

Mari will be forever missed by her family and loved ones and by the entire racing community across Indiana and the world. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are grateful for Mari's service to our Hoosier community and it is my privilege to honor her today. I extend my deepest condolences to Mari's daughters, Nancy George, Josie George, and Kathi George-Conforti, son, Anton Hulman "Tony" George, stepdaughter, Carolyn Coffey, and their respective spouses, her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her longtime companion, Guy Trollinger. Her legacy as the matriarch of the racing capital of the world will live on for generations to come through her family, friends, and colleagues.

RECOGNIZING RONALD MERWIN  
FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CON-  
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald Merwin of Ronan, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Merwin served 21 distinguished years in the United States Navy as a submarine specialist. A member of the "silent service," Mr. Merwin was a valued shipmate and officer on conventional and nuclear submarine deployments during the height of the Cold War. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander before his retirement in 1981.

Mr. Merwin is actively involved in numerous veterans and civic organizations serving his community. As Commander of VFW Post 5652 in Ronan, Mr. Merwin was awarded the rare honor of being named a VFW All American Post Commander. He coordinates fundraising events, youth programs, community celebrations, and was a board member of the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana for 15 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Ronald Merwin for his dedication and service.

HONORING ANDY MORRISON

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Andy Morrison for his contribution to our state.

After a distinguished career as a high-ranking executive at Wellpoint, Andy now serves as the CEO of Fulcrum Sports, which produces high quality performance nutrition solutions for athletes. Outside of work, Andy has been dedicated to improving the community in which he lives. It has been an honor to work with him in advancing our shared Republican principles.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Andy for nearly a decade. He has been a good friend,

wise advisor and loyal supporter during my entire tenure in Congress.

I want to thank Andy for his friendship and loyalty to me over all these years. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IN-  
CREASED TRANSPARENCY IN  
501(C)(4) ORGANIZATIONS ACT OF  
2018

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Increased Transparency in 501(c)(4) Organizations Act of 2018. This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to make publicly available the forms organizations self-declaring under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) must file with the IRS. Americans have the right to know which organizations are operating under this section of the IRC.

To be eligible for tax-exempt status under 501(c)(4), organizations, often referred to as "social welfare organizations," must be "devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes." They can choose to apply for 501(c)(4) status from the IRS, or they can simply self-declare. Previously, organizations seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status were not required even to notify the IRS of their existence. In 2015, however, Congress enacted the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the PATH Act). Under that law, an organization seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status now must file a notice with the IRS that it is operating under this section. The PATH Act did not, however, make the new notice form, Form 8976, subject to public disclosure.

The IRS has opined that Form 8976 cannot be made available under the Freedom of Information Act or other disclosure laws. This creates a discrepancy between all organizations operating under Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations that applied that for status, for which the IRS must make publicly available information on their existence, and self-declared 501(c)(4) organizations. This discrepancy appears to have been inadvertently created by Congress when it passed the PATH Act.

My bill would correct this oversight and mandate that the IRS publicly disclose Form 8976 upon request, thus allowing the public to know which organizations exist under 501(c)(4). In the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which allows for unlimited expenditure in political campaigns from these "social welfare" groups, this bill is especially important to allow for greater transparency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2018 I missed a Roll Call vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on No. 425.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED OLSON FOR  
THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRES-  
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-  
TION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfred Olson of Miles City, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Olson is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He served from 1956 to 1962 in the 4061st Civil Engineer Squadron, earning the Air Force Longevity Service Award, and attaining the rank of Airman 2nd Class.

Serving his community as a dedicated Senior Corp RSVP volunteer, Mr. Olson has driven nearly 100,000 miles and logged over 10,000 hours transporting veterans to medical appointments. But Mr. Olson provides much more than just transportation. His kindness and dedication to the needs of Montana's veterans enhances their quality of life with friendly interaction, meals, and comfort.

Mr. Olson never hesitates to go the extra mile. On one occasion he spent an unplanned three days on the road giving comfort and care to a veteran who had surgery in Helena.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Alfred Olson for his dedication and service.

EDWARD MESSER RETIREMENT  
FROM JPL NASA DEEP SPACE  
NETWORK

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions that Edward Messer has made throughout his thirty-five years of service towards the JPL Deep Space Network.

Edward Messer's 35 year contribution to our space program began in 1982, as an operations Station technician in charge of handling spacecraft telecommunications for orbital supports and support of human space missions. Edward soon had the opportunity to operate the Space Shuttle Command System, through which he manually transmitted commands to the shuttles, supporting many missions for the shuttle program. Additionally, Edward operated Shuttle TV which transmitted Shuttle live video to a global audience. In the late 1980's, Edward served as the Operations Chief Tech in the Deep Space Network, granting him the opportunity to support various launches, landings, and orbit insertions, as well as establishing and maintaining communication links with spacecraft journeying across the solar system. Missions throughout his career ranged from the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope and landing the Pathfinder mission on Mars to the orbital insertion and tracking of the Cassini mission studying the rings and moons

of Saturn. Edward was eventually promoted to Spacecraft Operations Shift Supervisor, giving him increased responsibility and oversight of a team of Link Operators.

