

leader and educator from Loudoun County in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Mr. Gillespie is retiring from his position as Executive Director at the Mosby Heritage Area Association after over ten years of protecting historic landmarks throughout our great Commonwealth.

Prior to joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association, Mr. Gillespie served the Loudoun community for 30 years as a distinguished educator at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Virginia. During his time with Loudoun Valley High School he was able to shape the lives of countless young men and women.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Gillespie has done both at Loudoun Valley High School and in the wider community to preserve the history of our area will be felt for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Richard T. Gillespie for his unbelievable work teaching and preserving history over the decades, and his unwavering dedication to the people of Loudoun County. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gillespie, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTIAN "CHRIS" J.
SCHOPPMAYER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christian "Chris" J. Schoppmeyer, whose selflessness, generosity, and love for his family improved the lives of those fortunate enough to know him or benefit from his work as a custodian of the public interest.

Born in Queens, New York on January 28, 1957 to Frederick Freyer and Helen Grace (Eisinger) Schoppmeyer, he was raised by his mother Helen and stepfather William Schoppmeyer. A graduate of Unity College in Maine and Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire, Mr. Schoppmeyer began his law enforcement career in 1977 with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In 1980, he built on his investigations experience by moving to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he enforced laws that protected wildlife and the land that sustains it.

Mr. Schoppmeyer spent the last 21 years of his career as a Special Agent at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enforcing federal marine laws and treaties beginning in 1987. He strengthened his growing reputation as a passionate, principled leader and mentor. Former colleagues tell detailed stories about how he inspired them through his actions to follow in his line of work, and how we went out of his way for those who sought his counsel.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his profession by being more than just a mentor. The leadership positions he held within the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association are many; Agency President for the NOAA Fisheries Service, Office for Law Enforcement, Founder and President of the New Hampshire chapter, Vice President for Agency Affairs, and Vice President of Program and Development.

For many years, Chris organized fundraiser events for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the FLEOA Foundation (NLEOMF) by organizing law enforcement appreciation events with the Boston Red Sox organization. Through his efforts, Chris raised thousands of dollars for both organizations. Last July, while he was battling terminal cancer, he organized and planned the Canine Law Enforcement Appreciation night at Fenway Park. This was a major undertaking with many moving parts, but Chris saw it through flawlessly.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his community by sharing his passion and talents for the outdoors with children. The Newmarket Fishing Derby (cofounder), Newmarket School to Career program (volunteer), and Newmarket Conservation Commission (Chairman) are all marks of his legacy.

The accomplishments and accolades tell a story of excellence across his endeavors. Strafford Rivers Conservationist of the Year; Chevron National Conservation Award, Citizen Volunteer Category; NH Governor Conservationist of the Year; Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Special Agent of The Year; NOAA/NMFS Bronze Award; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Investigative Excellence Award; U.S. Attorney's Office, Connecticut, Certificate of Recognition; Coastal Conservation Association, Conservationist of The Year; New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award; and NOAA/NMFS Silver Award.

The theme of selflessness that permeated all aspects of his life was on display when he last testified before Congress on July 28, 2015. He endured the stress of being the sole witness for the minority with grace, candor, respect, and clarity without breathing a word of his recent stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis and ongoing treatment. He preferred that the focus be on providing the best defense of his profession and the natural world that he and his colleagues sought to protect every day. With characteristic humility, he described his work and that of his peers in the hearing; "We protect natural resources. We also protect the public that visits these parks."

Nothing was more important to Mr. Schoppmeyer than his family. He loved his wife of 34 years, Terri, deeply. He spoke with beaming pride of his son, Travis, daughter, Erin, and his grandkids, Jakoby and Violet. He was irrevocably dedicated to his mother Helen Schoppmeyer, his Daughter-in-law Carolyn, brother Steven Schoppmeyer and his wife Mary, his sister Susan Gray and her husband Dennis, and his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Please join me in celebrating Chris Schoppmeyer whose selflessness, devotion to family, and passion for the outdoors left the world a better place when he left it than when he arrived.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 159 OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL

HON. RANDY HULTGREN
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Boy Scout Troop 159 of the McHenry

County Council in Illinois as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. Thanks to First United Methodist Church of Woodstock, Troop 159 is one of the oldest continuously chartered troops in the country with thousands of Scouts having belonged to the Troop through the years.

For more than a century, young men in the McHenry County area have had the opportunity to grow in character, physical fitness and civic duty through their time in Scouting. Although our world has changed dramatically since the inception of Troop 159, the skills and virtues needed to live honorably have not. Courage, empathy, resourcefulness and responsibility are timeless. Troop 159 has nurtured these qualities through Scouting and has been a constant source of positive influence on the surrounding communities. We look forward to the Troop's next 100 years of fruitful service.

I salute Troop 159 for their service to our community and to the state of Illinois. To the Scouts, their family and friends that support them, we say thank you and congratulations on your 100th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM
NORTHUP'S RETIREMENT FROM
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this time to recognize Jim Northup, who has served our nation for 36 years as an extraordinary leader within the National Park Service and will be hanging up his ranger hat and retiring on January 2, 2017.

My constituents in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and I owe Jim Northup a special debt of gratitude for going beyond the call of duty concerning the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, a small but historically important partnership park that is primarily located in my Congressional District. After its superintendent retired, the park was left without sufficient leadership and there was great concern that it would not get the attention from the NPS that it needed. Jim, who was already the Superintendent of one of the busiest parks in the nation at Shenandoah National Park, took on the additional role of Superintendent of the smaller historical park. He generously gave of his time and energy in working with site managers Amy Bracewell and Karen Beck-Herzog to achieve a number of significant improvements in park planning, operations, community relations, and to accomplish an ambitious celebration of the National Park Service Centennial at the park.

Always ready for a challenge, Northup began his work with the National Park Service in Shenandoah National Park as a seasonal ranger. Over the course of his remarkable career, Jim has worked as an interpretive and protection ranger, a natural resources specialist, a wildland fire and aviation specialist, a chief law enforcement ranger, and for the past 12 years, as a superintendent. His assignments have included work at Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Teton, Guadalupe Mountains and Shenandoah national parks, and Cape Hatteras and Fire Island national seashores, the Buffalo National