

in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After his military service, he earned his bachelor's degree in education at the University of Hawaii.

As a school teacher and principal, he encouraged the use of the Native Hawaiian language and culture in schools and worked tirelessly to create some of the first Head Start programs in the State. The education of children, especially the Native Hawaiian children, was extremely important to him because he knew that increasing access to opportunity would improve educational outcomes among children.

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, he served there for 14 years until he was elected to the Senate, where he served until he retired in January 2013. Senator Akaka fought endlessly to advocate on behalf of Hawaii, particularly Native Hawaiians, and his work on the Veteran's Affairs Committee combating PTSD and unemployment among Soldiers has had a profound impact on our country.

His commitment to a lifetime of public service in the military, as a teacher and as a United States Senator should be an inspiration and motivation to us all.

We wish Senator Akaka the best for the coming year. Happy Birthday (Hau'oli lā hānau), Senator Akaka.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC  
ACTIONS OF CHRIS MINTZ

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chris Mintz—an Army veteran who answered the call when our nation needed him and again when a heartless gunman threatened a community in Oregon.

As a high school football star from North Carolina and a 10-year army Veteran, Chris is known as a tough guy. According to those who know him best, he's always one to "cow-boy up."

And one week ago, on October 1, Chris did more than that. He didn't wake up planning to be a hero, but that's what he became.

When he heard gun shots at his school, he ran towards them, pulling fire alarms and fighting to save others. With dogged determination, he fought to block the shooter from entering a classroom and was shot seven times.

It's clear his incredible bravery and selfless actions saved lives and prevented a far worse tragedy. I applaud Chris for his integrity, self-sacrifice and valor in the face of such evil, and my wife Renee and I send our thoughts and prayers to him and his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues, as we continue to mourn the dead in Oregon, let's put politics aside and take heart in the heroic acts of this American hero. Chris Mintz deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. Let's give it to him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC  
ACTS OF MR. SAMUEL SELL

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Samuel Sell of Bainbridge Township, Ohio for his heroic actions on September 13, 2015. Samuel was fishing with his cousin at the LaDue Reservoir when he observed an occupied vehicle go into the water, trapping the driver inside. When no one got out of the car, Samuel swam 100 feet toward the car while he asked his cousin to call 911 immediately. He brought a fishing knife out with him to help free the passenger, which he then gave to the emergency responders when they reached the car. Due to his quick thinking and heroic bravery he helped save a man's life. Along with all of the residents of the 14th Congressional District, I commend him for his actions and wanted to record his feat so that it is enshrined for all future generations.

HONORING OCTOBER 8TH AS NA-  
TIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL  
CELL DAY

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House resolution expressing support for today, October 8th, as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

Although we are just now developing and implementing new applications for hydrogen fuel cells, this technology has a long and proud history that goes back to the Apollo space missions.

Fuel cells utilize hydrogen without combustion to generate electricity in a way that is clean, efficient, and quiet.

Today, mobile and stationary fuel cell systems produce clean power for vehicles, forklifts, utilities, businesses, and homes.

Stationary fuel cells provide resilient backup power sources for institutions that cannot afford to lose power, such as hospitals. They are increasingly being used as primary electrical sources as well.

Air Products and Chemicals, located in my district, is in the process of deploying 40 hydrogen fueling stations to support the recently announced rollout of hydrogen powered vehicles from several major auto manufacturers.

I have had the opportunity both to drive and fuel these vehicles, and I can say from experience that the process is safe, easy, and surprisingly unremarkable. It's just like driving a traditional car, except the only emission it produces is water.

In closing, I am proud to stand with the innovators of this growing industry as we recognize today as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID KEPLER

**HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Kepler, Chairman of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, upon receiving the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award.

A valued member of the community involved in many civic organizations, David Kepler joined the Dow Chemical Company in 1975. He went on to serve as Dow's Executive Vice President for Business Services, its Chief Information Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer. David is currently a board member of the Midland Baseball Foundation, Momentum Midland and chairman of the MidMichigan Innovation Center.

The Distinguished Citizens Award is given to an outstanding individual who shows consistent Scouting values and provides distinguished service to both youth and community. David lives in Sanford and has been a community leader who has had a positive impact throughout the region.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize David Kepler for his service to the Boy Scouts of America and his contributions to the Midland community.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOE BEN-  
NETT OF THOMASVILLE, NORTH  
CAROLINA

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bennett, Mayor of the City of Thomasville, located in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. Mayor Bennett has been a tireless advocate for the people of Thomasville, and has fully earned the admiration and gratitude of his fellow North Carolinians.

A native of High Point, North Carolina, Mayor Bennett served the Duke Power Company for 36 years before retiring and pursuing a career in public service. After his retirement in 1998, Mayor Bennett ran for and was elected to the Thomasville City Council, where he served two terms before being elected Mayor of the City of Thomasville in 2003.

During his tenure, Mayor Bennett has made job creation and infrastructure development two of his highest priorities. After a period of rapid manufacturing and furniture building job loss in the area, Mayor Bennett was successfully able to bring jobs back to the city with the opening of a large manufacturing facility. Mayor Bennett also led a city-wide initiative, known as "Children at Play," designed to upgrade local playgrounds in order to combat childhood obesity. I have also been told that if there was a celebration in the city of Thomasville, whether it is a large parade, a small church ceremony, or an individual's 100th birthday celebration, Mayor Bennett was there with a smile on his face.

In addition to his service as Mayor of Thomasville, Mayor Bennett has earned his title as