

the proper formation of blood clots. Four hundred newborns are diagnosed with this disease annually, and hundreds of thousands more suffer from it around the world. We share a responsibility to this global patient population to ensure that they are receiving the most innovative treatments and advanced care. In addition, we must reaffirm our commitment to research and development to try and find a cure for this dangerous condition.

On World Hemophilia Day, I speak in support of the many people battling this complex disease. It is my hope that by raising awareness, we will eventually see the day where treatment for hemophilia is affordable, feasible, and accessible for all.

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DON WICK

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Don Wick for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

Over the years, Don has been involved in a variety of boards and organizations that have exemplified his passion and deep commitment to the City of Arvada. Don has served as a board member for the Jefferson Foundation, Colorado Associations of Chiefs of Police, Center for Public Safety, Ralston House, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In addition, he is the former executive director for the Arvada Child Advocacy Center and also been involved in the Arvada Jefferson Kiwanis Club. With all he does, Don has the best interest of the community and its residents in mind.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Don Wick for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

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ESSAY BY KAITLIN FOSTER

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**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 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.

Kaitlin Foster attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: What makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

Everyone wants something. If our government worked in reality as it does in theory, everyone would be satisfied, but theories are just theories.

Members of Congress have a unique challenge of balancing the beliefs of many people. A politician would generally enter the political field because they want to improve society; of course, the term "improve" is entirely subjective, and its meaning lies with each individual. Thus, politicians use their own beliefs and values as a basis for change. However, personal beliefs are not enough to be elected; many groups and parties must be convinced in order to get the votes.

Once elected into Congress, a member will now have a large base of people—constituents, party members, donors—relying on them to effectively "improve" society. It is the responsibility of each member to balance the voices of the many groups.

The general population often chides Congress for "not compromising." However, with the vast amount of opinions invested into one Congressional member, each policy decision is not just each member acting on his or her own beliefs, but the beliefs of their constituents, donors, and party members. Each time a member of Congress casts a vote on a piece of legislation, they are not just voting for themselves, but for every entity that initially elected them. It is for this reason that the political process in Congress is so challenging. While it is impossible to make everyone happy, politicians cannot simply forfeit a portion of the beliefs for which they are responsible. When the general population accuses Congress of being uncompromising, they are forgetting why they elected these people into office: to advocate for us. Congress is meant to be our country in a microcosm; by choosing a candidate, we choose a vote, and we choose a voice. While popular culture may paint it differently, Congress is far from detached from general society; in fact, it is directly embedded into it. Members of Congress are speaking on behalf of the entire population, so when they give up on even a small issue, it affects thousands of lives. People may be willing to "compromise" something in the name of progress, but they most likely are not willing to compromise on their most closely held issue, the one they care the most about. Unfortunately, every issue, no matter how small, is the one that someone cares the most about. This is why members of Congress do not compromise easily; policy gridlock often ensues because they truly believe stopping all policies is better than willingly allowing someone who relies on them to be devastated. All the general population sees is a group of people not passing laws and waiting for a day when the other party finally gives up, but they do not see the true intentions of the members of Congress: to improve the lives of their constituents, as each of them see fit. The challenge actually lies not in Congress, itself, but in the country it represents.

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TRIBUTE TO ZACH JOHNSTON

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**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Johnston of Adel DeSoto Minburn (ADM) High School for winning the Class 2A, 160-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Win-

ning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Johnston, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this student demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent his family and him in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach Johnston on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

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JEAN SCHARFENBERG

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jean Scharfenberg as the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Woman of the Year for her years of volunteerism, kindness and dedication to the community.

After many years as an educator and volunteer, Jean embodies the spirit of the community and is a perfect recipient for this award. Jean worked as a volunteer for the Arvada Community Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Rose Roots Garden, Santa House, and the Majestic View Nature Center. Jean regularly participates in the City of Arvada's Adopt-a-Trail Program and has been a long-time supporter of the Arvada Center. She also co-founded Trees Across Arvada, a nonprofit program that offers an annual opportunity for residents to purchase low-cost trees suitable for Colorado's drought environment and to help beautify the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jean Scharfenberg for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 153 and "yea" on Roll Call No. 154.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2016, I did not vote on Roll Call vote Numbers 150 through 152. Had I been present I would have voted:

Roll Call Number 150, Yarmuth of Kentucky Amendment No. 2—AYE

Roll Call Number 151, McNerney of California Amendment No. 3—AYE