

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2406) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I ask for the House's attention today to support H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act.

As a lifelong gun owner and sportsman, I strongly support the SHARE Act. I believe it defends our Second Amendment rights. It also upholds our nation's heritage and history of hunting and shooting. The SHARE Act promotes the interests of hunters and recreational shooters in Alabama's Third District, and I offer my strong support.

IN HONOR OF THE FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB OF SALINAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Filipino Women's Club of Salinas (FWCS) on the occasion of its 86th Anniversary. The FWCS has been a pillar of Central Coast community service through most of the 20th Century, and exemplifies its motto of faith, worth, courage, and service. I am confident that the leadership and members of the FWCS have the vision, skill, and motivation to carry the organization forward into the 21st Century.

The FWCS grew out of the struggles of Filipino farm workers for recognition and fair treatment in the early 20th Century. Many of the Filipino immigrants who came to California in the years around WWI gravitated to farm work in the Salinas and Central Valleys. In the Salinas Valley, some of the more enterprising fieldworkers had developed their own abilities to manage teams of workers and the regions' growers began to work with them as labor contractors. Most of these successful contractors were married—a rarity in that time given the laws that limited the immigration of Filipino women and interracial marriage. These wives cared for and counseled many Filipino field workers, most of whom had no family in the United States. Thus many Pinoy workers enjoyed the support of a surrogate mother or big sister.

This economic success led many Filipinos to become active in the civic life of the Salinas Valley. Filipinos started businesses, founded

churches, and even published a Filipino community newspaper, the Philippines Mail. The leaders of this civic activism founded the FWCS as an extension of this passion for community service. One of the early FWCS presidents, Paulina Morales, was emblematic of that spirit. She organized a Filipino youth marching band, promoted Filipino folk music performances, and generally brought Filipino culture to the general public.

As the decades passed, the FWCS build on this foundation to become an integral part of the Salinas Valley's community fabric. In the wake of WWII, the FWCS helped to support U.S. and Filipino veterans. It established a scholarship fund for local youth. Following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines, the FWCS raised funds to help the disaster's victims. And in just the last decade, the FWCS has joined in a civil society effort to support nation building in the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to represent this remarkable community of leaders. I know I speak for the whole House in recognizing the accomplishments and long tradition of service exemplified by the FWCS. I am confident that this tradition will carry on for many years to come. Mabuhay!

SHIELD OF HONOR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a real American Hero, and the presentation of The Medal of Honor to United States Navy SEAL Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward Byers at The White House by President Obama. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

All in the battle, all in the fight
When death looms so all in sight
When valor is on the rise, at its height
When who lives and dies, and lives to see another sunrise so all depends on you
Rescue me this night
To shield another with ones life
Is but the SEAL of Honor at its height
For such things Angels up on high are in flight
As truly stands at Honor's height
When, hearts of courage so ignite
Rescue me, rescue me this night
When the most courageous souls burn bright
While, all in the darkest hours they bring their light
Who with Strength In Honor win the fight
As there you stood Edward for all that's right
You and your Brothers In Arms,
with such magnificent hearts so warm in sight
So willing for each to lay down your life
Ode to be one of those men of honor who fight the fight
Who shield us all, with their call to duty in their most heroic lives
Bringing tears to the angels eyes

Whose loved ones at home worry and cry
So on this day Edward,
we bestow The Medal of Honor all in full sight
To teach our children well,
of what within hearts of Honor dwells so very bright
For men like you Edward live and die,
by an Honor Code so very high to win the fight
And do not ask why
All in service to Country Tis of Thee you strive
Who Shield us all as they stand tall with all their might
To rescue me all in the darkest nights
Who run towards the fight
This Medal of Honor America's Son,
we now bestow upon you this night
For your Shield of Honor,
while all in Honor's light

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms, one of the most horrific attacks against the Armenian people, committed at the hands of Azerbaijanis 28 years ago.

On February 27, 1988, hundreds of Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and even burned alive for no reason other than their ethnicity. This senseless violence was instigated by hostile, anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani citizens and officials against innocent Armenians.

For nearly three decades, Azerbaijan has taken steps to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss the atrocities at Sumgait. Even more disturbing is that perpetrators of this event and similar violent attacks have since been lauded as national heroes.

I condemn these horrific attacks. Tragically, the Azerbaijani government's approach toward the Armenian people has not changed much since these attacks were perpetrated. In 2016, we hear the same violent rhetoric and witness the intimidation tactics by the Azerbaijani government against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

If we do not condemn crimes against humanity and allow them to go unpunished and unrecognized we only strengthen the resolve of those seeking to perpetrate these crimes in the future. The Armenian people have known this for too long, as we prepare to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to remember the victims of the pogroms at Sumgait and to condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of their existence. I hope my colleagues

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric and intimidation and renewing our commitment to achieving a collective peace.

HONORING CAAP CO. INC. AND
FOUNDER JIM MORAVECK AS
THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand today to join the Milford community and the employees of CAAP Co. Inc. as they celebrate the company's 40th Anniversary and pay tribute to its founder, Jim Moraveck.

Incorporated in 1976, Jim Moraveck founded CAAP Co. Inc. with the goal of providing the Air Force with a centralized source for the newly developed rain and high temperature resistant coating for their B-1 program. Their aerospace specification material was initially manufactured for the B-1 and F-16 aircraft. Ground-breaking design and research brought CAAP Co.'s color matched, antistatic, rain erosion resistant coatings, marking a new era in radome technology and providing the aircraft industry with the first truly antistatic coatings. Today, this small company continues to be an innovative leader in the development and manufacturing of specialty coatings for the F-35, F-22 and the F-18. What began as one man's vision of improving a product has become an international leader in the industry—that is what Yankee ingenuity is all about!

Over the last 40 years, CAAP Co. has earned many accolades for excellence as a small supplier. They have been recognized by Boeing, Northrup Grumman, and Vought Aircraft Industries just to name a few. This company exemplifies the greatest qualities of a Connecticut small business: innovation, reliability, and the remarkable leadership of Jim Moraveck. Jim has made enormous contributions to the aircraft coating industry, and has brought so much pride to our state, but more than that he has earned the trust, respect and admiration, not only of those companies he supplies, but of the employees that make up the CAAP Co. family.

The letter of invitation I received to the event celebrating this special anniversary was signed by each of the twenty-four employees and it read in-part: "Not only would we like to have Mr. Moraveck recognized for his technological advancements, but also for his commitment to being a wonderful boss and human being who continues to be passionate about the products his company develops. The loyalty of his employees is a testament to his dedication to CAAP Co., and his work. At 83 years old, he enjoys coming into work every day, and being involved in all aspects of his company." Those beautiful words of sentiment speak volumes about the person Jim Moraveck is and the incredible company he has successfully built from the ground up.

I am honored to join the CAAP Co. family in extending my sincere congratulations to Jim Moraveck as he marks this special 40th Anniversary milestone. Small businesses, like CAAP Co., are the backbone of thriving communities and I cannot thank Jim enough for

his many outstanding contributions to the industry and the Milford community. My very best wishes for many more years of health, happiness, and success.

RECOGNIZING MRS. STEPHANIE
DUFFY AS THE 2016 SANTA ROSA
COUNTY, FLORIDA, TEACHER OF
THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Stephanie Duffy as the 2016 Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year. For more than two decades, Mrs. Duffy has served the students of Gulf Breeze High School and Santa Rosa County with exceptional enthusiasm, an infectious positive attitude, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

In Northwest Florida, we are blessed with an abundance of world-class educators and schools, as evidenced by the many schools in the Florida Panhandle that consistently receive the highest possible ratings each year from the State of Florida. Gulf Breeze High School is one of many exceptional schools in Northwest Florida, and for over 21 years, Mrs. Duffy has been integral to the success of Gulf Breeze High students, working tirelessly to fulfill the school's lofty motto to "Expect Excellence."

As a math teacher, Mrs. Duffy provides rigorous math instruction to hundreds of students each year in a wide-range of vital math subjects. Whether she is teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra I Credit Recovery, Algebra I, Algebra II, Informal Geometry, Geometry, Geometry Honors, Analytic Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, or Math Analysis, Mrs. Duffy's assiduous work ethic and warm demeanor combine to create a learning environment where her students are simultaneously challenged and supported. By expecting excellence, and providing a positive environment for students to engage with important math subjects, Mrs. Duffy motivates her students to attain their educational goals and develop the math skills that our Nation needs in tomorrow's leaders.

While there is no question that Mrs. Duffy is an exceptional teacher in the classroom, she also goes the extra mile to ensure that her students are successful in both their academic and extracurricular endeavors, helping to build well-rounded students that will become future civic leaders. Mrs. Duffy is known for providing free tutoring sessions to any student that is looking for a little extra help to achieve their goals, or looking to excel beyond the curriculum. By making herself available both before and after school, Mrs. Duffy ensures that all the students who want additional instruction have an opportunity for extra learning. Mrs. Duffy also sponsors myriad extracurricular activities to give students a chance to grow and gain valuable life skills. As the sponsor of study body classes, the National Honor Society, the Optimist Club, and the Geometry Team, Mrs. Duffy demonstrates a constant commitment to her students, school, and the entire Northwest Florida community.

