

has become a Brotherhood member of the tribe Mic-O-Say. Luke has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Luke organized and built a wood shed for the Antioch Community Christian Church with the assistance of his fellow Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Luke Romang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THANKING PERRY FINZEL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Perry Finzel for his service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past year.

Mr. Finzel was born in El Paso, Texas on May 18, 1979. Soon after graduating high school in 1997, Mr. Finzel joined the United States Marine Corps. In his seventeen years of service, Mr. Finzel was involved in enlistment recruitment, military operations, and the supervision of components crucial to the success of personnel. He was known as a hardworker, adept multitasker, efficient manager, and dedicated soldier. Perry was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant, after participating in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). We are forever grateful for his service to our nation.

Perry's commitment to excellence extended far beyond his military career. He was successful in obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Business, concentration in Management, from the University of Phoenix. Beginning a new chapter in Bakersfield, California, Perry also worked as a supervisor for a solar company and customer service associate for a hardware store.

Perry became a member of my Congressional Team in 2017, serving as our Wounded Warrior Fellow and Kern County Field Representative. He proved to be a strong asset in Kern County, creating meaningful connections with community leaders and representing my team with charisma and professionalism. Local leaders consistently praised Perry for his genuine care for the community and willingness to show up to countless meetings and events. His dependability in field representation combined with his powerful ability to connect with people made Mr. Finzel an invaluable member of my team and a true public servant to the people of California's Central Valley.

Outside of work, Perry enjoys staying involved in veteran service organizations. He also loves spending time with his family. Perry and his wife, Julie, have two beautiful children: Cadence and Nate. Raising his children with his wife has become one of the greatest joys in his life. This January, Mr. Finzel will be moving on to new ventures. Knowing Perry, his character and worth ethic, I have no doubt he will achieve many great things in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Perry Finzel for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO KATE BARLOW

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend Kate Barlow, who has loyally served on my staff as director of scheduling and operations for over six years. Previously she served in a similar role for Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA).

Kate has simultaneously served as expeditor, gatekeeper and manager of my daily schedule. Given my dual role, as Representative of the 39th District of California and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, this has never been an easy task. As we can all attest, the trajectory of a day on Capitol Hill is never a straight line nor does it end as planned.

In her role, Kate has brought order out of chaos and extinguished daily fires with technical skill and humor. Given the sheer volume of meeting requests from embassies and foreign dignitaries, she has learned to say sometimes "yes" and often "no" with grace and professionalism in many languages. She has shown daily kindness and patience in a place lacking in both.

Over the last year, Kate's role in my office has grown to serve as director of protocol and member services for the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She successfully organized and took part in a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to South America and coordinated committee-wide meetings with visiting Heads of State.

I have no doubt she will continue to grow and succeed in her future endeavors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Kate Barlow for her service.

TRIBUTE TO HERB JACKSON OF THE BERGEN COUNTY RECORD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to praise the work of a longtime New Jersey reporter who has announced his retirement from The Bergen Record. Herb Jackson is one of New Jersey's most cherished reporters. He has covered my state's congressional delegation in Washington for over 20 years and reported on critical issues and concerns for New Jerseyans encountered. At a time when reporters are under attack, it is essential to honor the role that journalists play—in telling stories that need to be heard and holding elected officials accountable. Herb has done that with fervor and pride, giving insight on issues that matter in New Jersey and beyond. I greatly value the work that Herb put in each day here in D.C. to keep my constituents informed of the work that we do here in Congress. The news community is losing a successful journalist who is respected by many. He will be hard to replace and we are eternally grateful for all the time that he put in with the Record. The New Jersey delegation will

miss Herb, and I wish him good luck in the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO MARK V. BOZIGIAN

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark V. Bozigian on his retirement after a long distinguished career in public service, serving most recently as City Manager for the City of Lancaster, California.

