

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the agency's highest recognition given to employers who offer exceptional support to their workers who serve in the National Guard or Army Reserve. This award is an incredibly prestigious honor, as only 30 businesses were selected as finalists this year from more than 2,400 potential candidates.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true privilege to represent the Southwest Missourians at Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, who have earned this nomination for respecting our troops. I'm proud to be a part of this community, where businesses like this have taken it upon themselves to act as patriotic role-models and I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding their being named a finalist for this esteemed award.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCA'S SACRAMENTO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL 21ST ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Organization of Chinese Americans' Sacramento chapter and the distinguished organizations that are being honored at the 21st annual Dragon Boat Festival and Gala. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring OCA Sacramento and these fine organizations.

The OCA Sacramento chapter is an active advocate for all Asian Pacific Islander Americans, dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of our Sacramento community. An exemplary organization, OCA Sacramento promotes civic participation and community involvement. OCA Sacramento hosts a variety of annual events celebrating traditional Chinese holidays and festivals, such as the Dragon Boat Festival, which promote and foster an understanding of our city's rich cultural heritage. OCA Sacramento offers essay contests and scholarships for youth, which promote education and leadership skills. OCA Sacramento's deep involvement and commitment to our community is commendable.

In keeping with this year's theme of "Light the Torch for the Next Generation," receiving this year's Community Partner Award at the Festival are Wells Fargo, the Sacramento Police Department, and the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. These community organizations are dedicated to making the Sacramento region a safe and prosperous place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of OCA Sacramento gather at the Dragon Boat Festival to celebrate their 21st anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to the Sacramento region.

IMPROVING TREATMENT FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's comments on this legislation, and I'm encouraged by the bipartisan support to advance not only my bill, but all of the important bills we are discussing today.

I'd like to take a few minutes to discuss some of the stories of those who have faced addiction. Stories from people in my home state of New Mexico—who have faced the challenges of substance abuse and are healthier today and working to improve their communities.

As we come here and discuss the importance of various programs and we debate the need for greater investments—which I think we need to address this crisis—let us not lose sight of the people whose lives are at the center of this.

Mr. Speaker, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors—everyone is impacted by this drug crisis.

I'd like to share Kayla Trujillo's story. Kayla has been in recovery since November of 2014 and is using her experiences to help others struggling with drug addiction. She is working to become a Certified Peer Support Worker.

But at the age of 14, Kayla was struggling. "As a young teen I had no sense of self-worth, no ability to cope with life, and sought things outside myself to help fill the empty void I felt inside," she wrote to me.

She was also a straight A, honor roll student, because she knew good grades were a ticket to a better life. But one day, she went to her mom's medicine cabinet and found a green bottle labeled Percocet for pain and took three pills.

She writes: "That day I started my thirteen year love/hate affair with opiates that would forever change my life. Once I was physically dependent on opiates I took whatever means necessary to obtain my pills.

"I resorted to faking injuries, stealing my friends' and family members' pain pills, buying pills off the street, and eventually trading sex for pills just to support my daily pain pill habit . . . One day I ran out of pills, was very ill, and there were no pills to be sold so I picked up heroin to stay well. Once introduced to heroin I knew I had to change my way of life before it was too late."

Kayla checked herself into a rehab facility and got help. But there are too many people who don't have access to the treatment they need.

I'd also like to share the story of Joshua Trujillo. Joshua is a Certified Peer Support Worker at Inside Out Recovery in Espanola, New Mexico. He entered recovery after spending 11 years on the streets using drugs and alcohol. He wrote to me to share his story, and I'd like to read from that letter:

"I was in and out of jail for various drug related crimes. I would steal and lie to everyone that came in contact with me just to support my addiction. I attempted to abstain from drugs many times through my own means and

would never succeed. In addition, I had been through drug court programs and licensed therapists and could never stay clean. I found it difficult to relate to anyone that had not experienced addiction firsthand.