The importance of teachers is unquantifiable, and each and every teacher

should be commended for their commitment to our Nation's future. Throughout her career as a teacher, Mrs. Duffy has shown time and again that she understands the important position that teachers serve as role models for their students, and her incontrovertible commitment to professionalism extends beyond the boundaries of her classroom. Her success and the success of her students speaks for itself; however, her selection as Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year, chosen from a large pool of extremely qualified applicants, is further reflection of Mrs. Duffy's tremendous work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Stephanie Duffy for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Gulf Breeze High School and in the Santa Rosa County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Duffy, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF WINFRED
PARNELL, M.D. ELECTED AS
CHAIR OF PARKLAND BOARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Winfred Parnell, MD, a board certified physician in obstetrics and gynecology. On February 19, 2016, Dr. Parnell was named chairman of the Parkland Health & Hospital System Board of Managers. Dr. Parnell has been a pillar in the medical community and in 2004 he was named one of "The Best Doctors in Dallas" by D Magazine.

Dr. Parnell practices obstetrics and gynecology at Carlos and Parnell, MD, PA, a medical practice he cofounded more than 30 years ago. He serves as a regional director for Doctors of America and is a member of the Parkland Foundation Physicians Council. He also serves as a delegate to the Texas Medical Association as well as board of directors of BBVA Compass Bank Dallas. Dr. Parnell previously served as a board member of the Dallas County Medical Society and for more than 15 years served as a board trustee at Medical City Hospital Dallas.

A native Floridian, Dr. Parnell earned a bachelor's degree in pre-medical science at Florida A&M University in 1974 and a medical degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1977. He completed residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Parkland in 1982. Dr. Parnell and his wife, Debra, are the proud parents of twins, Winfred and Wendy. His daughter, Wendy Parnell, MD, completed residency training at Parkland in 2011 and practices obstetrics and gynecology. His son, Winfred Parnell, MD, is pursuing residency training in family medicine.

Dr. Parnell's dedication to the field of medicine has proven his willingness to serve his community. He is an exemplary physician and is highly regarded among his peers. It is an honor to serve someone who has sacrificed so

much for his community in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
FISHER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Fisher of Marshfield, MA on his 600th career win as a high school basketball coach and for the incredible work he has done to educate and inspire so many young people.

With over 35 years of experience as head coach, Coach Fisher has earned respect as one of the greatest coaches in Massachusetts history. As of this season, only three other boys' basketball coaches in the Commonwealth have reached the lofty heights of over 600 wins.

Coach Fisher's talents as a business teacher at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School in Massachusetts and his efforts to cofound the basketball program at Bentley College where he had attended brought him to the attention of then-varsity basketball coach and athletic director of Rockland High, A. Scott MacKinlay. In 1966, Coach Fisher started off as assistant coach and by the start of the 1969–70 season was named as the new head coach by Principal MacKinlay. Coach Fisher, or "Fish" as he was known to his friends, went on to coach for 23 years off and on at Rockland High before moving to his alma mater in Quincy, MA for four years. He has since been successfully coaching in Marshfield, MA for 8 seasons.

Coach Fisher's success does not only show in his teams' wins. Perhaps his most incredible feat is that for 35 years his boys have been going to the state tournament and even won 2 titles in 1974 and 2004. For his tremendous efforts and passion of the sport, Coach Fisher has been enshrined in three different Halls of Fame—Rockland High, New England Basketball and Bentley College.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of Coach Fisher, who exemplifies what it means to be a coach and role model for so many young men over the decades. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished educator and in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING PIPER-DANAY
SMITH ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN
SCHOLAR AWARD FROM
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Piper-Danay Smith, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on her selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the

university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Piper-Danay, from Grandview, Missouri, was one of a handful of exceptional students to receive the award this year. She is a senior nursing major who plans to become a nurse and has further aspirations to eventually obtaining a doctorate degree. Described by her professor as a strong leader and role model, Piper-Danay has displayed a dedication to helping others that extends past her own career goals in order to serve the people in her community.

Mr. Speaker, Piper-Danay Smith's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be. This award represents a great deal of her hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like her and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved achievement.

IN HONOR OF ELLEN STOVALL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ellen Stovall, a true champion for cancer survivors.

For decades, Ellen worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people with cancer. She knew the issue well, having been diagnosed with cancer three times. Ellen died on January 5 from cardiac complications related to her cancer treatments.

On Wednesday, I joined her family, friends, and colleagues across the cancer advocacy community to mourn her loss, both in the professional sense and the personal. She was a woman who could really get things done; yet through all her hard work she never forgot the importance of relationships, comforting so many in some of our toughest hours.

When I think about Ellen, and the great deal she accomplished over the course of her life, I know there is truly so much to celebrate. She was a force. She looked around, found what needed to be fixed, and poured herself into doing it.

Ellen broke through the traditional silos in cancer—she has brought together the work of different disease types, patients and providers, researchers and drug developers, caregivers, and support workers. And she worked across the cancer spectrum, from basic research, clinical trials, treatment access, symptom management, and palliative care.

And in doing so she brought attention to survivorship.

"Survivorship became what I did," she once said. "I lived with the cancer, I lived through the cancer, and I lived beyond the cancer. Survivorship became a way that I lived my life after the cancer. I live with the fact that I had cancer, and that knowledge has been empowering for me."

And in being a survivor, and dedicating herself to cancer survivorship issues, Ellen was able to amplify the community's impact in

Washington and in communities across the country.

Her passion was contagious. She was smart and strategic, with excellent political acumen. But most important was Ellen's ability to connect with others, empathize with their situation, and put herself in their shoes. That ability informed her work—especially in support of cancer care planning.

The same tenacity she brought to her battle with cancer, she brought to the halls of Congress. The same passion she had for life, she brought to those she comforted as they underwent diagnosis and treatment. And she did it all with great humility. There are few, if any of us, who can say we have improved the lives of so many.

But Ellen's work—her calling—has been to change the system so that each of those individuals, and their families, might have a better experience.

Ellen had said it herself. She had the kind of coordinated care and roadmap that helped make the cancer journey a little bit easier. But she recognized that for far too many individuals facing a cancer diagnosis, this coordinated care planning is lacking or non-existent. She also recognized that there are health care providers who want to do more to help patients navigate their cancer journey, but are currently unable to do so.

So, like she had so many other times, Ellen rolled up her sleeves and got to work. And that is how our Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment—or PACT Act—was born. I am so honored to have worked with Ellen and NCCS as I authored this legislation with Congressman BOUSTANY from Louisiana. Our bipartisan bill would provide a treatment roadmap for patients that would lay out a plan to address both the cancer and the side-effects of treatment. This active care planning empowers patients and families while helping them navigate from diagnosis through survivorship. It helps bring cancer care best practices to all in need.

It is a testament to Ellen that she would dedicate her life to helping others get the care that they deserve, even when she was satisfied with her own. And it is something that I know so many in the cancer advocacy community will continue to champion on behalf of Ellen.

So with that, I am hopeful. Ellen might be gone, but in each of us, we know that her spirit lives on. Her commitment to improving the cancer journey lives on and her passion for life lives on.

I'd like to offer my condolences to her husband and son whose strength and support were always evident in Ellen's work. And I'd like to extend my sympathy to her friends and colleagues at NCCS and all the many organizations she partnered with.

Ellen will truly be missed, but we are still here to carry the torch and improve cancer care for all who need it.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL
MARFAN AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of February as National Marfan

Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are living with Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

I am proud to represent the nation's foremost organization working to support the Marfan community, The Marfan Foundation, based in Port Washington, New York. The Foundation was founded in 1981 by Priscilla Ciccariello, a woman of tremendous compassion and vision. Since then, The Marfan Foundation has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals affected by Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders by advancing research, raising awareness, and providing support.

It is estimated that 200,000 people in the United States are affected by Marfan syndrome or a related condition. Marfan syndrome is a genetic disorder of the connective tissue that can affect many areas of the body, including the heart, eyes, skeleton, lungs and blood vessels. It is a progressive condition and can cause deterioration in each of these body systems. The most serious and life-threatening aspect of the syndrome is a weakening of the aorta. The aorta is the largest artery carrying oxygenated blood from the heart. Over time, many Marfan syndrome patients experience a dramatic weakening of the aorta which can cause the vessel to dissect and tear.

Aortic dissection is a leading killer in the United States, and 20% of the people it affects have a genetic predisposition, like Marfan syndrome, to developing the complication. If patients receive an early and accurate diagnosis, the disease process can be slowed. However, due to a lack of education and awareness, physicians often do not diagnose a patient until an adverse cardiac event occurs.