While he is best known for his extensive career in public service, Mark cultivated his business and managerial acumen in the private sector after graduating from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration. It was during his time in the private sector that Mark developed the tireless work ethic that would define his tenure at the City of Lancaster. For ten years, Mark worked for Hughes Aircraft, where he held a variety of management positions, most notably as Business Manager for two of Hughes Aircraft's laser production programs. Mark also gained experience as a realtor and as a small business partner, forging pivotal personal and business relationships that he carried with him into his career in the public sector.

Mark has served the City of Lancaster for 24 years, building a portfolio of accomplishments across his roles as Lancaster's Transportation Programs Coordinator, Redevelopment Director, Assistant City Manager, and City Manager. During his eleven years as Lancaster's City Manager, Mark has dedicated his time and energy to bolstering public safety, economic development, transportation, neighborhood revitalization, and obtaining Federal and state grant funding for city projects. Most notably, Mark has overseen Lancaster's impressive development in renewable energies, working to make the city the solar capital of California and courting companies to bring jobs and clean energy technology to our community. Mark's efforts have been a great success—Lancaster's economy has grown under his guidance, and the city now produces more solar power per capita than any other city in California. Mark also worked to revitalize Lancaster's downtown BLVD district and has been a key player in the recent, rapid growth of Lancaster's booming aerospace industry.

More than anything else, Mark routinely demonstrates a love for his city and the people he represents, working around the clock to better Lancaster without ever seeking credit or commendation for his service. Once, following heavy rains that caused flooding on Lancaster's east side, Mark was among the first on the scene. Knee-deep in water in his suit, he walked door-to-door informing and reassuring citizens that help was on the way. During a Fourth of July celebration, city traffic was so heavy that it reached a standstill, but Mark was there acting as a traffic guide, doing his best to ensure that Lancaster's citizens could get home a little more easily. Mark always took responsibility, and always put the interests of the people of Lancaster first.

I have known Mark as a tireless advocate for the needs of his city. Over the years, it has been an honor to work with him to improve the

lives of every resident of Lancaster. I have always been impressed by his tenacity to ensure that the people and businesses he represents have their voices heard at the highest levels of government and the successes he has achieved over the course of his public service. Over the past ten years, Lancaster has undergone a period of unprecedented economic growth, and this is undoubtedly in no small part because of Mark's steady hand and dedication to his community. While it is Lancaster's loss to see Mark leave city government, I am confident that he has laid a foundation that will contribute to the city's success for years to come. As Mark begins this new chapter of his life, I wish him, his wife, Karen, and their family all the best.

HONORING DARLENE GUTHRIE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Elkhart Police Officer, Darlene Guthrie. Her acts of selflessness, sacrifice, and public service have distinguished her among her peers, and she is well-deserving of recognition.

For 20 years, Darlene served as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department, displaying a dedication to public safety and commitment to service that have truly made northern Indiana a better place to live. Now Darlene is serving her fellow Hoosiers by joining the Indiana Guard Reserve.

Darlene has also spent countless hours rescuing animals, helping her neighbors get back on their feet, and volunteering in her community. She combined her experience in law enforcement with her passion for animals to become a nationally certified Animal Cruelty Investigator, eventually taking on the role of rewriting Elkhart County's Animal Ordinance and updating the Elkhart Police Department's animal law summary. And she served on the Elkhart County Humane Society's Board for four years and even became interim director.

She goes above and beyond in everything she does, and her drive to make a difference has not only shined light on the causes closest to her heart but has made her a local leader that organizations and institutions look to for guidance. Her distinguished leadership and love of family, community, and country are what brought her to her most recent accomplishment at the age of 52: graduating from the Indiana Guard Reserve Basic Training on December 15, 2018.

Darlene's determination to never give up no matter what life brings is an inspiration to us all and teaches a positive message of perseverance. We can all learn from someone who never shies away from a challenge and always strives to do what is right. It is a privilege to represent Hoosiers like Darlene who continue to strengthen our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Darlene Guthrie for her honorable service to the northern Indiana community, and congratulating her on her graduation to become a member of the Indiana Guard Reserve. Darlene is a role model, a leader, and a dedicated public servant who inspires us all.

