

Squaw Valley, and have twenty-four hours to make their way to the end of the rugged trail in Auburn, California. The 60th annual ride will take place on August 1, 2015.

Thousands of horseback riders from around the world participate in the Tevis Cup. The event brings together a vast community of volunteers dedicated to keeping the Western States Trail open to the public. Volunteers spend innumerable hours and significant financial resources to make this equestrian endurance ride a success year after year.

Mr. Speaker, the Western States Trail Foundation and the Tevis Cup Ride have made an important contribution to both the local economy and the preservation of this rugged Sierra trail. I thank the Western States Trail Foundation for hosting the Tevis Cup Ride, particularly on the event's 60th Anniversary, and I commend the Foundation for its continuing efforts to ensure the trail remains a monument to public access and enjoyment of our nation's abundant natural resources.

REMEMBERING LEONORA TERESA
BROWNE WELCH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Leonora Teresa Browne Welch who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

Mrs. Welch was born in Savannah, Georgia on June 23, 1928 and was the only child of Josephine Mollo and Palmer Carr Browne. She had many fond memories of her childhood with Italian family members on her mother's side, and growing up on her father's dairy farm, Kensington Dairy, which comprised the land known today as Kensington Park and Fairway Oaks.

Mrs. Welch attended Cathedral Day School and St. Vincent's Academy where she was Valedictorian of her graduating class in 1946. She went on to study journalism at Armstrong College and worked at Citizens and Southern Bank.

In 1952, Mrs. Welch married O.C. Welch, Jr., a Savannah native and engineer for the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, and by 1963 she was a busy mother to her eight children. She was affectionately called "Noni" by her husband and later by her many grandchildren. The Welches were married for 43 years until Mr. Welch's death in 1996.

Mrs. Welch was a devout Catholic throughout her life, and the Welch family were communicants of St. James Catholic Church where their children attended school before going on to attend St. Vincent's Academy and Benedictine Military School.

As her children began to leave the house, Mrs. Welch found more time to avail herself to volunteer for several community organizations including Goodwill, but was especially dedicated to her work in the Diocese of Savannah and St. James offices. She also enjoyed a close circle of friends known as The BOF's— or Best of Friends—who met monthly for luncheons around Savannah. She was also active in the Daughters of Ireland.

Mrs. Welch was a shining example of God's unconditional love, and was a loving and

proud mother and grandmother. She is survived by her daughters Celeste Welch Crago and Julie Welch Cirincioni; and her sons Michael Warren Welch (Aino), O.C. Welch III, Daniel Kevin Welch, Brian Christopher Welch (Tiffany), Douglas Gerald Welch (Marcy), and Joseph Thomas Welch (Charlotte); 20 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATURAL
GAS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECO-
NOMIC SECURITY ACT

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Natural Gas Environmental and Economic Security Act with a number of my colleagues, including the Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee RAÚL GRIJALVA, to reduce the frivolous and unnecessary waste of natural gas from public lands. Large volumes of natural gas are regularly flared, vented, or simply leak from Federal oil and gas leases—in 2013 alone, the amount of lost gas could meet the heating and cooking needs of 1.6 million American homes according to the Environmental Defense Fund. To make matters worse, the Center for American Progress and The Wilderness Society showed that the amount of gas lost to venting and flaring doubled between 2008 and 2013, with no sign of the trend slowing. In addition, this wasted gas is not subject to royalties, costing the American taxpayers as much as \$58 million annually in lost revenue according to the Government Accountability Office.

Beyond being economically wasteful, these processes are bad for human health and the environment. Gas released to the atmosphere from venting and leaks contributes dramatically to climate change, since methane, the major component of natural gas, has 25 times the warming impact of carbon dioxide over 100 years. In 2013 alone, the Environmental Defense Fund estimated that the volume of methane released to the atmosphere was equivalent to the emissions from 5.6 million cars. Venting, flaring, and leaks all affect local air quality as well by releasing volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter into the atmosphere. These environmental costs undercut the potential benefits of natural gas as a lower-carbon, cleaner burning fuel alternative to coal.

Local regulations have already demonstrated that the best way to curb venting, flaring, and fugitive releases is to both enact strong regulations and incentivize gas capture by collecting royalties on lost gas, and our bill, the Natural Gas Environmental and Economic Security Act takes this two-pronged approach. To address royalties, the bill amends the Mineral Leasing Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require royalties on all gas produced from new leases, including gas used on the lease to power equipment. Gas lost in acute emergency situations would remain exempt from royalties to ensure that safety is not compromised.