High school athletes represent the most alarming group of individuals affected by adverse cardiac events, with an estimated incidence of once or twice per week. The inadequate health screening of athletes contributes annually to the untimely deaths of many young adults, especially those affected by structural cardiovascular abnormalities, such as Marfan syndrome. A recent example of the need for consistent cardiovascular screening guidelines is Isaiah Austin, who was diagnosed with Marfan syndrome when entering the National Basketball Association (NBA) Draft and thus previously unaware that he was at risk for sudden cardiac death during his entire scholastic basketball career.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me and The Marfan Foundation in raising awareness of this life-threatening disorder so we can prevent future unnecessary tragedies. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and reflect on what we can do to efficiently and effectively address this growing public health concern of health screenings for high school athletes. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to increase support for health screening programs in public and private high schools throughout the nation that aim to identify this silent enemy of our young athletes.

HONORING THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE GREEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in December of 1812, the Town Council of New Haven, Connecticut, voted to allow the construction of Trinity Episcopal Church on the town green. This vote represented a unique moment of tolerance and acceptance in the City's history as since its inception the community and indeed the state was controlled by the Congregational Church with deep Puritan roots. Four years later, construction of Trinity Episcopal Church, affectionately known locally as Trinity on the Green, was completed. Two hundred years later, the Gothic-style church, the first of its kind in North America, continues to proudly call the New Haven Green its home.

Over the course of its 200-year history, Trinity on the Green has been much more than simply a house of worship. Its parish members have also given back to the community, particularly through Chapel on the Green. Serving the homeless and others, every Sunday, 52 weeks a year, outdoors regardless of weather, Trinity offers a short Eucharist service followed by a simple lunch. Gathered participants sing, offer prayers, celebrate a simple Eucharist and partake of a meal. Throughout the year the services also include a foot washing clinic, handing out of socks and clothing, and a moving memorial to the homeless who have died the past year. Trinity on the Green also donates generous resources to a variety of charitable organizations and parish members can often be found volunteering throughout the City at soup kitchens and shelters.

Trinity on the Green is also home to the Trinity Choir of Men and Boys. With members as young as age eight and ranging to men well into adulthood, it is the oldest such choir in Connecticut, one of the oldest in the United States, and one of very few that have been in continuous service since inception. In addition to providing choral music at Trinity worship services, the Choir also performs at the Christmas and Spring Concerts as well as throughout events in the wider community. The dedication and talent of its membership has earned the Choir a distinguished reputation and they have regularly appeared with other well-known musical organizations. The youngest of the group have a separate identity as the Trinity Boys Choir and their service to the community is certainly something to be recognized. Their frequent outreach activities have included benefit performances for the Children's Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sage Services, Newington Children's Hospital, the Fair Haven Parents' Ministry, the Smilow Cancer Center, and for WFSB Channel 3's annual Joy for Kids Holiday Show at the Hartford Stage. They have sung in the Cathedrals of the British Isles and have been invited to appear at five Christmastime celebrations at the White House.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort and guidance when they are most in need. Trinity on the Green gives its members a place to find their spiritual cen-

ter and to solidify and support their values. For 200 years, Trinity on the Green has been a fixture in our community—a poignant reminder of religious tolerance and acceptance. Their parish members are dedicated to making a difference in our community and have shown a remarkable dedication to serving those most in need. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history. Happy 200th Anniversary!

RECOGNIZING MS. KRISTY IMHOF AS THE 2017 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Kristy Imhof as the 2017 Escambia County, Florida, Teacher of the Year. For more than a decade, Ms. Imhof has inspired her students through an enthusiastic teaching style that allows students to engage with their learning materials, develop their skills, and reach their highest potential.

Throughout her career as an educator, Ms. Imhof has exemplified many of the most important characteristics of a world-class educator. Upon graduating from Florida State University, Ms. Imhof began her teaching career at Emerald Coast Academy in Pensacola, developing a curriculum to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities, before joining the Escambia County School District as a seventh grade history teacher at Ransom Middle School in Pensacola. Ms. Imhof was at the forefront of educators integrating new technology into the teaching experience to help better engage her students to connect with our Nation's storied history, and during this time, she also led workshops with her fellow teachers to help them incorporate technology into their lesson plans.

Thanks in large part to her success leading her fellow coworkers at Ransom, Ms. Imhof then joined an educational consulting company, CompassLearning, where she was responsible for training teachers and administrators from Pensacola to Tallahassee on how to implement new plans to bring computers into the classroom and utilize the expanding array of educational software.

Like many great teachers, Ms. Imhof is also deeply committed to serving and improving her local community, as evidenced by her time spent as an English literacy and civics teacher at Santa Rosa Adult School in Milton. In this capacity, she played an integral role in a new district program to improve academic achievement for students from non-English speaking homes, which included her simultaneously teaching civics lessons to non-English speaking parents, to better integrate them into the Northwest Florida community, and tutoring their children during school hours. In this capacity, Ms. Imhof consistently went above and beyond, conducting weekly home visits and serving as a liaison to bridge language and cultural gaps, thereby improving the educational experience, and as a result the academic achievements, of many Northwest Florida students.

In 2013, Ms. Imhof returned to Ransom Middle School, where she began her tenure in the Escambia County School District. In her current capacity as a seventh grade English teacher, Ms. Imhof strives to challenge and motivate her students to develop a passion for reading and language arts, while also focusing on how to translate their studies into real-world writing skills using extensive modeling and mentor texts. In addition to her success in the classroom, Ms. Imhof continues to be a leader amongst her peers, serving as a Mentor Teacher to help pass on the lessons she has learned to those entering the educational field. In addition, she also serves on the Interview Committee, is the Student of the Month Chairperson, Grade Level Treasurer, and Bostops for Education Coordinator, while also serving the Ransom student body further as the Cross Country Club Sponsor and Assistant Track Coach.

Teachers are amongst our Nation's most valuable public servants. Both in and out of the classroom, they help mentor their students and ensure that our next generation emerges ready to lead our Nation in the future. Ms. Imhof's assiduous work ethic, unbridled enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to student engagement exemplify the characteristics of an extraordinary teacher, and her selection as the 2017 Escambia County Teacher of the Year is a well-deserved reflection of her success and leadership in and out of the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Kristy Imhof for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Ransom Middle School and in the Escambia County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Imhof, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

**CELEBRATING THE ALTOONA CITY
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR 100
YEARS OF SERVICE**

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Altoona City Planning Commission (APC) on its 100th year of service to the Altoona community.

The APC was officially introduced in a 1916 ordinance, by then-mayor Charles E. Rhodes, during a message to City Council. Shortly after the official ordinance was introduced, the City Council unanimously passed it, thereby creating the Department of City Planning and the Altoona City Planning Commission. While the ordinance received unanimous backing from the council, it had previously faced political opposition. Thus, a great deal of thanks is due to those who provided concerted support for the planning commission's creation.

Today, the APC consists of a seven-member Board of area residents, which is appointed by the Mayor. Acting in an advisory role to the City Council, the APC helps direct the short and long-term development of the city. As such, I would like to express my appreciation and that of Altoona's residents to all those who have served on this Board throughout its 100 years of existence. I believe it is

also worth highlighting that the APC is the longest continuously operating planning commission in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am privileged to congratulate the APC on a century of history and service to the Altoona community, and to thank all who have helped this commission continue its success.

**IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
ORGANIZATION WEEK**

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the young future farmers in the First District of Iowa celebrating the 2016 National Future Farmers of America Organization Week.

The National Future Farmers of America Organization, more commonly known as the FFA, formed in 1928 to provide an opportunity for young farmers to develop their leadership skills and embrace their profession in agriculture. Since that time, this organization has grown to be and mean so much more to the students that participate.

Through the FFA, middle and high school students are engaged in a wide range of curriculum and activities, preparing them for hundreds of different career opportunities in agriculture.

Across the country, the FFA provides a path to achievement for young men and women aspiring to be teachers, scientists, business owners, and other important professions within agriculture. The Future Farmers of America provides the skills necessary for the next generation of farmers to face challenges and develop their talents in an ever changing and dynamic field.

The Iowa Future Farmers of America has 14,800 students within 226 chapters across the state. I am proud of the job the Iowa FFA is doing training our young people and setting them on a rewarding path for career success in agriculture. Without a doubt, the FFA is preparing these next generation of Iowans to be innovators and leaders, as farming continues to evolve to meet the requirements of production necessary to feed our country.

I recognize them for their passion and achievements, and wish the organization and the students all continued success for many more years.

**HONORING THE LATE CHARLES E.
CROWNINGSHIELD**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Mr. Charles E. Crowningshield of Port Kent, New York, who was extremely dedicated to community service.

Charlie spent 44 years of his life as the dock master for the Lake Champlain Transportation Company and lived his entire life in Port

Kent, New York, located in New York's 21st Congressional District. Charlie will be remembered by the family and friends that surrounded him as a loyal and dedicated man, with a wonderful sense of humor and a deep faith.

Charlie devoted many years to organizations in his community including the Au Sable River Masonic Lodge #149, Keeseville Kiwanis, Town of Chesterfield Zoning Board of Appeals, the North Star Underground Railroad Museum and the Keeseville Elks Lodge. Charlie also served as the chair of the Town of Chesterfield Republican Committee and was a member of the Essex County Republican Committee.

