

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 104, and YEA on Roll Call No. 105.

ANTONIO PORTILLO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Antonio Portillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Antonio Portillo is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Antonio Portillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Antonio Portillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING ON-AFTER BAR AND GRUB FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate On-After Bar and Grub for receiving the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

On-After Bar and Grub has established itself as a staple in the community and does more than just serve a great meal. They have proven to be a reliable leader in the community and continue to go above and beyond to support the community where ever it is needed.

Joseph Dewberry, or known around the bar as Bear, has been a driving force in adding meaning to their slogan "Our day begins, when your shift ends." Over the past few years they have hosted events like the Autism Awareness cook off, Hurricane Florence Relief, Every Child Deserves a Christmas, and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevent Day. In addition to hosting events they emphasize the importance of recognizing the service our local law enforcement, emergency services, and military provide. The entire community is grateful for On-After Bar and Grub, myself included.

Bear and all the staff at On-After Bar and Grub are deserving of this award and I wish them success as they continue to provide excellent service to our community. I personally look forward to my next visit while I'm traveling across the district!

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Joseph Dewberry and On-After Bar and Grub Restaurant on receiving the 2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

ADRENA ROCHA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrena Rocha for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adrena Rocha is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrena Rocha is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrena Rocha for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN C. WATKINS, JR.**

OF KANSAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1271, the Vet HP Act.

The Vet HP Act would be a significant advancement for two critical issues burdening Eastern Kansans.

My district, being both rural and home to tens of thousands of veterans, is a medically underserved district. With both VA and rural hospitals lacking a steady pipeline of health professionals, access to quality health care is not guaranteed for many of these folks back home.

Secondly, aspiring health professionals from underserved areas are not afforded the same opportunities for clinical observation hours as medical school applicants in major cities, putting them at a disadvantage during the admissions process.

The Vet HP Act would provide an opportunity for health students to gain clinical observation hours at VA hospitals, prioritizing students in health professional shortage areas, first-generation college students, students referred by minority-serving institutions and veterans, and, importantly, students who wish to

train and stay in health professions experiencing staff shortages.

This is a true two-birds-one-stone approach. Across the country we have aspiring health professionals who lack opportunity, and we have VA and rural hospitals desperately in need of a health professional pipeline. The Vet HP Act is a massive step forward for both issues.

I urge passage of this common-sense, bipartisan bill.

RECOGNIZING ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ana Maria Rodriguez, who has faithfully served the City of Doral and the wider Miami region for many years.

Born and raised in South Florida to Cuban exiles, Ana Maria has been heavily involved in the Southern Florida community since graduating from Florida International University in 1999 with a Bachelor's degree in communications. In 2009, she furthered her education by gaining her Master's degree in leadership from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business at Nova Southeastern University. Ana Maria worked for a number of years in public relations and the governmental affairs sector, where she presently serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Miami Association of REALTORS.

Ana Maria's dedication to supporting Southern Florida's community is further demonstrated in her position as an elected official. Elected in 2018, Ana Maria currently serves as a Florida House State Representative for the 105th District. Prior to this impressive achievement, she served as Vice Mayor for the City of Doral and previously on the City Council. Ana Maria executed these roles in a professional and honest manner at all times, proving to be a true asset to the City of Doral.

Her passion for community work goes beyond elected service. In 2007, Ana Maria launched the Southeast Region for Connect Florida, a leadership development program, and in 2009 served as Statewide Chair. For over a decade, she has been a dedicated and active member of the Doral Business Council and also served as Vice Chair for the City of Doral's Parks & Police 4 Kids Advisory Board.

It would be remiss to honor Ana Maria without touching on the number of awards she has received for her ongoing commitment to her community. In 2011, she was selected as Humanitarian of the Year by the March of Dimes and in 2015 she received Advocate of the Year by the Miami Association of REALTORS. In 2017, Ana Maria was presented the Public Service Award by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and most recently, in 2018, the Salute to Miami's Leaders Government Award by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. These accolades are a just a small testament to Ana Maria's determined and selfless character. It is truly a privilege to know that she will continue to make a significant difference in the community she serves and the people that she touches.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to know Ana Maria Rodriguez and to have the opportunity to acknowledge her amazing work for Southern Florida. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

ESMERALDA ROJAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Esmeralda Rojas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Esmeralda Rojas is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Esmeralda Rojas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Esmeralda Rojas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING SHARON MOYER, THE  
2019 ATHENA AWARD WINNER

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sharon Moyer for receiving the 2019 Athena Award from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Athena award is highly coveted and is presented to the individual that represents the greatest support for the goals of professional women. Recipients of this award demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession and provides valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the lives of others in the community.

Sharon Moyer has proven worthy of this award time and again with her innovative thinking, natural leadership, and ability to meet competitive deadlines. She inspires others with her personable attitude and her willingness to work hard and invest in the growth and success of others around her. Sharon has been an active part of the Partnership for Children program and initiated "Historic Hauntings: A Ghastly Ghost Tour" to help children learn the history of Fayetteville. I have personally attended one of her annual soirees for the Partnership for Children and have seen the product of her leadership firsthand.

There are many children in our community more prepared to reach their full potential due to Sharon's philosophy "persistence beats resistance." Our community is better because of Sharon and I am thrilled she is being recognized for her talent and dedication.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Sharon Moyer on receiving the

2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Athena Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, my return flight to Washington, D.C., was delayed due to technical difficulty, and I was unable to attend the legislative session on March 5, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 104, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 105.

SIDNY ROJAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sidny Rojas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sidny Rojas is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sidny Rojas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sidny Rojas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
WALTER B. JONES, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of our colleague, and my dear friend, Congressman Walter Jones.

Walter was a man of principle and patriotism.

Who was dedicated to serving his District and his country.

He was deeply concerned about the state of our nation's politics.

Especially the growing inequities within our campaign finance system.

I had the distinct privilege of working closely with Walter over the past three years.

As co-founders and co-chairs of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Caucus.

And throughout our work together, I witnessed firsthand his willingness to reach across the aisle and put people before politics.

Walter was a model public servant who held tightly to his passions and his unyielding faith.

His independence in this chamber demonstrated his relentless devotion to doing what he believed was right.

It's no surprise that he was widely respected and admired throughout these halls.

My thoughts are with Walter's family and his Congressional staff at this time.

And I ask my colleagues to join me in taking a moment to celebrate the life of our friend, Walter.

And to honor his legacy of honesty and integrity.

HONORING SANDY AMMONS, THE  
2019 FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE CHAIRMAN  
AWARD WINNER

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sandy Ammons for receiving the 2019 Chairman's Award from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

Sandy has been a constant positive force in the community when it comes to the world of business development and marketing services. She currently serves as the Director of Business Development and Human Resources for Highland Construction and Restoration where she oversees marketing and communication, business development, and administrative functions including human resources and recruitment.

Sandy is a highly valued and trusted resource who is always generous in offering guidance to others. She has been conquering all aspects of this industry since 1999 and owned her own successful marketing firm for 14 years. Her ability to capture elegant and innovative design is only part of her unmatched talent. During her time with Methodist University she was able to provide unparalleled guidance as the Vice President for Advancement and University Relations. She continues to serve the community with her fierce work ethic and amazing attention to detail.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Sandy Ammons on receiving the 2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award.

JASON SENA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jason Sena for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jason Sena is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jason Sena is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels