

Forbes magazines as among the top public colleges in the country. During his tenure, Dr. Eisenhardt has doubled and diversified the academic offerings and enrollment at Cal Maritime. The campus has now become the most culturally diverse maritime academy in the U.S. with 20 percent of the cadets being women and over 30 percent from minority groups.

Cal Maritime's operating budget has also increased by nearly 50 percent and major capital improvements have exceeded \$39 million with another \$46 million in the planning and construction phase. Dr. Eisenhardt has overseen a five-fold expansion in charitable giving to the campus from alumni, industry, parents and friends. He was also responsible for securing the largest charitable donation in the Academy's history: \$3 million from the American Bureau of Shipping, used to establish the ABS School of Maritime Policy and Management. Cal Maritime also boasts the world's finest Maritime Simulation Center, a new \$15 million facility for which he led the planning and development. In the 2008–2010 academic years the Academy was awarded just under \$11 million in federal grants and special project allocations, the most ever in the history of the institution.

Dr. Eisenhardt currently serves as a board member of the Solano County Economic Development Corporation and is the former Chair of the Council of State Maritime Academies & Colleges Consortium. He was active in the founding of the International Association of Maritime Universities and currently serves on its Executive Board. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Marine Exchange and the Northern California Maritime Security Committee wherein he was awarded a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Merit in 2005 for providing leadership in helping to set up maritime security protocols.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. William Eisenhardt for his tireless and dedicated service to his country and higher education. I also join his wife Kathryn, two daughters Elizabeth and Kristin, colleagues, and friends in congratulating him on a successful and fulfilling career, and a very well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR JIMMY
SENTEZA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Jimmy Senteza of Urbandale for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to lecture and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has

exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Jimmy's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is Uganda where he will proudly be representing Iowa's own Drake University.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dr. Senteza from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for receiving this prestigious award and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, people who have been abused by oppressive dictators have stood up and risked their lives in the name of freedom and independence.

Freedom fighters are the most powerful catalysts for change and their potential to alter history is unlimited.

This country knows the power of revolution better than any other. On July 4, 1776, after fighting for independence from Britain, the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence.

But there is another independence day that is not to be forgotten. For Texans, July 4th is not the only day to celebrate independence. This Friday, March 2, we will celebrate the 176th anniversary of Texas Independence.

Texas, a part of Mexico, had enjoyed the privileges of citizens under the Mexican Constitution of 1824.

Trouble started when Santa Anna became dictator of Mexico and abolished the Constitution and took away civil rights.

This led to the outbreak of revolution in October of 1835, both from Tejanos, Texans of Spanish and Mexican descent, and people from the United States.

Santa Anna with his three armies invaded Texas to put down rebellion. So on March 1, 54 Texians, including Lorenzo de Zavala, Thomas Rusk, Antonio Navarro and Sam Houston, gathered in the small village of Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Inspired by the American Revolution and the United States Declaration of Independence, the delegates drafted a Declaration of Independence overnight.

The declaration was signed on March 2 and the Republic of Texas was officially established.

As these determined delegates declared independence, Mexican dictator Santa Anna and several thousands of enemy troops closed in on an old beat-up Spanish mission that we now call the Alamo.

But Texas defenders stood defiant, stood determined. They were led by my hero, a lawyer by the name of William Barrett Travis who was just 27 years old.

The Alamo and its 186 Texans were all that stood between the massive army of invaders and the people of Texas.

The Alamo defenders who entered the Alamo on February 23, were a rag-tag group of relentless patriots, made up from nearly every state in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico.

Their ages were 16 through 67, at least 9 were Tejanos, and they were all volunteers. They were mavericks, revolutionaries, farmers, shopkeepers, and freedom fighters; and they came together to fight for something they believed in: freedom.

These freedom fighters held off an entire army of several thousand for 13 days. They would not relent.

During the bloody siege, Travis penned what would become the most famous letter in Texas history.

He said: "I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country."

"Victory or death."

Unfortunately, Travis' call for help was not answered in time.

After thirteen days of glory at the Alamo, Commander Travis and his men sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom and the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836.

Because heroes like Travis, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie held out for so long, Santa Anna's forces took such great losses they became battered, demoralized and diminished.

Captain Juan Seguin and his company of Tejanos joined General Sam Houston who had the time he needed to devise a strategy to rally other Texas volunteers and defeat the invaders.

In the middle of the afternoon on April 21, 1836, General Sam and his boys routed a larger Mexican army yelling, "Remember the Alamo!" The rest is Texas history.

The war was over, and the Lone Star flag was visible all across the broad, bold, brazen plains of Texas.

Texas remained a nation for 9 years—some Texans wish Texas was still its own nation. Texas claimed land that now includes part of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, even up to the Canadian border.

In 1845, Texas was admitted to the Union by only one vote when a Louisiana Senator changed his mind. By its admission into the United States, Texas may divide into five States, and the Texas flag is to fly even with the U.S. flag and not below it.

Texas Independence Day is a day of pride and reflection in the Lone Star State. This week we remember that Texas was a glorious nation once and won freedom and independence because some fierce volunteers fought to the death for liberty over tyranny.

Freedom has a cost. It always does. It always will.

And as we pause to remember those who gave their lives so that Texas could be a free Nation, we must continue to remember those Americans that are currently fighting in lands across the seas for our Nation.

There are freedom fighters all over the world today who are fighting the same fight against tyrants. It is history like ours that gives them hope for success.

Celebrate Texas independence today and pay tribute to all our Texas heroes like William Barrett Travis.

His legacy embodies the spirit of Texans that is so admired and envied all around the world today.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation designed to preserve and protect El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. El Yunque, which is the only tropical rainforest administered by the U.S. Forest Service, is a source of great pride for the people I represent and a major economic driver on the Island. Over one million people from all over the world visit El Yunque each year—to walk along its beautiful trails, to sample its eco-tourism pleasures, and to gain a greater understanding of its ecological importance. El Yunque is featured on a quarter released into circulation last month as part of the U.S. Mint's "America the Beautiful Quarters Program," and a public launch ceremony to mark this occasion is scheduled to be held in El Yunque on March 14.

To protect El Yunque's rich biodiversity and to provide a buffer zone against encroaching urbanization, forest administrators need to acquire a number of parcels of land. Thus, my legislation would require the Federal Government to use funds currently generated by activities within El Yunque for investment back into El Yunque for land acquisition purposes.

I hope my colleagues will join me in taking this commonsense step to protect a national treasure.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA MADSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Pamela Madsen of Ames for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Pamela's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is India.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of

their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Pamela from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award. I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 840

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 25th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 840. The troop is located in Coppell, Texas, and has a successful history of developing boys into strong, responsible men.

Troop 840 was founded in 1987 and was chartered by the Coppell Fire Department, where it met at a fire department facility. The troop quickly outgrew the facility and moved to Mockingbird Elementary School in 1988. In 1989, the Sandy Lake Baptist Church took over the charter and provided the troop's meeting place. In 2007, Troop 840 was relocated to Valley Ranch Baptist Church as their new charter organization.

During the 25-year history of Troop 840, the Scouts have had seven Scout Masters. The Scout Masters in chronological order include Gary Brewer, Bob McCarty, Forrest Broom, Terry Tyler, Waid Davis, Chris Witt and, currently, Terry Smith. Forrest Broom served as Scout Master for one extra term between Terry Tyler and Waid Davis.

Troop 840 was recognized with the 2011 Western Star Friends of Scouting trophy for contributing more money to the 2011 Western Star Friends of Scouting Campaign than any other Boy Scout unit in Coppell and Irving. The troop also received the 2011 Western Star Camporee trophy, which it also won in 2006, 2007 and 2010.

Troop 840 is operated as a boy-led troop. The program is focused on leadership, responsibility and active involvement. The Scouts design the agenda and take a leading role in organizing all camp-outs and troop activities. Over the troop's history, it has developed 103 Eagle Scouts and thousands of service hours in assisting the City of Coppell and surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 840 for its 25 years of developing fine young men and community involvement.

CONGRATULATING LISSA SILK FOR HER DEDICATION TO BRINGING AWARENESS TO DISTRACTED DRIVING

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Lissa Silk for all the work she is doing to bring awareness to the issue of distracted driving. As Miss Manchester 2012, Lissa has committed herself to raising awareness for Drive Against Distraction and educating others on the serious consequences distracted driving can have on everyone. Whether it be talking or texting on your cell phone while driving, or responding to another person in your vehicle, the consequences of these actions and lives being impacted is very real and in some instances deadly.

Lissa's interest with this cause came from many personal experiences with distracted driving. Her mother Barbara was seriously injured by a driver who was talking on their cell phone, and Lissa and her sister were also involved in an accident where the other driver ran a stop sign because they were not paying attention.

Working with the Rochester and Dover Police Departments, as well as many High Schools and Driver Education Classes, Lissa has committed herself to educating others on distracted driving by sharing her personal stories. She has also reached out to the nation's Governors about enacting no texting while driving legislation. Our own Governor, John Lynch, will be recognizing April as New Hampshire's official Drive Against Distraction Awareness Month thanks to Lissa's efforts.

Lissa's commitment to educating others and preventing the unnecessary consequences of distracted driving are commendable. I congratulate Lissa for all of her accomplishments and for her outstanding commitment and leadership to this cause. I wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KNUDSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Michael Knudson of Decorah for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception.