

perseverance through the years. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 100th anniversary. I wish them nothing but continued success.

HONORING RYAN CHESTER, WINNER OF THE BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR CHALLENGE

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Ryan Chester for his accomplishment of being selected the winner of the Breakthrough Junior Challenge. Ryan is an extraordinarily talented senior from North Royalton High School, who competed against more than 2,000 applicants from across the world. The Breakthrough Junior Challenge is a competition that invites students ages 13–18 to submit videos that explain science, physics, and math concepts.

With a bowl of popcorn, a brilliant mind, and some very creative video-editing skills, Ryan created a capturing visual to explain Einstein's Special Theory in Relativity, and won first prize in this inaugural competition.

As the winner of this competition, Ryan won a \$250,000 scholarship, a \$100,000 state-of-the-art new science lab for North Royalton High School, and \$50,000 for his AP Physics teacher Mr. Richard Nestoff. He also had the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, whose Silicon Valley Community Foundation co-hosted the event.

Ryan's ability to take his passion for both film and science and apply it in a setting outside of the classroom on his own accord should be encouraged in schools throughout the country. As a nation, we are committed to advancing our understanding of science and applying it in a way that can impact the lives of all man-kind. I know we are in good hands as we continue to lead the way in new scientific breakthroughs and innovations that will define the 21st century with young scientists like Ryan.

It is with great admiration I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ryan on his achievement, and wish him the best with all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN AND SHIRLEY KAISER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Norman and Shirley Kaiser of Massena, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on October 2, 1965 at the Baptist Church in Knoxville, Iowa.

Norman and Shirley's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter, Dori, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. It is families like the Kaisers that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,775,084,981,439.86. We've added \$8,148,207,932,526.78 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CREW OF THE M.S. SHAHAN II

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut, rise today to honor the crew of the M.S. *Shahan II*. On September 14, 2015, a seemingly normal work commute turned into a life or death rescue mission. Al Yeomans, Ship's Mate; Cliff McGuigan, Ship's Mate; Jeffrey Krause, Security; Meghan Jackson, Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Specialist; Allyson Cooke, Document Control Specialist; Jennifer Knight, Administrative Assistant; and Hector Lavarreda, Procurement Manager, all a part of the workforce at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, sprang into action after spotting two boaters off the coast of Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Upon arriving at the scene, the crew saw the boaters clinging to the fender of their sinking vessel and not wearing life jackets, which meant that a timely rescue was critical. Despite the rough conditions, Captain Peter Jordan managed to maneuver the ferry into position to deploy a rescue sling and hoist the boaters to safety. Once aboard, the crew rushed to protect the victims from hypothermia and shock.

If not for the courageous efforts of the crew members, the story being told may have ended tragically. The actions undertaken by these crew members embody the spirit of American determination and the desire to help others when they need it most. It is important to recognize these individuals so that their selfless actions do not go unnoticed and can be commended by all. Today, we thank these crewmembers for their efforts and service to their communities.

TRIBUTE TO MAIN STREET CORNING

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Main Street Corning. The group has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 25th anniversary of working hard to improve the Corning local business community.

The mission of the Main Street Iowa Program is to improve the social and economic well-being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets, and character of each historic commercial district. For 25 years, Main Street Corning has continued to successfully beautify the downtown and fiscally strengthen its businesses.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Main Street Corning and its hard-working employees and volunteers in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 25th anniversary and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF TED BEATTIE

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I join my Illinois colleagues in wishing Ted Beattie the best as he retires following a 21-year tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Shedd Aquarium. Under Mr. Beattie's leadership, Shedd Aquarium has prospered, growing into one of the largest indoor aquariums in the world. I thank him for his contributions to the State of Illinois.

CELEBRATING THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKAWAY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church, located in Boonton Township, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 230th Anniversary.

Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has been an active part of the Boonton Township community since its founding in 1785. Through its weekly masses the church continues to foster religious life.

The United Methodist Church got its beginnings in the United States in 1784. The church spread through "circuit riders" who traveled spreading the word of God, and caring for His people. In 1785 the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church was built as a center of worship for this new religion. The current church

was built in 1842 by members of the founding families. In 1894 a slate roof was added, and the cupola was added in 1895–1900. There are 12 stained glass windows dating back to 1900 which were donated in honor of the founding members. The church is surrounded by a cemetery which dates back to the building of the church. In 1976 the church building was added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and in 1977 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has helped the United Methodist community celebrate and practice their beliefs. The church has also done much more for the community of Boonton Township. The church has served as a gathering place for the entire community. Boy Scouts of America Troop 69 has been using the church as a meeting place for 80 years. The church also plays host to a Christian drama school, and a weekly karate class. In 2014 the church donated over 400 pounds of food to the Interfaith Food Pantry. The Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church holds a weekly playgroup for children from birth to kindergarten along with their caregivers to foster a community among the small congregation.

For Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church's 230th Anniversary, I commend all of the pastors and committees of the Church. Since its founding, Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church has been supported by the people of Boonton Township; this is one of the main reasons why the church is still a big part of the community. After 230 years of outstanding service to the Boonton Township, I commend and congratulate Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church for all of its hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church, as it celebrates its 230th Anniversary.

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TRIBUTE TO DYLAN DECLERCK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dylan DeClerck for being recognized by the Des Moines Business Record as this year's Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy.

At a young age Dylan recognized that one of the most important aspects of life is giving back to others and helping those that need it most. For his part, Dylan founded the organization Opportunity on Deck at the age of 16. This organization plays a key role in empowering youth by encouraging active lifestyles and athletics. Dylan's organization has served over 500 children in Greater Des Moines and continues teaching young people the importance of healthy living, teamwork and sportsmanship. Opportunity on Deck gives youth who wouldn't normally have a chance to participate in sports camps the ability to experience them free of charge.

Dylan's willingness to serve others before himself has already made a long-lasting impact on the lives of hundreds of young people in the Greater Des Moines area. His dedication to improving the community through vol-

unteerism and civic engagement is a testament to his character. Today, Dylan attends Drake University as a marketing and finance student. Although he is busy with his studies he continues to volunteer what little extra time he has to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, Dylan's leadership and display of civic duty at such a young age gives me great hope for our nation's future. It is lowans like him who make me proud to call myself an lowan and represent the people of our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dylan for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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HONORING BILL SNYDER FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BUCKS COUNTY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Bucks County Treasurer William "Bill" Snyder for 36 years of honorable service to the people of Bucks County. Before his election in 1980, he served our country with the 31st infantry in Korea between 1951 and 1953. Upon his return to civilian life, he operated and built a successful business and was a member of the International Operating Engineers Union. He is known for his local civic and community involvement, including serving on the Doylestown Township Planning Commission and later the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors. As county treasurer, Bill Snyder has implemented many changes and efficiencies and was an active member of the County Treasurer's Association of Pennsylvania. In addition, he held various leadership positions on the Bucks County Republican Committee. On this, the occasion of his retirement, we wish him many happy and healthy retirement years.

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HONORING COMMANDER JOE GROOM

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Commander Joe Groom of the Aurora Police Department.

Since his appointment to the Aurora Police Department in 1989, Commander Groom rose through the ranks to become Investigations Division Commander. He was a steadfast fixture in our community through his involvement in local organizations and constant engagement with his neighbors, fellow officers, and city officials.

Commander Groom was also an ambassador for the City of Aurora, through his work with the International and Illinois Associations of Chiefs of Police, the Chiefs Associations in Kane, DuPage, and Kendall Counties, the Kane County DUI Task Force, the Juvenile Drug Court Advisory Committee, and the Aurora Police Foundation. Beyond his involve-

ment with law enforcement, Commander Groom held leadership positions in the Exchange Club of Aurora, the Knights of Columbus Council 736, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kane and Kendall Counties.

Commander Groom passed away on December 9, 2015, at the age of 50. Although his life was tragically cut short, his legacy of 26 years of selfless service will be felt by generations of Aurorans. He will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, and community leader.

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TRIBUTE TO LARRY GILES

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Giles, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Larry was a 1958 graduate of Tingley High School and was hired as a junior high math teacher at Mount Ayr Schools in 1966. During his 29 years at Mount Ayr Schools Larry served in a number of different roles, including: elementary guidance counselor, special education coordinator, and eventually elementary principal. Larry was closely involved in the reorganization of individual schools into Mount Ayr Community Schools. At one point, he was the principal of 13 buildings at the same time. Larry has served on the school board, Southwestern Community College Board, the Mount Ayr Foundation Board, and has been an active sports official since 1967.

Mr. Speaker, Larry's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and lowans like him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Larry for his distinguished career and wishing him nothing but continued success.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN CARL A. LAHTI

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Carl Lahti, United States Navy, as he concludes his service as the 50th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. On behalf of southeastern Connecticut, I thank Captain Lahti for his service, his leadership and his friendship to our region.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Captain Lahti graduated from the Naval Academy in 1989 and went on to serve in a number of capacities throughout the Submarine Force at sea and on shore. It was during his tour as Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, however, that I got the chance to work closely with Captain Lahti. In a region that follows developments on the base like a box score, Captain Lahti's two and a half-year tour at the base was distinguished