

All students, those with exceptional abilities to those with exceptional needs, are prepared to become responsible, ethical citizens and leaders of the future. They are taught to develop critical and creative thinking, problem solving and good communication in a safe environment that encourages risk taking and self-reliance.

To create such an environment, Park School relies on very talented and dedicated teachers and staff. Teachers are fully credentialed and many of them bring more than 10 years of experience to the classroom. Some of them hold advanced degrees in music, special education, administration or counseling. They speak multiple languages and have interests ranging from scuba diving to gardening. Staff members are trained in CELDT, Early Literacy Training, NOYCE training, Math Lesson Study and Art. Put succinctly, the staff is as diverse and interesting as the student body, a perfect dynamic to build an environment that fosters a love of life-long learning and a deep sense of community.

Park School has led the school district in initiatives that support literary skills for below-level readers through its Panther Reading program. The program was created by teachers and parents in 2013. It was so successful that the district quickly embraced it and rolled it out to other schools.

Park School had modest beginnings. It started out as a firehouse on the corner of Clark Drive and Crescent Avenue that was remodeled into a two-room school in 1925. The small school soon couldn't meet demands and a new school with five classrooms and an auditorium was built and opened for 150 students in April 1929. Within a year, a cafeteria was added, a playground installed, a library organized and more land was purchased for additional expansion. In 1966, plans were made for a new school to be built on Clark and Crescent, the location where Park School remains to this day. The new school had a pod arrangement with the library in the center and rooms for individual, group and total class instruction around it. It opened in 1969. Everyone at Park School will tell you that change is constant. Over the years, a computer lab, a speech therapy room and a school child care were added. A large group instruction building opened in 1999 offering students a place for performing arts, physical education and leadership skills. The physical landscape of Park School continues to change and adapt, always keeping a focus on providing the most excellent education opportunities for the students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to recognize the great and lasting contributions that a small elementary school in San Mateo, California has made to the community. Park School has given thousands of children the foundation for successful careers and lives as responsible and productive citizens. Park School is a shining example of what a school can be.

IMPRESSIVE LIST OF VICTORIES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding members of the

CRytonite Robotics Team 624 of Cinco Ranch High School on their victory at the highly-competitive Utah Regional Robotics Tournament.

The students worked together with faculty and other local mentors to design and construct a robot prototype. The machine was then tailored to accomplish specific tasks in a game during the competition. CRytonite's robot performed flawlessly, and also won the Dallas Regional's Imagery Award, which honors outstanding visual aesthetic integration of the robot's overall engineering and the team's appearance. This exceptional team is adding yet another banner to an already impressive list of victories.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the CRytonite Robotics Team 624 of Cinco Ranch High School on their victory at the Utah Regional Robotics Tournament. We know that you will continue to amaze us at the world championship, and we wish you the best of luck in the future.

OLIVIA BOHL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Olivia Bohl on her honorable mention in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Olivia and her project, 'Should Space Exploration and Travel be Publicly Funded?', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Olivia on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACOB MILLER'S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to Jacob Miller, the first UMass Dartmouth student to be named as a Truman Scholar.

Founded by Congress in 1975, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding potential and who plan to pursue a career in public service.

A Fairhaven resident and a dual political science and English major, he will receive \$30,000 towards graduate school and the opportunity to prepare for a career in public service.

It comes as no surprise that Jacob has earned this distinction considering he has cho-

sen to spend his time giving back—from helping create a cultural district in downtown New Bedford to effectively advocating for lower health care costs for students.

Known for his civic engagement and service at UMass Dartmouth, he has worked on small business creation, workforce development programs, and registering hundreds to vote. He also serves as a student representative to the UMass Board of Trustees.

As someone who got his start in the Massachusetts State House at a young age, Jacob embodies what our country needs in its future leaders.

On behalf of Massachusetts' 9th Congressional District, I congratulate Jacob Miller. I look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes and I wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 2015, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #174–175. Had I been present, on Roll Call #174, H.R. 373—Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act, I would have voted YEA, and on Roll Call #175, H.R. 1324—Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR WILLIAM GREEN MILLER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal patriot and statesman, Ambassador William Green Miller, for his longtime work and commitment to building a strong and resilient US-Ukraine relationship. This week, Ambassador Miller will be receiving the Alexander B. Chernyk Medal for outstanding leadership and deep commitment to US-Ukraine affairs, presented by my constituents in the Greater Philadelphia Area. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I would like to thank Ambassador Miller for his many years of service and dedication to this cause.

With an education from Williams College, Oxford and Harvard, Ambassador Miller entered the Foreign Service in 1959, serving five years in Iran before transitioning back to Washington as a line officer and in the office of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. In the years to follow, he served as a foreign policy and defense adviser to Senator John Sherman Cooper, and held the position of Associate Dean and Professor of International Politics of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. In 1986, Ambassador Miller returned to Washington as President of the American Committee on United States-Soviet Relations, where his position admitted him to travel frequently throughout the Soviet Union, obtaining direct knowledge of the monumental changes taking place in the region.

Between 1993 and 1998, Mr. Miller served as United States Ambassador to Ukraine under President Bill Clinton. As Ambassador, he was a supporter and witness to some of the most fundamental transformations of the Ukrainian State, including the ratification of Ukraine's Constitution. To this day, Ambassador Miller still promotes peace and stability in Ukraine through his work as a Senior Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Caucus, I want to thank Ambassador William Green Miller for his lifetime of international diplomatic accomplishments, and his help in forging the steadfast US-Ukraine relationship that has lasted and will continue to last for decades to come.

