

CAROLE ONDERDONK, REST IN  
PEACE

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a pillar of our community, Carole Onderdonk of her adopted city of Eagle, Colorado.

Carole Onderdonk was a graduate of Upsala College and Fordham University, eventually becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a gifted craftsperson. As a social worker, she became a tireless advocate for the most vulnerable, and truly believed she could make a difference in the world. I'm told that her positivity inspired her friends and family to be their best selves.

I've known Carole for almost 20 years, and represented her in Congress until they redistricted her part of Eagle County out of the 2nd Congressional District. She always considered me her honorary representative anyway, and I knew the progressive cause could always count on her passionate advocacy.

Carole was one of our favorite volunteers in Eagle County, and she carried within her a passion for improving the lives of others through the power of activism and political action. Her dedication to making a positive impact will be sorely missed.

Carol was a beloved daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and valued member of our community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BUILDING  
SAFETY MONTH

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, as National Building Safety Month comes to a close, I would like to recognize the men and women of the International Code Council who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring the safety of Americans both in their homes and workplaces.

Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety at home and in their communities, and to acknowledge the essential services provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting life and property. Building Safety Month, which is sponsored by the International Code Council, reminds the public of the important role safety codes and code officials play in creating and sustaining safe communities.

"Building Codes Save Lives," the theme for Building Safety Month 2018, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safety. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nations, are used by most U.S. cities, counties, and by all 50 states. These modern building safety codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, and earthquakes.

Similarly, in the U.S. House of Representatives, we have made major strides in promoting pre-disaster mitigation. In particular, I am proud to say that my bill, H.R. 4460, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, was included in H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which passed the House on April 27, 2018. The measures in this bill will help our communities better prepare for and respond to disasters of all kind, in keeping with the mission of National Building Safety Month.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the International Code Council for their work to highlight National Building Safety Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call votes 181, 182, and 183.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CLAY HIGGINS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical issue with a family member I was unable to be present for votes in the U.S. House of Representatives from May 21 through May 24, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; YEA on Roll Call No. 209; YEA on Roll Call No. 210; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; YEA on Roll Call No. 212; NAY on Roll Call No. 213; YEA on Roll Call No. 214; YEA on Roll Call No. 215; YEA on Roll Call No. 216; YEA on Roll Call No. 217; YEA on Roll Call No. 218; NAY on Roll Call No. 219; NAY on Roll Call No. 220; NAY on Roll Call No. 221; NAY on Roll Call No. 222; YEA on Roll Call No. 223; YEA on Roll Call No. 224; YEA on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; NAY on Roll Call No. 228; YEA on Roll Call No. 229; and YEA on Roll Call No. 230.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
KENNETH CASSIDY

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a special Kentuckian, Mr. Kenneth Cassidy from Bath County, Kentucky. Mr. Cassidy is a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Cassidy grew up during the Depression. At the age of 19, he had a good job with the L & N Railroad as a signalman assistant. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked and life changed for all Americans, including Cassidy. He was drafted in February of 1942,

just prior to his 20th birthday. After training, he was shipped to Hawaii to rebuild communications that were destroyed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. After that, he was shipped to the Mariana Islands for 26 months of combat. He participated in the invasion of Saipan, the Philippines, and Okinawa. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, Mr. Cassidy returned home to Bath County.

After coming home, Mr. Cassidy married Birdie Bell Ball in 1953. Mr. Cassidy farmed, logged, built houses, operated heavy equipment, and worked as a mechanic. He also worked for the L & N Railroad and Avon and he owned and operated his own restaurant.

Mr. Cassidy and the other men and women who served our country during World War II are true heroes. As members of the Greatest Generation, they bravely sacrificed to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor him before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the President of the United States to Long Island, NY. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 217; YEA on Roll Call No. 218; NAY on Roll Call No. 219; NAY on Roll Call No. 220; NAY on Roll Call No. 221; NAY on Roll Call No. 222; YEA on Roll Call No. 223; YEA on Roll Call No. 224; NAY on Roll Call No. 225; NAY on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; and NAY on Roll Call No. 228.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on 5/21/2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**HON. STEVE CHABOT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2018*

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan which celebrates the 100th anniversary of its independence on May 28—next Monday.

On May 28, 1918 the Republic of Azerbaijan declared independence. Tragically, independence was short lived as the Bolsheviks invaded Azerbaijan and the country was eventually absorbed into the Soviet Union. The Azeri people never lost their desire to be free from their Soviet occupiers, however. With the fall