

and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA ON ITS FIRST STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Ramsay High School Rams 2016 Football Team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association's Class 6A state football championship on Friday, December 2, 2016.

The Rams defeated the Opelika Bulldogs 21–16, which gave Ramsay its first state football championship ever and the first for a Birmingham City School since another area high school won back to back state titles in 1972 and 1973.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this victory even more special is that Ramsay discontinued its football program after the 1976 season, and didn't resume the sport for 36 years until hiring its current coach, Rueben Nelson Jr., in the Spring of 2011.

The Rams officially returned to the field in 2012, suffering through a one-win season and two wins the following season. The program is without football lockers, a football stadium, and many of the amenities that often lead to success. Yet, the players and coaches have persevered, and have now reached the pinnacle of success.

Speaking to their accomplishment following the game, Coach Nelson stated, "God allowed me to put my hands in His hands and He would lead the way. It's not like I'm the head coach. He's the head coach and I'm just the servant. He allows me to work with kids."

The Rams were 13–2 this season, and were led by their left-handed, Senior quarterback Baniko Harley, who rushed for 158 yards on 21 carries and completed 8 of 18 passes for 132 yards and two scores in the winning effort.

I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding players and Coach Nelson. We are very proud of the team, and I am confident these young men have bright futures ahead for them, and will look back proudly on their achievement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this team's outstanding achievement. May their efforts continue to yield great success in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS ATTORNEY GENERAL SCOTT PRUITT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, President-elect Donald Trump selected Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to serve as administrator of the Environment Protection Agency—yet another positive choice for the American people.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal notes, "As the chief legal officer of a major oil and natural-gas producing state, Mr. Pruitt, a

Republican, has led legal fights against some of President Barack Obama's most significant environmental rules, and one of his major roles as EPA administrator would likely be to roll back those regulations."

President-elect Trump stated that Attorney General Pruitt will, "restore the EPA's essential mission of keeping our air and our water clean and safe."

As the grateful father of South Carolina's Attorney General Alan Wilson, I know firsthand the tenacity and dedication to upholding the Constitution and protecting American families that state Attorneys General have. I look forward to Attorney General Pruitt's success in his new role, promoting limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAYWOOD SENIORS CLUB

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Village of Maywood and the 250 seniors who with the Honorable Mayor Edwina Perkins, Board of Trustees and the Honorable Village Clerk Viola Mims, and other dignitaries as they gather on Wednesday, December 14th at their 9th Annual Christmas Party and Dinner at Mariella's Banquet Hall. This event climaxes another year of engagement, fellowship, activities, information and healthy meals for the 250 members. During 2016, these 250 members had exercise sessions, visited Brookfield Zoo and the DuSable Museum of African American History, interacted with Promise East High School during Black History Month and benefitted from programs sponsored by the Secretary of State of Illinois and participated in a power of attorney workshop.

They also held weekly meetings, had a senior prom, outdoor jazz night and an R & B night.

I commend the Maywood Seniors Club and urge them to keep their spirits high.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ VALLE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rafael Rodriguez Valle, a World War II veteran, entrepreneur, pastor, and late grandfather of my staff member Jose Rafael Rodriguez.

Rafael was a product of America's greatest generation. He grew up during the Great Depression in Puerto Rico and moved to New York City after his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. There he married the love of his life, Josefa, with whom he spent the rest of his life. He eventually returned to his beloved Puerto Rico to raise his family and open a flower shop. On his time off, Rafael volunteered as a neighborhood watchman and

a pastor in his church. His hard work allowed him to provide a safe and happy home for his family, put his children through college, and enjoy a peaceful retirement with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Before his passing in 2011, he would reflect on his life's work saying that he was grateful because God allowed him to spend his life working around roses.

Jose describes his grandfather as his best friend and role model. Rafael taught Jose the values of hard work and service to God, family, and community. These are the values that inspire Jose to dedicate his life to public service and are the legacy he passes on to his children.

I am honored to recognize Rafael Rodriguez Valle for dedication to his family and service to the country.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHERN LITERACY TOURISM INITIATIVE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to challenge my colleagues to help promote the local economy of their districts in a new way: through the power of a story set in a real place. Our greatest resource in this nation has always been our people and their ability to unleash their talents in innovative ways that promote progress and prosperity. I recently witnessed one such innovation when I was invited to present a tourism fiction award in my district through the Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with tourism fiction, the concept is simple: write stories set in real places, stories that capture the imaginations and hearts of readers, and then invite those same readers to visit the places.

As my colleagues may know from their own districts, tourism is an economic driver that attracts welcomed spending on local attractions, hotels, restaurants, and other places that help drive local economies and provide jobs. If writers are already producing books and short stories, then why not ask them to set those stories in real places that their readers would love to visit?

That is exactly what an innovative writing contest did in my home district. The Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative or SELTI, teamed up with the Selma Chamber of Commerce to challenge writers to compose a short story aimed at encouraging readers to visit the area. The 2016 winner of the contest, Charisa Hagel, wrote a powerful story that brought a local historical attraction to life through her fictional characters. At the end of the story, readers were invited to visit the real place, Kenan's Mill in Selma, Alabama, and literally step into the setting of Charisa's story. While there, they can also visit the National Voting Rights Museum and many other unique local attractions.

I will soon be honored to present Ms. Charisa Hagel, a student at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, with the 2016

SELTI Tourism Fiction Award at Kenan's Mill in Selma. The attraction Ms. Hagel wrote about in the Selma contest is not well known outside the local area, but now anyone with internet access can read about it through her story. How many attractions in your districts deserve to be written about and promoted in the same way?

