

known in our community as anyone and oftentimes when I would join her for an appearance at one of these events, individuals would approach me to share how much they appreciated Nicki's active participation and unequalled dedication to the people of our District.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues in this Chamber know, we are regularly pulled in many directions as we try to represent the nearly 800,000 constituents in our Districts. Oftentimes, it is our staff, serving behind the scenes, helping to ensure those constituents get prompt attention as they maneuver through the bureaucratic hurdles that regrettably get in the way. There is not a member of this esteemed body who wouldn't be proud to have Nicki Cardwell on their team, and her service has certainly been a blessing for me. She is a loyal, caring, and compassionate individual whose commitment to Missouri's Fifth District will be sorely missed. As she retires to spend more time with her family and loved ones, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing her lifetime of dedication to our community and country and wishing her continued success. The people of Missouri's Fifth District, including me, are better off because of Ms. Nicolina R. Cardwell.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF  
RODNEY JONES

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Rodney Jones of the Fontana Police Department for his 35 years of service to the Inland Empire.

Chief Jones began his career as a public safety official in 1981 and has since served in various capacities to lead police activity in the City of Fontana where his work throughout the years has earned him praise from both his peers and residents of the community. Chief Jones' leadership has also garnered him numerous commendations from national, state, and local police organizations for his outstanding service. All of these accolades highlight his extraordinary commitment to public safety, which has greatly benefited the people of our region.

Chief Jones' distinguished career in law enforcement is further bolstered by his role as head of the Fontana Police Department. Throughout his tenure as Chief of Police, he administered many reforms that have enhanced public safety in the region. His accomplishments include overseeing a \$12 million expansion of Fontana's police headquarters and implementing modern police procedures to improve operations in the area.

On Friday, February 5th, Chief Jones will retire from the Fontana Police Department. He will be missed by the community. I thank him for his contributions to our region and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

For his many contributions to the Fontana Police Department and other achievements, I would like to recognize Chief Rodney Jones.

CONGRATULATING RONNIE  
METSKER

**HON. KEVIN YODER**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Ronnie Metsker for his appointment to serve the State of Kansas as Johnson County Election Commissioner.

Ronnie is honest, trustworthy, sincere, and a true gentleman.

He served with me as a member of the Kansas State House of Representatives from 2006 to 2009.

He's been a long-time member of both the Overland Park and Northeast Johnson County Chambers of Commerce, as well as on the Shawnee Mission Rotary Board of Directors, working to bring more jobs and better paychecks to the community.

He's fought for the best education for our children and future generations on the Shawnee Mission School District Committee for Excellence.

But most of all, he is my friend.

I want to thank Ronnie for making Johnson County a better place over the course of decades of hard work on behalf of the community.

I should also mention Ronnie's wife, Susan, is a member of my district staff. Together these two make a great team and much have dedicated their lives to public service.

There is no better person to ensure the integrity of the elections in our county.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this great body, I send heartfelt congratulations to Commissioner Metsker.

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HONORING GRANT CORKILL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Corkill. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Grant has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Grant planned and led the construction of a perch pole at Smithville Lake for eagles and other birds to rest on within easy sight for bird-watchers.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Corkill for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE USO

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United Service Organizations Inc. (USO). The USO is a shining example of what can be achieved by an organization committed to serving those who wear the uniform. Throughout its proud history, the USO has served millions of servicemembers and their families, ensuring that our Nation's heroes remain connected to their communities and families wherever their service to our country may take them.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote during his time as the United States Ambassador to France, "No society is so precious as that of one's own family." The brave men and women who choose to serve our Nation, to protect and uphold our Constitution, understand that their decision may lead to extended absences from their loved ones. While they take on this sacrifice without asking for anything in return, the USO was founded on the belief that, when the military mission takes our servicemembers away from their loved ones, we have a duty to support them by keeping them connected to their family, their home, and our country.

The USO was formed during one of the most challenging periods in our history. With the United States on the brink of entry into World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt brought together six private organizations—the YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Service, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Traveler's Aid Association and the Salvation Army—to create a new organization wholly dedicated to maintaining the bonds of family and comforts of home. In response, these organizations pooled their resources, and, on February 4, 1941, the USO was born.

As American servicemembers began fighting in World War II, the USO teamed up with Coca-Cola to provide every servicemember with the taste of home, and they also established the world famous USO show concept. From 1941 to 1947, an incredible 428,521 USO shows were performed, and by the end of World War II more than 1.5 million Americans had volunteered on the USO's behalf.

Building on their incredibly successful efforts during World War II, the USO has accompanied our troops during wartime in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In Korea, not a single day passed without a USO show for the troops, while in Vietnam the USO's 17 centers in Vietnam and six in Thailand served more than a million servicemembers a month, including with the famous Bob Hope USO Christmas shows. In recognition of their work, the USO entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Defense in 1987, which recognized the USO as the principal channel representing civilian concerns for servicemembers worldwide.

Today, the USO, with the support of 30,000 volunteers and 600 employees, provides services, entertainment, and programs at more than 180 locations worldwide. From Afghanistan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Djibouti, to Germany Italy, Japan, South