Charlie often spoke of his two true loves, his wife Sue and politics. Charlie will be missed by many for his dedication to civics through his involvement in many local organizations in Upstate New York and beyond.

I thank Charlie's family for sharing him with the community and send them my most heartfelt condolences on his loss.

**HONORING JOSEPH CARBONE ON
THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY AS PRESIDENT &
CEO OF THE WORKPLACE, INC.**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the friends and colleagues gathered this evening to pay tribute to Joseph Carbone as he marks his 20th Anniversary as President and CEO of the WorkPlace, Inc. It is an extraordinary milestone for Joe and this remarkable organization.

Under Joe's leadership, the WorkPlace has evolved into a nationally recognized leader in skill development and worker training. His innovative vision and approach has brought a myriad of unique programs to life, expanding the agency's capacity to assist our community's vulnerable populations and transforming countless lives. Successfully pursuing both government and private funding resources, Joe has ensured that the programs and services offered at the WorkPlace continue to meet the ever-changing needs of those they serve.

Over the course of the last two decades, Joe and the WorkPlace have been at the forefront of innovative programming. The SWCT Works Assisted Services Center is the first of its kind and only one in Connecticut. It focuses on ensuring the American workforce system is accessible to people with disabilities. The WorkPlace has taken the initiative to provide veterans, including those who are homeless or incarcerated, a variety of job training, re-employment assistance and support services with a particular focus on opportunities in the green energy industry. Maturity Works is a program that helps unemployed people 55 or older, gain skills to reenter the workforce through paid community service opportunities.

Joe's crowning achievement is his program Platform to Employment, a privately funded program that created a pathway back to employment for individuals who have exhausted their maximum 99 weeks of unemployment

benefits. P2E provides customized training in job skills, eight weeks of subsidized employment, personal support, and access to existing jobs open with local employers in several industries, including finance/banking, media, manufacturing, and entertainment. P2E gained Joe and the WorkPlace national attention as it took on a serious problem that impacted communities and families across the country.

With programs like these, the WorkPlace is more than simply a job resource center—it is a think tank for workforce solutions. Joe and his team are able to identify the challenges at the root of unemployment and develop programs and services that help them to turn their lives around.

Joe is not only an extraordinary leader in our community, and he is more than a dear friend—he is family. Joe and I grew up in the same neighborhood and we have known each other for more years than either of us would care to admit. He has always been a source of inspiration and guidance for me and I am grateful for that friendship.

Today, as he marks his 20th Anniversary as President and CEO of the WorkPlace, Joe can look back on his career with pride and know that his dedication, hard work, and compassion have touched the lives of thousands. I am proud to rise today to join the WorkPlace Board of Directors and staff in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Joseph Carbone for his invaluable contributions to this outstanding organization and our community. My heartfelt congratulations and very best wishes for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALBERT
F. GIALLORENZI, SCRANTON
UNICO'S "UNICAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Albert F. Giallorenzi who was named the Scranton Chapter of UNICO's "UNICAN of the Year," and will be recognized on February 27, 2016 during their Annual Ball.

Dr. Giallorenzi is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry. Following dental school, he interned at the Philadelphia General Hospital and was an oral and maxillofacial surgical resident at Hahnemann Medical College. Dr. Giallorenzi maintained a private practice for forty years in association with Drs. Christopher Kotchick, Mark Giallorenzi, and Justin Burns, with offices in Scranton, Carbondale, and Tobyhanna. In 2013, Dr. Giallorenzi retired from his practice.

Licensed in Pennsylvania for dentistry, Dr. Giallorenzi held memberships in a wide variety of professional associations including Chief of Service at Mercy Hospital for thirty-seven years, President and later Chairman of the Scranton Dental Society, Chairman of the United Way Dental Division, and member of the Advisory Committee to the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. In addition, Dr. Giallorenzi served as an Examiner for Board Certification for the Committee of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, and he volunteered his time with the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, Jewish Federation Indigent Dental

Clinic, Third District Dental Society Board of Governors, Pennsylvania Dental Association, and on the dental staff of St. Michael's School for Boys.

Dr. Giallorenzi has received both Diplomate and Fellow Honors from the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, American College of Dentists, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology, International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard International Dental Honor Society. In addition, he contributed articles to the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, Journal of Oral Surgery and Oral Health, and was an editor for the Bulletin of the Scranton District Dental Society.

Today, Dr. Giallorenzi is an active participant in the community, including volunteering service to the American Cancer Society, St. Gregory's Church, Clarks Green, Cub Scout Pack 152, Abington Junior Soccer League, Waverly Community House, and the Holy Cross Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Dr. Giallorenzi also serves on the Board of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National. He is married to the former Diane Valera, and they have two adult children, Dr. Mark A. Giallorenzi and Christina Giallorenzi.

It is a distinct honor to recognize Dr. Albert F. Giallorenzi for his superb service to his profession and community, and I congratulate him on being named Scranton UNICO's "UNICAN of the Year."

TRIBUTE TO BECCA PIZZI

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of my constituents, Becca Pizzi of Belmont, Massachusetts. Becca is a single mother, a child care provider, a local ice cream shop manager, and just recently, a world record-breaking athlete.

In the early hours of January 30, 2016, in Sydney, Australia, Becca became the first woman from the United States to complete the World Marathon Challenge. This international marathon began in Antarctica and is comprised of seven marathons on seven continents, all over seven days. In her race around the world, Becca set two world records: the fastest average marathon time among women at 3 hours, 55 minutes, and 11 seconds, and shortest time frame for a female to complete marathons on all seven continents at 6 days, 18 hours and 38 minutes.

Upon her return, Becca's hometown of Belmont greeted her and her family with a parade in celebration of her accomplishment.

Through all of her training and through the grueling race, Becca credited her 8 year old daughter Taylor as her source of inspiration.

Becca's story exemplifies our community's unique grit and determination to reach the highest heights despite any obstacle. I thank Becca for inspiring athletes around the world and congratulate her on her historic achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF MILTON CHIEF OF
POLICE GREGORY BRAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Gregory Brand for his dedicated service to the Gulf Coast community on the occasion of his retirement as the Chief of Police from the City of Milton, Florida.

Always striving for greatness, Chief Brand earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Saint Thomas University in Miami, Florida, where he was elected to "Who's Who among students in American Universities and Colleges." Upon graduation, Chief Brand began his law enforcement career in South Florida with the Hollywood Police Department in February 1977. After more than twenty-five years in Hollywood, during which he rose to the rank of Major, Chief Brand retired from the Hollywood Police Department and accepted the position of Chief of Police for the City of Milton in May 2002. Although now retiring, Chief Brand will remain in the city which he has grown to love so dearly.

As a former Deputy Sheriff, I understand the important and sometimes underappreciated role that law enforcement officers play in the local community in Northwest Florida and in communities across the country. Each and every day, dedicated law enforcement officers put themselves in danger to protect and serve their community as an officer of the law. Chief Brand has been a true pillar of the Northwest Florida community and exemplifies all of the qualities of a world-class law enforcement officer.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I am pleased to congratulate Chief Gregory Brand on his well-earned retirement. His decades of service are a testament to his commitment to the State of Florida, and my wife Vicki and I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement with his wife, children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRING ARBOR
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCCER
TEAM

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spring Arbor University women's soccer team on their 2015 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championship.

Under the leadership of the NAIA National Coach of the Year, Jason Crist, the Cougars earned the program's first-ever national title on December 5, 2015. Led by a strong defensive effort, the team recorded its 10th consecutive shutout of the season against the defending champs, and top-ranked, Lindsey Wilson College.

With the shutout, Spring Arbor became the only team in NAIA history to make it through the tournament without conceding a single goal.

From tournament MVP and National Player of the year—Bethany Balcer—scoring two goals, to tournament defensive MVP and goalkeeper—Sarah Yancer—refusing to surrender a single goal, the entire team rose to excellence in their championship victory.

The record breaking season for the Cougars concluded with a program-best 23 wins and included a 19-match winning streak.

The achievements of the team were not only limited to the field of play. Throughout the season, the team carried themselves in a way that proudly represented our community and the university. When faced with adversity, they responded with integrity, character, and selflessness. In the classroom, the team maintained an outstanding 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Spring Arbor University women's soccer team on their remarkable accomplishments throughout the 2015 season.

WELCOMING CAROLINE MARTIN
SCHOTHORST

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my Chief of Staff, Lauryn Schothorst, and her husband, Bret, on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Martin Schothorst. Caroline was born on February 8, 2016 at 1:34 p.m. in Washington, DC.

I would also like to congratulate their son, Owen, on becoming a big brother. I have full confidence that Owen will teach his baby sister everything there is to know about dinosaurs and how to cheer for his favorite baseball team, the Washington Nationals.

Caroline is welcomed by her grandparents John and Debra Bernier of Strafford, Pennsylvania, and James and Deborah Schothorst of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

We're blessed to welcome Caroline to our extended office family, and I extend my most sincere congratulations to Lauryn, Bret, and Owen on this wonderful addition to their family.

