

from the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois who is turning 50 years old this week.

Twenty-five years ago, Steve Tufenkjian graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy and has served the people of Illinois in several different ways ever since. In that time, he has served as everything from a K9 officer to a member of the Special Enforcement Team and from Sergeant to his current role where he oversees a team of Troopers as Platoon Commander.

In each of his roles, Mr. Tufenkjian has been recognized by the Illinois State Police for his great work. He has received several awards for his dedication and, as a member of the Special Enforcement Team, he made more than 1,000 reckless driving arrests.

Our state and our nation need more dedicated public servants like Steve Tufenkjian. I wish him and his family—his two sons Zachary and Jacob as well as his wife of 17 years Michelle, who is also a State Police officer—a happy 50th birthday and thank them for their continued public service and efforts to keep our community safe.

TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF CONCORD CITY COUNCILMAN DAVID W. PHILLIPS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David W. Phillips of Concord, North Carolina, for his more than twenty years of service to our community on the Concord City Council.

Dave was first elected to the Concord City Council in 1995 and has served on the Council five consecutive terms. During this time, he served two terms as Mayor Pro-Term. Born and raised in Concord, Dave has a history of service to our community, starting at an early age with his leadership in Boy Scouts. He graduated from Concord High School and continued on to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After graduating, Dave worked for a short time back in Concord at Cannon Mills before starting a long and successful career at Duke Energy.

Over the years, Dave has served his community in many different capacities. He is a member and former President of the Concord Rotary Club, a member of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association, and serves on the Boards of Directors for Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. and Cabarrus County Community Foundation. Additionally, he formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce.

Dave's steady leadership has seen Concord maintain a low tax rate while its population has more than doubled from the 42,000 people who lived in the city when he was first elected in 1995. During a time that saw our area lose thousands of textile and manufacturing jobs while still increasing in population, Dave and the rest of the City Council were instrumental in continuing infrastructure develop-

ment, growing city schools and recruiting new industry to Concord. Because of his hard work and dedication, Concord's future looks brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking David W. Phillips for his esteemed service on the Concord City Council and wishing him well as he opens the next chapter in his storied life.

HONORING KIRK GREGG

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my Congressional district is the home of Corning Incorporated, an American company that has risen over its 164-year history to become one of the most innovative manufacturers in the world.

Today, I rise to take a moment to honor Kirk Gregg, Corning's Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, who is retiring from the company after 22 years of executive leadership. Over his tenure, Kirk has made an enormous contribution to the company's success and to the community's development. I am most grateful to Kirk for his unparalleled commitment to the community. He has had an enormously positive impact on my constituents and my extended family that live in the district.

Kirk joined Corning in 1993 and was named Chief Administrative Officer in 2002. The same year, he was appointed to serve on Corning's Management Committee, a small, very senior group of executives who lead the company. Over the last decade, Kirk has risen up the corporate ladder to become the third highest ranking executive in the company.

As Chief Administrative Officer, Kirk has built the core infrastructure that makes Corning efficient and effective. He has had global responsibility for the corporate staff, including human resources, information technology, supply management, transportation, business services, community relations, government affairs, and aviation. In total, he has managed over \$1B annually in corporate infrastructure, making Corning's staff one of the top performers among its peers in the country's corporate community.

It has been Kirk's work for the community that distinguishes him among corporate leaders and for which I am most grateful. He has played a huge role in meeting the needs of New York's "Southern Tier."

For 17 years, he chaired the Three Rivers Development, attracting tens of millions of dollars of investment to diversify the local community and create jobs. For 15 years, he led the Corning Classic LPGA Tournaments, raising millions of dollars for area hospitals. And statewide, he served for a decade on the Board of Directors for the Business Council of New York State, two years as the Board's chairman. Last, but not least, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of local charities, cultural institutions, and human service organizations.

Every Member of Congress seeks the perspective of people with broad insight into and

who contribute generously to the communities we represent. For me, Kirk is one of those rare people. He understands the people, the community, and the responsibility that corporate leaders have to support their local institutions.

