

the years ahead as we continue to mourn this devastating loss.

I will continue your fight, Travon.

I will continue to demand Congress pass common sense gun reform.

RECOGNIZING DAN HAYES ON RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Dan Hayes, of Brewers Distributing Company, in Peoria, for receiving the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight.

Dan joined the Brewers Distributing Company in 2002 as a warehouse relief driver. Since then, he has become the Director of Operations and a company-wide leader, implementing new and innovative ideas to further advance and grow the company's success. He is responsible for developing the Brewers Distributing Company's employee engagement group, known as Brewers In Motion, which works to further staff and employer relations. Dan is also a member of the Brewers Distributing Company's Strategic Planning Committee, where he has been instrumental in working to develop strategies to ensure the company's continued success in the future.

His leadership is worthy of recognition, and he is most deserving of the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. Our community has greatly benefitted from his fourteen years of service to the Peoria region. In Illinois alone, beer distributors provide \$7.6 million dollars in economic development and charity support, and a combined total of \$3 billion in total economic impact. It is through the hard work and leadership of exceptional employees and individuals, like Dan, that the beer industry continues to flourish and contribute to our community.

I commend Dan on his service and hard work that has led him to receive the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. I want to thank Dan Hayes for his service to Central Illinois, and congratulate him on this most deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE FORT WORTH ASSEMBLY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Worth Assembly in celebration of its 75th anniversary and its history of ushering accomplished young women into society and womanhood.

First organized by Mrs. Lottie Mae Hamilton in 1941, the Fort Worth Assembly has fostered an organization that helps guide young African American women to a path of excellence within the Fort Worth community.

Since the initial presentation of 22 college trained women to society during the first Fort

Worth Assembly Debutante Ball on November 28, 1941, the organization has grown to present more than 800 young women to society during their annual holiday event. The Fort Worth Assembly has introduced young women who have gone on to impact the community, world, and future generations in various fields, including the arts, sciences, and legal professions.

Along with the annual presentation, the Fort Worth Assembly continues to promote and instill exemplary values to young women at an early age through the formation of the Les Petite Cygnes, or the Little Swans, and the Junior Debutante groups.

Thanks to the leadership of the past presidents, Mrs. Lottie M. Hamilton, Mrs. Beulah Yerwood, Mrs. Kathryn Glaze, Mrs. Mildred Scott, Mrs. Sophia Thomas, Mrs. Thelma Pennigar, Mrs. Hester McDaniel, Mrs. Mildred Sims and Mrs. Bonnie Winkfield, and current president, legacy debutante Mrs. Charlece Thomas James, the Fort Worth Assembly has continued to thrive.

The work and dedication of the 25 founding women and the past presidents will be recognized on December 17th as the organization marks its 75th Fort Worth Assembly Debutante Ball Presentation, which will introduce another class of outstanding young women to society.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE BETTY BOUKUS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Connecticut State Representative Betty Boukus, a beloved public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of Connecticut families. Betty passed away on Friday at the age of 73. She leaves behind her husband, Gary, of more than 50 years, one son, four grandchildren, and countless friends who cherished her as an incomparable community leader and exemplary human being. I am proud to count myself among them.

Betty was elected to the General Assembly in 1994, immediately distinguishing herself as a fierce champion for the people of her beloved Plainville and New Britain. She enthusiastically immersed herself in her role on the Bonding Subcommittee, working diligently to ensure taxpayer dollars were directed to those projects that would do the most public good. Betty's efforts helped turn important initiatives to expand our state's flagship university and create new local open spaces from idea into reality. She was truly a ground-up legislator, bringing kids and families who felt left out of the political system back into the process of governing. Betty gave them a voice, helped them advocate for their needs, and restored their faith in democracy.

In her spare time, Betty organized an annual Secret Santa program to collect gifts for local veterans. That's just who Betty was. She always put people—and never politics—first. She didn't lob insults or take cheap shots. Whether you were a Democrat or Republican, you could count on her to greet you with a warm laugh and a big hug. A teacher by train-

ing and by nature, Betty went out of her way to serve as a mentor to her colleagues in the General Assembly. She was extraordinarily generous with her time and counsel. In giving advice, she mastered the difficult art of being both truthful and kind. Her wisdom and her example made me a better public servant and a better person.