HONORING LIEUTENANT BOB IRISH
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE EXETER
FIRE DEPARTMENT AFTER 38
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Lt. Bob Irish on his retirement after 38 years with the Exeter Fire Department, and 36 years as a fire instructor at the NH Fire Academy.

Lt. Irish's continuous progression within the Exeter Fire Department and the NH Fire Academy during his time exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to protecting and serving his community with the utmost professionalism.

Although Lt. Irish will now shift his focus from serving his community to spending more

time with his five grandchildren, it's clear he leaves an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in his wake.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Lt. Irish on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN COM-
MUNITY HOUSE AS THEY CELE-
BRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the West Haven community as they gather to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of an outstanding organization—the West Haven Community House. Over the course of the last seven decades, the West Haven Community House has provided invaluable programs and services to those most in need—touching the lives of thousands and improving not only the quality of their lives but of the community as a whole.

The West Haven Community House was a community effort from the very beginning. In 1939, social worker Pauline Lang, a visionary leader, gathered a group of volunteers to facilitate a series of public meetings where residents could talk about what issues they felt were most important to their community. Through these discussions there came a clear mandate for a community center that would enhance the quality of life for all West Haven residents, and would serve as a hub of positive activities for children. Soon after, a capital campaign was undertaken, a Victorian home at 227 Elm Street was purchased, and in August 1941, incorporation papers were signed establishing the West Haven Community House Association.

The Community House has always strived to ensure that the programs and services they offer meet the needs of every community member. Since the beginning every effort has been made to create an environment that welcomed children and adults, individuals and families alike. And as the needs and interests of residents have changed over the years, so has the Community House. Teen dances, Saturday cooking classes, after-school activity programs and children's day camps were typical offerings in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Today, the Community House offers a host of programs for children, teens, and parents, and has expanded its outreach to include support for adults with developmental disabilities. Current programs and services include a Head Start Program; before and after school care for elementary school children as well as a summer program; the Positive Youth Development & Kids in the Neighborhood, an after-school enrichment program for elementary school children; and Community Connections, integration day activities and residential services for adults with developmental disabilities.

It is not an understatement to describe the Community House as the cornerstone social service agency of West Haven. Serving thousands of area residents every year, the Community House stays true to its mission to facilitate healthy, productive, independent and meaningful lives for individuals with disabili-

ties, and children, adolescents, and families. A leading voice of advocacy and quality care, this remarkable organization has left an indelible mark on the West Haven community. I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to the West Haven Community House on its 75th Anniversary. Their good work has made a real difference in countless lives and I wish them all the best for many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT NICKOVICH
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you and my colleagues today to honor Mr. Robert Nickovich and to wish him well upon his retirement. Since 1981, Bob has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Lake County, Indiana, Parks and Recreation Department. Throughout the years, he has devoted his time and efforts to improving the quality of life for residents and visitors of Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service, Mr. Nickovich will be honored at a retirement dinner at Turkey Creek Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, February 26, 2016.

Robert began his career with the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department as a recreation supervisor in 1972, at which time there was only one park site managed by the department. Since then, the Lake County Parks land has grown immensely, expanding from 400 to nearly 7,000 acres within eleven parks throughout the county. This land includes nature preserves, historic sites, trails, parks, and family-friendly facilities. In 1995, Bob played a major role in the creation of Deep River Waterpark in Merrillville. The facility is nationally recognized and continues to be a tremendous asset to the economy of Lake County, generating millions of visitors since its opening. Bellaboo's Play and Discovery Center was also created under Mr. Nickovich's direction in 2006. Located at Three Rivers County Park in Lake Station, Bellaboo's provides a hands-on early learning experience for children. The award winning facility exhibits the significant connection between play and early learning. Through his work with the Indiana Park and Recreation Association, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the Great Lakes Regional Council, the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project Steering Committee, and the North American Coastal Project, Bob has been an exceptional leader and passionate activist for parks and recreation in Northwest Indiana and beyond.

What is little known is Bob's inestimable help with the creation of the Marquette Plan. At its genesis, if there was a question on a concept or utilization issue, Robert received my first call. The Plan is in every way improved because of his sage counsel.

In addition to his work with parks and recreation in Lake County, Mr. Nickovich has also given of his time through his involvement in various community organizations including, but not limited to, Lake County's Community Foundation—The Legacy Foundation, and

Waterfowl USA—Northwest Chapter, and he has also served on the board of directors for the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council.

Bob's dedication to his community throughout his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Bob and his wonderful wife, Julie, have one son, Jim, and two beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Bob Nickovich for my entire adult life and am lucky to have him as a friend. Our region and state have been enriched because of his life of selfless public service. Future generations will profit from his foresight and exemplary work, and his impact on the region will be witnessed for years to come. For his many contributions, Bob is worthy of our gratitude and admiration. I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HERSHEL SOLOMON
GRAUBARD

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hershel Solomon Graubard on the advent of his Bar Mitzvah.

This is an important milestone in this young man's life and his family is immensely proud, as am I, to see him cross this threshold.

The term Bar Mitzvah originates from the "son of the commandment," signifying a young person's coming of age and assumption of full responsibility for performing commandments.

It is also at this age that a youngster is first called to bless and recite from the Torah Scroll.

For all these reasons, this is a momentous event in Hershel's journey to adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, Hershel Solomon Graubard is growing into a wonderful young man and we are all deeply proud of him.

He is someone who cares a great deal about his community and civic engagement—something we would all like to see among more young people. I fully expect that Hershel will do great things in coming years.

I am proud to count him and his entire family among my friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Hershel and his family all of the best for a wonderful day and a joyous celebration.

May he continue exhibiting wisdom and maturity beyond his years.

IN HONOR OF THE 104TH
BIRTHDAY OF RODGER WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the birthday of Rodger Williams. He turned 104 on October 15th.

Rodger was born on October 15, 1911, to Carrie Lee Humphries and Frank Williams in Waverly, Alabama. He was the fourth of five

children, William, Mary, Jack and Susie and was the youngest boy.

Rodger served in the United States Army in World War II. In 1946, he married Bessie B. Caldwell and they were blessed with eight children. His children include: Eddie James, Dorothy Jean (deceased), Clarence (deceased), Joseph, Marguerite, Jenese, Jacqueline and Christine. Bessie died in 1989. He also had one daughter prior to marrying Bessie, Jean Knight (deceased).

Rodger purchased over 100 acres of land after the war and much of his family still resides on the property. After the war, he worked in a steel mill in Chicago and returned to Alabama in 1955 working as a farmer. He also worked as a custodian at Auburn University for 17 years before retiring.

Rodger only finished 6th grade, but believes strongly in education. His children and grandchildren have attended Tuskegee College, Miles College, Southern Union, the University of Alabama, Troy University, Faulkner University, Vanderbilt University, Howard College and Alabama State University.

Rodger loves spending time with his family and enjoying fresh vegetables.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Rodger Williams and wishing him a happy 104th birthday!

IN HONOR OF FUTURE FARMERS
OF AMERICA WEEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week my home state of Texas joined the rest of the country in celebration of Future Farmers of America's annual National FFA Week: recognizing the importance of and advocating for agricultural education and FFA. The tradition was started back in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturalist and farmer. Today, thousands of chapters around the country and hundreds of thousands of members celebrate National FFA Week and advocate for increased agricultural education and FFA membership.

The Future Farmers of America organization is a staple of our country's agricultural education; it cultivates young men and women into competent leaders who possess an intimate knowledge of agriculture. The organization is rich in history with its foundation dating back to 1928 when 33 students from 18 states congregated in Kansas City, Missouri and constructed the organization. Today, the organization is 629,367 members strong with 7,757 chapters, at least one in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Although FFA membership nationwide is something to celebrate, I want to highlight the state with the largest FFA membership in the country: my home state of Texas.

Currently, Texas leads the country in FFA membership with 1021 chapters and 103,379 members. Texas FFA serves as a shining example to the rest of the country as to what membership and participation in FFA should be. Texans understand the great importance of agricultural education and cultivating the

next generation into competent leaders; no organization does that better than FFA and no state does FFA better than Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEDICAL
CENTER OF LEWISVILLE'S 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Medical Center of Lewisville as they mark their 40th anniversary. With a full-service medical and surgical facility offering 24-hour emergency services, MCL is licensed to accommodate 186 patients. Excellent customer service and patient safety are among their top priorities. Originally named Lewisville Memorial Hospital, MCL opened its doors on February 29, 1976. On March 15, 1976 they admitted their first patient and 11 months to the day of their induction, the first baby was delivered. Denton County became the fastest growing county from 1980–1990 and MCL was the cornerstone of Denton County's successful growth-rate.

MCL has received many accreditations and honors. Of these, the more notable accreditations and honors include: Magnet Designation by American Nurses Credentialing Center (2015); Bill Aston Award recipient (2012); Texas Hospital Association Quality Improvement Silver Award (2014); and recognition in Becker's Hospital Review: 100 Great Places to Work in Healthcare.

I have a close connection to the Medical Center of Lewisville as I spent a part of my career practicing medicine there. It has been a great honor to witness the staggering growth that MCL has seen in the last 40 years.

