

high volume of Eagle Award recipients within Troop 8, are a testament to the Boy Scout's dedication to serving the community.

Boys who have passed through the program have gone on to become successful adults, upholding the ideals instilled during their time as Boy Scouts. The life skills provided by Troop 8 are invaluable in preparing these young men for future roles and responsibilities. Moreover, the Chatham community is extremely thankful for the time and effort these young men contribute to improving their neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the members of the Boy Scout Troop 8 of Chatham, New Jersey for all of their service to the community, and in congratulating them and their scout leaders on their Centennial Anniversary.

RYAN STACHELSKI

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 Ryan Stachelski for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Arvada Young Professionals Leadership Award.

As the Deputy Director of the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA), Ryan has achieved outstanding results in fostering economic development and vitality for the City of Arvada. His community-mindedness has helped create and enhance meaningful partnerships with a variety of organizations across the City. Ryan played an integral role in AEDA becoming certified as an economic development organization for the city and has helped grow engagement from local businesses to assist in Arvada's overall economic development efforts.

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

ESSAY BY JONATHAN FROST

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.

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

John Adams once said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Today the political process in Congress is challenging because the representatives in Congress have lost that shared set of core values. Congress was not always in the gridlocked state that it is now. While political parties have always differed on priorities, strategies, and tactics, until recent decades members of Congress held a set of core values. Such values included a shared view of America's role in the world, the independence of the judiciary, respect for the Constitution, universal freedom, a shared religion, and the desire for the nation to put America's interests first.

What do we have today in Congress instead of that shared set of core values? Instead of acting as a unified body that acts in the interests of the people of the nation, Congress acts more like a divided group of tribes who always try to harm the opposing tribe. The tribes primarily call themselves "Republicans" and "Democrats", both of which would rather hurt each other than do what's best for the nation. If Congress could agree again on a shared set of core values, then the legislative process would be easier and more productive.

To spawn these shared values, the stubborn allegiance most Congressmen have to their respective parties cannot continue. The challenge of getting political parties to change their ways is exasperated by many decades of bad blood and misbehavior. Many observers date the deterioration of the political parties from the character assassination of Clarence Thomas and his nomination as a Supreme Court Justice. The personal and insulting nature of the tactics of a few Democrats led to a downward spiral of revenge and payback that continues to this day.

The practical solution will require courageous leadership by strong and popular leaders of each of the two major political parties to join together in forging a concise set of core values to guide the work of the legislative branch. Only those leaders can define the values, but here are a few that might guide us:

Individual Responsibility
Compassion for those who cannot provide for themselves
Hard Work
Innovation
Free Enterprise
Strong Military

In the same way that great organizations are guided by a shared set of core values, Congress could consider only legislation that does not run afoul of the agreed set of core values. Sadly, the course of human history suggests that it is unlikely that two such visionary leaders will simultaneously emerge.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN P. CURTO ON THE OCCASION OF A DAY NAMED IN HIS HONOR BY THE CITY OF EASTON

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Stephen P. Curto. This past Sunday, City of Easton Mayor Salvatore J. Panto, Jr. declared April 17 to be Stephen P. Curto Day to give tribute to a man who brightened his community through a lifetime of service.

Stephen Curto dedicated himself to the city of his birth. A noteworthy chapter in his life

was filled by nearly fifty years of volunteering for the Easton Area Community center, which, for over sixty years, served the West Ward, one of the most diverse and impoverished neighborhoods in the City. He was instrumental in establishing the Center's annual testimonial roast fundraiser and diligently worked to ensure its continued success.

Stephen Curto was also a dedicated family man and was involved for years in Democratic politics and labor causes. In 1990, he retired from his position as a business agent for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and gave himself even more fully to his family and his causes.

I applaud the City of Easton for bestowing such a worthy tribute to a uniquely resolute and enduring figure of community service.

JIM SCHARFENBERG

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 Jim Scharfenberg as the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Man of the Year for his volunteerism, kindness and dedication to the community.

Jim has been a long-time supporter and participant in many of Arvada's community programs, such as the Arvada Center and the City of Arvada's Adopt-a-Trail Program. He also worked as a volunteer for the Arvada Community Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Rose Roots Garden, Santa House, and the Majestic View Nature Center. He co-founded Trees Across Arvada with his wife, 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 Jim Scharfenberg for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 153, due to severe weather in my district, I was unavoidably detained and unable to return to Washington, D.C. in time to cast votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO GRANT STOTTS

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 Grant Stotts of Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 132-