

CONGRATULATING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate West Clay Elementary in Carmel, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that West Clay Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

West Clay Elementary's dedication to empower students to become active, independent learners and educational risk takers helps students to achieve their goals and grow academically. This growth mindset allows students to explore opportunities in order to realize their full potential as learners. West Clay creates a positive environment for its students through the school community's commitment to diversity and creating a respectful environment where all students are celebrated for what makes them unique. Their commitment to diversity and excellence has made it a thriving community which fosters respect and builds on a foundation of open ongoing communication between students, teachers, and parents.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at West Clay Elementary give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to West Clay Elementary. I am very proud of you.

DORETHA EDGECOMB

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime accomplishments of

my friend and the trailblazing Floridian, Mrs. Doretha Edgecomb. Her invaluable contribution to the Tampa Bay community is an inspiration to us all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her selfless dedication and honorable service to our community.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a proud graduate of Middleton High School in Tampa, Florida and later Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. She began her esteemed career as a junior high school English teacher with Hillsborough County Public Schools. She later earned a Masters of Arts degree in Reading Education and received certification in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida. Her 52 year career as an educator encompasses numerous positions throughout the field of education, to include Reading Teacher, Learning Specialist, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Elementary Principal.

In 1996, after retiring from the Hillsborough County School District, Mrs. Edgecomb joined Educational Testing Service, serving as a trainer, program developer, and technical assistance advisor for schools in the state departments of Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, she has taught in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

Mrs. Edgecomb was elected to the Hillsborough County School Board in 2004 and re-elected in 2008, where she served as Vice Chair in 2010 and Chair in 2011. She is actively involved in several professional, civil, and social, and community organizations. She represents the School Board on the Hillsborough County Children's Board, serving her second term as Chair. She serves as a member of the Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors as a legislative liaison, board of directors for the Regional Educational Lab-Southeast, Florida State University, advisory committee of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, and the executive board of the Council of Great City Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a 55-year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Athena Society, Inc., where she is the President-Elect of the Robert Saunders Friends of the Library, and a faithful member of Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Edgecomb shared a strong partnership with her distinguished late husband the Honorable Judge George E. Edgecomb. Judge Edgecomb an activist in his own right, blazed the trail for African-Americans in the Tampa Bay. He was the first African-American to serve as Assistant County Solicitor, Assistant State Attorney, and to be appointed as County Judge for Hillsborough County. They share one daughter, Allison who is an Administrator in Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb has selflessly dedicated her life to our community and the children of the 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 Doretha W. Edgecomb for her lifelong exemplary service to the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of bringing to the attention of the House Grace Episcopal Church of Allentown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year.

Since its earliest days, the Lehigh Valley has been home to a large population of German Americans who established Lutheran and Reformed congregations throughout the region. With the advent of iron-making, however, many British workers began migrating to Allentown, bringing their Episcopalian roots with them. To placate their increasing desire for a church, Rev. Azariah Prior was sent to Allentown where he led Episcopalian services in the Lehigh County Courthouse for three years.

During that time, the first commercially successful anthracite coal-powered iron furnace was created in the community now known as Catasauqua in 1840. Additional workers were needed, and many from Britain joined their fellow countrymen and women in the Lehigh Valley. Further north, in Mauch Chunk, Asa Packer—the renowned railroad tycoon, Congressman, and founder of Lehigh University—requested membership to the Presbyterian Church, but was purportedly rejected due to his unwillingness to sign a temperance pledge. The father of Packer's chief advisor, William Sayre, encouraged him to become Episcopalian. Packer agreed, and the operational headquarters of his Lehigh Valley Railroad in South Bethlehem became a gathering point for other Episcopalian.

Finally, in 1865, the construction of Grace Episcopal Church began on a lot at the northwest corner of Linden and 5th Street.

Today, the Church serves as a bastion of support to the surrounding community through its ministry and its pre-school through elementary, as well as GED, educational programs. It continues to provide a spiritual and physical comfort to the surrounding areas in the Lehigh Valley.

I ask the House to join me in offering congratulations to Grace Episcopal's congregation, and I wish them another 150 years of continued community outreach and spiritual edification.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DAVID BYRNES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sheriff David Byrnes for serving 16 years as Kaufman County Sheriff and for serving a total of 47 years in law enforcement protecting the citizens of Texas.

On November 5, 2017 David Byrnes will retire from a lifetime of serving the United States and Texas. Sheriff Byrnes began his career in the Navy before pursuing a career in law enforcement. He began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff in Tarrant County.

Afterwards he joined the Department of Public Safety where he served as a Highway Patrolman in Pecos, Denton, and Fort Davis. He was later promoted to the Texas Rangers and served in Midland, Snyder, and Garland. He retired from the Rangers as the Captain of Company B in 1996. David has now spent the last 16 years as the Kaufman County Sheriff.

On behalf of all the people touched by the work of Sheriff Byrnes, I want to thank him for all of his work. We have been blessed to have you protecting us and I wish you a happy retirement.

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Bookshop Santa Cruz, a family-owned, independent bookstore based in Santa Cruz, California. Bookshop Santa Cruz started in 1966 and quickly became the heart of Downtown Santa Cruz, providing the community with access to books, magazines, newspapers and gifts while also creating a community meeting ground for friends and visitors alike. Over the last 50 years, Bookshop Santa Cruz established itself as a nationally-renowned bookstore dedicated to the written word, the discussion of ideas and the creation of community.

