

Refuge to the Congressman Lester Wolff National Wildlife Refuge.

These precious wetlands, at Congressman Lester Wolff's urging, were protected in 1968.

In 1967, the New York State Legislature—at the insistence of then Governor Nelson Rockefeller and master planner Robert Moses—authorized a bridge across the Long Island Sound.

Lester immediately saw that this bridge would despoil the pristine and precious resource of the Long Island Sound and soon found himself at the center of an enormous political fight.

Lester eventually won this fight and the Oyster Bay Wildlife Refuge was born. Lester's efforts in 1968 are an important part of our nation's environmental history.

I urge my colleagues to support the renaming to the Lester Wolff National Wildlife Refuge and I wish Lester a happy 100th year and many more.

TRIBUTE TO EARL HAFNER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Earl Hafner. He was honored by Practical Farmers of Iowa with the 2018 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award at their annual conference in January.

This award is granted annually to someone who has shown dedication to sustainable agriculture, helped by sharing their knowledge and work toward making communities, farms, and food healthy and diverse. Earl farms with his son at Early Morning Harvest and Hafner, Inc. It is a 2000 acre diversified farm that includes certified organic row crops and grass-fed cattle and hogs. They also raise tilapia in an aquaponics greenhouse.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Earl Hafner for this award and for working diligently in the Third Congressional district to make his community a better place to live and work. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Earl and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL LANGBERG

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the prestigious career of Dr. Michael Langberg who retired from Cedars Sinai Hospital on May 1, 2018 after 37 years of service. Dr. Langberg, Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer at Cedars Sinai Hospital, was also a permanent member of the California Department of Public Health's health care-associated infection advisory committee. He leaves behind a legacy of better quality care, improved health policy, and collaboration with hospitals around the country to ensure patient safety, particularly for those of limited means or with complex medical needs.

Dr. Langberg has always been a strong advocate of quality care and making it available for poorer communities. He is a highly respected national leader on patient safety and health care quality, who led the work at the American Hospital Association to review new care policy, identify potential unintended consequences, and convey those issues to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). His work also laid the foundation for the provision in the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act that directed CMS to include an adjustment to the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program to recognize the impact of sociodemographic factors on readmission rates.

In addition to Dr. Langberg's many successes, he has been an advocate for sharing both successes and failures in order to disseminate best practices and advance improvements in quality and safety, which has helped many hospitals across the nation learn how to keep patients safe and improve quality in care. Dr. Langberg has been an invited speaker at the Health Management Academy, the National Patient Safety Congress, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and has testified before the California State Senate on physician quality performance in order to help legislators craft better public policy that supports improvement in health and health care.

For these reasons, I am delighted to recognize Dr. Michael Langberg and offer thanks for his selfless commitment to his community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL KENNETH E. TOVO

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Tovo, the retiring Commanding General of the United States Army Special Operations Command located at Fort Bragg in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Raised in Saint James, New York, LTG Tovo began his military career while attending the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduation, he was stationed at Fort Bragg as a Rifle Platoon Leader in the 82d Airborne Division. Serving in combat all over the world allowed LTG Tovo to gain invaluable experience that helped shape his distinguished career.

Deployed on numerous operational assignments around the globe and through some of our nation's toughest times, LTG Tovo always answered the call to serve our great nation. Some of his most notable engagements took place during his assignments with the 10th Special Forces Group. These deployments sent him to Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina and several countries in Europe supporting Operation Desert Storm, Joint Guard and Iraqi Freedom. Throughout these operations, he delivered on the promise to keep America safe and directly confront our enemies under the most difficult of conditions.

While defending our nation overseas, LTG Tovo's most important commitment remained to his family back home. He and his wife, Su-

zanne, raised two wonderful children during LTG Tovo's illustrious career. This country cannot repay the debt we owe to LTG Tovo and his family—the Tovos are true American heroes. I wish him well in what is sure to be an active retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the career of Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Tovo.

RECOGNIZING THE RIBBON CUTTING OF THE NEW SARAH MILDRED LONG BRIDGE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, as Representative for Maine's 1st Congressional District, I rise to mark a historic occasion in my home state. Today is the official ribbon cutting of the newly built Sarah Mildred Long Bridge.

This span is one of three critical connections between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine. Its predecessor, built in 1940, carried thousands of people between our states every day, bore a rail line used to refuel submarines at the Navy's Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and lifted to make way for marine traffic on the mighty Piscataqua River.

Retired after 76 years, that structure did these jobs well. But the one dedicated today is designed to do them even better and last an incredible 125 years. It was built by the hard-working men and women of Maine company Cianbro Corp., with the oversight of the Maine Department of Transportation and its counterparts at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. It should be noted that a \$25 million grant from the federal Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery program helped bring the costs of this sizeable project within reach.

A time capsule bearing this statement, along with other mementos of 2018, will be buried with instructions to open in 125 years. Until then, may this bridge serve our communities well and bear current and future generations of travelers safely to their destinations.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH STEWART

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Stewart of Perry High School for winning the Class 3-A, 138-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament. Zach had a 54-5 record for the season.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Zach contributes his success to years of hard work and commitment and for the support from his parents, family, coaches and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Zach demonstrates the rewards of dedication and perseverance. It is an honor representing Zach and his family in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them

today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and his future endeavors.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF SEAMAN
1ST CLASS EDWARD SLAPIKAS**

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, who has finally come home to rest almost 80 years after his heroic passing.