The bill would also require that 99 percent of all gas produced each year from Federal leases be captured within 5 years. It also prohibits venting and limits routine flaring. To

reach the 99 percent goal, the bill establishes equipment and operation standards, mandatory leak detection and repair procedures, and recordkeeping requirements; it also institutes new reporting requirements for all gas produced, disposed, or leaked on a lease and requires public disclosure of the data. Market-appropriate enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance, as well as guidelines for applying such measures, are also established.

This bill is a win-win for the American taxpayer, providing both environmental and economic benefits, while also promoting the growth of the domestic methane mitigation industry, which is creating high-paying jobs through small businesses across the nation. Further, many of these gains come at minimal or no cost to producers, since many mitigation technologies pay for themselves once the captured gas is marketed.

The Natural Gas Environmental and Economic Security Act stops the waste of valuable taxpayer resources, protects the environment and public health, and boosts the economy. I ask that my colleagues support this common-sense legislation and rein in the waste of natural gas from our public lands.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF DOROTHEA MCBRIDE

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday July 29, 2015

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothea McBride who is retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs after 27 years of dedicated service. A Registered Nurse, a Veteran, and Patient Administrator at Central Alabama Veterans Healthcare System, her tireless work has been instrumental in helping the veterans of Central Alabama.

Under particularly challenging circumstances, Dorothea has provided critical health care to many of our nation's most dedicated servants. Whether responding to veterans directly or working with my office on Congressional inquiries, she has demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism and patriotism, literally saving lives.

Dorothea McBride cares deeply for the veterans in her care. She never failed to respond diligently and with compassion and courtesy when asked for help. Along with my staff, I want to wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life. We will never forget her service.

CONGRATULATING GIL MILLER ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Gil Miller on his retirement from the United States Navy and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Captain Miller is a Naval Academy graduate who has devoted 25 years of his life to serving our country. For the last two years he has

done an outstanding job as commander of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base in Tarrant County, Texas. He has served our country well while also making significant contributions to the communities around the base.

Earlier in his career, Captain Miller flew SH-2 and SH-60 helicopters based on ships in the Eastern Pacific, Central America, and Caribbean. He also flew fleet airlift missions in the Beechcraft C-12 and the C-130T Hercules transport for three tours, and deployed on relief missions for the Pakistani earthquake and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Captain Miller served two tours in the Pentagon as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director and as principal briefer to the Undersecretary of Defense for all Reserve and National Guard mobilizations, deployment orders, and global force management.

While Captain Miller has served our country he has been blessed with the support of his wife, Cheryl.

I offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Captain Miller for his outstanding career in the Navy and wish him the best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING JOHN S.
LIZAMA ON HIS PROMOTION TO
BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnny S. Lizama of the village of Santa Rita on his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General of the Guam Air National Guard. Brigadier General Lizama is the Director of Staff for Air, Joint Forces Headquarters, Guam National Guard. He was appointed to serve as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air Force by Governor Eddie Baza Calvo.

Brigadier General Lizama began his military career in June 1977 after enlisting in the United States Coast Guard. In December 1982, he enlisted in the Air Force and reported to Eglin Air Force Base as a Direct Duty Assignment Interior Electrician with the 3202nd Civil Engineering Squadron. He later served as a Manpower Management Technician with Detachment 6, 3904th Management Squadron at Beale Air Force Base, California, during his last two years of active duty service. In 1988, Brigadier General Lizama separated from the Air Force and returned to Guam, where he joined the Guam Air National Guard and served as the 254th Services Flight Superintendent until 1992.

In 1992, Brigadier General Lizama was commissioned in the Guam Air National Guard as Personnel Programs Officer for the 254th Air Base Group and later as Director of Personnel for the Active Guard Reserve. As Director of Personnel, he administered a range of personnel programs to include procurement, professional development, recruitment and retention programs, and support for contingency operations, among other major responsibilities.