Their dedication to serve the Denton County community has been vital to their success as a leading medical center in the northeast region of Texas. It is an honor to serve the staff of Medical Center of Lewisville in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL AND
JUDITH LORUSSO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel and Judith Lorusso on being honored by the Falmouth Education Foundation. This well-deserved recognition comes as no surprise to those closest to the Lorusso family as they have been nothing but a source of positivity and strength in the community for decades.

Mr. Lorusso followed in his father's footsteps in the family business when he and his brothers bought his company Hyannis Sand and Gravel, renaming it Cape Cod Aggregates Corporation, in 1981. Today, Cape Cod Aggregates has six locations across Massachusetts and frequently makes generous contributions to local events and organizations, such as helping to fund a 4th of July fireworks display.

The Lorusso have been active members of the Falmouth, Massachusetts community, giving back to the education system in the community since 1980. Mrs. Lorusso discovered her passion for supporting our schools and teachers when she began volunteering at Teaticket Elementary School. She eventually went on to serve on the Falmouth School Committee for one term and as the president of the Teaticket Parent Teacher Organization for many years. The Lorusso were also integral to the creation of a walking track at Teaticket Elementary as well as a greenhouse at Falmouth High School.

But the Lorusso's dedication of time and resources does not just stop with our educators. Mrs. Lorusso serves as a Falmouth Town Hall member—sitting on the board of the Falmouth Service Center, as well as the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce. And, three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Lorusso cofounded the Falmouth Veterans Day Breakfast to honor the service of local veterans through a complimentary reception.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Mr. and Mrs. Lorusso for their many years of extraordinary service to their fellow citizens and for the sterling example they have set for their friends and family. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them for being recognized by the Falmouth Education Foundation.

HONORING THE MILFORD CHAPTER OF THE LINKS INCORPORATED AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to join all of those gathered in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Across Connecticut there will be a multitude of events paying tribute to Dr. King, but in Milford, Connecticut a remarkable milestone for an outstanding organization will also be celebrated. With this year's "Reflections XXX: A Tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." the Milford Chapter of The Links Incorporated will mark the organization's 30th Anniversary and it is with great pride that I stand today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to them for their invaluable contributions to the Milford community.

The Milford Chapter is one of two hundred eighty two chapters of The Links Incorporated throughout the United States and in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Established in 1946, this non-profit organization internationally includes 14,000 professional women of color who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and others of African ancestry.

For each of the last thirty years, the Milford Chapter has sponsored this remembrance event. In this traditional time of re-evaluation and reflection, this annual event reminds us all to consider how we, whether as an individual or in a larger group, can make more of a difference in the lives of others and strengthen the bonds of friendship and sense of harmony within our communities. Yet this is only one of

many ways the Milford Chapter supports and enriches our community.

The five guiding "facets" for The Links Incorporated include Service to Youth, Health and Human Services, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and The Arts. Throughout the year Milford Links members sponsor and participate in a variety of events and projects that promote these five pillars. From supporting projects to help recovery efforts in Haiti and bring irrigation systems to farmers in Africa to raising awareness on breast cancer and sponsoring scholarships and promoting literacy, Milford Links members are not only making a difference in the lives of others but also inspiring a new generation to give back to their community.

Today, a monument stands—the first monument on the National Mall not dedicated to a white man, a war, or a president—a great granite sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And in the line of sight just beyond that statue, you can make out the columns of the Lincoln Memorial. In his iconic speech on the steps of that memorial, Dr. King spoke of "the fierce urgency of now." He did not just mean a moment in 1963. Over the course of its thirty year history, the Milford Chapter of The Links Incorporated has worked with "the fierce urgency of now" to make our community a better place to live, learn, and grow.

I am honored to rise today and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Milford Chapter of The Links Incorporated for all of their good work on behalf of our community. Theirs is a legacy of service and generosity that serves as an inspiration to us all. My heartfelt congratulations on their 30th Anniversary and very best wishes for continued success.

BOKO HARAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, we saw a similar dip in Boko Haram's capability. Its founder was killed and many of its fighters wiped out. Boko Haram went into hiding and all was quiet, but that quiet did not last. Boko Haram regrouped, appointed a new leader even more radical than its founder, and came back deadlier than ever. We can't let that happen again. Boko Haram is still capable of launching deadly asymmetric attacks throughout the Lake Chad Basin. My staff has been tracking their attacks. There is hardly a day that goes by when there is not some sort of Boko Haram attack that kills innocents.

Over the past few years, relations between Nigeria and the U.S. have been strained. Joint military trainings were cancelled and the U.S. hesitated to supply weapons to Nigeria's military citing concerns about human rights abuses.

It took the United States 11 years to designate Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization. Finally on November 12, 2013, the night before this Subcommittee and the Africa Subcommittee held a joint hearing on why Boko Haram was not on the FTO list, State Department called to say it was designating the group. That was an important step but

there are questions about the implementation of the designation. It does not seem that all the tools that a designation carries are being brought to bear on the group, especially when it comes to stopping its financing.

The U.S. has started to do more to help Nigeria combat Boko Haram since the election of Nigerian President Buhari in late May of 2015. Infantry training has been restarted and we are seeing an increased level of cooperation between AFRICOM and the Nigerian military. In October, the Administration announced that it was sending troops and drones to Cameroon as well as surveillance aircraft to Niger. But like the FTO designation these are steps that should have been taken years ago, before Boko Haram was allowed to become more lethal than ISIS. Now we must do more to support our African partners to stamp out this Islamist menace once and for all.

The fight against Boko Haram is essential to U.S. national security interests. In ISIS, we have already seen what happens when we underestimate a terrorist group. While Boko Haram may not have the capability to attack the United States today, neither did al Qaeda in the years prior to 9/11. We cannot wait for an attack to happen on American soil before getting serious about destroying those who want to destroy us. Now is the time, when it costs far less blood and treasure, to stamp out Boko Haram.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING ENGINEERS WEEK 2016

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to draw your attention to a special event, Engineers Week, taking place from February 21st through the 27th. This honorary week is a time to recognize the hard work of all engineers and the innumerable contributions they have made, especially within my district and state.

The scientific skills and specialized knowledge of the engineers in my district have fulfilled my constituents' daily needs and resolved some of the major technological challenges of our time. Often referred to as the stealth profession, engineers have influenced nearly everything around us—even when we may not recognize it. Whether designing efficient urban environments, protecting towns from natural disasters, or making simple tasks more accessible, engineers provide the lifeblood that drives our modern societies.

Engineers Week is a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, with more than 50 corporations and government agencies focused on raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to our communities. This week also prompts parents, teachers, and students to consider the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science and technology literacy, and motivates youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to represent the engineers of my district and their families. I am grateful for their contributions to

society and benefit daily from their tireless work. I invite everyone to take this week to thank our nation's engineers for their dedication, to recognize the countless ways they have made our world safer and more efficient, and to encourage the next generation of great engineers in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2016

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and introduce the Environmental Justice Act of 2016.

Twenty-four years ago, I first introduced the Environmental Justice Act of 1992, with my good friend and former colleague Senator Al Gore. After introducing our bill, we worked tirelessly to advance many of the policies proposed in our legislation. On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations". This historic Executive Order established the federal infrastructure to identify and address environmental risks—especially in minority and low-income communities that were often overlooked and underserved.

At that time, Senator Gore and I believed that every person has the right to safe water and clean air. We believed children and parents in every community deserve access to green public spaces. Since then many of the ideas that we proposed in our 1992 bill have been adopted by the EPA. For example, resources like EJSCREEN, help anyone in the country find a report on the quality of their neighborhood's water and air.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to be done. The threats and needs are changing, but the urgency of and my commitment to this important and evolving challenge remain the same. In Georgia's 5th Congressional District and across the country, many people find that even when a serious environmental problem is discovered, it is difficult for them to take action. This bill responds to this grave reality and makes progress in the fight for every person to have equal access to a healthy environment.

The Environmental Justice Act of 2016 will create a tax incentive for 501(c)(3) organizations, like colleges and universities, to devote staff and resources to the hard work of environmental justice. This bill is intended to encourage scientists, activists, and organizers to invest their talents into ensuring that existing environmental protections are improved and enforced in every community. People must know their rights and the tools that are available to them. This bill will not only advance the conversation but also invest in the effort.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we can come together to address this important national issue. We cannot ignore the public health and safety of our communities. We cannot cut corners at the expense of our friends and neighbors. We must fully respect the life and dignity of each and every person, and uphold their right to live, learn, and work in a clean and safe environment.

We must cherish this Earth; for it is the only home we will likely ever know. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this common-sense legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. VEVESI LEMAFI

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the lifelong service and career of Mr. Vevesi Lemafi, a son of American Samoa.

Vevesi, was born in Pago Pago American Samoa, and attended high school at Faga'itua High School, graduating in 1976.

Following his academic career; longing to see other parts of the world, Vevesi joined United States Army in March of 1977, and attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. During Vevesi's time in the military, which spanned 15 years, he served several overseas tours in Germany, and Korea before separating at the rank of Sergeant in 1991.

