

strength in abundance. She has overseen a revolution in volunteer engagement at the Action Center, where more than 7,000 volunteers contribute annually for the good of the community. She has built on-going partnerships with Red Rocks Community College, Jeffco Human Services and the Metro Community Provider Network to bring resources to clients in one location. In her mentoring she can identify strengths and build the organization around them, with the deep wisdom to see that each person has an important role. Under her leadership, The Action Center's revenue increased by more than 600% since 2002. Directly affecting the community she serves in such a positive way.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mag Strittmatter for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH WHITE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative KENNEDY, Representative McGOVERN, Representative NEAL, and Representative TSONGAS rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph White, President of the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts, upon his upcoming retirement.

Mr. White has diligently served the Association for the past forty-five years, and his leadership has guided this organization through many changes. Having retired at the age of thirty-eight from his position as a parole officer in the aftermath of a gunfire assault, Mr. White knew that there was still much for him to give to the Commonwealth. He then began his role of President of the Association. Throughout his tenure, he was instrumental in enacting many key reforms that benefit retirees. Such reforms included raising the pension cost-of-living ceiling, ensuring that retirees' and survivors' health insurance payments remained at a reasonable level, and improving protections for disability retirees. Mr. White has given a great deal to the Association and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and his perseverance has touched many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join us in thanking Mr. Ralph White for his many years of service.

HONORING THE BARBER SHOPPE IN KIRKLAND

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Barber Shoppe in Kirkland on fifty years of successful business. Since it opened in 1964, the Barber Shoppe has been pro-

viding the community with quality service and customer care. Their commitment to excellence has ensured that business stays steady in rough economic times and remains a local favorite.

I would like to give special recognition to Bill Bitz, the man who first started the business in the 1960's. Although Bill died last year at the age of 86, his legacy lives on at the Barber Shoppe. Bill instilled a special charm in the family-owned business that is behind its popularity.

Bill's daughter, Brenda Gordon, proudly took over the shop from her father when he retired. Gordon's training at Folks Barber College in Renton has helped her to continually enhance and improve the shop.

Although the shop now has a new building and a new name, it continues its legacy of classic comfort and high quality care. The Barber Shoppe serves as a role model for many other local businesses that hope to achieve a similar record of success.

I congratulate the Barber Shoppe on all of its accomplishments, and thank it for its contribution to the Kirkland community.

HONORING MR. RAYMOND THOMAS “R.T.” RYBAK

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions of R.T. Rybak to the city of Minneapolis during his 12-year tenure as mayor, and to applaud his leadership in areas from education to government accountability to economic opportunity. Mayor Rybak has been an outstanding leader, a great public servant and a close friend.

R.T. Rybak, a Minneapolis native, began his distinguished career as a journalist for the Minneapolis Tribune. While working for various media outlets—including the Twin Cities Reader, Minnesota Public Radio, and Public Radio International—he was also an organizer who ran political campaigns and engaged in community activism. He campaigned for airport noise mitigation, sponsoring the famous “Pajama Protest” of 1999. Mayor Rybak’s tactics have been inventive and inclusive, and his openness has made him a strong ally of communities often left out of the political process.

Mayor Rybak confronted a city with serious challenges: an increasing budget deficit, a stark achievement gap, pension issues, and public safety concerns. He went to work immediately, making difficult decisions to adjust taxes and budget priorities. Under his leadership, Minneapolis cut spending by 16 percent and paid down \$350 million of the city’s debt, in spite of repeated state-level funding cuts. Faced with crises such as the 2007 collapse of the I-35W bridge, and the 2009 Great Recession, Mayor Rybak helped the city recover with poise and energy. He was a strong advocate for Minneapolis residents, while also using these opportunities to bolster mass transit infrastructure and to further diversify our economy. Minneapolis has recovered all 10,000 jobs lost in the recession, and added

an additional 5,000. The city now ranks first in the country for its low unemployment rate, and is less susceptible to future economic fluctuations.

