

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST PRINCIPAL 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 2016 Washington Post Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Manage effectively.
2. Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
3. Foster cooperation between the school and the community.
4. Maintain a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff.
5. Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.
6. Encourage team spirit.
7. Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.
8. Continue to play an active role in the classroom.
9. Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the Year Award.

Neil Beech—Osborn Park High School.
Andrew Jacks—Ashland Elementary School.
Michael Lint—New Dominion Alternative Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING COLLEEN AND RICHARD DAVIS, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce you and my colleagues to Colleen and Richard Davis, constituents of mine from the Shenandoah Valley in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia who have provided extraordinary support for mothers in crisis and their children.

I nominated Colleen and Richard Davis for the Angels in Adoption program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute this year because, even with three children of their

own, including one special needs adopted child, Colleen and Richard Davis opened their home to two infants in need.

Colleen had been dedicating her time and energy to residents of the New Eve Maternity Home in Winchester, Virginia, a home for pregnant women in need. At the New Eve home, Colleen met a young woman with twin newborn boys who was having difficulty caring for her babies. Colleen and Richard generously offered to take the twins into their home and care for them until the mother was able to provide a stable home.

For more than two years now, Colleen and Richard Davis have welcomed these two children into their family and have raised them as their own. These acts of extraordinary generosity are inspired by a sense of loving compassion for their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, stories of unsung heroes like Colleen and Richard Davis are taking place throughout our nation and I ask that we remember with gratitude these “Angels in Adoption” who are making a significant difference in our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colleen and Richard Davis, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose R. Rodriguez for his tireless work as Director of Operations and Grants Coordinator.

I first met Jose when he began an internship in my office in 2013 and from the beginning he stood out as an exceptional worker. After only a few weeks, he was hired as Constituent Services Representative where he helped many of my constituents and their families with housing, immigration, and veterans issues. He was part of the team of case-workers that helped recover and save over \$500,000 for residents of Florida’s Ninth Congressional District.

After a few months on the job, he proved to be a valuable asset, capable of handling multiple roles with great knowledge and skill. For this reason he was promoted to Director of Operations, where he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing the administrative operations of my district offices. He also served in a dual role as Grants Coordinator and helped many local municipalities and non-profit organizations seek federal funding. Jose was able to help bring over \$7 million dollars in federal funds for various local organizations, including money for education and first responders.

As further proof of his tenacity, Jose was able to complete his law degree while working fulltime and raising two beautiful children, Josue and Deborah.

As Jose’s tenure in my office comes to an end, I want to recognize his service to my office and the community, and I wish all the best to him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLEN PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON THE DATE OF ITS PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary Fundraiser. The Allen Park Historical Museum has served as an important venue for the metro Detroit community to educate individuals about the background of historically significant events that have shaped our country.

Located in a farmhouse built in 1888, the Allen Park Historical Museum has provided Allen Park and the surrounding communities with a free and accessible forum to learn about the history of the city and pivotal events in American history. The Museum displays police and firefighter memorabilia as well as military artifacts and cultural objects like furniture and toys that showcase life from different eras. In addition to regular exhibits, the Allen Park Historical Museum also periodically sponsors fundraisers to engage with the community while providing resources for the museum. These additional events allow historians and other experts to further explore our nation’s heritage in different contexts.

The Allen Park Historical Museum not only serves as a venue for residents of Allen Park and surrounding areas, but also provides important resources that help educate southeast Michigan about historically significant events. The underwriting of experiences like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day underscore the community’s commitment to ensuring that critical milestones in American history are placed in the proper context. It is heartening to see the Allen Park community play a leading role in promoting American history, and I am confident that the museum will continue to host engaging and relevant exhibits that educate and entertain individuals of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Day fundraiser. The museum provides cultural enrichment through its documentation of historical events through its exhibits.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DERMODY

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 and congratulate Jim Dermody, Principal of Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) Association.

Jim has been an outspoken advocate for ITAG programs at Lewis Central Middle School, recognizing that success requires participation from the whole school, not just special ITAG instructors. He utilizes partnerships

with each teacher in the middle school to ensure they have the resources and training to promote and encourage ITAG students. It is an honor to represent educators like Jim, who take the extra steps to ensure student success. ITAG's 44th Annual Conference officials noted that Jim Dermody believes "learning isn't about books, worksheets, and presentations. It's about using learning to improve the world."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jim for being named the ITAG Administrator of the Year and for shaping our future generations into bright, young leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

NORMA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Norma Anderson 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.

Norma Anderson, former Colorado State Senator and Jefferson County resident since 1950, served as a legislator for nearly 19 years helping to improve the education system, transportation planning, criminal justice reform and healthcare policy. Norma has served her community in many capacities including on numerous boards and committees.

