

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANTHONY CERVANTES

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

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

Anthony Cervantes 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 Anthony Cervantes 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 Anthony Cervantes 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 COLONEL RALPH L. SCHWADER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colonel Ralph L. Schwader, Commander of the Missouri Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing. Colonel Schwader has dedicated years of service to not only the people of Missouri, but in defense of the United States of America. It is with great honor that I take a moment to recognize Colonel Schwader today.

On paper alone, Colonel Schwader is an incredibly impressive man. His list of various commands, deployments, decorations and awards could fill volumes. However, what you will never see on paper are the people he has touched while on those deployments or commands. The lives he has touched while earning those decorations and awards. Colonel Schwader may never know the lives he has saved delivering supplies to soldiers in the field while deployed for Operations Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, among many other deployments and service stations. The lives other airmen he saved through training provided under his command by the Advanced Airlift Training Center. He may never fully know the gratitude for aid he helped provide to other Missourians during a flood or tornado or internationally to Haiti following the earthquake of 2010. It is on behalf of those people who haven't been able to give their thanks, myself and everyone in the Sixth Congressional District that I give my deepest

thanks to Colonel Schwader for his dedication and service.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Colonel Ralph L. Schwader for his decades of service to Missouri, the Sixth Congressional District and to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) SCOTTIE LEE BRIGHT

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to rise today in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Scottie Lee Bright who was killed on July 5, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Bright was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle during patrol operations in Baghdad.

SSG Bright was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

SSG Bright, a Jackson, Mississippi native, was a 1986 graduate of Lanier High School. SSG Bright joined the Army in 1991. His brother Willie Bright said SSG Bright loved the Army and especially younger soldiers. Willie said his brother was his hero.

SSG Bright's funeral was held on what would have been his 37th birthday. More than 200 people filled the New Ebenezer Baptist Church that day. Reverend Dan Day called the event a "homecoming celebration" because Heaven was SSG Bright's new address. SSG Bright's wife, Carolyn, told those in attendance that her husband was a wonderful husband and father and loved by his family very much.

At the funeral, Brigadier General (BG) Robert Crear presented SSG Bright's family with military awards including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

During the graveside service at Autumn Woods Cemetery, a Mississippi Army National Guard honor guard played "Taps" He was also given a 21-gun salute.

SSG Bright is survived by his wife, Carolyn and their children, Breshay Nicole and Scottie Lee Bright, Jr.

SSG Bright gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. His service to our nation will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING JULY AS DRY EYE AWARENESS MONTH DURING THE DECADE OF VISION 2010 THROUGH 2020

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, I was proud to co-sponsor with my then-House colleague the Honorable Tammy Baldwin the successfully passed H. Res. 366, which designated 2010 through 2020 as "The Decade of Vision." Accompanied by the Senate's successfully passed companion legislation S. Res. 209, these resolutions recognized the challenges to the vision health of our nation's citizens as the population ages and the incidence of chronic diseases—such as diabetes—grows, causing eye disease and visual impairment.

In the spirit of those resolutions, I am pleased to recognize July as Dry Eye Awareness Month. Dry eye, a growing global problem that affects more than 30 million people in the United States alone, occurs when the eye does not produce tears properly or they are not of the correct consistency and evaporate too quickly. It can range from discomfort to a painful chronic and progressive condition that leads to blurred vision or even vision loss. Dry eye impacts our nation's healthcare policy, as it is one of the most frequent causes of patient visits to eye care providers.

Although past research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its National Eye Institute (NEI) on the causes of and treatments for the condition has identified age, sex, and gender as factors, it has now discovered ethnic and racial differences, and that dry eye impacts younger patients. This "equal opportunity" disease can have many causes, including environmental exposure; side-effects from medications; eye surgery; eye lid disorders; immune system diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome, lupus, or rheumatoid arthritis; contact lens wear; cosmetic use; aesthetic procedures; and an increasingly common cause—staring at computer or video screens for too long without blinking. Many are calling dry eye the "Disease of the Millennials" due to its increased incidence in that population.

Dry eye has also been a major issue for our brave soldiers who were engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Veterans Administration reports that upwards of 70 percent of Traumatic Brain Injury-exposed veterans have dry eye symptoms.

During the 2017 Dry Eye Awareness Month, the Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society's Dry Eye Workshop II (TFOS DEWS II) Report will be published in *The Ocular Surface Journal*, updating the definition of dry eye and addressing its greater impact on vision health—the first such re-examination since 2007. Report highlights will be presented at a July 12 Congressional Briefing, accompanied by a "Test

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Your Tears” Screening and presentation of research posters.

The vision community and its coalition partners are uniting to recognize this growing threat to vision health, and I stand in support of these awareness and educational efforts.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE  
SERVICE OF EDWARD A. BURRIER

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for an exceptional individual who has served this House with distinction for the last 18 years, Mr. Edward A. Burrier.

Edward first started in my office interning at the Africa Subcommittee, which I then chaired. At the time, he was still in college at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Each day he would make the long commute from Fredericksburg, just to volunteer.