"In August of 2011 I entered the doors of Inside Out Recovery where I met a Certified Peer Support Worker. Through the CPSW's own experience with addiction I came to believe that I could live my life without drugs. I had finally found someone I could relate to and learn from. Our talks were invaluable in my early recovery because I knew that if the CPSW could stay clean that I could too. The seed of recovery had been planted with that CPSW's experience and I immediately knew I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life toward staying clean and helping the addict that still suffers."

Joshua and Kayla's stories of addiction are all too common, and their stories of recovery are ones that we must ensure become more common as well.

We are taking important action on the floor today, but let's make sure that we are providing the resources necessary to address this crisis.

BARBARA SHORTER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a true champion of progress during Black History Month and all year long, Barbara Shorter. Her invaluable contributions to the Tampa Bay community is an inspiration to us all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her selfless dedication and honor her valuable service to our community.

Ms. Shorter grew up in St. Petersburg, graduating from Gibbs High School. She matriculated from Florida A&M University where she then began her illustrious career as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics. She dedicated the next decade to teaching before continuing her own education at Florida A&M when she received her Master's in Guidance and Counseling. Soon after graduation she accepted a position as the Assistant Principal at Northeast High School, becoming the third African American teacher ever assigned to an all-white high school in Pinellas County. Returning to her own Gibbs High School as Principal, she became the first female African American High School Principal in Pinellas County in 100 years. Most recently, she was an Adjunct Instructor at the University of South Florida.

Ms. Shorter is a longtime leader in the African-American community. She was recognized as Tampa Bay's Black Most Influential in 1983 as well as Pinellas County's Educator of the Year for two straight years. Her local successes were recognized on the national level upon an invitation from Secretary of State Colin Powell to President Clinton's Summit on Education Issues from 1997–2000.

Ms. Shorter service was not limited only to her work in the educational field. Throughout her life, she displayed a passion for civic engagement. She inspired the next generation of

leaders in the African-American community by being actively involved in more than a dozen associations. Her most distinct honor was being the President of the Pinellas County High School Principals Association and the minority member for the Florida Association of School Administrators. She currently is a member of the Florida A&M University Alumni Association and has been an active member of the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, having had longest active membership at 70 plus years.

Ms. Shorter was an unabashed environmentalist. Her heroic commitment to environmentalism made an unforgettable mark on the Tampa Bay community. Tampa Bay is a better and more beautiful place to live thanks to her efforts.

Ms. Shorter has selflessly dedicated her life to our community and the children of Tampa Bay. Countless students and young professionals have benefited from her immeasurable efforts and unabashed enthusiasm. Her commitment will always be remembered and appreciated. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Barbara Shorter for her lifelong exemplary service to the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,
MIKE LAMBARIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Veterans Service Officer, Mike Lambaria of Atascosa County, Texas. He has proudly served the people of Atascosa County for nearly 10 years.

Mike Lambaria was born on October 4th, 1944 to Mike Lambaria Sr. and Ruth Lambaria. After graduating from Pleasanton High School, he attended the University of Kansas and graduated with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in History. After college, Mr. Lambaria joined the U.S. Army and courageously served his country in Vietnam. He received multiple awards for his service, including: Army Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Expert Infantryman Badge.

Following his retirement from the Military in 1985, Mike worked as a military liaison with McDonnell Douglas until 1988. In 1989, he worked in Saudi Arabia as an advisor for logistics and combat. He returned home in 1992, becoming a teacher and coach at Poteet High School until 2006. After his tenure with Poteet High School, Mike began his career as a Veterans Service Officer for the Atascosa County Veterans Services Office. Mike was known to go above and beyond in his duties. He would drive veterans to their appointments, then come back, see veterans in the office, and help them submit claims. He also assisted homeless veterans in finding places to stay and worked with local churches and organizations to get homeless veterans food and clothing. Mike has even provided

monetary assistance to homeless veterans with funds out of his own pocket.