At the same time, he is modest and self-effacing. Kirk is one of those people who works quietly and effectively to make our communities better.

I am very happy to call Kirk Gregg my friend. I know that I speak for the entire Corning, New York community when I thank him for his citizenship and service. We wish him and his wife Penny the very best in a well-deserved retirement. May they enjoy many more happy days entering this new chapter in their lives.

HONORING MAGNUS JOHNSON

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Magnus Johnson for his service to his country and community.

Johnson is a veteran of the United States Army and a former Green Beret, completing consecutive tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson's record of service included work with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDS) and Unexploded Ordnances which garnered him a Bronze Star; moreover, Johnson's service overseas earned him a Combat Medal.

Following Johnson's final tour, he was struck with grief when a close friend and fellow service member committed suicide in 2013. Johnson's personal experience with suicide led him to create "Elder Heart," an organization dedicated to healing. His organization strives to repair the divide between veteran and civilian by encouraging both to engage in projects that enhance the community. Elder Heart's approach led to the creation of public art; a sculpture built by veterans and civilians in Nashville, Indiana which highlights Elder Heart's hands-on approach to a veteran's healing process.

Moreover, Johnson aims to raise awareness of veterans who commit suicide—twenty-two every day—through social media, magazine and newspaper advertisements, and other forms of media. Coined "Mission 22," Johnson hopes to educate the public about the plight of some of our service members. Elder Heart is currently planning to construct a national memorial to bring attention to suicide among America's veterans.

Johnson's work has not kept him from being a loyal husband and father. He hopes his 6-year-old daughter and newborn son will come to know the sacrifice of America's veterans.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Johnson on a number of occasions and can speak without hesitation to his ethical character and his dedication to his brothers-and-sisters in arms. It is a privilege to award him with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRLS' VARSITY
SOFTBALL TEAM OF VALOR
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Girls' Varsity Softball team of Valor Christian High School in Highlands Ranch, Colorado on winning the 2015 Colorado 4A State Championship game on October 25, 2015.

The students and staff who were a part of the title winning Eagle team deserve to be honored for finishing what had already been a fantastic season by winning the State Championship for the second time in two years. Recording 15 shutouts from their 23 victories, and outscoring their opponents 285–29 helps to illustrate just how dominant the Valor Christian Eagles were this past season.

Throughout their performances in the State Championships, the girls of Valor Christian High School's softball team proved that hard work, dedication, and perseverance is the perfect recipe for champions. The team was led to the championship title through the tireless leadership of their head coach, Dave Atencio, and his commendable staff.

I also congratulate the teachers and parents of this great team. The faculty who supported the Eagles throughout the season must be recognized. No team, no matter how talented and committed, can rise to the level of State Champions without exceptional support and guidance from their teachers and parents.

It is with great pride that I join with the families of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, in congratulating the Valor Christian Eagles on their second straight State Championship.

HONORING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
JOHN IZAK OF THE NOTTINGHAM
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Assistant Fire Chief John Izak of the Nottingham Fire Dept. for the swift action that saved the life of a 14-year-old boy who had collapsed on the soccer field. A trained first responder, Mr. Izak, was able to do the right thing at the right time. He assessed the patient, called 911, provided CPR and helped other responders with defibrillation that restarted the heart of Trevor Newhouse.

All of these vital steps led to Trevor's quick diagnosis, treatment and recovery. The Newhouse family, and the entire 8th Congressional District, would like to thank Assistant Chief Izak for his life-saving work and dedication to our community. The greater community also acknowledges all of the first responders who helped in this incident. We appreciate your 24-7 commitment to the residents of Bucks County.

John Izak's selflessness and quick thinking saved a young life. He has set a powerful example for others to follow.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL
SALAZAR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael Salazar for his six years of service on the San Bruno City Council, the last year as Vice Mayor. I came to know Michael during his first year on the council when a horrendous tragedy killed eight residents and destroyed a neighborhood in the city he represented. Michael rose to the unthinkable challenges related to the PG&E gas pipeline explosion of 2010 and helped guide the city through the aftermath.

