

including serving as President of the Boy Scouts of America Redwood Empire Council, the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts, and the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Condron is also the Chair-elect of United Way of the Wine Country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Condron has made tremendous, long-lasting contributions to Sonoma State University and to improving opportunities for students in our community. He is a true friend of Sonoma State University and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 591 on final passage of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the First Church of God in Merced County. Their practice in faith and education has provided love and charity to the people of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley for the last century. The future is looking even brighter for this outstanding center of community faith in the years to come.

The roots of the First Church of God found humble beginnings in 1916, when the Bowen and Houser families moved from Lodi, California to Atwater to begin their fellowship. Their first church services were held in their own homes until they found the opportunity to rent the old Winton Community Hall for larger gatherings, with nothing more than dirt floors and handmade backless benches. By 1924, the church was able to raise their first building with a \$350 credit and payments of \$25 a month. That very building would now fit in the lobby of the First Church of God's current place of worship, which was built in 1961. The First Church of God's Christian Preschool was born in 1964 and has grown into one of the largest places of faith based childcare and in the Atwater-Merced area.

The services provided by the First Church of God and Christian Preschool are as commendable as they are diverse. Sunday school, bible studies, troubled youth outreach, marriage counseling, finance and debt management, and shared missionary services in 87 countries are only a few of the programs offered by the Church and Preschool.

The coming years will prove to be a fruitful time for this place of worship and education. Their undertaking of a \$1.2 million project to

furnish a new learning center, which will potentially double the enrollment of children in their facility over the next two years of operation. While it will certainly be challenging, their fellowship has said, "faith is tested and demonstrated in the midst of challenges God places in front of us. If we had everything we needed to start and/or finish, it wouldn't be faith—it would be fact."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the First Church of God for their remarkable service to the people of Merced County over the last 100 years. Their history illustrates the uncompromising will that individuals with big dreams can exercise when brought together with enough faith in God and community.

MARY BERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mary Berg for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

For more than 21 years, Mary Berg has served the Jefferson County community in many different capacities. She is currently the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is passionate about ensuring the safety and well-being of children and their families. Her actions at the local, state and national levels have promoted the expansion of child welfare training programs and systems of care as well as legislation impacting children and families.

Mary received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is also a graduate of the Leadership Jefferson County class of 2008. She has co-authored publications on teamwork and has presented at multiple state and national conferences. Her tireless efforts to enable Jefferson County to serve more vulnerable children and families have improved the community greatly.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Berg for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL HANRAHAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa native Joel Hanrahan upon his retirement from Major League Baseball (MLB) after a successful seven-year career, playing for 3 different MLB franchises.

Ever since the second grade, when his teachers or classmates would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Joel knew he wanted to be a baseball player. He became known to Iowans as a star pitcher for the Norwalk High School Warriors, later pitching for the University of Nebraska before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000. After

honing his skills in the minor leagues, he made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals on July 28, 2007. He earned his first win as a pitcher a week later against the St. Louis Cardinals. Despite his love of the game, Joel ultimately had to make the difficult decision to retire in 2016. During his career, he compiled a 22–18 record with a 3.85 earned-run average and 100 saves. He also earned a coveted position in the 2011 and 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star games.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joel for his years of dedication to a game he loves. I am certain that the drive that led him to become an MLB All-Star pitcher will lead to success no matter where his path takes him next. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF THE FALLEN OFFICER COLLIN ROSE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University's Police Department, who was tragically lost in the line of duty. The Wayne State University Police serve a significant portion of the City of Detroit in addition to the university, and Officer Rose performed his duties with distinction. The community will miss his courage and bravery.

Officer Rose established a reputation as a kind and caring individual dedicated to solving issues in his community. Rose was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he excelled as a standout football player in high school. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2010, he began his career in law enforcement as an intern for the Springfield Police Department in southwest Michigan. He then was hired as a cadet in the New Baltimore Police Department, after which he became a police officer at the Village of Richland Police Department. Rose then took a position with the Wayne State University Police, where he had an outstanding record of service and was known for his selflessness and dedication in protecting the city of Detroit and its citizens. Rose also served the community through his involvement with various charitable causes, including the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Rose's death at a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy. Officer Rose embodied the principles of service and duty, and having such a promising young man's life cut short is a tremendous loss for the law enforcement community and the city of Detroit. His sacrifice shows the extraordinary risks that our nation's police face on a daily basis, and my heart goes out to his family during this difficult period. Officer Rose is a true hero, and it is my hope that his family and the community find strength and come together to honor such an amazing life in the aftermath of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary life and

courage of Officer Collin Rose. Rose was a fine young officer who was committed to improving the Detroit community, and we honor his life and work as the community mourns his passing.

TRUMP PROMOTES STRONG MILITARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a World War II Flying Tiger who served in India and China, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful father of four sons who served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I truly appreciated the remarks of President-elect Donald J. Trump in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on December 6, 2016 promoting our military and our military families.

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am here today for one main reason: to say thank you to the people of North Carolina.

