

blue. The something old, of course, will be me. At 75, what else could you call it? The Zombie Bride?

The borrowed item will be white pants I inherited from my older sister, who will no doubt be peering over a cloud from heaven saying, "Don't you have any clothes of your own? What on earth did you wear before I died and you got all mine?"

Something blue? That would be a necklace my younger sister gave me for my 21st birthday back in the previous millennium: a strand of white and blue pearls to match a blue jacket that is new, closing out my four-part matrimonial couture.

I do worry a bit that I'll look like a sea captain: white top, white pants, blue jacket. But it doesn't have brass buttons and I won't have on the cap. Or, Lord forbid, a veil.

And we aren't throwing rice or birdseed or rose petals. If there's any throwing to do, it'll be me sick with nerves. Blushing, teary-eyed and bashful is charming in youth. It just makes old women look wrinkled, frog-eyed and acutely geriatric.

Although I am 100 percent sure I won't be left at the altar, I find it humbling and altogether amazing that my intended (Where, pray tell, did that word come from? Does that mean every relationship that doesn't end in marriage is unintended? I think not.) is willing to cast lots with me at our ripe old age.

Me of the elastic-waist pants. Me of age-spotted hands. Me of trifocals and bunions. I sleep in socks. On the rare occasions I do wear a bathing suit, it's always under a cover-up. I often fall asleep in the recliner and drool. I sometimes break wind when getting out of the back seat of a car, and if you find that funny you are either under 50 or your grandmother is dead.

We are like the old couple that came into the drugstore holding hands. "Do you sell wheelchairs and canes?" they asked.

The pharmacist answered, "Yes. We have a whole back room full of the latest models."

"Do you sell magnifying glasses?"

"Yes. Right over there."

"Heating pads? Walk-in bathtubs? Medical alert systems? Adjustable bed rails? Blood pressure kits? TV sound amplifiers?"

"Yes. Yes. Yes."

"We'd like to use you as our bridal registry."

So, my friends, never say never. One day you, too, might have your friends dropping the phone.

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## MARAWAN ALTAWHEEL

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marawan Altaweel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Marawan Altaweel is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marawan Altaweel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marawan Altaweel for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

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## CONGRATULATING THE PIPER HIGH ROCKETRY TEAM ON QUALIFYING FOR THE 2016 TARC FINALS

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Piper High School Rocketry Team from Broward County, Florida and their advisor on qualifying for the 2016 Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Finals, being held this weekend in The Plains, Virginia. Piper High School is one of only 100 teams from across the United States to qualify.

In order to qualify for this event, the Piper High School team had to design a rocket capable of flying to an altitude of 850 feet with a flight duration of 44 to 46 seconds, while carrying two raw eggs and return them to Earth uncracked. To make this more difficult, this year the eggs had to be placed perpendicular to each other in the rocket, complicating rocket body design.

TARC is the world's largest student rocket contest—approximately 5,000 students participate each year. The competition gives middle and high school students a chance to pursue further study and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and is a critical piece of the aerospace and defense industry's strategy to build a stronger workforce development pipeline.

It is important to recognize not only the achievement of the Piper High School Team in qualifying for the TARC finals, but also the interest and drive that makes these young people want to participate in STEM oriented extracurricular activities, so I want to personally recognize each of them here today: Joseph Callahan, Shaun Cochrane, Jared Eckert, Adam Husein, Amit Lalchan, and Benjamin Liang. I also want to thank their advisor, Mr. Walter Weidler, for inspiring the interest of these students in science and engineering. It is educators like Mr. Weidler who are responsible for keeping America at the forefront of technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these students, and of all of the students in Florida and the United States who are engaged in STEM education. They represent the future of this great nation.

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## REMEMBERING JUDGE THOMAS A. RYMER

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Hon. Thomas A. Rymer, who passed away on April 15. He was ninety-one years old and had dedicated his career to public service on behalf of the State of Maryland and Calvert County.

I was privileged to be Tom's friend for decades, and I was deeply saddened by his passing. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1971–1987 and was Majority Whip for a good portion of that time. During part of that period, I served as President of the Maryland State Senate, and we worked together on a number of occasions. During his tenure, Tom fought for school funding that invested in education for students in Calvert County. He spearheaded efforts to build roads and infrastructure and encourage development in what was then a very rural part of our state. Tom was also a tireless advocate for justice and equal opportunity.

Judge Rymer was born in Asheville, North Carolina, and he moved with his family to Washington, D.C., in 1939. A student at the University of Maryland when World War II broke out, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was commissioned as an Ensign. After serving our nation honorably, he returned stateside and finished his degree at Cornell University in New York in 1948. He then went on to earn his law degree from the George Washington University in 1955.

During the 1950's, Tom worked as an engineer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and served in a number of civilian roles with the Navy, Air Force, and Secretary of Defense's office. When he left the Pentagon in 1964, he was serving as chief of the Air Force Military Construction Program.

From 1966–1970, Tom served the people of Calvert County as State's Attorney before running for the House of Delegates. In Annapolis, he chaired the Calvert County delegation and served as Chair of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland from 1979–1982. He also Chaired the Joint Ethics Committee. Tom was well respected in the Assembly, lauded for his integrity and honesty and for his mentorship of younger lawmakers. After leaving office, Tom was appointed to sit on the Calvert County Circuit Court. He served until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to his beloved wife of four decades, Grace Mead Rymer. My thoughts and prayers are also with his sons Gary Rymer, Ronald Rymer, and Thomas Rymer Jr.; his stepchildren, Grace Mary Brady, Robert Manual Garrett, John Michael Garrett, Nell-Marie Chaney, William Francis Garrett, and Allan Garrett; his fifteen grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and his ten great-grandchildren. Sadly, his stepson Thomas Garrett passed away last year. Many of the Rymers and Garretts continue to live in Calvert County, on which their father and stepfather leaves a lasting impact that will surely benefit generations to come. I join in thanking Judge Thomas A. Rymer for his service to Calvert County, to the Fifth District, to the State of Maryland, and to our nation, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

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## IN HONOR OF GULINDA LOUISE ESTERS-SMILEY

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my sister-in-law, Gulinda Louise