Vevesi, and his lovely wife Matautu E. Lemafi, who also served in the U.S. Army are the parents to three wonderful children; two sons, Evile and Vesi, and their daughter Melean, as well as their grandson Vevesi TeToa Fiapa'i Lemafi.

Following his military career, Vevesi and his wife Matautu continued their service to our nation, and were both employed with the Department of the Army as civilian employees.

In his civilian role, Mr. Lemafi has served as the Administrative Officer and Human Resources Specialist for Schofield Barracks in Hawaii for 22 years, which combined with his military service, gives him a total of 37 years of federal service to our nation.

As a member of the Mission Support Element (MSE)—Hawaii, under the Senior Commander of the U.S. Army Pacific Command, Vevesi has served as the Administrative Officer/Civilian Human Resources Specialist with the utmost honor, professionalism, dedication and loyalty.

Vevesi has assisted managers of the Mission Support Element—Hawaii through his effective programming, and vast knowledge of the many facets of the civilian human resources program.

Known to always go the extra mile when performing his duties, Vevesi's people-oriented style earned himself the reputation of "the-go-to-man" for his exceptional, customer-first-based service, and accurate analysis with a positive and "can do" attitude.

Though Vevesi is retiring, those Mission Support Element employees who have worked with him have truly benefited through his selfless devotion to duty, and he has earned the respect and admiration of his command.

Due to his truly remarkable and commendable service to our grateful nation, I want to also state my support for his nomination for the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and wish him the very best on his retirement.

God bless the United States and American Samoa.

CONGRATULATING ZANE CLARK ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN SCHOLAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zane Clark, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on his selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Zane, from Cameron, Missouri, was one of a handful of exceptional students to receive the award this year. He is presently a senior organizational communication major with minors in general business and economics. Zane has been recognized for his social awareness and compassion, along with his undying determination to significantly improve the world around him.

Mr. Speaker, Zane Clark's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be. This award represents a great deal of his hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like him and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement.

HONORING MR. MADISON MARYE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Mr. Madison Marye, who passed away on February 23 at the age of 90. Madison was a longtime state senator from Montgomery County, and I had the honor of serving in the Virginia General Assembly with him. Though we disagreed from time to time, he was always a gentleman and a person I liked very much.

Madison loved the communities of Shawsville and Elliston where he grew up. Madison joined the United States Army, and served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War before he retired as a major, which he said is further than he ever expected to have advanced in the military.

He returned to Elliston to farm, and he opened a gas station as well. In 1973, Madison ran for and was elected to the Virginia Senate. While in Richmond, he served on various committees but was most proud of his seat on the Senate Finance Committee as well as his service on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Without a doubt, Madison, for decades, was a feisty legislator and fierce advocate for his rural constituency.

Madison is survived by his wife Charlotte; his daughter, Charlotte Hawes and husband

Michael; his son, James; four beautiful grandchildren, Madison Tyler, Jim, Julia, and Emily; and one great-granddaughter, Romina.

Madison was a great, memorable personality and a good man. He will be fondly remembered and missed by many in Shawsville and the greater New River Valley. While I note with great sadness Madison's passing, I am confident that his legacy will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

GETTING THE WORDS RIGHT: OUR NATIONS COURT REPORTERS AND HOUSE CLERKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of the court system, courtroom reporters make sure that the system works efficiently. Tasked with keeping complete, accurate and secure records, courtroom reporters handle verbatim documentation of criminal, civil or other court proceedings.

These individuals are highly skilled and trained in court reporting, which usually involves stenography. Reporting for the courts involves taking records of court proceedings, depositions, and administrative hearings, among other things.

They record everything that is being said in the courtroom by judges, witnesses, attorneys or other parties, as well as gestures and emotional reactions that accompany any statements.

While taking shorthand notes, they must accurately capture the spoken word. This does not mean paraphrasing or capturing every other word. Reporters must capture each word verbatim, with correct spelling and punctuation, despite the speed in which individuals are talking. After the hearing is over, they then must transcribe their notes into a readable, workable format for the public record.

Sometimes, a court reporters work benefits those with special needs, such as the deaf or hard of hearing. Court reporters can even provide closed captioning or a real-time translation of spoken words.

During my 22 years as a judge in Texas, I had many court reporters who capably kept records of every word said in the courtroom. Being a court reporter is no easy feat, stressors come from every direction including security issues and daily deadlines.

In the House of Representatives, we have clerks who help us and our staff every day. These individuals serve as the congressional stenographers, working diligently, day in and day out. These individuals take notes on congressional hearings and floor debate, speeches and statements. They then work extremely fast to enter all the statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Every single entry must be completely correct. Each statement made goes on the record in congressional history. These individuals work becomes ensures that history is written correctly. Without their diligence we would not be able to do our jobs as efficiently.

These highly trained and talented men and women work tenaciously to record correctly the proceedings of courts and .

Court Reporters and Floor Clerks are truly a vital asset to Judges and Members of Congress. We thank them for getting the words right.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BRIDGE STREET A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the historic and illustrious Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. Reverend David B. Cousin, Sr. and members of the congregation will commemorate this special milestone on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York.

Bridge Street is a church with a rich history that spans two and a half centuries. From its missionary origins in 1766 to its current location at 277 Stuyvesant Avenue in Brooklyn, it continues to be an extraordinary institution deeply rooted in social justice and spiritual transformation. As a stop on the Underground Railroad and platform for speaking out against injustice on both local and national issues, Bridge Street is a voice of conscience representing the least of those in our society.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is a global religious body with over 2.5 million members, who belong to more than 6,000 congregations throughout 20 Episcopal districts across the Americas, Africa, Europe and India. In 1818, Bishop Richard Allen served as the first preacher of the A.M.E. Church, one of the oldest Protestant denominations established on American soil, at Bridge Street.

The people of New York are grateful for the exemplary leadership of Reverend David B. Cousin, Sr., who was installed as the Pastor of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in 1997. Under his guidance, and that of his predecessors, the congregation has touched the lives of countless individuals through their extensive services and wide range of active ministries, which include notable educational, civic engagement, health and wellness, music and youth mentorship programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in commemoration of its 250th anniversary. This church community has dedicated itself to serving the people of New York, and those of our country, in pursuit of a just and moral nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Sisters of St. Francis of the Im-

maculate Conception on the celebration of 125 years of service by making God's compassionate presence known throughout Central Illinois.

Since 1891, the Sisters of St. Francis have dedicated their lives to serving the people of God through prayer, community activism, and striving to meet the needs of the Peoria and Springfield Diocese.

By playing an active role within the Roman Catholic Church, these women have made great strides in promoting public awareness of their mission. Their ongoing efforts make a difference every day in the lives of the people in our community. Their commitment to help the lives of the poor, uneducated, and the hungry embodies the attributes of true servants of Christ.

On February 2, 2016, the women of St. Francis celebrated 125 years encompassed in the spirit of charity, religion, and community. As a native of Peoria and practicing Catholic, I consider myself fortunate that our community has women devoted to spreading a "Caring, Praying Presence" and the love of God through compassion and service.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. MARGARET HOSTETLER

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, Margaret Hostetler ends her decades of service to the Committee on Ways and Means. Margaret has served the Committee for many years, first starting in 1987, and will be deeply missed.

Most recently, Margaret worked on the Social Security Subcommittee staff, and is the Committee's all-time expert on budgets, trust funds, debt limits and more.

Margaret's service to the Congress and the Nation extends back even before her time with the Committee to the early 1980s when she served on the House Budget Committee staff for then-Chairman Bill Roth of Delaware. She helped design the Thrift Savings Plan for federal workers, the original Gramm Rudman law and the 1986 tax reforms.

Margaret is a walking encyclopedia of Committee and Congressional history, and we wish her the very best in the next phase of her life.

A TRIBUTE ON THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On this day in 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered and injured, women and young girls were raped, and victims were tortured and burned alive. Those

that survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind everything they had in their desperation.

The pogroms were not an accident. They were the culmination of years of vicious anti-Armenian propaganda, spread by the Azerbaijani authorities. The Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence. Unsurprisingly, it was not the end of the violence, and was followed by additional attacks, including the 1990 pogrom in Baku.

The Sumgait massacre and the subsequent attacks on ethnic Armenians, resulted in the virtual disappearance of a once thriving population of 450,000 Armenians living in Azerbaijan, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in thousands dead on both sides and created over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Time has not healed the wounds of those murdered in the pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. To the contrary, hatred of Armenians is celebrated in Azerbaijan, a situation most vividly exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Guren Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku as a returning hero.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. And today, Azerbaijan's dangerous behavior on the Line of Contact threatens peace and stability in the region. Artillery and sniper fire across the Line of Contact has become a fact of daily life for civilians in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, causing numerous casualties. I have urged the OSCE Minsk Group to deescalate the situation by ending a policy that equates unprovoked attacks by the Azerbaijan with the defensive responses of Karabakh and Armenian troops, and by pressuring Azerbaijan to accept the installation of technological monitoring devices along the border. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred is allowed to grow unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 28 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

TRIBUTE TO AL MANN

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of her greatest sons this week. Al Mann, physicist, entrepreneur, executive, and philanthropist, spent his more than nine decades on this earth working mostly to help others.

