

thankful for the resources that the Cooperative Extension Service has provided our farmers and our communities. I am proud to congratulate the Cooperative Extension Service, and wish them many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING JUDY SHERMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Judy Sherman, a diligent and steadfast defender of oral health, on the occasion of her retirement from the American Dental Association, ADA, after more than 29 years.

Judy's singlehanded contributions to improving oral health in this country are far-reaching. Those who don't know her would be astounded after hearing her accomplishments, but those of us who do know her, and have seen her effectiveness first hand, understand how she has made such an impact.

She has made a career of fighting for dental priorities, like boosting dental residencies, and was instrumental in the "Collins-Feingold" law which funded special state dental projects and dental residencies. She played a central role in efforts to boost dental divisions and research across the spectrum, including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Indian Health Service. She has been involved in nearly every issue impacting the oral health of our children at the federal level for the last several decades.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Judy taught junior high school in Michigan for 12 years before coming to Washington, DC to work as a Legislative Aide to Senator Carl D. Pursell. She made her way to the ADA in 1985, and eventually rose to become ADA's Director of Congressional Affairs in 2007. She was also President of the Coalition for Health Funding, which works to strengthen public health investments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and recognize the achievements and career of my good friend, Judy Sherman. I will miss her constant presence, and her unwavering and loyal support. The entire oral health community will miss her dedication and commitment. We all have a lot of work to do to fill her shoes. Though she is now going to be spending more time with her husband Brad, and her two Golden Retrievers, I hope and expect that we will still see her from time to time, walking the halls of Congress, and continuing to advocate for dentists and oral health.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
TOM RICHARDS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Richards for his years of service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, FRWIB. Tom's

commitment and dedication to ensuring the success of FRWIB must be commended.

Over the past four years, Tom has worked tirelessly to carry out FRWIB's mission to be a catalyst for mobilizing and integrating public and private partners to effectively educate and train individuals with the necessary skills to fulfill employer needs. As Board Chair, Tom strives to increase the number of job opportunities available to unemployed and underemployed residents in the region. He plays an integral role in advancing vocational education opportunities directly related to job placement. Businesses and individuals throughout the community have benefited immensely from Tom's business insight and civic interests.

Tom's leadership expands beyond FRWIB. He is a leader for our entire community, and he strives every day to ensure the success of our city, state, and nation. He is the past chair of the Planning Council that developed the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the City of Fresno. Tom was also instrumental in the planning and funding of Terry's House, a hospitality home for families who have loved ones who are in the hospital. Tom has overseen dozens of successful projects, and he has proven to be an effective leader. He is an individual of outstanding character, and I am proud to have him as a friend for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Richards for his service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board. Tom's vision, passion, and persistence have led to improvements in the region's economy. As Tom steps down as Board Chair, we can still expect him to be an advocate for businesses and residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

HONORING KHADIJAH GRIFFIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Khadijah Griffin is the daughter of Derrick and Cynthia Griffin of Lambert, MS. She was chosen Miss Madison S. Palmer High 2013–14 Queen and Student Council President by her peers. She is active in school in that she plays softball and was the Drum Major for the band. She communicates well with everyone. She plans to attend MS State University and has completed the paperwork for admission, been accepted, has taken the ACT and received a scholarship to aid her financially. She plans to major in Mass Communication and is a member of the High School Journalism Class and Newspaper Staff.

In the community, Khadijah has participated in campus and community cleanup-beautification campaigns, breast cancer awareness walks, worked as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County, has participated in the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign Walk, and is Vice-President of her church youth department as well as a choir member.

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

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2013 MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST SENIOR DIVISION WINNER RICHARD ALEC MERSKI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard Alec Merski, a resident of Virginia's 11th District and the senior division winner of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's 2013 Making Democracy Work student essay contest.

The Historical Society is a congressionally chartered educational organization founded in 1962. Its mission is to inform the public about the rich heritage of the Capitol and the Congress. This nationwide contest is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6–8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9–12.

The 2013 contest asked students to consider the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the corresponding duties that citizens owe to implement and protect those rights. Essays addressed questions such as how these rights and responsibilities affect students, their families, and the importance of being aware of one's own rights and responsibilities. Students were required to cite sources such as the U.S. Constitution, books, and articles from magazines and newspapers. Entries were judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic, and the skill with which they are written.

Mr. Merski is a senior at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia, where he will graduate in June. An Honor Roll student, Alec previously attended the Nysmith School in Herndon and Landon School in Bethesda. An avid language student, Alec was one of two students at Landon taking two languages in addition to his courses. Alec spent two summers living with host families in Spain and China in an intensive language program to hone his language skills. He was also the recipient of the Excellence in Foreign Language Award. He served as the President of the China Roundtable of Washington, an annual forum held at the Chinese Embassy allowing experts on China to address current economic, cultural, and educational changes in China.

Alec was an active member and officer of Model UN and served as the President of the Environmental Club. Last summer, Alec interned with the United States-Asia Foundation and the International Trade Commission. He plans to major in International Relations and Economics when he enters college this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alec Merski on this outstanding achievement and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. I am confident that this accomplished young man will be successful in whatever path he chooses to follow.