

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jessica Huang attends Dawson High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: With Liberty and Justice for all.

“You will never be a part of Congress.” To this day, this statement by a past mentor is one of the main motivators that pushes me to strive towards my vocational goal of working in the government, and working my way up to become a state representative or senator someday. To any rational person, one could see that the numbers are against me—only about a fifth of Congress is women, and 11 members are Asian. Thus, being an Asian female, the overwhelming tide of numbers is clearly not in favor of my aspirations. Nevertheless, these numbers and my fifth grade teacher, who did not believe I had a chance simply due to my ethnicity and background, did not phase me. Through passion, empathy, and commitment, I strongly believe that I will one day be able to sit on Capitol Hill, in spite of my race, my gender, or others who believe I do not have a chance to make it as an Asian female politician.

I have always been interested in how government functions; it amazes me how much influence one person or representative can have over millions of people. I realize how necessary government is, and we need a government not only to protect us, but to represent us, to make life fair and equal for all. Yet, I have always found something quite contradictory in the above statement that, if a democratic government such as ours was meant to ‘represent’ its people, why are our representatives mostly Anglo-Saxon? Mostly male? Mostly of the upper class? It seems as if only a small portion of the American population even has a say or a position; yet Americans believe they are all ‘free’ and ‘equal.’ That may be true on paper, but when observing whole group or crowds of people, skepticism can set in.

This is what makes the political process so challenging in my opinion—the lack of representation in Congress of minority groups can make many feel oppressed, and students like me feel like we don’t have a chance to achieve our dreams and goals. Regardless, I hope to be a part of the change—to become a Congresswoman and be an example to younger minority Americans who aspire to be government officials, too. After all, if we wish to be world leaders in the international community, we must first figure out internal politics to truly give “liberty and justice for all.”

RECOGNIZING MIKE HAYWARD AND HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF WALLOWA COUNTY, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Mike Hayward for his many years of dedicated public service in Wallowa County. Mike has retired after serving 19 years on the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, serving 15 of those years as Chairman, and I would like to pay tribute to his leadership for the people of Wallowa County and northeastern Oregon.

Born and raised in Pullman, Washington, Mike developed an early affinity for the outdoors, taking jobs in agriculture in his youth before going on to earn a degree in forestry from Washington State University. While at Washington State, he earned a summer internship that stationed him at Wallowa Lake State Park in Joseph, Oregon. After graduation, he was hired on full time at the park, which is where he eventually met his future wife, Beverly.

Mike’s work with Oregon State Parks took him around the state, but in 1980, he and Bev felt the pull to return to Wallowa County and be closer to their family. Shortly thereafter, Mike took his management skills into the private sector when he and Bev bought Eagle Cap Chalets at the base of the Wallowa Mountains, which they managed for 8 years.

Surrounded by federally managed public forest and range lands, timber and livestock production has long been the base of Wallowa County’s economy. Mike’s knowledge of forestry and agriculture as well as several years of community leadership roles, including a seat on the Joseph City Council and time spent directing the local Chamber of Commerce, led several of his close friends to suggest he run for County Commissioner in 1997.

Since then, Mike has constantly kept a sharp eye out for opportunities to represent and defend the County’s interests as a leader of a number of organizations including the Grand Ronde Model Watershed Council, Northeast Oregon Housing Authority, Association of Oregon Counties, Wallowa-Union Railroad, and several regional forestry collaboratives and resource advisory committees.

When 57 percent of your county is controlled and often mismanaged by the federal government, working to grow the economy and opportunities for the local communities can be an understandably frustrating process at times. Yet, Mike’s knowledgeable, hard-working and even-keeled approach led him to become recognized as a leader on public lands and other natural resource issues affecting counties across eastern Oregon.

Over the years, I got to know Mike well and came to rely on this counsel as well. Whether it is travel management plans on the Wallowa-Whitman, or the on-going Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision process, I appreciated Mike’s useful input and insight as we worked together to find creative solutions to the challenges facing Wallowa County and their neighbors in northeast Oregon.

As Mike takes on his new role as General Manager for the Wallowa County Grain Growers, his retirement from elected office doesn’t mean Wallowa County will be losing his leadership or knowledge. Dedicated to his community, I know Mike will find a number of ways to continue serving and giving back. For the last six years, Mike and Bev have donated and served a community wide Thanksgiving Dinner in Enterprise. Such acts of generosity are a perfect example of the dedication Mike has shown over the years to the fellow members of his community.

Above all, Mike is dedicated to his family. He and Bev returned to the county over 36 years ago to be closer to family, and I know that he is now looking forward to having a little more time to spend with his wife and grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Mike Hayward, for his many years of leadership in Wallowa County. I wish Mike all the best in his new pursuits.

VOTER SUPPRESSION CONTINUES,
SO WE MUST CONTINUE THE
FIGHT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday, I rise to acknowledge the continued voter suppression around the country during this election year and the ongoing battle to protect the constitutional right to vote.

While the House was in recess, the state of Wisconsin seemed to digress in a decline of democracy through its restrictive voting laws hindering the most essential right on which this great democracy was founded; the right to vote. The newly implemented voter ID laws of Wisconsin have been compared to the poll taxing of the Jim Crow era and created a significant hardship disproportionately affecting some of the state’s most vulnerable groups seeking identification to vote.