Minneapolis is safer now than it has been in years. Most crimes have fallen to levels not seen in 35 years.

The people of Minneapolis are also more connected and informed. City-wide wireless internet, digital access to government information and services, and a forum for viewing city goals have made Minneapolis more open and accessible.

Mayor Rybak’s advocacy for North Minneapolis, in particular, has been long overdue on the city’s agenda. He increased city investment in addressing persistent gaps in education, housing, and economic opportunity that have faced North Minneapolis for decades. He championed programs that trained residents and placed them into good jobs, working with businesses to create sustainable, meaningful employment. He reduced foreclosures, and used city-owned land to promote affordable green housing. Mayor Rybak has laid the foundation for revitalizing North Minneapolis, and I am confident that our city’s future leaders will follow his lead.

Mayor Rybak has also tackled the significant challenges facing Minneapolis schools. He started Minneapolis Promise, which provides young people with free college and career counseling and high-quality summer jobs. Since 2004, the STEP-UP internship program has given real-world job experience to over 18,000 Minneapolis youth. Rybak has led the effort to close one of the nation’s widest achievement gaps by connecting schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to work together for our children’s futures. This will be one of the lasting achievements he leaves with Minneapolis, as he continues the fight to close the achievement gap as the next Chief Executive of Generation Next.

Minneapolis will always be indebted to Mayor Rybak. From the balanced books of the city’s treasurer, to the youth who can aspire to greater opportunity than their parents, to the residents headed to a secure job after months or years out of work, his achievements have improved Minneapolis and I thank him for his tireless service to our community.

LAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lakewood High School for their tremendous compassion and character shown during the floods that happened in the State of Colorado in September. This high school located in Lakewood, Colorado must be acknowledged because they showed incredible spirit and support to other schools around Colorado during a time of emergency.

After winning the Good Morning America Katy Perry contest, the students of Lakewood High School used their moment in the national

spotlight to direct national attention towards other students throughout the state affected by the floods. There are countless stories of different student groups and organizations within the school sending supplies, money and support to other students who were in need the most. This is exemplary of the character and compassion the faculty instills in the students at this high school.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Lakewood High School in their display of school spirit for their school and also for the State of Colorado. I am certain the students in this school will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

HONORING MICHELLE "MISSY"
PALMISCIANO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Michelle "Missy" Palmisciano is Founder and President of County Harvest—a non-profit food rescue organization she began in 2009 to ensure that good food otherwise being discarded was instead saved and delivered by volunteers to area soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters.

With more than 200 volunteers, and relationships with dozens of County-based agencies and food donor businesses, Missy and her award-winning organization do more than 60 food rescue runs each week and have collected over 1 million pounds of food since County Harvest began feeding thousands of men, women and children every year. County Harvest continually seeks new food donors and agencies throughout Westchester County.

Missy is also a member of the Planning Board for the Village of Pelham Manor and an Advisory Board Member for Community Service Associates in Mt. Vernon. She has served as a Board Member for the Junior League of Pelham as co-chair of Community Outreach, member of the Prospect Hill Site Based Counsel, Board Member of Huguenot Nursery School and various committee roles supporting The Picture House and the Pelham Public Library's Novel Night.

She and her husband James have three children: daughters Jessica, and twins Allison and Sarah. She is being honored by the Pelham Civic Association for her extensive work in helping her community to be a better, and healthier, place to live. I salute her for her good works and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERT AND CAROLYN BLACK OF VALPARAISO, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fiftieth Wedding

Anniversary of Robert and Carolyn Black of Valparaiso, Florida. A tireless and dedicated member of my staff who has been with me since the beginning of my time here in Congress, Bob is the epitome of an unwavering public servant, and I am grateful to have known him and his wife Carolyn for over twelve years. I am proud to honor the Blacks and congratulate them on this remarkable milestone.