Michael served on the council subcommittee on schools, on the subcommittee on utilities and garbage, and he represented San Bruno on the county's Peninsula Clean Energy Advisory Board. He also served on the council committee known as Project Pride. The committee's goal is to instill in San Bruno residents a feeling of pride about the community by increasing communication between ever-larger numbers of San Bruno residents. San Bruno is a wonderful community, and the city's focus on community spirit is an important objective of the council.

During his time on the council, Michael Salazar was also instrumental in establishing the guidelines for the San Bruno Community Foundation, a non-profit created by the City Council to manage a \$70 million restitution fund to benefit the entire San Bruno community after the PG&E explosion. Establishing this independent non-profit allows the city to engage very large numbers of residents in setting goals and building more community benefits that will last for decades. Michael has encouraged residents to let their voices be heard before the board of the nonprofit, and to actively engage in helping to set priorities.

On every issue that came before the council, Michael showed deep understanding and commitment to the best possible outcome. Councilman Salazar works in technology, biotechnology and finance, and has done so for over two decades. The council and the residents benefited greatly from his years of experience in the private sector. He was exhaustive in his examination of the city's budgets, and encouraged city staff to explore new ways to deliver city services.

There have been many difficult issues confronted in the remarkable community of San Bruno during the time that Michael served on the council. These include but are not limited to downtown height limits, grade separating Caltrain, dealing with the aftermath of the 2010 gas pipeline explosion, reducing city expenditures during the recession, and identifying priorities and funding mechanisms for the replacement of aging public infrastructure. Michael was unfailingly respectful towards his colleagues and the public during these long conversations.

San Bruno is a city that pays special attention to children, and it has many active houses of worship. Michael coached several youth sports leagues, such as Tee Ball, Jr. Giants Baseball and AYSO Soccer. He has been very active in the schools and at Saint Robert's Catholic Church where he serves as a Eucharistic minister, helped with a children's liturgy

group and served as a member of the social concerns committee. As a longtime board member of St. Robert's and chairman of the parish festival, he volunteered many hours of his time. He also regularly participates in San Bruno's Building Together projects and the annual Clean Sweep event.

Michael was born in San Francisco and holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Rochester, New York.

Michael and his wife, Sandra, have been married for 18 years and have two sons, Michael and Nicholas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor my good friend and colleague Michael Salazar. I deeply admire and respect him for his integrity, diligence and commitment to others. As an unfailingly polite voice during times of challenge, he set the gold standard for patience when tried by circumstance. He will be missed but fondly remembered as he begins a new life of private endeavor after his distinguished years in service to his outstanding community of San Bruno.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ENSURING
PROMPT PAYMENT OF DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, small businesses owned by disadvantaged minorities (DBEs) are significantly affected when they are not promptly paid for the work that they do. Lack of prompt payment constitutes a very real barrier to the ability of DBEs to compete in the marketplace. Non-DBE small businesses are also affected by late payment problems.

That is the reason the Department issued its Prompt Payment regulation in the first place.

Under this regulation, "Payment is required only for satisfactory completion of the subcontractor's work." So we are not talking about cases where the prime and subcontractor have a disagreement about the work that was done.

In a recent briefing to my office, the Department of Transportation Inspector General cited the case of a DBE from Florida that got certified as a DBE, bid and won work on an airport project, and satisfactorily completed the work. However, she didn't get paid in a timely manner and eventually was sued by her suppliers who she couldn't pay.

A prompt payment requirement for all subcontractors is a race-neutral measure that assists all subcontractors if they are complied with. However, the concern is that they are not and small disadvantaged businesses which have small margins already, are further squeezed when they aren't paid in a timely manner for work already performed.

In its recent report, the Department of Transportation's Inspector General reaffirmed that failure to promptly pay DBEs continues to be a major barrier and obstacle for these small businesses in the transportation arena.