, but provided jobs across the state. Their award-winning winery has proven to be a staple to Missouri, and its wines continue to be enjoyed by individuals across the United States.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Held for the accomplishments throughout the years and celebrating their 50th Anniversary as owners of the Stone Hill Winery.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE WALDROP'S
25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Elaine Waldrop, a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs' Congressional Liaison Service on the occasion of her retirement. Elaine has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. She has served for more than 25 years and her career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion. As Elaine 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.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW C.
WIKTOROWICZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Andrew C. Wiktorowicz, an outstanding leader and representative of the California Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). During Mr. Wiktorowicz's two terms as Chairman of California's ESGR, his extensive expertise and unwavering leadership forwarded the organization's mission of promoting supportive work environments for servicemembers through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities.

Mr. Wiktorowicz's exceptional leadership was instrumental in combining the Northern and Southern California committees into a single California Committee for the ESGR. Mr. Wiktorowicz managed a seamless transition and successfully integrated both regions to create the largest ESGR Committee in the United States. Under Mr. Wiktorowicz's direction, the California ESGR served an estimated 63,000 members of the National Guard Reserves and additionally supported over 600 military and employer events annually. Additionally, Mr. Wiktorowicz developed and implemented the highly effective Employment Initiative Program supporting over 5,000 Citizen Warriors and resulting in over 500 successful hires.

During Mr. Wiktorowicz's tenure, over 14,000 employers signed the ESGR Statement of Support and over 5,000 supervisors received the Employer Support Patriot Award. His selfless dedication to the committee and service members distinguished the ESGR as the premier military and employer volunteer establishment in the State of California. Mr. Wiktorowicz's efforts have been recognized nationally because of his strong Ombudsman Program, which effectively supports all California Guard and Reservists.

Mr. Wiktorowicz has been an amazing asset to both Ventura County and the State of California. Through his efforts on behalf of servicemembers and the working community, he has created an organization that for many is the backbone of their tenure in the California Guard and Reserves.

For these reasons, I would like to graciously thank Mr. Wiktorowicz for his steadfast commitment and dedication as the Chairman of the State of California's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Mr. Wiktorowicz's work with the ESGR will continue to positively shape the experience for future generations of the California Guard and Reserves.

HONORING NEWLY NATURALIZED
AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2015. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake 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. The oath ceremony was 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 July 4, 2015, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Guillermina Cornejo Campos, Emmanuel Thierry Mentor, Ruth Elizabeth Gallegos Pecina, Beatrice Nyambura Macharia, Geoffrey Macharia Gakuya, Javeed Ali Khan, Vika Priscilia Boentaram, Mateusz Dembowski, Srinivasa Rao Ayinampudi, Jacqueline Zumazuma, Viviana Pacheco, Fatma Dafallah Widaatlah, Dorothy Wanjiru Njiru, Emilia Robles de Navarro, Erlinda Dimaala Miranda, Juan Andres Bermudez Aguirre, Karen Yanin Hernandez, Jose Abonce Belmonte, Fayzeh Mahmoud Altaweel, Priya Phani Ayinampudi, Maria Beatriz Becerra, Aaditya Ganapathy