

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