

In line with his passion for fighting for children in need of nutrition and housing, Mr. Belcoe actively engaged with legislators and communities to support low-income families. Recently, he celebrated 15 years as the President and CEO of North Coast Credit Union in Whatcom and Skagit counties and in October of 2016, he was selected as the Washington Credit Union Advocate of the Year, but unfortunately he passed away less than three weeks before the honor could be presented.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Belcoe was a dedicated public servant and I would like to honor him for his many contributions to our community and our state. My thoughts are with his partner Karen, his daughters and his sister. Terry will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 1st and 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted:

On Roll Call Vote 594, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 595, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 596, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 597, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 598, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call Vote 599, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 600, I would have voted No.

HONORING ERICA STRIEBEL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my Chief of Staff, Erica Striebel, for her service and commitment to the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, and to our country.

For the last 15 years, Erica has been one of my closest advisers. She was a sounding board for me on legislative issues as Congress fought through many difficult challenges facing our country. Erica has been my chief strategist during my time on the House Appropriations Committee and my right hand for my work on the Defense Subcommittee.

The late management consultant Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Fortunately for me, my staff, and the people I have had the privilege to represent, Erica is both an excellent manager and an inspiring leader. She has a special talent for seeing around corners to identify the next challenges and leading others to solutions.

Erica's devotion to the servicemen and women who protect our nation at home and around the globe sets an example for all to follow. Erica Striebel is a patriot. She values those who serve today and respects the veterans of yesteryear. Her knowledge was acquired through her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Security Policy from The George Washington University and her Mas-

ter's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. She shares my strong belief that national security is our country's number one priority. Erica fights on the policy front to ensure our military can effectively defend the United States of America. An integral portion of her work—traveling to military bases to meet with commanders—is a vital part of how Erica makes sure that she is prepared to fight for what is needed to keep our military the best trained and best equipped in the world. Military leaders in Northeast Florida at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport remind me often that their confidence in Erica is unique. Her command of the missions and the intricacies of military assets is well respected. She is the staffer who makes things happen. Also, in a spirit of teamwork, Erica unselfishly shares her expertise with other Capitol Hill staffers. She fully appreciates that all Members of Congress need to work together to support our military.

Erica is diligent in ensuring that the contributions of our veterans are recognized, and they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. With her support, more than 2,400 veterans in the 4th Congressional District have attended ceremonies and received my Veterans' Special Recognition Certificate. She also played a key role in ensuring all the necessary steps were accomplished to locate the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Florida's First Coast.

I have no doubt that Erica will bring the same drive and determination she has shown in my office to the next chapter in her professional career. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in thanking Erica Striebel for her leadership and for her commitment to public service and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

God bless and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL MINTZER

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 Gabriel Mintzer, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Gabriel is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl and Knowledge Bowl teams, Central Academy mathematics team, and treasurer of Valley High School's National Honors Society chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gabriel for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gabriel and in wishing him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 68th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than 6 decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression/prevention and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment; provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership; and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. Last year alone, the Burke VFD provided more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time as well as an additional 2,159 hours of supplemental staffing.

I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as officers or as members of the board of directors.

Board of Directors—President Patrick Owens, Vice President John Powers, Secretary Tonya McCreary, Treasurer Ian Dickinson, Larry Bockneck, Rich Guarrasi, Becky Dobbs.

Officers—Chief Thomas Warnock, Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey, Deputy Chief John Hudak, Captain Melissa Ashby, Captain Keith O'Connor, Lieutenant Emily Fincher, Lieutenant Kevin Grottle, Sergeant Jennifer Babic, Sergeant Peter Hamilton, Sergeant Shaun Kurry, Sergeant James Reyes, Team Leader Paul Stracke, Team Leader/Chaplain Harry Chelpon.

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year—Lindsay Fox and Blaine Reis

Firefighter of the Year—Ian Dickinson
EMS Provider of the Year—Caitlin Curran
Officer of the Year—Shaun Kurry, James Reyes

Administrative Member of the Year—Charlene Murphy
Career Member of the Year—FireMedic Anthony Tran

Team Award—BVFDR Bingo Team (Tina Godfrey, Matt Bryant, Charlene Murphy)

Chief's Award—E414 Procurement Team (John Hudak, Larry Bockneck, Peter Hamilton, Mike Istvan, George Hahn, Sam Sandeen, Robin Clement)