In 1973, Neal and Candy Coonerty bought Bookshop Santa Cruz and raised their two children, Ryan and Casey, in the store. Together they helped the store survive many challenges including the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, competition from nearby chain bookstores and the rise of the internet retailer. Bookshop Santa Cruz held thousands of author events over the years allowing numerous opportunities for authors to engage with their fans about their work. The store was instrumental in starting the shop local movement in Santa Cruz and lead community-wide conversations about the role of local business in our economy, the value of maintaining vital downtown corridors and the importance of freedom of speech and reader privacy.

In 1989, Bookshop Santa Cruz survived the terrible Loma Prieta earthquake, which destroyed over 75 percent of Downtown Santa Cruz, with the help of their staff and community. Hundreds of volunteers signed liability waivers to enter the red-tagged Bookshop building to rescue all of the books and fixtures, thereby allowing Bookshop Santa Cruz to continue to operate for three years in a large pavilion tent as Downtown Santa Cruz was rebuilt. In the meantime, Neal Coonerty successfully ran for City Council and became Mayor of Santa Cruz to help with the downtown rebuilding process.

Ten years ago, Casey Coonerty Protti, took over management of the store as a second-generation owner. During this time, she successfully launched vital children's programs such as Young Writers Contest, Summer Reading Program where each year over 600 kids earn rewards for reading during the summer months as well as bringing authors into local schools. These efforts are central in helping create the next generation of readers.

In addition, the owners of Bookshop continue to give back to the community that sup-

ported them throughout the years with Neal Coonerty and Ryan Coonerty both serving as Mayor of Santa Cruz as well as on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Casey Coonerty Protti serving on the Board of the Downtown Association, the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and an appointee on the Santa Cruz Downtown Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join the entire House in congratulating Bookshop Santa Cruz on 50 years and thanking their owners and bookselling staff for all that they contribute to the Santa Cruz community. We hope they continue to breathe life into the cultural fabric of the Santa Cruz community for another 50 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP ROGERS FOR HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Rogers of the Anderson Fire Department. For over three decades Phil has served the City and residents of Anderson, Indiana through his work as a paramedic, firefighter, and two terms as the Anderson Fire Department Chief. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Phil Rogers' commitment to making the City of Anderson a safer, better place to live.

Phil is a lifelong Hoosier. He was born and raised in Anderson and he graduated from Madison Heights High School in 1978. After high school, Phil attended Indiana State University where he studied industrial engineering. He decided that industrial engineering was not his passion and, fortunately there was an opening with the Anderson Fire Department which allowed Phil to begin his path toward his true calling as an emergency responder. He applied to the cadet program and, in October 1981, he became a sworn firefighter. Through the addition of paramedic services to the Anderson Fire Department in the late 1980s, Phil found his passion for patient care through paramedic service.

Phil is a public safety veteran, his years of distinguished service proved invaluable and in January 2006 Mayor Kevin Smith appointed Phil to be the City of Anderson's 21st Fire Chief. Phil became the first African-American to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Anderson and Madison County. He is also the first African-American paramedic in Madison County as well as the first Paramedic to be appointed Chief of the Anderson Fire Department. His leadership emphasized professionalism and increased training. He ensured that all department firefighters were certified. Recognizing the need for a new training facility, Phil championed the development of the regional Fire Training Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard, which services the 13 surrounding counties. He worked tirelessly to lower Anderson's fire rating, reducing insurance costs for businesses. And he was instrumental to the successful application for The Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program (SAFER) which awarded the Anderson Fire Department a 1.25 million dollar grant to assist

with emergency preparation and response efforts. After his time as chief, Phil returned to Station 2 and resumed his duties as a paramedic.

Phil devoted himself to a life of service to his community. Through his dedication to patient care, to capable local government, and above all his Hoosier home, he has made the City of Anderson and the wider community of Madison County a safer and better place to live. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Phil for his 35 years of service. I wish the very best to Phil in his well-deserved retirement as well as in the next exciting chapter of his life.

HONORING LT COL IRA STEPHEN "SHOOTER" EADIE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Ira Stephen "Shooter" Eadie, who died on September 20, 2016 while flying a routine training mission.

At 9:05am, the TU-25 piloted by Lt Col Eadie and his trainee crashed near the Sutter Buttes in California. They were assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base. Although both pilots ejected from the aircraft, Lt Col Eadie did not survive.

Lt Col Eadie was a respected pilot who began his military career in the Navy, flying P-3 patrol aircraft. He eventually joined the Air Force and became a U-2 pilot. The U-2 is a notoriously difficult aircraft to fly—becoming a U-2 pilot means you are among the very best. He was part of an elite, tight-knit group of pilots, whose flights more closely mirror those of astronauts—the U-2 flies at altitudes over 70,000 feet, at the very edge of the atmosphere, affording the pilot breathtaking views of the horizon, watching nighttime creep across the Earth.

Steve was a loving and devoted family man. He met his wife Ashley in Lake City, FL, and together they raised six children, and recently welcomed a granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, pilots fondly quote, "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings". Today, it is my heartfelt honor to remember a cherished member of the flying community, Lt Col "Shooter" Eadie, who has put out his hand, and touched the face of God. In the days to come, may strength and comfort be granted to his family and friends, the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron and Beale Air Force Base, and the entire Dragon Lady community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERTS FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Roberts Family Development Center's 15th Anniversary. As founders Derrell and Tina Roberts, along with the Center's staff, join their friends and supporters to