Even as her health declined, Betty was determined to serve her neighbors to the very end, guided by the principles that had made her a leader in her community for decades: integrity, optimism, and a commitment to helping as many people as she could. Betty's loss leaves a hole in our hearts, but we take solace in the knowledge that the lasting good she fought for throughout her career will always be with us.

HONORING THE EIGHTH SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BAN KI-MOON

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

As we come to the end of Ban Ki-moon's second consecutive term as the Secretary-General, I want to recognize his hard work, dedication, and commitment to improving the lives of others around the world. As Secretary-General he successfully guided the UN as it worked to resolve conflicts and advance a wide range of development issues that have had a positive impact on vulnerable people across the globe.

Secretary-General Ban has worked as an advocate for women's empowerment, successfully supporting the establishment of UN Women—the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women leverages resources to build on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system. UN Women works to empower women and girls by eliminating discrimination and advancing gender equality—goals consistent with the UN agenda. Secretary-General Ban has championed. Mr. Ban has been a strong advocate for women's rights and gender equality, having spearheaded campaigns like "Unite to End Violence against Women", and increasing the number of women holding senior management positions by approximately 40 percent.

During his time as Secretary-General. Ban advocated for the advancement of sustainable development across the globe. One of his most prominent initiatives, the 2007 Climate Change Summit at the Bali International Conference Centre, brought together representatives from over 180 countries to adopt the Bali Road Map, which laid the foundation for the beginnings of a global climate agreement.

Finally, Mr. Ban's tireless efforts to support nations in crisis or experiencing instability cannot be understated. He has worked to strengthen humanitarian efforts, especially after disasters in Myanmar in 2008 and Pakistan and Haiti in 2010. Mr. Ban has given a voice to the most poverty-struck and vulnerable populations in the world, including the

over 65 million individuals displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2015.

I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his service, spending his days advocating on behalf of the least among us. His tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations has delivered significant advances in peace and human rights around the world.

CONGRESSMAN JIM McDERMOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, from Washington's 7th District.

I have had the honor and privilege of working alongside Representative McDERMOTT for the past 17 years. As co-chairs of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, Congressman McDERMOTT has led the charge to wipe out HIV/AIDS around the world.

Congressman McDERMOTT and I also sat on the Budget Committee together where he was a continual guiding voice for our committee. From health care to education, he ensured that our budget reflected our moral values as a nation.

During his time representing the people of Washington's 7th District, Congressman McDERMOTT has dedicated his efforts towards finding solutions to our nation's most pressing issues, as well as remaining deeply connected to his district.

He has helped lead the fight on this very floor to guarantee all Americans comprehensive and affordable health care coverage and has supported me in pushing for peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world.

Congressman McDERMOTT has never stopped working to ensure that the American Dream is in reach for all.

I want to thank Representative McDERMOTT for his dedication to serving the people of Washington and our nation.

I am so honored and thankful to have had his friendship and his support throughout the years.

He leaves behind an incredible legacy and I wish him the very best and continued success.

IN MEMORIAM: RICK LAVIS, FEBRUARY 1, 1940–NOVEMBER 26, 2016

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rick Lavis, a tireless and respected voice for Arizona agriculture.

Rick, a native Arizonan who grew up in downtown Phoenix, was called to public service early in his life. He served as an aide to U.S. Senator Paul Fannin (R-AZ) before working at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Rick returned to Phoenix in 1980 to advocate for Arizona's cotton growers and the broader agricultural community. As the Arizona Cotton Growers Association's top staffer,

Rick worked tirelessly to pass the Groundwater Management Act of 1980, landmark legislation that still governs Arizona water today. Rick served Arizona as an expert in water, air quality, the environment, and the cotton industry.

Rick is survived by his wife, Marti, two sons, Danny and Ben, and two grandchildren, Addison and Nicholas. I was fortunate to have worked with Rick both during my time in the Arizona Legislature and when I came to Congress, and I am honored to call him a friend. I am thankful for Rick's dedication to service and appreciate his determination and willingness to make our state and country a better place for all Arizonans.