DENVER REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) and the many cities around the country that participated in Stand Up 4 Transportation Day this past April 9th.

In Denver, nearly 400 people came out to support the many forms of public transportation around Colorado, ranging from buses, shuttles, vans, bicycles, cabs, car services, pedicabs, light rail and rail. More than 350 organizations in U.S. cities and towns participated in the event. Stand Up 4 Transportation Day succeeded in raising awareness about the importance of public transportation and a long-term, sustainable transportation authorization bill.

Stand up 4 Transportation Day was a brainchild of former General Manager and CEO of RTD, Phil Washington. During his time with RTD, he always pushed for surface transportation reauthorization for the future. In Phil's own words, "It's time to do some nation building. But the funding is key to more access to transit, new buses and trains, more reliable service, less gridlock. We can't meet the demands of our growing population and economy without a long-term commitment from Washington."

I applaud Phil and Denver's RTD for their efforts in the Denver metro area. Our communities are more connected and our quality of life is better for it.

THE EARTHQUAKE OF APRIL 25,
2015, THAT DEVASTATED NEPAL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt condolences and full support for assistance to the people of Nepal and all of those affected by the devastating earthquake of April 25, 2015, and its aftermath. The massive magnitude-7.8 earthquake, which struck about 77 kilometers north-

west of Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, was the most powerful to hit Nepal in more than 80 years. Almost 5,000 deaths have been accounted for and, as I read this line, it is possible that this number has gone up.

The United Nations estimates that the tragedy has affected more than 8 million people and left more than 1.4 million people in need of food assistance. This earthquake has also destroyed many historical and architectural structures important to the culture of Nepal.

So I ask my fellow members to join me in mourning with the people of Nepal and all communities in other countries affected by the tragic loss of life. I also want to commend the efforts of first responders, relief agencies, private citizens, Nepal's neighboring countries, and the international community.

I want to thank our administration for its quick response to help our friends in Nepal. I urge Congress and our administration to continue our efforts in helping Nepal during this tragic time.

HONORING JUSTICE LIVELY

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Lively, who on March 25, 2015, received the Washington Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award. Justice was honored for his achievements in overcoming a tumultuous childhood and serving as a leader in his community.

The Youth of the Year Award has been the highest award attainable by the national Boys & Girls Club since 1947. Justice previously received the Skagit County Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

Justice's upbringing was filled with far greater challenges than any child should face. As a young boy, with his father deployed in the U.S. Army and his mother frequently absent, Justice was cared for by his oldest brother. When his father returned, Justice was brought into a new home with an abusive stepmother. Just as his mother began to get her life back together, she was killed in a car accident when Justice was only seven years old.

When he was 10, Justice's life finally took a turn for the better. He was adopted by his aunt and uncle and was brought to Mt. Vernon, where he later joined the local Boys & Girls Club. Today, Justice is a leader at the club, focused on helping children. He frequently reads books to the club's younger children as part of a class on early childhood development.

As he prepares to graduate from high school, Justice intends to attend the Cascade Job Corps, Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University in pursuit of his goal of becoming a pediatric nurse at Seattle Children's hospital.

I want to congratulate Justice Lively on this achievement, as well as his work with the Skagit County Boys & Girls Club. I wish him the best as he pursues his dream of helping children.

HONORING EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON TOWN MARSHAL DOLAR LAPLANT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eatonville, Washington Town Marshal Dolar LaPlant who was killed in 1925 and his daughter and great-granddaughter who fought to see him recognized for his heroic sacrifice. In 1925, Mr. LaPlant was 53 years old and a Spanish-American War veteran. While on duty as Town Marshal, just four days after stepping into that position, he confronted a drunken gunman who was firing shots and narrowly missing small children at a playground. Mr. LaPlant did not stop to think about his own life or the fact that he was unarmed. He simply did everything in his power to ensure that his town was kept safe. The gunman shot Mr. LaPlant just below his right ear before he was knocked unconscious. Mr. LaPlant achieved his mission but would later die from the wound he received.

For many years, his heroic actions went unremembered except by his family, particularly his daughter Rosa and his great-granddaughter Ronda. In 1999, Ronda succeeded in having Dolar LaPlant added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall and now her great-grandfather and his legacy will be honored posthumously with the Washington Medal of Honor on May 9th. I applaud Ronda's hard work and join with her in honoring the memory of Town Marshal Dolar LaPlant whose service ensured the safety of the residents of Eatonville, Washington.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Osiel De La Cruz for being recognized as the Pearland Officer of the Year by both the Texas Louisiana Gulf District and the Exchange Club of Pearland.

Officer De La Cruz was a natural choice for this award thanks to his hard work in the community, service to the public and heroic actions. Officer De La Cruz is a veteran of the department and a nightshift patrol officer. His commitment to our community is evident through his work both on and off duty. Officer De La Cruz made over 53 DWI and drug-related arrests this year, found a shooting victim and apprehended five offenders, and even managed to apprehend a robbery suspect while he was off-duty. His list of accomplishments speaks for itself. We can all sleep better at night knowing that police officers like Officer De La Cruz are on patrol.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Officer Osiel De La Cruz on being honored as the Pearland Officer of the Year. Thank you for your dedication to keeping our communities safe.