STAND FIRM BRAVE IRANIANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year has been another important year in pushing back on the tyrannical Iranian regime. The passion and determination of the Iranian people in the face of a corrupt and despotic regime provides much needed inspiration to us all.

We are witnessing historic times in Iran. The Iranian people are still fighting for their rights in the streets. As much as the regime tries to hide it, or use violence to suppress it, change is coming to Iran. The world is more aware that the Supreme Leader and his thugs are not moderates that should be welcome among other responsible nations. Instead, through the bravery of the Iranian people, the world knows they are murderers and thieves.

There is a reason why Iran has earned the title of the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism. It sends millions of dollars to fuel wars in Syria and Yemen and enriches its proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, Bahrain and Gaza. A few weeks ago, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism Bureau at the State Department told my subcommittee that Iran spends \$1 billion dollars a year to support its terrorist proxies. It steals this money from the Iranian people and responds with brutality if they dare speak out. But they continue to speak out.

I have always been proud to stand with them. The cause of freedom in Iran is just and righteous, and it will never be silenced. Together we are having an impact. The people of Iran, including the MEK, have sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty. They have spoken the truth and have exposed this regime for the evil it is: a state run by terrorist thugs. Iranians have been imprisoned, tortured, and murdered fighting for the cause of freedom. Iranian dissidents have been forced to flee their homes, refugee camps in Iraq, and the wider region to escape the Mullahs reach. Fortunately, many Iranians have found safety in the West and we are working tirelessly to make sure Iran's evil intentions can no longer hurt them. Throughout all of it, these Iranians have stood firm with remarkable courage.

But the fight is not over, because the fight for freedom in Iran is not over. The regime continues to find ways to evade sanctions, and so we must continue to pursue them. With the help of the Iranian people, we will find how they cheat and expose them.

The Mullahs are relentless, so we must be too. In the end democracy and justice will prevail as it always has. The American people stand with the people of Iran, because we believe in freedom, liberty, and the American way. They must keep their heads high, and remember they are on the right side of history. The tide is turning. Iran will be free.

And that's just the way it is.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO MRS. ELSIE
MAYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend the happiest of birthday wishes to Mrs. Elsie Mayer, a resident of the Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, and a centenarian, who will be celebrating her 107th birthday on December 23, 2018.

Elsie was born in Poland on December 23, 1911. It was a world much different from today. From an early age, she learned to endure famine, poverty and the human cost of war. Elsie's life is characterized as one of a survivor and a woman with great strengths and unyielding selflessness.

She came to America at the age of 10 with her family who first settled in Manhattan, and later moved to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It is in Williamsburg years later that she meets her future husband Joseph. Together they raised three children, their sons Martin and Stuart and daughter Marsha. Elsie worked hard, enjoying sewing and baking, especially apple pies for her family.

Over the course of 107 years, Elsie has experienced countless remarkable events in New York and our country. Elsie symbolizing decades of longevity and hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in a growing segment of American life: the Centenarian. Over the years, special individuals like Elsie have contributed to our nation and witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. She has lived through some of the most exciting times in our nation's history.

Today, Elsie enjoys the company of her surviving and beloved children, grand-children and community. She has many friends at the Independence Neighborhood Senior Center. As we celebrate her birthday, we celebrate her faith, her optimism, her health and the innumerable lives she has touched throughout her life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Elsie Mayer on this special occasion of her 107th year birthday.

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA ANN RILLO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Kayla Ann Rillo for her service to my office and the people of California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Ms. Rillo was born on September 19, 1994 in Paterson, New Jersey to Diane and Anthony Rillo. Growing up in Totowa, New Jersey with her three sisters, Alyssa, Reanna, and Tia, Ms. Rillo always had immense love and pride for her family. Coming from a large family, Ms. Rillo has a natural competitive drive, a strong sense of self-awareness, and the ability to distinguish herself from others. Through that, Ms. Rillo succeeded academically with ease as she competed in varsity track, basketball, and softball at Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls, New Jersey.

After graduating from Passaic Valley Regional High School in 2012, Ms. Rillo went on