

goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School. Caleb Robinson is the son of Allen and Josephine Sanders of Falcon, MS and a member of the 2014 senior class.

Caleb Robinson is an office aide, English II peer tutor, and an honor student. He participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness and the Say No To Drugs walks, volunteers at helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County and is a trainer for the athletic director.

Caleb has scored a 20 on his ACT, completed the admission process and has been accepted to MS Valley State University and to University of Mississippi. He is continually applying for scholarships to assist him financially.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Caleb Robinson, as a student who is goal oriented and is making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING LEO SCHEFER ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE WASHINGTON
AIRPORTS TASK FORCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Representatives WOLF and MORAN, to recognize Leo J. Schefer on the occasion of his retirement after serving more than 25 years as President of the Washington Airports Task Force. Mr. Schefer was a founding member of the Task Force, and during his distinguished career, both he and the Task Force have been instrumental in collaborating with the residents, employers, and elected leaders throughout the National Capital Region to promote growth at the two major airports and to foster economic development benefitting the entire region.

A native of the United Kingdom, Mr. Schefer was trained as an aeronautical engineer with the well-known airplane manufacturer Vicker's Armstrong Aircraft. He also worked for the aviation company BAE, formerly British aerospace, and played a role in its growth here in the U.S. during the 1980s. Mr. Schefer also helped introduce the first jet service to some of our nation's smaller airports, to secure U.S. landing rights for the Concorde supersonic transport, and to facilitate Europe's participation in the NASA Space Shuttle program.

Through his work with the Task Force, Mr. Schefer has worked tirelessly to promote the interests of Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport. Those efforts have supported increased competition among the airlines and a 50 percent increase in passenger trips at National Airport. The growth at Dulles, which had been underutilized, has been more dramatic during that time. When the Task Force began, total passenger trips totaled 2.6 million with just 362,000 international passengers annually. Thirty years later, international trips totaled nearly 7 million with total passengers topping 22 million. Without question the Task Force, and Mr. Schefer's dogged yet gentlemanly efforts, have played a key role in that success.

During Mr. Schefer's tenure, the Task Force was actively engaged in fostering the bilateral Open Skies agreements with Canada and the

European Union, which have increased international passenger travel and economic development opportunities. The Task Force also collaborated with the regional Congressional delegation and local leaders following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to re-open National Airport. It also worked with the Smithsonian Institution, the aviation industry, and regional leaders to lure the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the National Air and Space Museum's spectacular second facility, to Dulles International Airport.

In addition, the Task Force and Mr. Schefer have been key partners in the efforts to build public support for and advance the Dulles Rail project. Washington, D.C., is the only OECD capital to not have a mass transit connection to its premier international gateway. We are pleased to report the first phase that project will open later this year, nearly 50 years after it was first envisioned, and we look forward to joining Mr. Schefer for its inaugural voyage.

Mr. Schefer's many contributions to our region and the aviation industry have been recognized by the National Aeronautical Association, the Smithsonian Institution, the Top-Side Aviation Club, Aviation Week, and leading organizations from across the National Capital Region.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Mr. Schefer for his invaluable contributions to the aviation industry and the National Capital Region and in wishing him well in his retirement. We have every confidence that through his leadership, the Task Force is well positioned to continue as a strong partner for the region's airports and our economy for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING 2014 ST. CLOUD
CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year, the Family Owned Business of the Year, and the Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs. These individuals stand out to the Chamber as "those who have the courage to aspire to a higher level" as business owners and community members.

Jim Kruze and Melissa Kelley of J. F. Kruze Jewelers were awarded the 2014 St. Cloud Area Chamber Small Business of the Year. Though he never intended to own a jewelry store, Jim learned early on that he had a knack for sales and found himself eager to learn more about the jewelry industry. Fourteen years after returning to the business, Jim and his daughter, gemologist and co-owner Melissa Kelley, have doubled the size of their original store and specialize in custom jewelry.

The St. Cloud Area Chamber Family Owned Business of the Year is awarded to Pat and Paul Duinick of Royal Tire. Founded in 1948, Roger Duinick acquired the store in 1987 and raised his sons, Pat and Paul, with the family business, which provides retail and commercial tire sales, service, and repair and operates two retreading plants in Minnesota. Since Pat and Paul joined the family business, (1979

and 1984 respectively) it has tripled in size from 100 employees and 12 stores in Central Minnesota to 300 employees and 26 stores, covering an area from Rochester, MN to Williston, ND to Virginia, MN. With the 2013 purchase of their 3rd manufacturing plant in Rochester, MN, Royal Tire is ready to provide quality service to another community far into the future.

The Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs's inaugural recipients are the six second-generation co-owners of Midwest Machinery, Co.: Ben and Andrew Swenson; Brian, Corey and Adam Weber; and Paul Seipel. Originally a merger of eight separate John Deere locations into one company, Midwest Machinery's focus on strong and skillful management has paid off. With four new stores last year, the business now boasts an impressive 13 locations. Not bad for a team of owners all under the age of 40!

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce made a great decision in highlighting the owners and managers of J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. as this year's winners. They not only provide a quality service to their customers and boost the local economy, they also serve as a notable example to their communities of the importance of family-owned and small businesses—they are lifeblood to our beloved state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. for their accomplishments and their invaluable contributions to the state of Minnesota.

HONORING KIRSTEN FENTZ

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirsten Fentz, who was one of four National Finalists for the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play. This award recognizes one or more outstanding scripts each year for presentation at the Kennedy Center American College Festival in Washington, D.C.

Kirsten's play, *The Last Sunrise*, was selected out of plays submitted from across the country. Being a finalist for this competitive award demonstrates Kirsten's extraordinary talent and hard work and commitment to excellence. As the youngest finalist and only undergraduate to receive this honor, her accomplishment is all the more impressive. In Washington, D.C., Kirsten served as an excellent representative of Ball State University and the state of Indiana.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing Kirsten's achievement and I look forward to seeing what this talented young woman accomplishes in the future.

RECOGNIZING PHIL LARSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Larson as he is honored with