

oversaw the day-to-day activities of over 600 student pilots, 22 active duty permanent party members, and 80 civilians assigned to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. Additionally, Lt. Col. Soderstrom flies as an instructor pilot with the 85th and 434th Flying Training Squadrons, instructing future Air Force pilots in the T-6A. The 47th Operations Group produces over 300 new pilots each year for the Combat, Mobility and Special Operations Air Forces.

Lt. Col. Soderstrom was raised in Wichita, Kansas. He received his commission in 1996 from the United States Air Force Academy. He is a Command Pilot with over 3,400 hours in the F-15C/D, T-37B, and T-6A. He has held a variety of positions at the squadron, group, wing, and Major Command level. Prior to his current assignment he served as the Commander, Headquarters Squadron, United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Col. Soderstrom is married to the former Tephania Weber of Marysville, Kansas. They have three children, Trinity, Cole, and Logan. I thank Lt. Col. Soderstrom, and his family, for his twenty years of service to a grateful nation, and wish him the best as he begins his new career as a pilot in Italy.

HONORING ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5240

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Rotary International District 5240, which has dutifully carried out the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self." By providing services to countless others and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders, Rotary International District 5240 strives to improve lives both locally and internationally.

First established in 1918 with the founding club in Santa Barbara, District 5240 has grown along California's central coast, throughout the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. District 5240 also bears the distinction as one of the oldest Rotary clubs nationally, founded only thirteen years after the original club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was established. With a membership of 3,500 members, from 74 clubs in four different counties, Rotary International District 5240 meets regularly to not only develop its own communities but communities around the world.

As a member of one of the world's largest service organization, Rotary International District 5240 has established itself with remarkable charitable work ranging from leading polio eradication efforts since 1985 to a focus on promoting global peace, fighting disease, providing international aid for access to clean water and life-saving care to mothers and children, as well as supporting educational programs, and growing local economies. Most recently, Rotary International District 5240 has

led relief efforts for Hurricane Matthew victims on behalf of our community.

Locally, the organization has been a critical partner in economic and community development, and has donated over \$250,000 to fund microfinance loans that have helped start or grow local businesses over the past four years.

For these reasons, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Rotary International District 5240, which is celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Rotary Foundation, for the immeasurable ways the organization has contributed to our community as a whole.

REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL VOTE
RECOUNTS IN THE SEVERAL
STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee; Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, I rise today to address efforts that may be taken in various states to recount votes cast for candidates for the office of President of the United States in the recent election.

The linchpin of representative democracies such as the United States is public confidence in the political system, regime, and community.

That confidence in turn rests upon the extent to which the public has faith that the system employed to select its leaders accurately reflects its preferences.

At bottom, this means that all citizens casting a vote have a fundamental right and reasonable expectation that the votes cast count and are counted.

We know from experience that it not uncommon that occasionally vote counts reported in an initial canvass may later prove to be inaccurate because sometimes votes are overlooked or inaccurately credited to the wrong candidate.

Vote recounts have long been recognized as an essential safeguard to correct errors of this type.

Recounts have occurred at the local, state, and, as we saw in 2000, presidential level.

It should be noted also that the November 8, 2016 election is the first presidential election held since the Supreme Court issued the notorious decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which neutered the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act and adversely affected the ability of hundreds of thousands of persons to cast a ballot and have their vote counted.

Also, as is the case this year, where the results in the Electoral College and of the popular vote diverge by the largest and most astounding margin in American history, it is particularly fitting and appropriate to ensure that any uncertainty over the accuracy of the vote

determining any state's electoral votes be resolved as fairly and expeditiously as possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE BEND HEROES
FOUNDATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the non-profit Bend Heroes Foundation of Bend, Oregon, for its outstanding dedication to Oregon's veterans of the Armed Services.

As a member of the National Honor Flight Network, the Foundation has honored over 550 World War II Oregon heroes who helped save the world from tyranny over seven decades ago. It has been my high honor to welcome them to Washington, D.C. and present each World War II veteran with a flag flown over our nation's Capitol in his or her honor.

The Foundation created the Bend Heroes Memorial to honor Bend's veterans who served and died during war from World War I to the present. It was my privilege to help dedicate the memorial on Veterans Day back in 2009. The Foundation also inaugurated the Bend Parade of Flags program displaying 300 flags in Bend on eight patriotic days each year. I was again privileged to provide those flags and have them flown over our nation's Capitol.

Furthering their efforts, the Foundation worked with the Oregon Legislature to create six war veterans highways across Oregon: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf/Afghanistan and Iraq and the Purple Heart Trail. Sixty-seven honorific signs have been installed on 1,730 miles of border-to-border highways, in total honoring 500,000 Oregon war veterans.

The Bend Heroes Foundation also created the Oregon Medal of Honor Exhibit to celebrate 26 Oregonians who received our nation's highest award for valor above and beyond the call of duty during combat from the Civil War to Vietnam. Mr. Robert "Bob" Maxwell of Bend is one of the World War II recipients, and at 96 he is our nation's oldest living recipient. It was a privilege for me to provide him with a large American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. That flag is now prominently displayed at the Foundation's exhibit in McMinnville.

I would also like to honor the members of the Bend Heroes Foundation for their tireless efforts: Chairman Dick Tobiason, President Erik Tobiason, Vice President-Secretary Yvonne Drury, Treasurer Priscilla Reich, Directors Bob Dent, Denny Drury, Joe Gallagher, Mike Genna, Harley Kelley, Bob Maxwell, Darla Rozelle, Rob Walker and Diane Harris, and Volunteers Candace Kelley, Mike Brock, Sid Poe, and John and Jean Frye. All serve without pay and are extremely proud of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful state and country, I wish to honor the Bend Heroes Foundation for its many grand accomplishments over many years.