

pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs at all levels, producing collegiate and Olympic champions for decades. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Grant, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

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

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### 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 Food for Thought for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

With support and initial funding from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Food for Thought today serves a tremendous need with free or reduced meals in public schools across the Denver metro area. The Food for Thought program has expanded into Denver and now delivers more than 1,600 weekly "Powersacks" and has delivered over 4,300 tons of food in total to children in need. The support from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation was instrumental in this program and the expansion of the program into Denver.

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

RECOGNIZING THE TOP GRADUATING SENIORS FROM JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY, JOLIET WEST HIGH SCHOOL, AND JOLIET CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and determination of the top 25 graduating seniors from Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet West High School, and Joliet Central High School.

The academic achievements of these students are impressive, as are their community service and participation in school activities. These students truly have taken advantage of all that high school has to offer.

Also to be commended are the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, along with the Joliet Exchange, the Joliet Kiwanis, the Joliet Lions, and the Joliet Rotary Clubs, for hosting the 2016 Top Student Recognition Banquet to recognize these students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these top graduating seniors, as

well as the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, the Joliet Exchange, Joliet Kiwanis, Joliet Lions, and Joliet Rotary Clubs for hosting the 2016 Top Student Banquet.

#### INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2016. This bipartisan legislation will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits in the event they receive compensation covering unforeseen health care costs.

A few years ago, a constituent of mine was confronted with this situation. He is a Navy veteran who suffers from muscular dystrophy. One day, as he crossed the street, he was struck by a truck. He was injured. His service dog was injured. His wheelchair was severely damaged. Like any person would, he filed an insurance claim, and received a settlement to cover his medical expenses and the costs for replacing his wheelchair.

Now Mr. Speaker, imagine his surprise when he received a letter for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), explaining to him that because of his sudden jump in income, he no longer qualified for a pension. It sounds ridiculous, but that's what happened.

Now, when assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the VA considers a variety of sources of revenue to calculate annual income. The VA uses this formula to make a simple determination: if a veteran's income exceeds the limit set by the VA, he or she does not qualify for a pension.

Under current law, compensation for medical expenses or pain and suffering, including insurance settlement payments or reimbursements, is considered income. This means that veterans are effectively punished when they receive these types of compensation after suffering medical emergencies like the one I just outlined. This is, quite simply, wrong.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation exempts reimbursements and compensation for medical expenses from the VA's formula for calculating income and pension eligibility. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions, and will ensure that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled. This is a bill we can all get on board with. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

#### DEE GILL

### 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 Dee Gill for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

Dee's unwavering and ongoing kindness and generosity has helped to make the Arvada community a better place. Dee's commu-

nity-minded focus and perspective has enhanced the sense of community and family across Arvada. Her support and bigheartedness provides an example for all of us. Dee's contribution and dedication to her community will forever be remembered.

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SEGUNDO "SY" UNPINGCO

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Segundo "Sy" Unpingco. Sy was a son of Guam, strong promoter of Chamorro culture, and a survivor of the occupation of Guam during World War II. He passed away on November 26, 2015 at the age of 81.

Sy was born on Guam on May 21, 1934 to Jose Rivera Unpingco and Vicenta Aguon Unpingco. He was just seven years old when enemy forces invaded Guam during World War II. Like many Chamorros on Guam, Sy and his family endured the atrocities committed against the Chamorro people during the occupation. However following the war, Sy attended George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Administration degree from St. Mary's College and a Juris Doctorate from Lincoln Law School.

While in high school Sy met his beloved wife, Remedios "Remmy" Pangelinan and they were married in 1953. Together they had three children, Segundo, Jr., Vivian, and Paul. They made their home in San Jose, California, and throughout his career, Sy worked with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and as a Courtroom Bailiff until his retirement. Following his retirement, Sy partnered with the late Marcial Sablan and Tony Chargualaf to form the Hafa Adai Golf Classic.

Throughout its 35 year history, the Hafa Adai Golf Classic has brought together golfers, nine hosting clubs from California, Washington, and Nevada, sponsors, donors, supporters, families and friends together for a two day tournament. It has attracted approximately 17,000 semi-professionals and amateur golfers and their families from across the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Japan. Under Sy's leadership, the Hafa Adai Golf Classic promoted our Chamorro culture, and extended Guam's Inafa'maolek spirit to all who participated in the event. Sy was a shining example of that island spirit of cooperation, camaraderie and reciprocity of our culture and heritage, but he leaves behind a legacy that will live on in the years to come.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Sy Unpingco and commending him for his service to our island and contributions to our people and Chamorro culture. I extend my condolences to his wife, Remmy, children, grandchildren, family and friends. He will be missed but his memory will always be remembered by the countless people he touched throughout the years.