At age seventeen, when America was embroiled in the Second World War, Al Mann volunteered for the Army Air Corps, later becoming a pioneer in guidance systems for missiles and solar power for satellites. His technological advances helped us win that war, saving countless lives throughout.

Afterward, he resisted pleas to continue his extraordinary work in military hardware, following his heart and turning his mind toward the health of humanity. Al's ingenuity, insight, and resourcefulness focused on projects to restore sight to the blind, to bring hearing to the deaf, and return mobility to the disabled.

He did all this while developing a system to deliver insulin to diabetics without needles and creating pacemakers that those afflicted with heart disease would not need to replace frequently, thus sparing them great expense and disruption of their lives.

It has been my honor and privilege to know Al Mann for many years. As he benefited humankind he in turn benefited from a patent system that has been the envy of the world; indeed, he warned against politicians who would tamper with it to advantage powerful business interests against individual innovators like him.

Clearly, he wanted other Americans to succeed by their good works just as he had done.

Because he was one of the most inspirational men I have ever known, I made a point of introducing my children to him so that they, too, might live by his example.

If our country is to know more inspiring individuals like Al Mann, it is imperative that we reclaim and protect the conditions that made his exemplary creativity possible.

IN HONOR OF RAY LAUGHTER

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as my friend, Ray Laughter, prepares to retire as Vice Chancellor of External Affairs for the Lone Star College system, he is leaving big shoes for his successor to fill. How do you replace a driving force for education and economic development in our district such as Ray?

Since 2002, Ray has led the Lone Star College Foundation, the Community Leadership Institute, the Small Business Development Center, as well as the college's public information and publications, governmental relations, and regional economic development departments. He was also the driving force in the passage of bond issues that ensures the college system is meeting the needs of our growing region.

Prior to becoming vice chancellor, Ray served the college system as executive director of the Center for Business and Economic Development and the director of the Small Business Development Center. If you ever wondered why Ray sets such sky-high goals and achieves them, just remember he was once chief administrative officer for an international helicopter manufacturer.

Ray's community and civic commitments don't stop with his work at Lone Star. He shared his invaluable experience by serving on numerous national, state and local boards, and various committees focused on economic development and educational needs.

Development Councils, Partnerships, Chambers, and boards in The Woodlands and across the state and the south rely on Ray to bring together education and economic development projects in innovative and thoughtful ways.

As a military officer's son who settled in Texas, Ray graduated from the University of Houston, where he also earned his MBA. Ever since then, his days and many nights have been filled helping our community learn, grow and prosper.

While his wife and kids are hoping to see more of him now, Ray has already committed to serving as chairman of the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce board next year. My friend Ray is a servant leader who has set a high example for others to follow.

Many thousands of students and families have lifetimes of opportunities ahead because of Ray's hard work. I can't imagine the Lone Star College System without him, but then I know that he is always just a phone call or email away whenever our community needs him.

Thank you Ray Laughter, for showing us all that the sky is the limit for a true leader.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 551

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Israel is the United States' most important ally in the Middle East. But the President made a bad nuclear deal with Iran that brought a whole host of new security threats to Israel. H. Res. 551 is about bringing the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship back into focus.

While security is the cornerstone of our relationship, many do not realize that we have very strong economic ties to Israel. Bilateral trade and investment has strengthened our partnership in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

I look forward to exploring new agreements with Israel in energy, medicine, technology, and security. Fostering deeper economic dialogue will more firmly cement the bond between the U.S. and Israel.

I support H. Res. 551 because it recognizes the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel alliance. Together with our Israeli allies we can initiate new areas of cooperation. It's time this Administration shows Israel how much the U.S. values our partnership.

And that's just the way it is.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, we honor the contributions and achievements of African-Americans, and recommit ourselves to achieving the day when no person is judged by anything but the content of their character.

Let us stand on the shoulders of individuals like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Louis Stokes, and our colleagues, JOHN LEWIS and JOHN CONYERS, who sacrificed so much to secure equal rights for all Americans, including generations yet unborn.

However, more progress must be made.

We must close the gaps in employment opportunities for African-Americans, eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline, and restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act.

Today, let us resolve to continue to march toward a day when every person is guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF EVELYN
MARY LABRAKE**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Rep. DUNCAN HUNTER and I rise today to honor the life of Evelyn Mary LaBrake, Sycuan tribal elder and former Secretary of the Sycuan Tribe. Ms. LaBrake is survived by her nine children, her brother, as well as twenty-eight grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Ms. LaBrake was the granddaughter of Solomon Paipa, an original allottee of the Sycuan Indian Reservation.

Evelyn was born on December 22, 1936 at Mercy Hospital in San Diego, to parents Louis Murphy and Martha Paipa, and grew up on the Sycuan Indian Reservation. She was recognized for being a passionate advocate for the causes of Native Americans and a defender of tribal self-determination and sovereignty. She was instrumental in the adoption of the tribe's Articles of Association of 1972 and many other critical tribal government documents.

As a former Secretary and Councilwoman of the Sycuan Tribe from the 1960s to the 1980s, Evelyn fought for and obtained major improvements in the tribe's water, housing and community building needs. She was also a champion of tribal government gaming, and was a driving force in creating the Sycuan Bingo Palace in 1983, the first tribal gaming establishment in the nation.

In the words of Cody Martinez, current Sycuan Tribal Chairman and grandson of Ms.

LaBrake, "She was an active participant in our general membership meetings as recently as this month. All Sycuan is today, is from the hard work of her and her contemporaries."

Evelyn was a firm believer in hard work and did so all her life, as a Secretary and Councilwoman of her tribe, but also as a machinist at Whittaker Survival System, where she worked for 20 years. She cherished her large family and deeply enjoyed their gatherings. She took special pride in the resurgence of cultural values expressed by her family.

I want to commemorate Evelyn Mary LaBrake for her lifetime of service to her community.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SANBORN
AS THE METROCREST CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE'S CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Michael Sanborn of Carrollton, Texas, on being named Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce's "Citizen of the Year." Michael's leadership and dedication to the Metrocrest community in the Dallas/Fort Worth area has made a lasting impression that North Texas will not soon forget. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Michael for his many years of selfless service to our community.

Michael has earned recognition as one of the most prominent and influential leaders in North Texas' medical community. Michael attended the University of Kansas, where he received his undergraduate and Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration. Beginning as a pharmacist, Michael was quickly promoted to System Director of Pharmacy of NCH Healthcare System and eventually Corporate Vice President of Cardiovascular Services for the entire Baylor Healthcare System. In his current position as President of Baylor Scott & White at Carrollton, Michael oversees the 235 bed acute care facility with more than 700 employees and 500 medical staff members. In addition, he is responsible for managing services at several specialty care clinics and diagnostic centers throughout Carrollton and surrounding cities.

The "Citizen of the Year" award is presented annually by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce to an individual who has made a significant impact in the community. Michael has shown honesty, integrity, and leadership while serving others, which has left a wide reaching and lasting effect on many in North Texas. At Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Michael has made local healthcare his top priority. Additionally, Michael is actively engaged and regularly works with local non-profits and service organizations. Michael currently serves on the boards of Metrocrest Services and the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County, and is the former Chairman of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Michael Sanborn for receiving the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce's "Citizen of the Year" award. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing his contributions to the Metrocrest community.

HONORING 2015 "MR. AMIGO" ITATI
CANTORAL**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Charro Days Fiesta and commend the 2015 "Mr. Amigo," chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico.

A talented Mexican actress, singer, and dancer, Itati Cantoral has been selected as the 2015 "Mr. Amigo." Her style and charisma have won the admiration of audiences across the world. Through her work as a performer, Ms. Cantoral has brought communities together for more than 20 years. She is an excellent choice to represent the spirit of friendship.

First awarded in 1964, the title of "Mr. Amigo" is an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between the United States and Mexico and presides over the annual Charro Days Fiesta.

Charro Days dates back to 1937, when the citizens of Brownsville organized the event in the midst of the Great Depression to celebrate the cultural heritage shared between Brownsville and its sister city across the Rio Grande, Matamoros. The first Charro Days celebration featured a parade with horse-drawn floats and participants dressed in traditional Mexican costumes reminiscent of charros, or Mexican cowboys.

From these humble beginnings, Charro Days has evolved into a multi-day event, which includes dances, fiestas, a children's parade, and the Grand International Parade. Thousands of participants from both sides of the border celebrate these traditions each year.

The 78th annual Charro Days celebration commenced on February 22nd, with a grito, or celebratory yell. And just yesterday, the Mayor of Brownsville and the Mayor of Matamoros met at the Gateway International Bridge to extend their hands across the border, symbolizing the friendship between the two cities.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the Charro Days Fiesta and for joining me in recognizing the importance of this annual celebration, which continues to strengthen the relationship between Brownsville and Matamoros, and the bonds between the United States and Mexico.