Norma was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1986 where she prioritized the needs of her community through her support of the School Finance Act of 1994 and the Third Grade Literacy Act of 1996. She sponsored other education legislation including the College Opportunity Fund and accountability for K-12 schools. Norma also helped establish the Colorado Department of Transportation's 20-year transportation plan, sponsored Lifetime Parole and Probation for Sex Offenders, and assisted in the restructuring of the Departments of Social Services and Institutions saving Colorado ten million dollars. From 1997 to 1998, she served as the House Majority Leader, and in 2003 she served as the Senate Majority Leader, making her the first woman in Colorado history to serve in this role in both houses. Norma always kept her commitment to Jefferson County and was instrumental in promoting progress in Colorado.

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

TRIBUTE TO NORANNE DOWNS,
P.E.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize and honor Ms.

Noranne Downs, P.E. as she marks 25 years of service with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

After eleven years of public works experience with the City of Daytona Beach and in the private sector, Ms. Downs was hired by FDOT in September of 1991 as a project manager. Her talent and ability were recognized, and in October of 2006, Ms. Downs was named District Five Secretary.

Soon after her joining FDOT 25 years ago, I was honored to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Florida's Seventh Congressional District and assigned, at my request, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. While we worked together prior to this, our shared focus of maintaining Central Florida's infrastructure and preparing our region for the future cemented our bond and our friendship.

For over two decades, Noranne and I worked on the many transportation projects important to our community. Together we helped bring our region into the 21st Century and laid a solid foundation for Central Florida's infrastructure to thrive in the future. In addition to working to meet the Transportation requirements of one of America's fastest growing regions, I am extremely proud of our work together on projects such as SunRail which brought fixed commuter rail service to the region, the I-4 Ultimate and Beyond the Ultimate projects which will increase capacity and reimagine the main interstate roadway serving our area and updating our roadways and traffic management systems with the latest technologies to most effectively and efficiently manage traffic flows. Noranne played an integral role in these projects and so many more.

It is with much appreciation and admiration that I recognize my friend and a great public servant, Noranne Downs at this milestone in her career. It is also with regret that Noranne will be retiring from her position at FDOT in January 2017. Her pivotal work has truly left an indelible mark on Central Florida and our State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Noranne Downs for her 25 years of service to our community and at FDOT, and in wishing her the best as she turns the page of her remarkable career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEGGY
KIRK BELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Margaret Anne "Peggy" Kirk Bell who passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bell family as they mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman.

A native of Findlay, Ohio, Mrs. Bell dedicated her life to sharing the joys of golf with those around her. At the age of seventeen, she picked up the sport that would transform her life and define her legacy. Mrs. Bell would go on to establish what has been described as "one of the best amateur records ever compiled" before becoming a charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association

(LPGA) and competing for several years professionally.

Best known as a teacher of the game, Mrs. Bell's reach expanded around the world as she shared her passion with golfers of all ages and abilities. Her achievements include being named LPGA Teacher of the Year, Golf Digest's "One of the Six Best Women Teachers in the World," and winning the first ever LPGA Senior Championship. Her lifetime of dedication and love for golf was recognized several times including when she received the Bob Jones Award in 1990, which is the United States Golf Association's highest award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

In 1953, the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself to Mrs. Bell and her husband, Warren "Bullet" Bell, when they purchased Pine Needles Golf Course in Southern Pines, North Carolina. From there the couple transformed the golf course to what is today one of the premier golfing destinations in the world. Mrs. Bell quickly became a staple at the resort, taking a hands-on approach to its management and personally investing her time and effort in the lives of its staff and visitors. On any given day at the course you could expect a challenging round of golf and the warmest of welcomes from a smiling Mrs. Bell. Her focus was always to serve others and make certain that everyone was having fun.

Compassionate, kind, and loving, Mrs. Bell's impact resonated through the entire sport of golf. She served as both a pioneer of the game and teacher for future generations. To say that she will be missed would be a gross understatement. While we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman, there is no doubt that her legacy will continue to be celebrated for generations to come. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Bell family, especially her children, Bonnie, Peggy Ann, and my dear friend, Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mrs. Peggy Kirk Bell.

REMEMBERING TERRY BELCOE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terry Belcoe, who passed away on Friday, September 23, 2016, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Belcoe was born in Mount Vernon, Washington on April 19, 1956, and spent most of his life in Bellingham, Washington. After completing his Associates degree at Whatcom Community College, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Administration and Accounting, and later his Master's in Business Administration at Western Washington University.

Throughout his career, Mr. Belcoe was known for forging partnerships to improve the community. He served as the Board Chair of the United Way of Whatcom, Skagit County Community Action Agency, United Way of Skagit County and the Oversight Committee for Leadership Skagit program. His advocacy extended to acting as a guest speaker and mentor to students at WWU and volunteering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Whatcom County.