He then took a job in my personal office in 1133 Longworth where he met his future wife, a fellow junior staffer, Gretchen. While I may have been unaware about their early dating, I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend their memorable wedding in Adare, Ireland in 2006. They now have a young son, William, and it has been a pleasure watching them grow personally and professionally.

Edward eventually rose to the position of Committee Deputy Staff Director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Over the years, Edward was essential in achieving so much, including efforts to prevent the proliferation of MANPADS to terrorists, and major legislation sanctioning the regimes of North Korea and Iran, which are dangerously pursuing nuclear weapons programs. He found a niche in tracking international rogues, some of who are now behind bars for gun-running and creating mayhem, in part because of Edward's efforts. He also produced important reports, including the path-breaking Gangster Regime: How North Korea Counterfeits United States Currency, still relevant today. And he wrote for me hundreds of Foreign Intrigue blog entries, some of the most captivating foreign policy writing in Washington.

Everything he worked on became better. In the last Congress, the Committee succeeded in having 24 bills become public law. That's a big number, and an impressive record. In short, Edward has been involved in all the major foreign policy issues of the day, helping to make our country safer and more prosperous.

Over my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have had several long-serving staff members. Edward has been part of this group, central to much of what I have been able to accomplish. Most recently, he helped manage what I believe to be the best committee staff in Congress.

Edward is cool, calm, and collected. He is a genuinely good person.

Edward was one of the most talented, competent, and dedicated staff members in the

House. His skills and excellent judgment will serve him well as he transitions to a top position at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. His many friends on the Hill, both Republicans and Democrats, wish Edward continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN AND TODD  
AARHUS

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two brothers from the First District of Iowa on their retirement after their 31 years of service in the Iowa National Guard.

Ryan and Todd Aarhus are a shining example of citizenship and servitude to our great nation. During their 31 years of service, both brothers were deployed. Todd served as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and both brothers served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ryan and Todd have both had distinguished careers of service—not only have they served their country and state in the Iowa National Guard, but both also serve as Iowa State Patrol Officers, volunteer firefighters, and EMTs. Additionally, Todd also served on Governors Culver and Branstad's State Security details.

It is my pleasure to honor both Ryan and Todd Aarhus on their retirement and to thank them for their dedication and service to our community, the State of Iowa, and our nation.

COMMANDER MARK COONEY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wheat Ridge Police Commander Mark Cooney for his decades of service to the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado. For thirty eight years, Commander Cooney has been active within the community and the police department serving constituents of Wheat Ridge.

Commander Cooney started his career in 1979 after graduating first in his class at the Police Academy. Mark's career has consistently shown his commitment to law enforcement and building community partnerships. His work as a Field Training Officer and later Detective showed his special acumen in investigations, being recognized by the First Judicial District Attorney's office as Investigator of the Year by solving a difficult burglary case. Mark was promoted to Sergeant, then Lieutenant, and finally serving as Commander—all the while excelling at investigations and as a leader in the department's emergency management planning. Mark has shown his thirst for learning by earning a Master's of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Colorado, graduating from the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command as well as graduating from the FBI National Academy. As the Chief of Police for the City of Wheat

Ridge noted, Mark's dedication exemplifies their vision statement of "Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service." His hard work and dedication every day to making the community of Wheat Ridge a great place to live and work demonstrates his exemplary work as a police officer in Wheat Ridge.

I extend my deepest thanks to Commander Cooney for his service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the people and the City Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNUAL  
METRO DETROIT YOUTH  
DAY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and participants of the 35th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day. This annual event provides southeast Michigan youth with a day of fun, games and opportunities to engage with local officials and role models.

Originally started in 1981 to promote stronger relations between residents of Detroit and the business community, Metro Youth Day has expanded significantly and now provides approximately 35,000 Detroit-area children with a day of education and recreation on Belle Isle in the Detroit River. As the largest youth event in the State of Michigan, Metro Youth Day hosts over 360 organizations and 260 businesses from Metro Detroit to provide participants with opportunities to build connections with civic leaders and nonprofit groups. These include Grow Detroit Youth Talent, an organization that provides summer jobs for young people in Detroit, as well as educational events by local community groups. Youth Day also offers college scholarships to several dozen graduating high school students each year.

Metro Detroit Youth Day helps build a culture of civic engagement while also providing important resources and educational resources to area youth. The event has received widespread acclaim, including a Point of Light Award from President George H.W. Bush, as well as a Michigan Governor's Award on Physical Fitness for its promotion of physical activity and health. These accolades underscore the positive impact that Metro Youth Day has on the Detroit community. Additionally, the event has provided more than 1,800 college scholarships to graduating seniors since 1991, making it an important engine of opportunity for area youth. These efforts have helped create a stronger and more cohesive Detroit, and it is my hope that Metro Youth Day continues to grow and serve the Detroit area youth while promoting improved community relations in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organizers and participants of the 35th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day. The event provides important resources and opportunities for participants.