

ARACELI MEDEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Araceli Medel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Araceli Medel is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Araceli Medel 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 Araceli Medel 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 MN STATE COMMANDER OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, ROBERT J. ERICKSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Erickson, upon the completion of his term as the State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota (DAV MN). Commander Erickson has been committed to fulfilling the primary mission of DAV MN and honoring the promises our nation made to the brave men and women who have served America in uniform. I am honored to call him a personal friend.

From the broadest vision to the smallest detail serving disabled veterans, Commander Erickson has been intimately involved in the various ways the DAV MN accomplishes its mission. He has visited all 31 state chapters, from Rochester, to Fergus Falls, to Hibbing, Minnesota, and witnessed firsthand how veterans are served—and how many veterans still serve through volunteering. Under his direction, DAV MN has several unique programs to serve specific needs of Minnesota's disabled veterans. Minnesotans love the outdoors, and DAV MN organizes hunting and fishing trips to allow all veterans to continue to access these wonderful opportunities. Commander Erickson speaks proudly about the joy he sees in the hundreds of volunteers and veterans who participate in these outings.

Under Commander Erickson's leadership, DAV Magazine recently highlighted the DAV MN Donor Connection program, which has provided approximately \$400,000 in donated equipment for disabled veterans. Another source of pride is the partnership with the Minnesota Twins: the MN Twins/DAVMN Winter Warm Up Coat Drive that collects new and gently used coats for disabled veterans and

their families. None of these commendable efforts would be possible without Commander Erickson and his tireless team.

Commander Erickson has left a lasting mark through his leadership role on the board of the DAV MN Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization which supports projects by chapters, units, and partner organizations throughout the state. The DAV MN Foundation provides clothing and emergency assistance to homeless veterans, assists in funding the five state veterans homes, provides funds for various camps and lakeside retreats that allow veterans safe and accessible places to enjoy the outdoors, and assists with other equipment and needs for veterans living in our MN Veterans Homes. The DAV Transportation Network also serves a critical link, providing veterans with free transportation to and from VA medical facilities. Commander Erickson has helped to lead these critical programs and more as part of repaying the debt owed to our disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Robert Erickson's service as Commander of DAV MN, I am pleased to submit this statement recognizing the achievements of this dedicated servant to our disabled veterans and this nation.

CONGRATULATING WAYNE SAWTELLE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wayne Sawtelle on his retirement from the Marshalltown Fire Department. Wayne has served his community honorably for almost two decades as a Lieutenant with the Fire Department.

Lieutenant Sawtelle has dedicated his life to the protection and safety of his fellow community members. His first day on the job in 1994 found him putting out a fire at the Sutherland Coal Plant. After 19 years, he has become a friend and mentor to his colleagues at the Fire Department. His experience and wisdom will surely be missed by his fellow firefighters.

Wayne has also been a leader and active member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the Iowa Federation of Labor (IFL). Wayne served as Vice President at Large for the IFL as well as President of the IAFF Local 16. He has been a strong advocate for better safety and working conditions for his fellow firefighters.

Lieutenant Wayne Sawtelle has put his life at risk to protect members of his community and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his wife Ann all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

ASHLYN CARMOSINO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashlyn Carmosino for receiving the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ashlyn Carmosino is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashlyn Carmosino 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 Ashlyn Carmosino 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 THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of the St. Clair County Bar Association, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

Prior to 1963, there were two bar associations in St. Clair County, the East St. Louis Bar Association and the Belleville Bar Association. East St. Louis was, at that time, the most populous city in St. Clair County and Belleville, just to the east, was the county seat. A review of the Illinois Court System that led to the current judicial structure also prompted the East St. Louis and Belleville Bar Associations to combine and form the St. Clair County Bar Association.

The stated purpose of the St. Clair County Bar Association is "cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, encouraging a thorough and liberal legal education and cultivating and cherishing a spirit of camaraderie among the members thereof." They accomplish this through a number of programs and initiatives that extend the benefits of the organization beyond its members to include their entire community.

The Bar Association fosters and promotes continuing legal education and its mentoring program takes advantage of the wealth of experience within its membership to assist newer members.

The St. Clair County Bar Association Foundation is the charitable arm of the Bar Association and channels a number of assistance and charitable initiatives back to the community, including extensive pro bono legal assistance. The Bar Association's Law Day Run, now in its 12th year raises money for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, which assists low-income residents with obtaining legal services. Their participation in the Lawyers Feeding Illinois initiative has brought in tremendous support to help provide nutritional assistance for the hungry within their community.

The St. Clair County Bar Association has grown to approximately 700 members and is