As a legislative body, we often differ on our views for creating economic opportunity in the country. However, I feel that we can all agree that we want writers in our districts that can help tell the history of those areas through engaging stories with characters who win the hearts of readers, while also bringing in new tourism dollars.

RETIRING MEMBERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my fellow Californians who I have had the honor of working with here in the House of Representatives.

SAM FARR has spent more than two decades serving the Central Coast in Congress . . . and so many years before that serving locally.

He has been a longtime advocate for our veterans and military families in California. And he always stands up for essential environmental protection efforts . . . and ocean conservation.

Because of Congressman FARR . . . many of our natural treasures in California will be preserved. He will be greatly missed, but I know he will enjoy spending more time in his beautiful hometown of Carmel.

My friend MIKE HONDA will be returning home to California after serving more than 35 years as an elected official . . . and 16 years as a member of Congress . . . representing the people of Silicon Valley.

Congressman HONDA has worked tirelessly on behalf of those who don't have a voice . . . serving as an important advocate for underserved communities. He has always understood the importance of closing gaps in education for our young people . . . and has put that on the forefront of his work in Congress.

Congressman HONDA has dedicated his life to public service . . . and we're incredibly grateful for all that he has done for the people of California. I know he will continue to be an important voice on the issues he cares about.

JANICE HAHN has always been willing to tackle important issues in Congress. I'm particularly grateful for her work to ensure we are strengthening infrastructure in California . . . and for her advocacy on behalf of women.

I know that as she transitions to her new role as Los Angeles County Supervisor . . . she will continue to deliver results for her region.

Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ has been an important advocate for women in the military . . . and a leader on immigration issues. I'm grateful for her decades of service here in Congress.

I will also dearly miss LOIS CAPPs . . . who I have had the pleasure of serving with for many years. As a former school nurse . . .

Congresswoman CAPPs has provided valuable insight on public health issues in Congress.

I've enjoyed working with her on the Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee on issues that impact everyday Americans . . . from ensuring people have affordable healthcare . . . to bolstering medical research . . . to strengthening programs like Medicare.

Congresswoman CAPPs has also been an important environmental advocate during her time in Congress. She understands the connections between public health and our changing climate . . . and has continuously fought to ensure that future generations in Santa Barbara . . . and across the country . . . have clean air to breathe.

I'm grateful to all of my departing colleagues from the great state of California. Each of you has brought a unique and important perspective to Congress . . . and I will miss the insights and friendship that you have provided me over the years.

Thank you for your service to our great nation . . . and I wish you all the best of luck as you enter into the next chapter of your lives back in California.

Know that you will always be welcome back here in the Nation's Capital.

IN HONOR OF JESUS "JACK" TERRAZAS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Imperial County Supervisor Jesus "Jack" Terrazas who is retiring from public service. Supervisor Terrazas graduated from San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus and is a licensed Life, Health, Fire and Casualty Insurance Broker. He was elected to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in June of 2008. Supervisor Terrazas represents the communities of Heber, El Centro, and Ocotillo and is serving his second term.

Supervisor Terrazas currently serves as Chairman of the Board and is a Board representative on the Imperial County Employees Retirement System, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Local Transportation Authority, and the Service Authorities for Freeway Emergencies. Supervisor Terrazas is also an alternate for the Local Area Formation Commission and California State Association of Counties. Prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Terrazas served three terms as an El Centro City Councilmember where he was appointed Mayor three times. In addition, Supervisor Terrazas served as a member of the El Centro Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees for eleven years and on the Board of Directors of the Imperial County Work Training Center.

During his years of public service, Supervisor Terrazas contributions to the community have been numerous. He was committed to the completion of numerous projects including, the improvement of roads, sidewalks, and public facilities in the Heber community. Supervisor Terrazas also supported a variety of housing programs such as, the First Time

Home Buyer program, the Cal Home Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehab Program which helped to assist families to repair and replace damaged and dilapidated homes. Supervisor Terrazas was also committed to protecting water in his community and launched a study to determine the condition and capabilities of the current meter systems. All his hard work and dedication was acknowledged in 2015 when Supervisor Terrazas was recognized with the Sure Helpline Crisis Center 2015 and Inspirational People of the Community Awards.

Supervisor Terrazas worked tirelessly to advance community and economic development in Imperial County through the growth of a robust renewable energy industry. He helped keep the county fiscally sound while preserving jobs, improving service quality, and advocating for Imperial County at the state and federal level. Supervisor Terrazas has four grown children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren and currently resides in El Centro with his wife of over forty years, Frances.

TRIBUTE TO THE AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor African Services Committee, Inc. for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Founded in 1981 by Ethiopian refugees to give a helping hand to other newcomers, today African Services is a multiservice agency based in Harlem and dedicated to assisting immigrants, refugees and asylees from across the African Diaspora.

Their programs address the needs of newcomers affected by war, persecution, poverty, and global health inequalities. The agency provide health, housing, legal, educational, and social services to 12,500 people each year. Staff representing more than 20 countries and speaking over 25 languages provide culturally and linguistically relevant support to this diverse and growing community.

Expanding HIV prevention and access to AIDS treatment and care is central to their mission. African Services has taken this work from Harlem to the frontlines of the global pandemic and now operates five HIV clinics in Ethiopia.

African Services Committee was started in 1981 in a Bronx basement apartment by Asfaha Hadera. Asfaha arrived in the United States having experienced first-hand the realities of refugee life. Asfaha fled his home country of Ethiopia in 1977 for refugee camps in Sudan, before emigrating to the U.S. in 1979.

Upon arrival, he saw a lack of assistance for others, like himself, who were refugees from conflicted areas throughout Africa. So, he established the organization to give a helping hand to other African newcomers and, with Kim Nichols, began refugee resettlement programs in New York City. As immigration from the continent increased, their offices expanded