

(AVID), a program to improve study skills and college-readiness. He is also a founder of Teachers United, a network of teachers working with local unions to advance education policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Gibbs-Bowling for winning the esteemed Milken Educator Award, and I would like to express how grateful I am to have him as a teacher in Washington State. It is an honor to recognize him for the passion and excellence he brings to the classroom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. AGSHIN MEHDIYEV, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations since November 30, 2006, who also served with distinction on the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013. While at the United Nations, he also was Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba (since February 2007), Nicaragua (since June 2008), Jamaica (since September 2008), and Venezuela (since October 2008).

Ambassador Mehdiyev will shortly conclude his term at the United Nations and return to Azerbaijan. His dedication to his diplomatic craft and his contributions to the United Nations and to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations richly deserve to be recognized. In particular, he brought leadership and wisdom to his position in the United Nations and to the United Nations Security Council during a period of considerable turmoil and significant challenges.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mehdiyev has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. He first worked overseas at the USSR Embassies in Egypt (from 1971 to 1975) and in Yemen (from 1977 to 1982), and also in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR in several capacities, including as chief of the Ministry's Information and Media Office (from 1975 to 1977). He returned to Yemen from 1987 until 1991, and from 1991 to 1992 was Azerbaijan's official Representative to the Republic of Yemen. Between 1993 and 2001, he was the Director of Europe, USA and Canada Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And prior to his current position at the United Nations, he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Mehdiyev graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1971 (from the faculty on oriental studies). Between 1969 and 1970, he studied at the Cairo University, and from 1985 to 1987, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the former USSR. Ambassador Mehdiyev holds a PhD degree in the history of international relations (1987) and is Honorary Professor of the Baku Eurasian University Academic Council since 2007. He also is the author of the book,

"Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe," published in 2011, as well as of many articles and other publications focusing on international affairs and political studies.

For his distinguished career and contributions to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Mehdiyev was awarded a medal on the occasion of the "90th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service," at which time he also received the Foreign Ministry's "Honor Award" and an order for "Service to the Fatherland." Ambassador Mehdiyev was born in 1949. He and his wife Sevda have three children.

Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2014, I attended a farewell reception and dinner in New York in honor of Ambassador Mehdiyev and Sevda. The event was hosted by my friends Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project and former president of the Association of Indians in America NY, and Ravi Batra, an accomplished attorney who is the Chairman and CEO of Greenstar Global Energy Corporation and Chair of the National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs. Their son Neal Batra also was there. The gathering also was attended by numerous UN Ambassadors with spouses, including by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Rosemary DiCarlo and the Permanent Representatives from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Honduras, South Korea, Finland, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and inter alia, Somalia. Also attending were senior members of the UN Secretariat, including Won-soo Kim and Ion Botnaru, and members of the judiciary, local elected officials, Rabbi Yitzchok Waldman, who is the Director of the Laniado Hospital in Israel, Martin and Grace Riskin, and my dear friend and colleague Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in whose district the event was held. Numerous other officials and prominent individuals sent their greetings and good wishes.

I mention this not only to thank the Batras for their incredible warmth and hospitality, but also to demonstrate the great respect and affection with which Ambassador Mehdiyev is held by his colleagues and acquaintances. Diplomacy at its most basic level is about building connections between people, and the attendance of so many prominent individuals, from all walks of life, is a testament to Ambassador Mehdiyev's character and skills. He is a true professional in every sense of the word and I am pleased to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING THE MISSOURI ARBORETUM AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary of being recognized as the official Missouri Arboretum by the Missouri State Legislature.

Northwest Missouri State University's tradition of tree management extends back towards the earliest days of the school. Groundskeepers brought a mixture of beauty and shade to the campus by mixing tree spe-

cies, which continues to this day with over 125 different species and more than 1,300 trees on campus. This commitment to biodiversity and care for the trees earned the Arboretum the 2000 Communitree Award from the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City of Maryville has also maintained an active Community Forestry program and earned the designation as a Tree City USA in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in recognizing the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary.

BOB'S ATOMIC BURGERS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob's Atomic Burgers (BABS), for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community, and the environment.

Bob's Atomic Burgers' treatment of their employees, customers, the environment, and the greater community is exemplary. BABS believes paying employees a livable wage helps them lead healthy and stable lives, which results in no turnover and their ability to deliver a consistent product and service to their customers.

Environmental sensitivity is a core value at Bob's Atomic Burgers. Recycling, composting, and creating as little waste as possible is a constant effort. You can even see the upcycling in the décor of the shop where local relics are on display from the Colorado School of Mines Science department. Bob's Atomic Burgers is very active in the community, fundraising for several schools, the Golden and West Metro Fire Departments, the Golden VFW, the Golden rescue fund, and the Golden backpacks program. Additionally, Bob's participates in numerous community events.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate. Congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you to all the individuals who make Bob's Atomic Burgers the success it is today.

HONORING MR. RICHARD G. HADLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rich Hadley, who is retiring after over twenty years of service in Washington State. As the President and Chief