Please join me in honoring his memory.

IN HONOR OF THE WINGATE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wingate University men's soccer team and congratulate them on their first ever national championship. The Bulldogs earned their first national title in school history by defeating the University of Charleston in the NCAA Division II national title game on December 3, 2016.

Led by head coach Gary Hamill, Wingate finished the regular season with a perfect 14–0 record. After suffering a minor setback in the South Atlantic Conference tournament, the team rebounded by storming through the NCAA tournament on the way to the title. Through the five games of the tournament, the Bulldogs did not concede a single goal, which included denying both the first and second ranked offenses in the country anything more than a few attempts on goal. The team finished the year with a nation's best 0.40 goals-against average, proving that defense really does win championships.

Wingate had a total of five players named to the All-Tournament team including Jon Ander and Alex Nelson who were named Most Outstanding Offensive Player and Most Outstanding Defensive Player respectively. It brings me great pride to be able to recognize these extraordinary young men as well as all of the coaches and support staff that made this accomplishment possible. The hard work and dedication exhibited by each member of the team during the season will continue to serve them well in life. They are a source of pride to both the university as well as the surrounding community. I wish them well in all of their endeavors and look forward to hearing of their continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the Wingate University men's soccer team on their well-deserved national title.

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay trib-

ute to the fallen law enforcement officers of Georgia's Second Congressional District. The last few weeks have been especially difficult in Middle and Southwest Georgia as we have lost four officers to senseless violence.

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, Officer Nicholas Smarr of the Americus Police Department responded to a domestic disturbance at an apartment home in Americus, Georgia. While Officer Smarr was awaiting backup from another Americus officer, his friend Officer Jody Smith of the Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety heard the radio call and responded to assist. As the officers attempted to pursue the suspect, who had fled, the suspect opened fire on the officers.

Both officers were struck by bullets. In spite of being wounded, Officer Smarr ran to Officer Smith, turned him over from his face-down position, and began to perform CPR. While trying to save Officer Smith's life, Officer Smarr died from his injuries. When backup officers arrived, they found Officer Smarr slumped over Officer Smith. Nick Smarr and Jody Smith were lifelong best friends.

On Thursday, December 8, 2016, Officer Smith succumbed to his injuries and passed away. The Americus Police Department and the Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety are each mourning the loss of one of their own. The Americus community as a whole is grieving over this terrible tragedy.

This incident brings to mind another senseless tragedy that happened in the Second Congressional District not long ago. On Sunday, November 6, 2016, Sergeant Patrick Sondon and Deputy Daryl Smallwood of the Peach County Sheriff's Office were responding to a dispute between neighbors when a suspect opened fire on them. Deputy Sondon was killed and Deputy Smallwood passed away from his injuries two days later.

Each of these four brave men loved, and in return, were deeply loved. They were sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, significant others, and friends. What is more important, they were law enforcement officers and they put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

Sergeant Patrick Sondon served our nation in the U.S. Air Force. He had been with the Peach County Sheriff's Office for 13 years, after having served the Fort Valley and Byron Police Departments. He had a pilot's license and enjoyed flying and driving charter buses.

Deputy Daryl Smallwood served our nation in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked as a jailer before becoming a mandated officer in 2005 and served the Crisp County Sheriff's Department before joining the Peach County Sheriff's Office. He enjoyed listening to music and riding his Harley motorcycle.

Officer Nicholas "Nick" Ryan Smarr graduated from the Police Academy in Forsyth, Georgia. He served as a Corrections Officer in Telfair County, a Police Officer in McRae and Vienna, and a Deputy with the Sumter County Sheriff's Department before joining the Americus Police Department. He was an Atlanta Falcons fan and loved watching movies and spending time with his friends, which included Officer Jody Smith.

Public Safety Officer Jody Smith graduated from Americus-Sumter County High School in 2009, along with his friend, Officer Nick Smarr. In 2012, he graduated from the Georgia Public