

and the well-being of thousands of Medtronic employees. During his tenure with the company, Medtronic's revenue increased from \$837 million in 1989 to \$28.8 billion in 2016, a 34 times increase. Importantly, he helped oversee the growth of the company from approximately 7,000 employees in 1989 to more than 88,000 employees today. Mr. Ellis is known for his sound advice, mentorship and positive outlook, and has provided honest and insightful counsel to the Medtronic Board of Directors, the chief executive officer, his peers and his team.

Importantly, as part of Medtronic's Mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for people around the world, the company's impact on people's lives grew exponentially during Mr. Ellis's leadership. In 2005, when Mr. Ellis became chief financial officer, the company proudly improved the life of someone every 6 seconds. Today, as a result of strong leadership, growth and innovation, Medtronic technology improves the lives of two people every single second, or more than 65 million people per year.

In addition, Mr. Ellis has demonstrated his commitment and passion for community through philanthropic activities and Board service, including service as Chairman of the American Heart Association Board in 2007 through 2008, as well as dedicated service on the boards of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Science Museum of Minnesota. He has also played an active leadership role and contributed many years of Board service to his local church.

Prior to joining Medtronic in 1989, Mr. Ellis was a senior audit manager for Price Waterhouse, where, in addition to several other responsibilities, he managed the Medtronic audit for nearly 10 years. He worked with several large corporate organizations, as well as providing audit services to numerous non-profit organizations.

Mr. Ellis grew up on a farm in Sac City, Iowa, and originally aspired to be a math teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1978 from the University of South Dakota. Above all, Mr. Ellis is a family man, who cherishes spending time at the lake with his wife, Sue, their two children, and five grandchildren. Though his leadership will be sincerely missed, I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for everything he has done within the business community and within the Twin Cities community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 593 on final passage of H.R. 6393, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

ROUGH RIDGE AND ROCK MOUNTAIN FOREST FIRES

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires that have recently impacted Northeast Georgia.

Over the past few months, my district has experienced a severe drought that at one point led to a rainfall deficit of more than a foot and especially affected thousands of farmers in Northeast Georgia.

This October, I had the opportunity to learn more about the drought's repercussions from the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black, and about 40 local farmers who have struggled with the historic drought.

Unfortunately, the effects of the drought went beyond affecting our farmers, and, as wildfires continued to burn in Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain, I was deeply concerned.

In fact, the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have each affected over 20,000 acres of land in Northeast Georgia.

Today, I am grateful to report that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been 95 percent contained. I would like to thank the firefighters, police, emergency management and medical teams, and many others who have worked long hours at demanding jobs to ensure the security and safety of the public during this uncertain time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward, in the near future, to sharing the good news that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been completely contained.

IN RECOGNITION OF PACTV

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of PACTV's 20th anniversary. PACTV is a non-profit public access television station that operates six channels whose content is available to over 35,000 households in Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This community-based television station, first established in 1996 by the cable committee and selectmen in Plymouth, was founded with the idea that community television programming could be vastly improved. Over the past 20 years, PACTV has flourished and benefitted the communities it serves. PACTV has provided a state-of-the-art community multimedia facility and encourages citizens to participate in the democratic process by providing access to local government coverage and programming. Further, PACTV provides video production classes, has meeting spaces and an art gallery open to the public and helps local non-profits and community service providers to organize and promote events.

Over the years, PACTV has accumulated a highly qualified staff that is constantly working with the community and a dedicated board of directors from both industry and non-profit organizations to bring greater quality program-

ming to the Commonwealth. To this day, PACTV continues in the fine tradition of community access television providing a first amendment forum undiluted by commercial considerations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor PACTV on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing PACTV continued success in providing high quality television programming.

HONORING DEBORAH HUNT

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 honor the distinguished career of Deborah Hunt. With her retirement approaching, she will soon close out over twenty years of incredible service to her community and begin the next chapter of her life.

Deborah has fulfilled her duties with dedication and innovation. Her commitment to public service started in 1994 when she served as Justice of the Peace in Williamson County. Through the years, she continued to serve her community through various public positions, including her appointment to the Board of Tax Professional Examiners by Former Governor George Bush and later appointed Chair of the Board by Former Governor Rick Perry.

Deborah is well known throughout the state for paving the way to modernize her department. She led the implementation of on-line payments and simplification of tax collections. Her office has served as a test site for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to pilot upgrades and new systems. Deborah's leadership in this arena has made a real difference in the lives of Texans.

Deborah's commitment to service and the highest standard of excellence has not gone unnoticed. Recognized by her colleagues for her devotion and hard work, she has achieved a long list of accolades, including Person of the Year as well as the Earl Luna Award, and the Marilyn Albert Achievement, the highest honor recognized by the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

Deborah Hunt's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. There's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her. I heartily salute her work and wish her the best of luck in all her new endeavors.

12TH ANNUAL OHIO STATEWIDE TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Rosa Parks, "the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement."

On December 1st, we marked the 61st anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery City Bus.

Her defiance sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our Nation's public transportation system.