From 2002 to 2006, Brigadier General Lizama was the comptroller for the 254th Air Base Group with oversight of \$2.1M in appropriated funds, whose financial management

expertise was instrumental in the planning and standup of the 254th Security Forces Squadron. As commander of the 254th Air Base Group from August 2007 to September 2013, he was responsible for the command and control of Guam Air National Guard's units and activities and their maximum readiness capabilities.

Brigadier General Lizama is a 1977 alumnus of Father Duenas Memorial High School in Tai, Guam. He received a Bachelors degree in Management from the University of Guam and Masters degrees in Public Administration and Human Resources from Golden Gate University. Additionally, Brigadier General Lizama enrolled and successfully completed Air War College.

I extend my congratulations to Johnny S. Lizama on his promotion to Brigadier General, and I join the people of Guam in commending him for his service to our nation and island. Brigadier General Lizama's promotion marks an important milestone in the history of the Guam National Guard. Finding qualified officers to serve in Assistant Adjutant General positions ensures that the vision and intent of the Guard Empowerment Act is being fulfilled on Guam. This will provide greater professional development for well qualified officers in the Guam National Guard.

Moreover, this is a historic occasion for our island as Brigadier General Lizama is the first Chamorro Airman to be promoted and federally recognized at the rank of brigadier general in the Guam Air National Guard and the United States Air Force. I also extend my congratulations to his wife, Dee, and their four children, Keith and his wife Paul Jean, Kimberly and her husband Jonathan, Brother Cody, OFM Cap., and Rico as well as to his two grandchildren, Taehlyn-Jean and Urijah John. I wish him the best on this important achievement.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ABDO
YOUSSEF SAAB

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Abdo Youssef Saab of Los Angeles, California, a man of integrity and an outstanding community leader, who passed away on July 23, 2015.

Abdo was born in Hammana, Lebanon on August 15, 1945. He was educated in Jesuit schools in Lebanon, studied in France and received his Civil Engineering degree. Abdo came to Los Angeles in the early 1970's, where he met Lourdes, a community liaison for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office; they fell in love and married. They lived and raised their two daughters, Liane and Jessica in La Cañada Flintridge before moving to Los Angeles.

Mr. Saab began a long and remarkable career as a businessman, ascending quickly to the position of Vice President of Downtown L.A. Motors. He then began several businesses, including a travel agency and a consulting firm. Abdo was also active in the local law enforcement and political communities.

A charismatic man, Abdo's presence was felt wherever he went. He loved to make peo-

ple laugh, and his good sense of humor made a positive lasting impression on everyone he met. Valuing integrity in work, politics and life, Mr. Saab treated everyone equally with respect and as a friend, and cared deeply about civil liberties and justice. He enjoyed helping people and was a dependable friend in hard times. Deeply patriotic, Abdo loved Lebanon, his country of origin, and America, his adopted home.

A devoted family man, Abdo is survived by his loving wife Lourdes, daughters Liane and Jessica Saab, brother George and sisters Georgette, Layla, Aida and May.

Abdo was an irreplaceable part of our community and he will be sorely missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched. A trusted friend and a man of impeccable character, I ask all Members to join me in remembering Abdo Youssef Saab.

HONORING PRINCIPAL JAMES
CONDON FOR THE 2015 INDIANA
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal James Condon of Plymouth High School for being named the 2015 Principal of the Year. His success in fostering an exceptional learning environment for students in Plymouth is nothing short of remarkable.

Every year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals recognizes outstanding middle school and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. Recipients are chosen based on their performance in four categories, which include personal excellence, collaborative leadership, curriculum and personalization. Among other requirements, an award winner must model values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage others to higher levels of performance; create a culture of collaboration; ensure that each student has the best possible opportunity of realizing success; and create a school climate that is warm, inviting, safe and secure. Every one of us depends on our teachers, and because of that, they deserve our support and appreciation.

For over 20 years, Principal Condon has been contributing to the betterment of Indiana education. Since he became the principal of Plymouth High School in 2007, the school has been rated as one of the top high schools in Indiana and has received an "A" from the state in school accountability. As an added accomplishment, the school has achieved an 86 percent graduation rate, exceeding the Indiana state average by nearly 10 percent. These remarkable achievements have been duly-recognized and rewarded. Before receiving Principal of the Year, he was named the top high school principal in Indiana's second district, which includes Elkhart, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, LaPorte and Kosciusko counties. Because of leaders like him, Hoosier classrooms are filled with future doctors, scientists and entrepreneurs.