Bob and Carolyn, both born into military families, have called many places home; however, it was each of their homes in Ohio in the 1960s that would prove to be particularly special to them. Their parents were both stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside of Springfield, OH, and as neighbors, Carolyn was literally "the girl next door." Bob and Carolyn attended the same school, Greenon High. Bob's wit and intellect won over Carolyn's heart and became a perfect match to her grace and charm. As high school sweethearts, on November 23, 1963, Bob and Carolyn were married.

The son of an Air Force Pilot, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and was commissioned in the United States Air Force. Over the course of the last fifty years since their paths first crossed, Bob and Carolyn's journey would include assignments throughout the U.S. and around the world. Bob was steadfast in his commitment to support the varied missions of the United States, whether it be operating C-130s or C-141s, fulfilling his test pilot obligations, or commanding troops responsible for safe passage of everything from penguins to Presidents. Carolyn, having been daughter to a pilot herself, was equally steadfast in her commitment to the mission of a military wife and mother. She focused her troops on the active exploration of what each new location had to offer, the intentional effort to forge strong relationships with one another, and the importance of an open mind. It is unquestioned that the success of their partnership is possible because of the strength and love Bob and Carolyn share.

Bob's last assignment as the Vice Commander of the Air Force Development Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida brought them to the Gulf Coast in 1992. Bob retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in October 1994, though, with Carolyn's continued support, he continues to contribute to the defense of our country, including his role on my staff as my Senior Military Advisor.

Bob and Carolyn have accomplished much together, but their greatest achievement is their five daughters. They are the proud parents of Christine (and Brian McCann), Shana (and Christopher Swartz), Kelly (and Shawn Swartz), Sarah Kate, and Anna Lauren, and proud grandparents to Jack, Kate, Alden, and Bridget. All five daughters have continued their parent's commitment to family, community and compassion through their professions, such as nursing, medical research and specialty healthcare for Veterans as well as their personal endeavors such as programs for special needs children and Scouting leadership. Needless to say, Bob and Carolyn enjoy spending time with their family and the beauty of the Emerald Coast.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize the

dedicated service of Bob and Carolyn to the Northwest Florida community and this great Nation. My wife, Vicki, and I congratulate the Blacks, our dear friends, on their Golden Anniversary and wish them and their family all of God's blessings. May He grant them many more years of good health and happiness.

THOMAS O. BOORMAN

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas O. Boorman, a man who dedicated much of his life to serving others. Thomas spent four years serving on a mine sweeper in the Navy. He went on to serve for twenty-six years in the United States Air Force, flying over five hundred missions in a B-52.

Upon his retirement from military service, Thomas felt the call to continue serving his community. He first joined the Placer County Sheriff's office and then worked as a control officer at Folsom State Prison.

Thomas Boorman was an avid sportsman and adventurer and a devoted supporter of the Second Amendment. He would speak openly about his love for his country, his community and the unique freedoms that Americans enjoy. His commitment to our freedoms was consistently illustrated by his lifetime of military and public service. Please join me in honoring Thomas Boorman, a man of lifelong service who will be sorely missed by so many.

HONORING THE GLACIER PEAK
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 Glacier Peak High School girls cross country team. On November 9, the Grizzlies repeated as 3A cross country state champions, and I would like to congratulate them on their impressive achievement.

The Grizzlies' championship title is the result of the hard work and strong effort of the entire team. I would like to give special recognition to senior Megan Davis, the team's top finisher at the state competition this year. Megan finished 12th overall with a time of 19:00.13. Beyond Davis, the team's success came from the efforts of freshmen Heidi Smith and Natalie Church, sophomore Charlie Sevenants, juniors Katherine Dittmann and Haley Longstreh, and senior Samantha Northrop.

The Glacier Peak girls cross country team has a legacy of success. Since it was established in 2007, the team has never finished any lower than seventh at the state competition, including three state championships in the past four years.

The Grizzlies' impressive record of success is a testament to their incredible work ethic