

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT
JOSHUA COOMER

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Technical Sergeant Joshua Coomer of Summersville, Missouri for his outstanding achievements and exemplary years of service to our Nation. Technical Sergeant Coomer first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in May of 1999. During his career he served in two deployments, his first to Kuwait in 2000 and then to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia in 2002.

On August 1st, 2014, Technical Sergeant will retire from the U.S. Air Force after honorably serving for 15 years. Throughout his career he has been recognized on numerous occasions for his distinguished leadership and commitment to uphold standards. He was named Military Training Leader of the Year in 2005, 2009, 2011, and 2012 in different groups for his outstanding performance in preparing future military personnel.

His superior officers speak very highly of him and I thank Mr. Joshua Coomer for his service to our Nation. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING RICKY REGAS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Regas, a junior at Cinco Ranch High School, on bringing home a gold medal from the University Interscholastic League State Wrestling Championship. Ricky is one of the 28 talented wrestlers from Katy, TX, to qualify for the state tournament.

Ricky captured this year's gold medal in the 182 lb. bracket after a hard-fought final match. Ricky finished the year with a record of 34-0, an undefeated season. I hope to continue to see great things from Ricky in his senior season.

Texas is home to many outstanding athletes, and becoming a state champion is not an easy feat. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Ricky's accomplishment. Our community is proud of Ricky Regas.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM IN HUNGARY AND AROUND THE WORLD

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Memorial Day for the Victims of Communism in Hungary. On this day in 1947 the Soviet authorities occupying Hungary illegally arrested Bela Kovacs, the general sec-

retary of the Independent Smallholders' Party, who, after being deported to the USSR and spending almost a decade in prison and labor camps died at the early age of 51. The arrest of this fellow Hungarian politician marked a new era in Hungary where the elimination of political opponents soon led to one-party dictatorship, and his fate symbolizes the tragic destiny of hundreds of thousands in Hungary whose rights were denied and whose lives were crushed by the evils of Communism.

As a son of an immigrant from Hungary who fled the same brutal regime that eliminated Bela Kovacs, I know there are few among us who can give a firsthand account of the horrors of the soul-crushing Communist system. It is therefore all the more important that we officially remember the immeasurable damage caused by totalitarian regimes worldwide, and recognize that too many people of influence still subscribe to these same deadly ideas. Nostalgia toward Communism and the white-washing of history is deplorable, and crimes committed during those times should never fade from our memory.

No leader in Europe today is a more outspoken advocate of remembering the crimes of the Communist system than Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who himself was instrumental in the underground movement that helped bring down Communism in Hungary. Hungary's leadership in facing and condemning its Communist past is exemplary. Hungary was first among the nations of Central and Eastern Europe to institute a memorial day for the Victims of Communism, and soon many nations followed.

The Hungarian Parliament has set out to remove the last vestiges of communism and open a bold new chapter defined by its own history and its own national sovereignty—which was dictated by outsiders for far too long.

Hungary's new Constitution declared that the crimes committed against the Hungarian nation under communist dictatorship has no statute of limitations, and it rejects the authority of the country's communist constitution of 1949—which made a mockery of the rights and freedoms it claimed to enumerate for its people.

Since last December, former victims of the state-party intelligence service now have the right to go public with the names of their surveillance agents and search the formerly closed archives. In a society plagued by the secrets of the Communists' crimes, truth is the only antiseptic, and it is the only source of reconciliation.

Inaugurated by the Orbán government more than decade ago, the House of Terror in Budapest, the former headquarters of the Communist State Police and a place synonymous with the brutalities of the dictatorship, today is one of the most visited museums in the world showcasing the everyday horrors of a dictatorial regime.

Overcoming the damages caused by 45 years of totalitarian Communism is not easy, but Hungarians are on the right path. In an era of political correctness which too often refuses to shame the shameful and to elevate selfless heroes, Hungary's leadership should be applauded.

COLORADO COMMUNITY MEDIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colorado Community Media for achieving 25 years of outstanding membership in the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

Membership in a Chamber of Commerce comes with commitment, dedication and contribution to community. Chamber members are leaders in the community mentoring other businesses, creating positive environments for business to thrive. The West Chamber serving Jefferson County is a strong and vibrant organization today due to members like Colorado Community Media.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colorado Community Media for 25 years of leadership and inspiration you provide in our community. I look forward to many more years of your service.

HONORING MARK ALLAN SEGAL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Allan Segal, one of the founding fathers of the gay rights movement and possibly the person most responsible for bringing national attention to that group's quest for acceptance and respectability.

By the age of eighteen Mark was an activist and founded Gay Youth, the nation's first organization to deal with the issues of gay teens and endangered LGBT youth. Then, realizing the gay community needed to be brought out into the open, Mark created the Gay Raiders and took his fight national by breaking into television newscasts and nationally broadcast live programs, always espousing gay rights. These break-ins were known as "zaps" and succeeded in making people aware of a part of our society that did not have equal rights under the law. The last known "zap" was one that took place on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite, and strange as it seems, Mark Segal and Walter Cronkite became and remained friends until Mr. Cronkite's passing in July of 2009.

Mark founded the Pride of Philadelphia Election in 1989 to build a coalition of gay activists and allies. He raised over \$30,000 during the primary, waging a television ad campaign to defeat then City Councilman Francis Rafferty in order to elect allies to Philadelphia City Council, including then candidate for Mayor, Ed Rendell. Mark was also instrumental in obtaining funding from the late Congressman Thomas Foglietta in order to purchase a permanent home for the William Way LGBT Community Center, located in the heart of Philadelphia's "Gayborhood".

Mark is the founder of the Philadelphia Gay News and has become a respected journalist with his newspaper winning numerous awards. He is a tireless champion for his community making it his duty to make people understand