Beyond his dedication to his work, Mike is an active member of the community, serving on the Atascosa County Historical Commission, Atascosa County Crime Stoppers Board, Atascosa County Healthcare Center Board, and the Chairman for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. In addition to his exemplary career as a public servant, Mike Lambaria is a committed husband to Anita Lambaria. Together they have three sons: Scott Michael, Craig Anthony and John, as well as eight grandchildren. According to Mr. Lambaria, he could not have accomplished the past 25 years of success without the support and love of his wife.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Mike Lambaria, a decorated war hero, a devoted Veterans Service Officer to Atascosa County, and a loving family man.

HONORING SENIOR CORPS WEEK
AND THE SERVICE OF OLDER
AMERICANS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of national Senior Corps Week.

Older Americans bring a lifetime of skills and experience as parents, workers, and citizens that can be tapped to meet challenges in our communities.

For more than four decades Senior Corps, and its three programs—RSVP, Senior Companions, and Foster Grandparents—have proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans age 55 and over in meeting national and community needs.

Each year Senior Corps provides opportunities for nearly 330,000 older Americans across the nation, including approximately 435 in Southern Arizona, to serve their communities. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to young Arizonans who have special needs. Senior Companions help homebound Arizona seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols for local police departments, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 130 groups across Arizona.

Senior Corps volunteers last year provided more than 96.2 million hours of service, helping to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, strengthen our educational system, protect our environment, provide independent living services, and contribute to our public safety.

Senior Corps volunteers build a capacity of organizations and communities by serving through more than 65,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide.

At a time of mounting social needs and growing interest in service by older Americans, there is an unprecedented opportunity to harness the talents of 55-plus volunteers to address community challenges.

Service by older Americans helps volunteers by keeping them active, healthy, and engaged,

helps our communities by solving local problems, and helps our nation by saving taxpayer dollars, reducing healthcare costs, and strengthening our democracy.

The sixth annual Senior Corps Week, taking place May 16–20, 2016, is a time to thank Senior Corps volunteers for their service and recognize their positive impact and value to our communities and nation.

HONORING HENRY CHAPMAN MERCER
AND THE MERCER MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Henry Chapman Mercer and the importance of the Mercer Museum.

Bucks County's agricultural history is preserved in the 100-year-old Mercer Museum, thanks to the foresight of Henry Chapman Mercer. The noted historian, scholar and archaeologist collected and preserved outmoded materials of daily life believing they would be lost forever in the rush of the Industrial Revolution. Mr. Mercer gathered and displayed more than 30,000 hand tools and even boats and horse-drawn carriages at the museum he would design and build in Doylestown, Bucks County. More than 50 Early American trades are represented, including blacksmithing, shoemaking, farming, printing, cider making and needlework crafts, some items hanging from the ceiling. All are organized and housed in an imposing museum built over a three-year period entirely of concrete. Through the decades, this National Historic Landmark has advanced in the management of its collections and also in meeting contemporary museum standards. Today, the museum and its new wing offer dozens of programs for all ages. For a century, the Mercer Museum stands out as a place where Bucks County's past is honored along with the memory of an extraordinary man—Henry Chapman Mercer.

CONGRATULATING MACY MORGAN,
ON BEING NAMED THE 2016 REGION 4
GOLD ALL-AROUND CHAMPION AND WINNING HER
AGE DIVISION AT THE XCEL MISSOURI
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ozark, Missouri, gymnast Macy Morgan, on recently winning her age division at the XCEL Missouri State Championships and being named the 2016 Region 4 Gold All-around Champion in the face of great life obstacles.

Macy is an 11-year-old girl who has already conquered more adversity in her life than most people will ever face. Diagnosed at only 8 months old with a form of kidney cancer, Macy had to fight for her life in a situation that most families couldn't imagine. Despite this adversity, Macy fought her cancer into remission