

New England Concrete Masonry Association, the Worcester Better Business Bureau and the Bay Path Education Foundation.

Henry has also served in a variety of other roles to support our local businesses through organizations like the Worcester County Homebuilders Association, the National Concrete Masonry Association, Skills-USA.

As an active member of the Worcester community, Henry has also contributed through his work with the Charlton Little League and the Boy Scouts Pack 338. Henry's support for great programs like these that give Worcester families and their kids a chance to build friendships and strengthen our community are another example of the great impact he has had.

I want to thank Henry and his family for all that they have done and continue to do to support our local economy and keep Worcester strong.

TEXANS FINDING CURES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Allison, Ph.D for receiving the Lasker-Debakey Clinical Medical Research Award.

Dr. Allison pioneered research on a new class of cancer treatment that allows for a patient's immune system to continuously attack cancerous tumors itself. The research expands the ability to provide patients with less invasive treatments to fight all different types of cancer. Dr. Allison's discovery is a massive breakthrough for cancer research and outstanding news for those who are unfortunately diagnosed with the disease.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to James Allison, Ph.D for receiving the prestigious Lasker-Debakey Clinical Medical Research Award. Thank you for your work to find a cure.

IN SUPPORT OF GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Growth Awareness Week.

How much a child grows is a major sign of his or her overall health. If a child is failing to grow, it could mean that they are developing serious medical problems. A child's height (either too much or too little for their age) is one of nature's early warning signs—a visual alarm for parents and physicians. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations (POSSUM) database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure.

Many conditions which interfere with children's growth are treatable, but according to the MAGIC Foundation for children's growth, unfortunately 48% of children in the U.S. who were evaluated with the two most common causes of growth failure went undiagnosed.

The longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial in ensuring a healthy future for a child with growth failure.

Last year I was pleased that Congress recognized "Growth Awareness Week" as the third week in September 2014. So today I ask my colleagues to join me in permanently recognizing the third week in September as "Growth Awareness Week" and to continue to raise public awareness of growth failure to improve the lives and health of children.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Okaloosa County, Florida, located in Florida's First Congressional District.

Okaloosa County is situated along Florida's Gulf Coast and was established in 1915 through legislation sponsored by then-Florida State Representative William Mapoles from Laurel Hill. It is the 52nd county in Florida, flanked by Santa Rosa and Walton counties, and was carved out of portions of both counties. Sharing the namesake of a steamboat, "The Okaloosa," meaning "Black Water" in Choctaw, Okaloosa County once consisted of small outposts and pioneers in Florida's wilderness, and its main economic drivers at the time of its founding were lumber, turpentine, and fishing.

Over the course of the last 100 years, Okaloosa County, while still true to its agricultural roots, has transformed from a sparsely populated, simple, and rural pioneer county into a top tourist destination, with white pristine beaches and world-class fishing, and an essential area of support for our Nation's defense, which is due in large part to a local businessman and airplane enthusiast, James E. Plew. Plew's vision for the area at the height of the depression was one of opportunity and one that saw the advantages of attracting the military to the county.

Plew proposed to donate 1,460 acres to the U.S. government for a bombing and gunnery range, which was accepted in 1937. A few short months later, the U.S. Army Air Corps mandated that the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Base be renamed "Eglin Field" after Lt. Col. Frederick Irving Eglin. Upon establishment of the U.S. Air Force, Eglin Field would then bare the name of its present day, Eglin Air Force Base. Eglin Air Force Base, which extends across three counties is one of the world's largest Air Force bases and home today to several military major commands, including the 7th Special Forces Group, the Air Armament Center, the Air Force Special Operations Command, and the 33rd Fighter Wing.

The residents of Okaloosa County, including the thousands of military servicemembers and veterans who call it home, are a resilient people, and even through the most challenging of times, they have united as a community to develop and maintain its place as a key area for business and tourism in the State of Florida and throughout the entire Gulf Coast region.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Okaloosa County, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all of those who are fortunate to call Okaloosa County home on its 100-year history and its proud achievements and continued success.

CREATING LEADERS AND EARNING GOLD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allison Carpenter for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

Allison, a junior at Gaty High School, has continually showed her commitment to changing society and helping her community. She was awarded the Gold Award after partnering with the You Can Academy to serve academically at-risk children who attend a local elementary school. She created and led curriculum workshops to teach students how to respect others, follow the rules, and stay on task. We are proud of Allison's commitment to education and look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

I am proud to represent such an impressive young Girl Scout who possesses a strong commitment to service. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Allison for earning this distinguished award.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN VIETNAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Vietnam's religious persecution of its citizens is nothing new. I have spoken before about prisoners of conscience held in Vietnam; in fact just this time last year, I spoke on the release of Pastor Duong Kim Khai.

Unfortunately, Vietnam is still carrying on with this egregious practice. I have been made aware of yet another example of human rights violations by a country the State Department has perpetually refused to include as a Country of Particular Concern for religious freedom.

On February 11, 2014, Mr. Nguyen Van Minh and approximately 20 other religious freedom activists were arrested by police officers in the Dong Thap province. Mr. Minh and the others were viciously beaten and had their personal belongings confiscated.

The activists were detained nearly 40 hours before some of the group was released. Mr. Minh and two other activists continued to remain detained and were not charged until approximately a week later on February 20th.

Mr. Minh was charged with "disturbing public peace" and while awaiting trial he was tortured and isolated from his family and lawyers.