After the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 pre-clearance requirements in 2013, several states, including Alabama, took that ruling as a license to trample on the Constitution and violate the voting rights of vulnerable communities and constituents across the nation. This election year has been especially revealing of the great danger involved in silencing the American voice and hindering their Constitutional right to vote. Enough is enough, and this continued voter suppression must stop now.

As devastating as it has been to see this ongoing suppression of the American vote, we can find strength and hope in our country’s strong stance for democracy and equality when we look to the recent Supreme Court Ruling on the Texas “one person, one vote” case. The Supreme Court’s refusal to change the way state and municipal districts are drawn and upholding representation based on total population truly affirmed our nation’s brand as a democratic society. The Justices of the Supreme Court delivered a strong singular statement that being ineligible to vote doesn’t make one invisible.

Fundamental to our democracy is that all men and women are vested with certain inalienable rights and voting is essential to those founding principles. Permanent residents have rights, the disabled should be protected, immigrants and the incarcerated should be included. The Supreme Court decision makes it clear that all people matter and all people should be counted.

We must remember that we are always more powerful united than divided and we all must continue to support equal representation and full protection of voting rights for all Americans. On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING THE SEA ISLANDS SOCIETY

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today based on the simple notion of service to others, and accordingly I would like to say a few words regarding the Islands Society. A nonprofit headquartered on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the Society's mission is to encourage islanders around the world to participate in the international community. For that mission, the Society has been recognized as one of the up-and-coming organizations by the United Nations Foundation. They also named its president and founder, Michael Edward "Eddie" Walsh, as a person to watch who wants to change the world.

Our region's group—The Sea Islands Society—is the only nonprofit on Hilton Head Island to be recognized as a top-rated nonprofit by GreatNonprofits. For this, I wanted to congratulate them on the achievement.

I think it is encouraging to see an organization reaching out at a local level and actively encouraging them to become leaders in the field of foreign policy.

HONORING MR. MATT PERRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Matt Perry, who will retire on April 2, 2016 after 28 years serving the citizens of Lake County, California in county administration. I wish him a happy retirement and hope he can spend more time with his wife, Julie, and his sons and daughter-in-law Chandler, Caleb, and Ashley.

Mr. Perry completed a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in History at Brigham Young University in Utah, before moving to California to begin his career with Lake County in 1988 as an Administrative Analyst. Through his exemplary skills and dedication to his work, he quickly earned more responsibility and higher positions, and

became a County Administrative Officer in 2012.

Lake County relied on Mr. Perry's fiscal and management expertise to navigate some of the county's most challenging periods, including the Great Recession and the Valley Fire in 2015. Mr. Perry's ability to manage everything from detailed budgeting tasks to the oversight of complex county projects demonstrates not only his value to Lake County, but also his passion for exemplary public service.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Mr. Perry generously offered his time and knowledge to serve the people of Lake County and ensured prudent fiscal management for the county. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BARRATT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mike Barratt for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Mike serves as vice president and financial consultant at Charles Schwab where he has been helping his clients manage their wealth and reach their financial goals. He focuses on changing the lives of individuals through financial freedom and firmly believes that once you change one life, you can change many. Not only is Mike successful professionally but he is deeply involved in the community. He serves as a board member at the Food Bank of Iowa and works tirelessly to eradicate food insecurity in his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

ESSAY BY GRANT DENTRY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Grant Dentry attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

For 54 years, the United States and Cuba have been hostile towards each other. The hostility stemmed from close diplomatic relations formed between Cuba and the USSR against the United States during the Cold War era. However, as of December 17, 2014 Barack Obama and Cuba's current leader Raul Castro agreed to normalize the relations between each other and lift restrictions placed on travel, trade and diplomatic embassies.

Reuniting the alliance of the United States and Cuba is now called "The Cuban Thaw". This is a significant event because it ends the last of the conflict and tensions from the Cold War which ended in 1991. This event should help both countries because we will soon be able to trade freely with each other which helps boost both economies. Also, the House of Senate removed Cuba from the United States State Sponsor of Terrorism list and the United States returned five Cuban prisoners after they returned two of our prisoners. Both governments have allowed visitation between the two countries and are positioned to lift the ban on financial transactions between banks. Cruise lines have also been approved by both governments as well as commercial flights between the countries which is expected to bolster tourism. U.S. telecommunications companies are now allowed in Cuba which will help their infrastructure, although many Cubans may not be able to afford cell phones yet. Reuniting with Cuba may also help to soften and eliminate their communist ways of government. Because of these two countries cooperating with each other again, it builds a better reputation for the U.S. and helps expand our global networking and economic power. Many American business owners can now expand their markets to include Cuba which is a short distance from the Florida coast. The United States is now open to Cubans who want to expand their business into the U.S. which will greatly help Cuba and create new jobs in both countries.

Due to this new alliance, both countries can become stronger and benefit from each other through mutual trade, travel and business. It is a major boost to the U.S. economy because we can import and export with Cuba at a low cost due to the close proximity. The improved business activity and restored diplomatic relations with a close neighbor is good for the United States and the world.