

them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL, *Director.*

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
143RD RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 143rd Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the thirty-two graduates to reflect on the history of the department, and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding twenty-four-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits complete seven weeks of EMT training and fifteen weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor, as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015. Recently, they have seen extensive work in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as part of disaster relief and rescue efforts in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community, and I commend them for all they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 143rd Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 143rd Recruit Class:

Melissa A. Berkowitz, Richard N. Burton, Jasper R. Cooper, Megan E. Field, Heather A. Funkhouser, Danny E. Gallardo, Graham K. Gilbert, Matthew C. Harris, Shawn M. Jaret, Jacob W. Johnson, Aria Khodabakhchian, Juan D. Lopez, Daniel J. Mechling, Andrew L. Mullinax, Sarah M. Murphy, Luke F. Nuar, Christian S. Perdue, Natalie J. Potell, Jose L. Ramos Castro, Sean L. Sack, Jessica L. Salpini, Tyler T. Sevener, Matthew R. Sher-

wood, Corey J. Smith, Armando T. Solano, Thien H. Tran, Katherine L. Tripp, William H. Turk, William A. Wagner, Jonathan L. Wallace, Stephen M. Williams, Andrew T. Wycheck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community, and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say, "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY
OF BISMARCK, MISSOURI

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial birthday of Bismarck, Missouri, which was founded in 1868. City fathers named the town for Prince Otto Von Bismarck, the 'Iron Chancellor' of Germany, in hopes they'd lure German immigrants to live there. Bismarck became a shipping center for the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway. Today, the 100-year-old train depot is a treasured landmark.

Bismarck is proud of its community spirit. The desire to serve prompted dozens of residents to join the military in wartime. The drive to succeed helped the town recover from a fire that destroyed its business district in 1901. And the determination to overcome challenges has kept the city working to meet the ever-changing needs of its citizens.

Today, Bismarck's leaders are working to increase services and add businesses. Mayor Seth Radford describes Bismarck as a place that "looks out for its neighbors," offering a family-friendly community that brings people together. They look to the future with optimism, but maintain a strong connection to their past.

It is my great privilege to recognize Bismarck, Missouri before the United States House of Representatives to mark the town's 150th birthday. I celebrate the community spirit, sense of duty and pride that thrives in this St. Francois County town located in the heart of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H. Res. 970, I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO BECKY AND ROGER
MICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Becky and

Roger Mick of Bedford, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2018.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 UNITED
STATES PARK POLICE VALOR
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 40th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present ninety-one awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medal of Valor.

Sergeant Mark Asmussen of the U.S. Park Police is being honored this year for his exceptional service with the Certificate of Valor, and it is with great pride that I include his name in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sergeant Asmussen and all of the 2018 Valor Award Recipients, and extend my thanks to all of the men and women who serve in the United States Park Police. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 120TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF DOWD INSUR-
ANCE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Dowd Insurance on the occasion of its 120th anniversary. Established in 1898, Dowd is one of the oldest, largest, and most experienced insurance agencies in Massachusetts. Since