

CONGRATULATING ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Elizabeth High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing St. Elizabeth High School for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of the Special Olympics which has established strong and lasting competitive bonds worldwide while simultaneously teaching the world that all people, regardless of their personal struggles, possess the same courage and profound joy in the face of athletic competition.

The Special Olympics has dedicated itself to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through physical education and sport competition.

The origins of this important institution began in the 1950's when Eunice Kennedy Shriver witnessed how children and young adults with intellectual disabilities were being treated by their communities, throughout our country with incredible disrespect.

As her vision slowly came to reality, she began to hold special summer camps for young adults with disabilities in her own backyard.

Throughout the 1960's, Eunice Kennedy Shriver continued as the influential voice which assisted in shaping President John F. Kennedy's White House panel on people with intellectual disabilities.

Through her unwavering support and advocacy for our youth with intellectual disabilities to be no longer viewed as less than a full member of our society with nothing to provide, Eunice Kennedy Shriver created the first Special Olympics that were held on July 20, 1968 in Chicago, Illinois.

At the first Special Olympics, thousands of participants with a variety of intellectual disabilities from 26 U.S. states and Canada competed in track and field, swimming and floor hockey.

These young Americans came to prove they could compete despite their disability.

It is one thing to overcome obstacles to compete in sports recreationally but it takes a genuine drive for excellence to succeed in an arena that was once thought impossible for those with intellectual disabilities.

From that first Special Olympics competition in 1968, this organization began to gain the at-

ention of the world as well as expand the sport competitions at the games.

On February 5, 1977 the games marked the first International Special Olympics Winter Games, which was held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The Special Olympics continued to enhance the original mission of the organization through the creation of programs aimed at providing healthcare services to Special Olympics athletes worldwide.

This organization attracted bipartisan support in 2004, when President George W. Bush signed the "Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act."

That piece of bipartisan legislation gave \$15 million every year for five years to Special Olympics programs allowing them to continue their important work.

In February of 2012 the National Basketball Association and Special Olympics, held the first annual NBA Cares Unified Sports Basketball game in Houston, Texas, which allowed Special Olympic athletes to compete alongside professional athletes.

To think that a small summer day camp for intellectually challenged children and adults could evolve into a world-wide organization, is a testament to the lasting vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, its founder, and the commitment of volunteers, such as the 40,000 from Texas, to fulfill her dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Special Olympics along with the progress this important organization has made towards teaching the world those individuals with intellectual disabilities accept the same challenges as anyone else to compete and win.

25TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST HOSTED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its education foundation.

We must continue the fortitude of those who came before us as we gather to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left an indelible mark on our nation in his pursuit of civil rights through civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against Dr. King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with reverent oratory and nonviolent resistance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

Contestants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This skill will serve them well as they seize future leadership opportunities and forge the personal relationships necessary for effective community engagement and organizing.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants in the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest:

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTESTANTS

Zoree Jones—Ronald Reagan Middle School
Ayesha Khurseed—Graham Park Middle School
Ksanet Mehari—Stonewall Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL CONTESTANTS

Jacob Gonzalez—Thomas Jefferson High School
Denzel Goodlin—Potomac High School
Norman Jones—Stonewall Jackson High School

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 10, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on #431 and #432 and "YEA" on #433.

THE TEXANS OF WWI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of the United States' entrance into World War One; A war in which Texans played a critical role.

From the fields of Flanders and trenches of France, to the towns of Germany and bases on the home front, 200,000 Texans proudly served in the Armed Forces during the First World War, between 1917 and 1919; They went to a land they had never been and died for people they did not know.

5,000 Texans gave their lives.

Boys who grew up on farms in Texas suddenly became men as they found themselves in the muddy, rainy, and bloody trenches an ocean away.

Life in the trenches was hard. Men were constantly bombarded with artillery and machine gun fire. And they often faced the danger of going over the trenches and crossing no man's land, trying to repel the enemy forces attempting the same.

In the midst of battle and in the face of the enemy, some men displayed tremendous gallantry and were awarded medals for their actions.

Four of the brave souls awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions were from the great State of Texas.

Daniel R. Edwards, born in Mooreville, Texas, was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army on July 18, 1918. His citation reads that

on that day near Soissons, France “. . . he crawled alone into an enemy trench for the purpose of capturing or killing enemy soldiers . . . He killed 4 of the men and took the remaining 4 men prisoners.” While taking them to the rear, an artillery shell shattered one of Edwards’ legs. For his actions that day, Pfc. Edwards received the Medal of Honor.

David E. Hayden was born in Florence, Texas. He served as a Hospital Apprentice First Class in the U.S. Navy serving with the Marines. On September 15th, 1918, near Thiaucourt, France his brave actions earned him the Medal of Honor. His citation reads, “During the advance, when [his comrade in arms] was mortally wounded while crossing an open field swept by machinegun fire, Hayden unhesitatingly ran to his assistance and, finding him so severely wounded as to require immediate attention, disregarded his own personal safety to dress the wound under intense machinegun fire, and then carried the wounded man back to a place of safety.”

