

It is without question that she will succeed in her future endeavors. Best wishes, Audra.

HONORING JOSH OWENS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Josh Owens, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh served in my Washington, D.C. office as an economic policy adviser during my first term in Congress. In that role, he served as the staff lead for our work on the House Budget Committee, he helped develop legislation, and advised me on economic policy issues. Since leaving our office, Josh has taught economics at Butler and Indiana University and now serves as the CEO of SupplyKick, a thriving Indianapolis-based online marketplace retailer.

On a personal note, I cherish my friendship with Josh and his parents. Josh and I are both proud alums of Wabash College too. I wish him and Andy continued success in all that remains ahead for their family.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT  
MICHAEL CHESNA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2018*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Weymouth Police Sergeant, Michael Chesna. Sergeant Chesna's life was defined by many things but, above all else, the word we keep hearing alongside his name is "service."

He dreamed of being a police officer, while growing up in the town he would one day come to serve. Those dreams would be deferred, as he was called to serve his country overseas first.

His two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2007 and 2010 with the 10th Mountain Division were the deadliest years of each campaign. Michael served with distinction in the United States Army and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After leaving the military, Michael realized his dream career as a police officer, something he had wanted to do since he was 5

years old. It was in that time, he bought a house with his loving wife, Cynthia, and two children, Olivia and Jack, in Hanover. In that role, he had the opportunity to work in and around a community he held so dear.

Tragically, Sergeant Chesna was killed one day before his sixth anniversary on the force, but his commitment to duty, his family, and his community will be remembered for years to come. Throughout his 42 years, Sergeant Michael Chesna dedicated his life to serving something greater than himself, and ultimately gave his life protecting others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Sergeant Michael Chesna. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community and his country.

AMERICA MUST DENY PUTIN HIS  
IMPERIAL AMBITIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has again reminded the world that he has no respect for international law, sovereignty of neighboring states, or peace in our world. Since 2014, Russia has illegally occupied Crimea and fueled a war in Eastern Ukraine. That followed Moscow's 2008 invasion of Georgia where its forces still occupy Georgian territory. Now, Russian forces have conducted another act of unprovoked aggression by blocking the Kerch Strait and attacking Ukrainian naval vessels in the Black Sea.

This act of war is just another chapter in Putin's violent conquest of his neighbors' territory. His goal is to restore the power of Russia's imperial past. To do so requires seizing the lands and waters that were once controlled by Moscow and denying the right of free peoples to determine their own fate. Putin, an authoritarian thug, fears the democratic aspirations of nations that have shed the tyranny of the old Russian and Soviet orders. The success of the Color Revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia and their growing integration with the West strikes fear into the heart of a dictator like Putin, who relies on brutality and fear to cling to power. To survive, he has falsely framed the rising tide of democracy in the post-Soviet space as a threat to Russia, when in fact it is only a threat to Putin and his oligarch friends.

The illegal annexation of Crimea and this week's seizure of the Sea of Azov are Putin's attempt to intimidate and undermine Ukraine's

nascent democracy. By controlling these key strategic points, Putin believes he can demonstrate that only the Kremlin can ensure security and prosperity in the region and that Europe and America care little for the plight of Ukrainians. Instead it shows that Putin is a belligerent thug who only has violence and despair to offer.

We Americans must stand with Ukraine. The Ukrainian people want to share in the freedom and wealth we long ago secured for ourselves by breaking the chains of foreign tyranny. Americans did not fight alone when we gained our independence, and Ukraine should not be left to fight alone either. We must develop a grand strategy to halt Putin's aggression and liberate the areas he illegally seized. This does not mean a direct conflict between the United States and Russia, but it does require us to act before Putin becomes so confident that he does attempt a direct assault on us or our NATO allies. America has the tools and leverage to thwart Putin's wicked ambitions—it's time to use them.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KENZIE KITTLE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kenzie Kittle, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Kenzie served in my Washington, D.C. office during my first and second term in Congress, as a staff assistant and later as our press secretary. In that role, she helped lead our communications effort on social media and assisted countless constituents from our District. Since leaving our office, Kenzie has managed social media accounts for major U.S. companies and now works as a Social Media Strategist at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. In addition, she runs a thriving life and style blog, called Simply J&K, covering fashion, food, drinks and more.

On a personal note, Kenzie is a positive spirit and kind soul with a big smile. Literally, every day, Kenzie made our office a better place to work, and she was a valuable member of our team.

I want to thank Kenzie for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her and Jordan continued success in all that God has planned for their family.