

and the Legacy Award from the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Grace Community Clinic. Grace Community Clinic was opened in October 2013 by Dr. Tong S. Park and other leaders from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, which I am proud to represent. The clinic provides free medical services to 40–50 people each month. More than 40 volunteers support the Clinic, including five doctors as well as nurses, receptionists, and translators. In addition to primary care consultations, the Clinic offers limited referrals for free dental care to a nearby dentist, and free radiology and lab work through donations from INOVA and Fairfax Radiology. The clinic also makes referrals to specialists who provide low-cost care on an as needed basis.

Ibrahim Choudhary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth of Northern Virginia. The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, “love for all, hatred for none”, is a vision that it seeks to fulfill through peaceful dialogue and public service. Mr. Choudhary and the members of his youth group have focused their efforts on correcting misunderstandings and misconceptions about Muslim youth by serving their local communities through various projects, from food drives for the poor to handing out flyers with messages of peace. Local Ahmadiyya Muslim youths have also volunteered regularly with the Capital Area Food Bank to help hand out food to those in need in the DC Metro area.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region’s cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING MS. CAROL
GIOVANATTO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonoma, California City Manager Carol Giovanatto upon retirement from an impressive career in local government that has spanned 41 years.

A native of Cloverdale, California Ms. Giovanatto graduated from Cloverdale High School and attended classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition to her work with the City of Sonoma, Ms. Giovanatto has brought her strong leadership skills to many committees and boards on which she serves.

During her tenure as City Manager, Carol was instrumental in addressing important city issues and preventing conflicts. Ms. Giovanatto negotiated a contract to preserve the historic Sebastiani Theater, formed a joint powers agreement for the Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District and proposed a sales tax measure to protect continued city services. A dedicated public servant, Ms. Giovanatto strengthened the economic development partnership with the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, created a grant funding program for non-profits, completed a new mobile home ordinance and raised the funds needed for the proposed community pool.

Ms. Giovanatto will be recognized long after her retirement for her foresight in identifying 22 measures for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and establishing the City of Sonoma as the first Evergreen City in Sonoma County. Ms. Giovanatto was a founding board member and past President of the Cloverdale Youth and Family Services Partnership, a member of the Leadership of Sonoma Valley Class of 2008, and a board member of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Giovanatto has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the people of the City of Sonoma. She is known for her unflinching kindness, loyalty and commitment to high ethical standards. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING DAVID FLORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn’t acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn’t let them down.

David’s positive impacts on the counties he’s served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County’s bond rating went from “low investment grade” to AAA, the highest rating available. He’s established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David’s commitment to excellence doesn’t stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he’s deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores’ work and contributions to his community. I’m sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

280TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 280th anniversary of the Union Fire Company. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736, the Union Fire Company was Philadelphia’s first volunteer fire company.

Dr. Franklin established the Union Fire Company as the very first fire suppression unit which universally responded when summoned. This overcame the issues surrounding prior firefighting clubs that existed in Boston, which also paid for fire wards or watchmen as early as 1711. The difference between Franklin’s Union Fire Company and the other clubs in Boston and New York was that Franklin saw the advantage of protecting all the homes and businesses of the community, not just those who had joined the club. Franklin formed the Union Fire company from roughly 30 volunteers from what is today the Old City section of Philadelphia. Their equipment included leather buckets, with strong bags and baskets (for packing and transporting goods), which were to be brought to every fire. All homeowners were required to have these leather fire-fighting buckets in their houses. Recognizing the efficacy of Dr. Franklin’s model, similar volunteer fire companies began to spring up throughout Philadelphia.

In the late 1860’s, Philadelphia city officials spoke of transforming Franklin’s volunteer service into a professional fire department to meet the demands of the ever-growing city. Finally, on December 29, 1870, Philadelphia city council enacted an ordinance to professionalize the fire service into a singular department. The Philadelphia Fire Department, administered by seven Commissioners chosen by the City Council, officially entered into service on March 15, 1871.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Congress to pause and reflect on the unquestionable courage of all firefighters throughout America, be they volunteer or professional. As we are indebted to the many thousands of America’s firefighters who died in the line of duty, I ask that the list of the 289 Philadelphia firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty be recorded with the year, rank, and company to which they served:

1994, Acey, Vincent, Firefighter, Rescue 01; 1960, Adgie, William, Lieutenant, Engine 54; 1962, Ahlers, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 71; 2003, Allen, James, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1964, Anderson, Albert, J, Fireman, Ladder 9; 1918, Anderson, John, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1975, Andrews, John, Firefighter, Engine 49; 1933, Arnold, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 44; 1921, Atkinson, George, Captain, Engine 36; 1965, Balkie, Alfred, Firefighter, Engine 61; 1954, Bando, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1892, Barnes, William, Hoseman, Engine 12; 1884, Barr, Phillip, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1961, Berg, Rolla, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1908, Berry, William Dick, Foreman, Truck 04; 1910, Bertolet, Harry, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1910, Bihlmire, William, Ladderman, Truck 01.

1961, Bordier, Raymond, Firefighter, Engine 06; 1905, Boyle, Aloysius, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1975, Brenek, Carroll, Firefighter, Engine 57; 1978, Brightcliffe, John, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1982, Brown, Stanley,