

other to climb the 8,000 feet to the top of Pike's Peak.

Mr. Sanchez met his biggest challenge . . . to meet the San Jose Mayor's and City Council's goals to produce thousands of units of affordable housing. Through our time with ALF and the opportunity to work with each other, I was able to witness Alex's selfless and courageous drive to promote policies and design programs to increase the supply of affordable housing.

It has been a great privilege to have shared a friendship and working partnership with Alex Sanchez over the years. I commend him for his 27 years of distinguished service with the City of San Jose Housing Department and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara. Alex has greatly improved the lives of thousands of people and I thank him for his years of dedicated service to Silicon Valley.

His work has been recognized through his leadership positions in a number of national and state housing policy organizations. He is a founder of the California Housing Consortium, and served as a member of the Housing Leadership Council of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Most recently, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to Chair the California Housing Partnership Corporation.

Mr. Sanchez's exemplary leadership will be greatly missed. I rise today to wish him my very deepest congratulations for his exceptional level of commitment to public service across various California communities, including the City of Bell Gardens and the City of Santa Ana. I extend him my greatest personal wishes for health and happiness throughout his very well-earned retirement.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to attend votes from July 20–31, 2015. I would have supported final passage of the following bills:

Roll Call #489 (H.R. 1994: VA Accountability Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #486 (H.R. 3236: Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #482 (H.R. 427: Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #472 (H.R. 675: Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #466 (H.R. 3009: Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act—On Passage)

Roll Call #458 (H.R. 1734: Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #449 (H.R. 2256: Veterans Information Modernization Act—On Motion to Suspend the Rule and Pass, as Amended)

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 GREATER RESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize recipients of the 2015 Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1982 as a business roundtable in the growing community of Reston, Virginia. For more than 30 years, the Reston Chamber has facilitated business growth and entrepreneurship through its programming, advocacy, and engagement throughout the region. The Reston Chamber currently has more than 600 member businesses that together employ more than 10,000 people. It is the 6th largest chamber of commerce in the Washington, D.C.-metropolitan region and is deeply embedded in the community.

The Reston Chamber hosts annual events such as Taste of Reston, Oktoberfest Reston, and Best of Reston, and it has received national recognition for its Ethics Day, a workshop for high school students on ethical decision making. Members use the INC.spire Education Foundation and business coaching programs to help create and grow their enterprises. INC.spire has assisted more than four dozen entrepreneurs create 500 jobs and \$45 million of business investment.

Each year, the Chamber recognizes member companies, individuals, and volunteers who have demonstrated excellence, innovation, and exceptional dedication to the Reston community. I am pleased to join the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the following Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) recipients:

Committee of the Year: Communications Committee

Small Business of the Year: Visual Impact Productions

Medium Business of the Year: Able Moving and Storage

Large Business of the Year: Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, PC

Member of the Year: Maggie Parker and Comstock Partners LC

New Member of the Year: Jason Butler, JB Printing & Specialty Services

Volunteer of the Year: Janel Giambone, M&T Bank

President's Award: Cornerstones

Joe Ritchey Pinnacle Award: Matthew Brennan, Brennan & Waite, PLC

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's award recipients and in thanking them for their contributions to the local economy and outstanding service to our community. I also commend the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for its role as an invaluable partner to local businesses, nonprofits and schools. The efforts of the Chamber, the member businesses, and volunteers have helped make Reston a truly special place live, work, and raise a family.

ACKNOWLEDGING NATIONAL CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST RECOGNITION WEEK

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge National Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week, which is taking place from September 1st through September 7th.

There are over 72,000 clinical nurse specialists in the United States, and they are an integral part of our health care system. Clinical nurse specialists deliver high quality health care by diagnosing, treating, and managing patients. These critical health care providers identify and implement best practices, which reduce health care costs. The expertise of clinical nurse specialists will be crucial as our nation's population continues to age and demand for health care grows.

The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists represents this important profession nationally. I would like to congratulate the association on celebrating their 20th anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week, as well as all the clinical nurse specialists in this country who help ensure that we all stay healthy.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 29th 2015, I missed seven recorded votes. I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present. On Roll Call No. 483, I would have voted "no." On Roll Call No. 484, I would have voted "no." On Roll Call 485, I would have voted "yes." On Roll Call 486, I would have voted "no."

Although I support full VA funding, I cannot support another short term transportation bill that fails to address the long term transportation funding needs in our country. I was disappointed that the VA funding was tied to this vote. On Roll Call 487, I would have voted "yes." On Roll Call 488, I would have voted "yes." On Roll Call 489, I would have voted "no."

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RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNUAL GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "ABOVE AND BEYOND" AWARDS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding group of first responders and public safety officers who have been honored with the Third Annual Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce "Above and Beyond" Award.