

SEVERE WEATHER TRAGEDY IN
TUSHKA, OKLAHOMA**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with a heavy heart.

Last night, powerful storms ripped through my district and the State of Oklahoma killing multiple people and causing millions of dollars in damage.

According to the National Weather Service, yesterday at 8:16 pm Oklahoma time, a tornado touched down near the town of Tushka, Oklahoma in Pushmataha County, killing at least two of my constituents and causing millions of dollars in damage.

This is a terrible tragedy.

Oklahomans are well aware of the threat they face every year from severe weather.

But this tragedy and these types of storms are never easy for anyone to bear.

In fact, the damage caused by yesterday's storm is very personal to me.

During my time representing eastern Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, I have visited the school in Tushka that has been destroyed by this storm.

Tushka is a small rural town in Southeastern Oklahoma.

A town much like many of the small communities each of us represent here in Congress.

The people of Tushka are a group of hard-working and resilient Oklahomans who will undoubtedly get through this tragedy.

But at this difficult moment, I want to pause and let the victims and families who are suffering because of these storms know that my wife Andrea and I are praying for them during this difficult hour.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF GINA L. BLEAN AND KELLY
A. HEYSINGER**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dubuque business owners Gina L. Blean and Kelly A. Heysinger for winning the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Iowa "Small Business Person of the Year" award. Gina and Kelly are co-owners of Unified Therapy Services, Inc. in Dubuque, Iowa.

Small businesses are the driving force behind our economy and I couldn't be prouder of this one. This prestigious award is only bestowed upon the nation's top entrepreneurs—and I'm glad to see the entrepreneurial spirit flourishing in eastern Iowa. We must continue to promote our small businesses and make sure that they can thrive and create new jobs.

In May, the SBA will honor Gina, Kelly, and other winners from across the country in Washington, DC, during National Small Business Week. The SBA will also select the "National Small Business Person of the Year" from the state "Small Business Persons of the Year." I will be rooting for them to win this prestigious national award.

FIRST LEGACY COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a credit union located in my Congressional District, First Legacy Community Credit Union, on 70 years of service to its members. First Legacy, originally named School Workers Federal Credit Union, was founded in Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 14, 1941, by a group of educators in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. At its beginning, First Legacy offered a simple savings and loan program; today, it offers a broad range of financial services to its members. First Legacy Community Credit Union's continued dedication to serving the community, as well as efforts to increase financial literacy in North Carolina, is worthy of special recognition. I commend the work that First Legacy Community Credit Union continues to do and wish this outstanding community credit union another 70 years of success.

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF MID-MICHIGAN**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. A celebration will be held on April 29th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to commemorate this milestone.

In 1931 the Oak Park Methodist Church established an agency to assist people with disabilities and Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan was born. The agency's heart is centered on serving the needs of persons facing a variety of barriers, including physical and mental disabilities, illiteracy, substance abuse, inadequate education, ex-felons, and welfare dependency. Headquartered in Flint, the agency currently serves clients in ten Mid-Michigan counties. With their ultimate goal of placing individuals in productive employment, Goodwill Industries has several Workforce Development programs, a retail division, and an e-commerce program. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, the agency remains focused on their clients' future.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan for 80 years of successfully serving the community. The ten Mid-Michigan counties served by Goodwill Industries have benefited from the work, dedication and enthusiasm of their clients, staff, volunteers and supporters. I wish them the best and hope they continue their success for many, many years.

REX THORNE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rex Thorne of Huntington, Indiana. Mr. Thorne was a war hero, an incredibly successful engineer and community leader in a life that touched people all over the United States.

Following high school, Mr. Thorne enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served on the USS *Heyliger* during World War II. Mr. Thorne's bravery and that of his fellow servicemen contributed to America's victory in the Pacific Theater.

After serving his country abroad, he returned to attend Purdue University. He graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and quickly joined the Union Camp paper company. During his tenure with the company, he advanced from working in the lab to his eventual position as Corporate Director for Environmental Affairs. His work took him across the country and gave others an opportunity to meet and work with him.

Mr. Thorne also lent much of his time to volunteer work for clubs, charities and non-profit organizations. He enjoyed fund raising and organizing events for many groups, most notably the Boy Scouts, the Safe Shelter Board and the Salvation Army. He was an active member of the Rotary Club Savannah West and the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for several years.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the life of Rex Thorne. From his service in World War II, his life as a businessman and his volunteer work, he had a profound impact on many people. There is no doubt that his legacy will continue to inspire others.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
STEPHEN PAVELKO ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Stephen Pavelko of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Stephen brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Stephen earned honors in multiple fields of study, taking a number of advanced placement courses. Stephen was inducted into the National Honor Society, was involved in a number of athletic activities and held various leadership positions.

Throughout high school, Stephen participated in athletic activities, including football,