

Day parade, donating food and clothing to needy families, and many other activities that enrich the community. The Dewalt Mechlin Chapter is particularly proud of its involvement in community education, particularly through its support of the Good Citizens and ROTC programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the women of the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all they have done over the past century. They have done a tremendous job and I wish them all the best.

HONORING OUR ALLY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor our ally the Republic of China (Taiwan) on their National Day. Since World War II, the United States and Taiwan have had a very close relationship and friendship.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Not only an important security partner, Taiwan is also a strong economic partner—in fact, our 10th-largest trading partner of the United States, and the 5th largest export market in Asia of my representing state—Michigan.

Taiwan always shares America's democracy, freedom, and awareness for human rights. To protect these values, the United States has willingly supported Taiwan's security over the years. We have provided Taiwan aircraft, vessels, vehicles, technology, and many other necessities to protect themselves. In addition to self-defense, these tools are being used to demonstrate that Taiwan is our security partner in the Asia Pacific region.

Many Americans believe in a strong U.S. relationship with Taiwan. I would like to see the continuing support for Taiwan and policies that would promote our relationship going forward.

HONORING DRAKE NICHOLAS HANSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Drake Nicholas Hansen. Drake is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Drake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Drake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably,

Drake has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Drake Nicholas Hansen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pain Awareness Month, which we observe each September to raise awareness for those suffering from chronic pain and to promote a greater understanding of pain management and treatment.

Pain is not only a debilitating medical condition that affects millions of Americans each day—it is also a serious strain on our economy and workforce. With an estimated annual cost of nearly \$600 billion in treatment and lost wages, our nation spends more money treating pain than almost any other disease, including heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Unfortunately, chronic pain has long been viewed as a medical condition that can be cured with just a pen and prescription pad. But as we've learned over the past decade, this is simply not the case. Rather than curing or comforting individuals who suffer from chronic pain, the over-use of prescription pain medication can often lead those individuals only to deeper pain and darker despair. It's time that we as a country treat pain as the complex medical issue that it truly is and pursue real, lasting solutions for all those who suffer from it.

In an age of unprecedented medical advancements, it's absolutely critical that we begin making stronger investments in effective and safe methods of pain management and treatment, so that those suffering from chronic pain can be freed from their burden, return to work, support their families and live full, independent lives.

While Pain Awareness Month reminds us of the devastating toll that pain takes on so many Americans, their families and our economy, it's important that this month also serve as a catalyst for swift and comprehensive action to help those who are suffering right now in my district and in every district across the country.

RECOGNIZING JAY POTESTA UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you and my colleagues today to applaud Mr. Jay Potesta upon his retirement from his position as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers. Jay has devoted his life to the interests of men and women in the trades, and to the communities of Northwest Indiana, Indi-

anapolis, and beyond. He also has served in many leadership roles throughout his illustrious career. For his lifetime of service, Mr. Potesta will be honored at a retirement dinner taking place at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Plainfield, Indiana, on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Jay Potesta started his apprenticeship for Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 in 1976, and I am assured that he can capably use tools. Following his apprenticeship, Jay worked tirelessly on behalf of his members and every American who wants to make a living wage. Among his many positions, he has represented the union as Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 20, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), President of the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council, President of the Great Lakes State Council, Trustee of the Gary and the Indianapolis Pension Funds, General Vice President of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association's (SMWIA) General Executive Council, and his most recent position, Director of Governmental Affairs for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers, formerly known as SMWIA. Jay also has been a public servant, having been elected to the Hammond Indiana School Board. He has additionally served on numerous other boards throughout the communities in which he has lived, including the Capitol Improvement Board and the National Democrat Club. Jay also is a Master Mason, 32nd Degree Mason Scottish Rite, Orak Shrine.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty from the men and women in the trades. For many years, Jay Potesta has displayed this unwavering dedication to the members of the Building Trades, and his numerous positions have provided him with the opportunity to touch the lives of countless individuals.

Jay's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Jay and his wonderful wife, Pam, have two children and four grandchildren.

In sum, Jay Potesta has led a life of dedication. A life in which he has been deeply serious about his responsibilities, all while possessed with a wonderful self deprecating sense of humor. I am blessed to have known Jay since 1983. He has been my friend for these many years, the type of friend who would be the last man standing if all others deserted you. For that I thank him and I respectfully request that you and my other dignified colleagues join me in commending Jay for his many years of service and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

HONORING ROBERT EARL NOE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Earl Noe. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.