You went out and pounded the pavement, organized your fellow citizens, and propelled to victory a grassroots movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I want to give a very special thank you to the incredible military families, service members and Veterans of North Carolina.

Your state's legacy of service is an inspiration to us all. North Carolina has produced many of the finest soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever seen.

Our men and women in uniform represent the very best of us. We must follow their example: working in unison toward a shared goal across every social, racial and economic line. They understand that to accomplish the mission, we must all be pulling in the same direction. And they know that we must leave no man or woman behind.

These patriots have shed their blood to defend our country in distant fields of battle across the Earth. Our debt to them is eternal and everlasting.

We salute their sacrifice, and we salute the flag they fought to protect.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It is a milestone that marks the ultimate sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. It is a reminder, too, of the valiant efforts of America's fighting men and women who have liberated millions from tyranny and oppression.

Now, today, our brave men and women are the first line of defense against Radical Islamic Terrorism—an ideology of death that slaughters innocent men, women and children.

In every generation, a new threat to freedom arises. And just as we defeated the threats we faced in generations past, so too will we defeat the forces of terrorism. We will prevail.

We stand here today just miles from Fort Bragg, the home of heroes.

Our Special Forces at Fort Bragg have been the tip of the spear in fighting terrorism. The motto of our Army Special Forces is 'to free the oppressed' and that is exactly what they have been doing.

At this very moment, soldiers from Fort Bragg are deployed in 90 countries.

Based in Fort Bragg is the 82nd Airborne Division—also known as The All-American Division.

We stand in awe of their achievements.

Not far from here sits forty-five percent of the entire United States Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune.

12,000 citizen-soldiers fill the ranks of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard. The National Guard rushed to the scene to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those recovering in its wake.

The military families in North Carolina are a national treasure, and it will be the duty of my Administration to ensure that we protect those who protect us.

That brings me to the second reason I am here today: to discuss our Action Plan To Make America Great Again—beginning with the rebuilding of our military and taking care of our Vets.

Here are the priorities that will guide our Military and Veterans Policy:

—All men and women in uniform will have the supplies, support, equipment, training, services, medical care, and resources they need to get the job done.

—The best care in the world for our Veterans, both at public VA facilities, as well as the right to see a private doctor.

—And finally, a commitment to only engage the use of military forces when it is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

From now on, it's going to be: America First.

We will stop racing to topple foreign regimes. Instead, our focus must be on defeating terrorism and destroying ISIS.

Any nation that shares these goals will be our partner in this mission.

We want to strengthen old friendships and seek out new friendships. Rather than a rigid dogma, we are guided by the lessons of history and a desire to promote stability: this destructive cycle of intervention and chaos must come to an end.

We seek harmony and goodwill among the nations of the world—and we believe that respect for mutual sovereignty helps form the basis of trust and understanding.

We build up our military not as an act of aggression, but as an act of prevention. We pursue and build up arms not in order to seek conflict, but in order to avoid conflict.

In short, we seek Peace Through Strength.

That is why, in my first budget report to Congress, I am going to ask for the elimination of the defense sequester.

We will show the world that America is going to be strong again.

But in order to succeed with our defense policy, we must find the right person to lead our Defense Department.

That is why I am proud to formally announce today my intention to nominate General James "Mad Dog" Mattis as the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Jim is a Marine Corps four-star general, the former Commander of U.S. Central Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. He led an assault battalion in Operation Desert Storm, led the Forces that went after the Taliban, and commanded the First Marine Division in Iraq.

He is one of the most effective generals and extraordinary leaders of our time, who has committed his life to his love for our country. General Mattis is the living embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis,' always faithful, and the American people are fortunate that a man of his character and integrity will now be the civilian leader atop the Department of Defense. Under his leadership, we will rebuild our military and alliances, destroy terrorists, face our enemies head on, and make America safe again . . .'

HONORING 2017 SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state as they begin preparations to celebrate 2017 Somali Independence Day week next summer in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Annual commemoration of Somali Independence Day is the culmination of Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, which drew together more than 30,000 participants last July. Somali Week has grown into the Minnesota Somali communities' largest community event of the year and is one of the largest gatherings of the Somali Diaspora.

Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, this week-long festival unites people from around the world and around the state to share in cultural, entertainment and athletic events. The most notable of these activities include a multicultural soccer tournament known as 'The Cup of Nations,' hosted by Concordia University in Saint Paul and a family-friendly street festival on Somali Independence Day.

'Promoting Diversity through Unity and Inclusion' is the 2017 Somali Week theme established by organizers. Kajoog, a local Somali non-profit organization is leading efforts with other community partners to plan exhibitions, performances, and wide ranging panel discussions, aimed at uplifting the strengths of inclusivity. Kajoog Executive Director Daud Muhammad has forged strong collaborations with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Somali Museum of Minnesota, among many others to plan this vibrant festival.

In addition to organizing Somali Week, Kajoog has earned recognition by local, state and federal officials, as well as law enforcement for their effective job-training and positive youth programs, and efforts to combat extremism throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our nation. Please join me in paying tribute to community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and every day work to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Schools.

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award was designed to "recognize excellence