Samuel M. Sampler was born in Decatur, Texas. On October 8, 1918, near St. Etienne, France, the young U.S. Army Corporal became the third Texan in WWI to earn the Medal of Honor. When his company suffered severe casualties during an advance under machinegun fire, “Cpl. Sampler detected the position of the enemy machineguns . . . Armed with German handgrenades, which he had picked up, he left the line and rushed forward in the face of heavy fire until he was near the hostile nest, where he grenaded the position. His third grenade landed among the enemy, killing 2, silencing the machineguns, and causing the surrender of 28 Germans, who he sent to the rear as prisoners. As a result of his act the company was immediately enabled to resume the advance.”

These three Texans who earned the Medal of Honor were among the ones who survived the war.

A fourth Texan also earned the Medal of Honor during WWI, but gave his life during the actions for which he earned the medal posthumously.

David B. Barkley, of Hispanic descent, was born in 1899 in Laredo, Texas. His father was in the U.S. Army and his mother was a Mexican-American native of South Texas.

David enlisted in the Army before his 18th birthday. Not long after, he was sent to the frontlines in France. On November 9, 1918, Private Barkley’s actions went above and beyond the call of duty.

His Medal of Honor citation reads:

“When information was desired as to the enemy’s position on the opposite side of the Meuse River, Pvt. Barkley, with another soldier, volunteered without hesitation and swam the river to reconnoiter the exact location. He succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, despite the evident determination of the enemy to prevent a crossing. Having obtained his information, he again entered the water for his return, but before his goal was reached, he was seized with cramps and drowned.”

David Barkley’s body was not returned home until 1921. His body was laid in state at the Alamo, “The Cradle of Texas Freedom,” making him the second person to ever receive that honor, and then buried in San Antonio National Cemetery.

His brave actions were acknowledged at home and abroad. He received medals from France and Italy; an elementary school in San

Antonio was named in his honor; and, in 1941, Camp Barkley, a WWII Army installation, was named after him.

In 1989, the Army recognized Private Barkley as the first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient.

Private Barkley, and the other Medal of Honor recipients from Texas, proudly served their state and country during the First World War, and they will forever be remembered for their brave actions.

100 years later we still remember the Texas boys of WWI, those that served and returned, those that served and returned with the wounds of war, and those that served and did not return.

And that’s just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS HOWELL NORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS PLACEMENT IN THE TOP 25 MISSOURI RANKED HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Francis Howell North High School for its placement in the top 25 Missouri high schools as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

This school’s administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Francis Howell North High School for a job well done.

2015 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Education and Innovation Committee of the Prince William Chamber and to recognize the scholastic achievements of the 2015 Prince William Chamber Scholarship Program winners. Focused on educating the workforce of today and tomorrow, the Prince William Chamber seeks to highlight the talents and achievements of high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to both academic success and community involvement. This year’s scholarship recipients are nothing short of exceptional and for that I wish to recognize the following individuals:

Matthew Critchley, Forest Park High School
Casey Peschka, Woodbridge Senior High School

Ann Stapor, C.D. Hylton High School

Matthew Critchley is a lifelong resident of Dumfries, Virginia. Given his deep roots in the community, Matthew has expressed a particular interest in the history and legacy of the Town of Dumfries. Currently he serves on the town’s Parks and Recreation Commission and volunteers at the Weems-Botts Museum

where he researches family genealogy, coordinates special events, and participates in Civil War reenactments. Matthew is a diligent student and boasts a superior academic record. Upon graduation from Forest Park High School, Matthew will be the first in his family to go to college. He will attend Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Casey Peschka attends Woodbridge Senior High School and is a member of the Advanced Placement Scholars, National Honor Society, Viking Norsemen Community Service Club, and Student Activities Council. He serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, The Valkyrie, and as Team Captain of the Varsity Boys’ Lacrosse Team. One of Casey’s most notable achievements is serving as co-founder of “El Fuego” or “The Fire,” a recreational soccer team that raises funds for ACTS to help combat hunger and poverty in the local community. In college, Casey will major in Biology and Organic Chemistry and plans to pursue a career in medicine as an Oncologist.

Anna Stapor will graduate as valedictorian from C.D. Hylton High School in June. Anna’s teachers characterize her as an “exception among the exceptional.” With an extensive list of academic achievements, Anna won First Place in the Prince William Youth Salute and was named an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society, and is also a recipient of the Presidents Volunteer Service Award. Throughout her high school career, Anna has participated in a number of clubs and organizations; among them, Virginia Girls State, National Council on Youth Leadership, Prince William Model United Nations, and AIU High School Diplomats. Anna was the Captain of Hylton’s Varsity Field Hockey and Lacrosse Team, receiving the following honors: Most Valuable Player, The Coaches Award, and Honorable Mention for All Conference Field Hockey Defender. In the fall, Anna will attend Virginia Tech and major in Industrial Design to design products to benefit poverty-stricken communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the 2015 Prince William Chamber Scholarship recipients for their achievements both in and out of the classroom and in thanking the Prince William Chamber of Commerce for their support of educational excellence.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY GRAVLIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Miss Emily Gravlin of Creston, Iowa, for winning a State Championship at the Iowa High School Rodeo State Finals on June 5th, 2015. Emily is the daughter of Michelle and Wayne Hanson and David Gravlin Sr.

Emily placed first in barrel racing after a successful season at various rodeos throughout Iowa. Her victory is the culmination of many years of hard work, training, and competing. She has qualified for the 67th National