Edward Messer retired from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on September 28, 2018. Edward's commitment to his work and scientific endeavor has greatly contributed to our understanding of the solar system. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I thank Mr. Messer for all his contributions towards our local community and the future planetary advances that will result from his work.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER HUNTER  
EDWARDS, WINCHESTER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

### HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and sadness that I rise to share with you and our colleagues, the tragic news about the passing of a community hero of Winchester, Virginia, Police Officer Hunter Edwards. Officer Edwards is the second Winchester police officer to have died in the line of duty and the residents of the close-knit community of Winchester and the Northern Shenandoah Valley are in profound grief over this tragedy.

On November 24th, Officer Edwards died after his police cruiser skidded on a downhill, rain-slicked section of road and tragically crashed into a tree as he was quickly responding to a call for help at a residence where a major altercation had broken out. Only 30 years old and recently married, Hunter had begun to experience the joy and satisfaction of family life with his wife, Tara Markley, and their four-year-old son, Landon. And since becoming a member of the Winchester Police Department in the summer of 2014, Hunter's professionalism and dedication to duty had resulted in his being assigned to the Civil Disturbance Unit and the SWAT Team, and as a field training officer for the Department. He had also earlier worked as a police officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency.

As a nation of freedom-loving people, we are deeply grateful to our national and community heroes, without whose selfless sacrifice we know, for a certainty, that we would not be free. When we tuck our children and grandchildren into bed at night, and turn out the lights in our homes, we rest assured that heroes like Hunter Edwards, who was working the second shift from 2:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., are protecting us from all evil and danger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in echoing the sentiments of a grateful nation for the courageous service of Police Officer Hunter Edwards, and in expressing prayers for Officer Edwards' family as they cope with this tragic and untimely loss. May we be forever inspired by the duty and sacrifice of Officer Hunter Edwards, to acknowledge and support our police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire fighters and other first responders and their families, and do whatever we can in our own lives, to build stronger, safer communities in which to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF SPENCER  
WONG

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Spencer Wong as he retires as Chief of the Labor Market Information Division in the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD). As colleagues, friends and family gather to honor his work, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his leadership and his dedication to the people of California.

For four decades, Mr. Wong has devoted his life's work to the employment, labor, and research fields, thirty-eight of those years in the State of California Employment Development Department. At both the state and federal levels, Mr. Wong has been a leader in the labor market information (LMI) arena. The list of Mr. Wong's accomplishments is long. Mr. Wong implemented the integration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act by developing products and services that enhance services to the people of California. He continually stayed ahead of changing technology, legislation and processes. Mr. Wong also developed and launched the new EDD Data Library, which ensures delivery of data in the most cost efficient, timely and accurate manner.

Mr. Wong has served the State well in his multiple capacities. He is currently the State Co-Chairperson for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Policy Council where he has worked diligently to restore communication between the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the states. He serves on the Board of the LMI Institute, and has served on the National Association of Statewide Agencies (NASWA) committee and other councils. Mr. Wong also participates on the statewide California Drought Taskforce and provides data for drought impact studies conducted by California University of Davis researchers. He has also created The Regional Analysis and Support Group (RASG), which strives to meet the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Spencer Wong for forty years of successful leadership and service to the State of California. He leaves behind a legacy that is hard to match. I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging his outstanding accomplishments and wish Mr. Wong the best in his retirement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "No" for the following vote:

Roll No. 423, November 29, 2018: On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 1160, Providing for consideration of the Senate amend-

ment to the bill (H.R. 88) to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "Aye" for the following votes:

Roll No. 424, November 29, 2018: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 7187, the National Flood Insurance Program Further Extension Act; and

Roll No. 425, November 30, 2018: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 6901, the Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2018.

RECOGNIZING MARTEL REUM FOR  
THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRES-  
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-  
TION

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martel Reum of Wolf Point, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Reum served for 13 years in the United States Army. His service included two tours in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was also an Army recruiter. Mr. Reum was recognized by the Army for his meritorious service and achievements and awarded multiple commendations, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Gold Recruiter Badge.

In service to his community, Mr. Reum is a Student Success Advocate at Fort Peck Community College, where he helps students and veterans reach their educational goals through the college's TRIO program. He is continuing his own education in Human Services with the goal of helping members of his community be free from chemical addiction.

As a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Mr. Reum is helping to promote the traditions of his tribe and preserve the Assiniboine language, teaching language classes at Fort Peck Community College. He also serves on the Fort Peck Assiniboine Council and volunteers at tribal and community ceremonies.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Martel Reum for his dedication and service.

### HONORING MAJOR SHANE BRIONES

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the exemplary service of Major Shane Briones as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Major Briones is transitioning from his current assignment to serve as a Plans Officer for U.S. Army Europe.