Seaman Slapikas was tragically killed in action at the age of 24 while serving aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He was one of 429 crewmen who perished on December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seaman Slapikas was interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where his name was marked as "unidentified" on the Walls of the Missing.

Now, 77 years later, Seaman Slapikas' remains have been identified thanks to the combined efforts of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Seaman Slapikas' surviving family members. Since 2015, the DPAA has provided closure to over 120 families of fallen servicemen killed aboard the USS *Oklahoma*.

The return of Seaman Slapikas marks a momentous occasion, not only for the Slapikas family, but also for the community of Wanamie, Pennsylvania. The bravery of Seaman Slapikas was commemorated through the establishment of the American Legion Post 971, named for Seaman Slapikas and Petty Officer Keith Jeffries, a fellow serviceman who perished aboard the USS *Arizona* during the same attack. Seaman Slapikas' niece, Ms. Leona Hotko, plans to ensure that her "favorite uncle" is laid to rest near his childhood home in St. Mary's Cemetery in Wanamie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the heroic life of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, and posthumously thanking him for his service to our great nation.

**HONORING PRESIDENT KEN
WOLLACK OF THE NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Kenneth Wollack, President of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), who is stepping down after a career in foreign affairs, journalism, and politics that has spanned 46 years.

An Illinois native and graduate of Earlham College, Ken broke into national politics as a member of the national staff of the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972. From 1973 to 1980 he was legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). He then became a co-editor of the Middle

East Policy Survey, a Washington-based newsletter, and wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the Los Angeles Times.

Ken joined NDI as executive vice president in 1986 and was elected president by the Institute's board of directors in 1993. He has now led the Institute for more than two-thirds of its history, working on five continents to strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, promote citizen participation, and champion openness and accountability in government.

Through his years of service, Ken has testified before numerous congressional committees and has appeared on national television and radio as a trusted authority on world affairs. He has served on various task forces sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Center for U.S. Global Engagement, and the Atlantic Council. He currently serves on USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, sits on the Commission on Presidential Debates' Board of Directors, and was chairman of the development program of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations.

In a speech given at the 10th Anniversary of Georgetown University's Masters Program in Democracy and Governance Ken reflected, "I confess to be an incurable optimist who for 32 years has worked in the optimism business." His optimism and tireless dedication to promoting and protecting democracy, good governance, and human rights have earned respect and appreciation across the political spectrum in our country and abroad.

I have been honored to work with Ken and the entire team at NDI in implementing this hopeful vision through the bipartisan work of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP). From the time HDP began its work in 2005, NDI and its partner organization within the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute (IRI), have been indispensable partners in strengthening legislative institutions in twenty emerging or re-emerging democracies—ranging from Indonesia and Kenya to Ukraine, Georgia, Peru, Tunisia, and Sri Lanka. HDP has engaged member-to-member and staff-to-staff, while NDI and IRI have helped us organize workshops and exchange visits and have carried out mentoring and consultation aimed at improved legislative practice day-to-day in our partner countries.

This work simply could not have occurred without steadfast leadership from Ken. We have learned a great deal from him and have been strengthened and sustained by his unfailing support. I will forever be grateful to him.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with friends and colleagues in commending Ken for his remarkable career and for the commitment he has shown to our country's highest ideals and purposes. In turn, he has enjoyed the steadfast support and love of his wife Leslie, his daughters Lauren and Alison, and his grandson, Cooper.

We thank Ken Wollack for his exemplary service and wish him and his family well as he begins the next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO TODD PEVERILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Todd Peverill of Glenwood, Iowa for being selected by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. Todd received this award for his many years of coaching successful cross country and track teams at Glenwood Community High School.

Todd has coached track since 1992 and cross country since 1998. Through his coaching and leadership skills he has led the Glenwood High School Rams to several team and individual championships and honors. Todd has been active in the Glenwood community by developing and maintaining cross country trails at Glenwood Lake Park and he has been an advocate for high school athletes and outdoor exercise enthusiasts.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Todd in the United States Congress. It is with great pride that I recognize him for his selection as the Citizen of the Year by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce and for his commitment to his community and school. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Todd on receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN**

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to convey my congratulations to the Republic of Azerbaijan and to all Azerbaijanis.

On May 28, 1918, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was founded, becoming the first Muslim democratic state and gaining their independence from the Russian Empire for the first time. While that independence was initially short-lived, taken away when Russia invaded in 1920, Azerbaijan again became an independent nation on October 18, 1991, and has since been an increasingly important ally for the U.S. in the South Caucasus.

Like the city I represent, Houston, Azerbaijan's impressive economic growth has been driven by the oil and gas industry and shaped by adapting to the evolution of that industry. A number of American and international energy companies thrive in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan's rapid development of its energy infrastructure and expertise has helped it play a crucial role in protecting European energy security and U.S. geopolitical interests by ensuring a stable and sufficient flow of energy to Europe.

As a secular Muslim country, Azerbaijan was a pioneer in extending equal political rights to women, becoming the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote in