

National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together all members of the scoliosis community, including physicians, patients, families, and businesspeople to raise awareness about this condition. Diagnosing scoliosis is a simple procedure that takes less than 30 seconds, and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications—including chronic back pain and impacted heart and lung function—even begin. Raising awareness is therefore crucial to the fight against scoliosis.

Between two and three percent of the American population suffers from scoliosis, and the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. While serious complications of scoliosis are largely preventable, affordable care and public awareness are necessary in order to maximize the effectiveness of treatment. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes a positive public awareness message that elevates the visibility of scoliosis and empowers those individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition. It is a time for us to recommit ourselves to reducing its impact in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and in thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for making it all possible.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR PILACHAI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arthur Pilachai of Boy Scout Troop 249 in Council Bluffs, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. The work ethic Arthur has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Arthur and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

TRIBUTE TO HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2013 Hedgesville High School baseball team. The Eagles defeated Cabell Midland High School 4–2 to win the West Virginia Class AAA State Baseball Championship on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Hedgesville High School is located in a rural part of Berkeley County, West Virginia, which is part of the district I represent. The school has claimed many state titles over the years, but one always seemed to slip away. The Eagles earned their first trip to the West Virginia State Tournament since 1974 by defeating Hampshire High School 4–3 in the regional final. They moved on to face Parkersburg South in the Class AAA semifinal game and defeated that team 6–3. This launched the Eagles into the title game for the first time in school history.

The Eagles found themselves trailing Cabell Midland at the beginning of the game, but soon rallied to a 4–2 lead and never looked back. The Eagles brought home the first baseball championship in Hedgesville High School history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of West Virginia, I would like to congratulate the 2013 Hedgesville High School Eagle baseball team on their state championship. They have made their hometown extremely proud.

HONORING JANELLE BEDEL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the powerful voice of Janelle Bedel of Rushville, Indiana.

Janelle Bedel was diagnosed with Pleural Mesothelioma on May 1st of 2007. Since her diagnosis, and throughout her treatments, Janelle has been a tireless and strong messenger for mesothelioma and asbestos awareness. Mesothelioma is a cancer most commonly caused by exposure to asbestos fibers.

In recognition for Janelle's advocacy efforts in the community, the City of Rushville designated June 6th, 2013 as Janelle Bedel "Wonder Woman" Day. The city will also embrace Janelle's message on the urgent need for additional asbestos awareness by recognizing September 26th as Mesothelioma Awareness Day, which will coincide with the National Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

In addition, the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is joining in the recognition for Janelle's online and community awareness efforts by awarding her with the organization's Alan Reinstein Award, which is the highest honor ADAO presents. The ADAO works to eliminate asbestos disease through national education and advocacy efforts.

I ask the 6th Congressional District and entire State of Indiana to join me in keeping Janelle and her family in our thoughts and prayers and in celebration of her continued ef-

forts to raise awareness among our communities about the impact of this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SBA'S NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the small businesses across our nation on the 50th anniversary of National Small Business Week. Small businesses are the backbone of our country—making up 50 percent of American jobs—and are essential to our economic recovery. It is our job as Members of Congress to provide support from Washington to small businesses by reducing unnecessary regulations and improving access to credit and small business assistance programs.

As a former small businessman, I am proud to serve on the House Small Business Committee and to use my prior experience to promote the interests of this vital sector of our economy. There is so much work to be done to help small businesses prosper. That is why I support legislation to create a stable business environment by passing a budget that reduces the deficit, simplifying the tax code for all Americans, and continuing to support essential small business assistance programs. To that end, the first bill I introduced was the Partnering with American Manufacturers for Efficiency and Competitiveness Act to foster more efficient manufacturing capabilities in small businesses, to promote competitiveness, and to create jobs. Having seen firsthand the havoc hurricanes can cause for small businesses, I also recently introduced the Small Business Disaster Reform Act to help small business owners recover more quickly in the wake of natural disasters.

Since coming to Congress, I have met with several small business groups, and recently hosted a small business roundtable in my district. I also have met staff from Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and SCORE, and I will continue to push for full funding for both of these organizations that play a crucial role in supporting small business growth. I ask my colleagues to recognize the significance of these organizations and the importance of preventing proposed cuts to SBDCs in the budget. We must also immediately consider legislation that creates jobs and those that help provide America's small businesses with new incentives to grow and hire.

This week represents half a century of recognition of the importance of small businesses and I am proud to join in commemorating National Small Business Week and thanking small businesses across the nation for the important work they do. They create jobs and stimulate the economy, all in the face of tremendous personal risk. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of small businesses and in creating an economic climate where they can thrive.

Mr. Speaker, on the 50th Anniversary of Small Business Week, it is clear that Congress still has much more work to do to help small businesses, but by working together we can better support the backbone of our economy to create jobs and continue on the path to economic recovery.