

it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Spencer for her leadership and dedicated commitment to service programs.

Wendy Spencer was nominated by President Obama and was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in April 2012. Under her leadership, CNCS has launched new public-private partnerships, including FEMA Corps, School Turnaround AmeriCorps, STEM AmeriCorps, Justice AmeriCorps, and Financial Opportunity Corps. Wendy has also increased the agency's focus on reaching veterans and military families, overseen the national service response for many severe disasters, and strengthened relationships with public officials and local leaders.

Wendy Spencer's efforts to engage local leaders includes creating the annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service, where city mayors, county officials and tribal leaders express their appreciation for Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and volunteerism in general. When first launched in 2013, the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service included 830 city mayors and local officials recognizing and celebrating service across the country. On April 5, 2016, 3,539 mayors, county officials and tribal leaders participated in the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service—making it the largest one day gathering among public officials in history.

Through her innovative leadership and collaboration, Wendy Spencer has led national service programs in transforming lives and improving communities while implementing local solutions. Wendy Spencer is a pioneer of national service. Mr. Speaker, as community members, and various national and state community service leaders gather at OneOC in Orange County, California, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Wendy Spencer for her significant contributions and commitment to the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS).

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT
BEUTTER FOR A DISTINGUISHED
CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Mayor of Mishawaka Robert Beutter, and honor his many years of public service to the City of Mishawaka and our nation.

Mayor Beutter was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on April 6, 1935. He attended Indiana University and earned degrees in business administration and law. After graduating from law school, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

In 1972, Beutter became a member of the City of Mishawaka's Legal Staff, serving for 8 years. In 1984, he was first elected Mayor, and would serve five terms totaling 20 years. Upon completion of his time as Mayor, Beutter became the Assistant City Attorney where he served another 8 years until 2012.

Bob Beutter is a fixture in our community. He has been active on boards and in leadership roles for the Mishawaka Food Pantry;

Boy Scouts of America; Salvation Army Kroc Center; Mishawaka Kiwanis Club; and Salvation Army Advisory Board.

He has received such honors as the Community Service and Leadership Award by the Boy Scouts of America; two Sagamore of the Wabash awards by two different governors; the American Legion Post 161's Veteran of the Year; and was named an Honorary Graduate from Bethel College.

Given all of Beutter's service to the community, it was only fitting that the City of Mishawaka's riverfront park was named after him, as it is the focal point of our community.

Beutter and his wife Mary have been married for 55 years. Together, they have helped build and grow Mishawaka. I want to thank them both for their service and sacrifice to help make our community a better place.

HONORING MR. RALPH KEECHLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ralph Keechler, who has served the City of Sonoma, California and the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority (SVFRA) for 60 years. In addition to his own volunteerism, Mr. Keechler has passed on his passion for service to his son, Joseph. Together, Ralph and Joseph Keechler have volunteered with the SVFRA for a remarkable 100 years combined.

Mr. Keechler is a Sonoma native, and served in World War II with the 75th Infantry Division. During his military service, Mr. Keechler participated in the Battle of the Bulge and earned the rank of Corporal. He has also been an active member of the Native Sons of the Golden West for 71 years, promoting and preserving California's history and landmarks for future generations.

His work with the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority ensures fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to Sonoma and surrounding communities. Mr. Keechler currently serves as Division Chief of SVFRA, guaranteeing his experience informs the organization's operations.

Mr. Keechler has been a true leader in the Sonoma community. He and his late wife of 50 years, Barbara Keechler, have passed along their passion for service to their three children, Christine, Joseph, and Karen.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keechler has dedicated his time and knowledge to serving his community for six decades, and Ralph and Joseph Keechler's unique contribution of a combined century of volunteerism is an inspiring example to our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO DUPONT PIONEER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa company, DuPont Pioneer of Johnston, Iowa as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

Founded in 1926 by former United States Vice President Henry A. Wallace, the Hi-Bred Corn Company, as it was originally known, set out to share the promise of hybrid seeds for all farmers. Early on, Wallace recognized hybrid seeds could offer tremendous value through higher yields and increased profitability for farmers. His instincts were right and his knowledge and understanding of corn genetics completely changed the manner in which crops were grown in the United States.

Today, DuPont Pioneer employs 13,000 people globally and partners with generations of loyal customers. This iconic company has grown from a small research facility in Johnston, Iowa, to a multi-billion dollar company serving customers in over 90 countries worldwide. With 2 million seed production acres and 100 research and development facilities around the world, DuPont has left a lasting impact on the State of Iowa and the agricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 90 years DuPont Pioneer has left an indelible mark on the agriculture industry. Their innovation and forward thinking increases yields and food production around the world to feed a growing population. I commend DuPont Pioneer and their employees for a job well done. I also ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring this company for their unwavering commitment to agriculture and the state of Iowa. I wish DuPont Pioneer and their employees nothing but continued success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NOVEC FOR ITS
COMMITMENT TO THE RESI-
DENTS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC), which was recognized during the 6th Annual Hylton Center for Performing Arts Awards Gala for its commitment to supporting communities in Northern Virginia.

Founded on January 1, 1983, the not-for-profit distribution cooperative provides electrical services to more than 160,000 homes and businesses located in Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Stafford, and Prince William counties, the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, and the Town of Clifton. As one of the largest electric cooperatives of its kind in the United States, NOVEC's service territory spans 651 square miles. Over the past 33 years, NOVEC has achieved and maintained excellence in the areas of safety, customer satisfaction, and technology management, showcasing an extensive record of efficiency and productivity. Their service is consistently ranked the best in the region, averaging a 99.99 percent average system reliability over the past 5 years. As a cooperative, NOVEC's customers have an ownership interest, and therefore, share in any profits generated by the company. These profits are allocated annually to improve the health and well-being of customer-owners and community residents.

NOVEC is invested in the community with emphasis placed in the areas of corporate sponsorship, community volunteerism, and

customer outreach. Displaying its commitment to active community engagement, NOVEC reaches beyond the power lines and invests in the community. Customers and members of the general public are invited to take advantage of the services and resources offered by NOVEC, including financial scholarships, legislative tours to expose youth to the federal and state legislative processes, and hands-on engagement through volunteerism.

NOVEC works to inspire and empower the people it serves to take an active role in their community. A time-tested initiative is Operation Round-Up. Program participants voluntarily have their bill rounded up to the next dollar to assist local families who have fallen on hard times to pay for their winter heating bills through donations to heating-assistance programs at six local social service agencies. Since the establishment of Operation Round-Up in 1997, the program has generated close to \$750,000 in heating assistance. Another initiative unique to NOVEC is its relationship with the Hylton Performing Arts Center. NOVEC continues to serve as an instrumental partner through its constant support of the Hylton Center's artists and initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing NOVEC as the 6th Annual Hylton Performing Arts Awards Gala honoree for its involvement and investment in the residents of Northern Virginia.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH KEECHLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Keechler, who has volunteered with the City of Sonoma, California and the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority (SVFRA) for 40 years. Mr. Keechler inherited his passion for service to his father, Ralph. Together, Joseph and Ralph Keechler have volunteered with the SVFRA for a remarkable 100 years combined.

Building on his family's roots in Sonoma, Mr. Keechler has developed his own strong ties to the area. He earned his Associate's Degree from Santa Rosa Junior College, and with his wife Susan, raised her children, Sam and Jack, in his hometown.

With his long history of service to our community, Mr. Keechler serves as a reliable and trusted leader in Sonoma. He has earned the rank of Captain with the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority, serving as a leader of the organization that ensures fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to Sonoma and surrounding communities. Furthermore, Mr. Keechler serves on the Board of the Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters' Association, sharing his firsthand experience for the benefit of other volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keechler has dedicated his time and knowledge to serving his community for four decades, and Joseph and Ralph Keechler's unique contribution of a combined century of volunteerism is an inspiring example to our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to honor him here today.

HONORING WORCESTER COMMUNITY LEADER MARGARET "PEGGY" MIDDAGH

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a remarkable community leader and environmental advocate from my district, Margaret "Peggy" Middaugh.

Peggy Middaugh's service in Worcester began when she joined the Regional Environmental Council as Executive Director in 1997. Serving in that role for 11 years, Peggy helped to transform REC from a small, volunteer-led organization into one of the region's leading environmental groups.

One of Peggy's signature accomplishments with the REC was creating the Youth Environmental Service Corps. that connected urban youth with nature by providing opportunities for them to hike and maintain Worcester's trails. This program eventually merged with urban gardens to create YouthGROW, an urban agriculture-focused youth development and employment program for low-income teens. YouthGROW currently employs low-income high school teens year-round, giving them the opportunity to gain leadership and jobs skills as they maintain two urban organic farms. Hundreds of youth have graduated from YouthGROW since its inception in 2002.

Under her leadership, the REC built on its foundation of good work and expanded its focus into areas of environmental justice, urban agriculture, toxic use reduction, community gardens and youth development and leadership.

Peggy also built partnerships with state and local officials to implement a Toxic Use Reduction program that focused on educating residents in low income neighborhoods about how to reduce their exposure to household toxics, especially household cleaners and lead. The REC also developed Worcester's first Climate Action Plan under Peggy's leadership.

Peggy has served in a wide range of roles over the years, and the truth is, no matter where she is, Peggy is making a difference. She helped form the Friends of the Five Mile River, established recycling centers in Stow and North Brookfield, and as the outreach coordinator for the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition and a Conservation Commissioner for the Town of North Brookfield; she worked hard to help pass the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act of 1996.

Peggy has also worked diligently to bring together leaders from different parts of the community to address issues of hunger and food justice. She played a leading role in establishing "UGROW"—a grassroots, citywide community garden network. Today, Worcester has sixty two community gardens, eighteen of which are at city schools, as well as half a dozen urban orchards.

In response to the infestation of the invasive Asian Longhorn Beetle in Central Massachusetts, which led to the destruction of large portions of our urban forest, Peggy founded the Worcester Tree Initiative and acted as its Executive Director until her recent retirement. Under her leadership, the Worcester Tree Ini-

tiative brought together government, community and business leaders to develop and implement a plan that resulted in the planting of more than 30,000 trees in Worcester and the surrounding communities.

In addition to her work with the Regional Environmental Council and the Worcester Tree Initiative, Peggy has also been active in many community organizations and efforts through her roles as a founding member of the Blackstone Headwaters Coalition; on the Board of Directors of the Family Health Center of Worcester and the Main South Community Development Corporation; as a leader with the Castle Park Task Force; and as a volunteer for the homeless with the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Peggy has made everything that she has touched better. She is a shining example of what a truly dedicated public servant can achieve. And although Peggy is moving on to new challenges, just like the urban orchards she helped to establish, her contributions to my district will continue to grow and bear fruit for years to come.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH MIKA, MATTHEW MOLLOY, AND COURTNEY PAUL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth Mika, Matthew Molloy, and Courtney Paul for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the spring of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these three and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All three of our interns have made plans to continue their education and professional occupations in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Kenneth Mika, Matthew Molloy, and Courtney Paul for their service this spring.

CONGRATULATING ZACK AND BRIE SMITHEY OF MISS AIMEE B'S TEA ROOM & GALLERY FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—SERVICE CATEGORY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor constituents of mine, Zack and