

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION OF DR. RON & MARY THOMAS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND AND THE GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ron & Mary Thomas, who this spring will complete their thirteenth and final year at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. Dr. Thomas has served as the University's thirteenth President since 2003 and has left a historic mark on this already prestigious institution of higher education.

The University of Puget Sound is a more diverse, inclusive, comprehensive, accessible, and transformational place because of their leadership. Thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community members have been positively impacted by their presence in this community.

Prior to arriving at Puget Sound, Dr. Thomas served as a faculty member at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Trinity College. His career in higher education is decorated with numerous recognitions for contributions in writing, student life, and institutional leadership. With the arrival of Ron and Mary Thomas to Tacoma in the summer of 2003, the University of Puget Sound began its historic growth and transformation.

Mr. Speaker, for the past thirteen years, Dr. Thomas has led and overseen a renewal of the already beautiful University of Puget Sound campus. To complement the already stunning views of Mt. Rainier and towering Douglas fir trees, Dr. Thomas and his staff directed over \$200 million in campus capital improvements. These projects include a new academic science complex, upgrades in residential facilities, and athletic and recreational centers to bolster student life. Thankfully, Dr. Thomas and his team ensured that these projects were encompassed into a thoughtful and comprehensive campus master plan.

In addition to physical improvements on campus, Dr. Thomas and his wife Mary will forever be remembered in Tacoma for their dedication to the community and for successfully following through on their vision to connect the Puget Sound campus to the community that surrounds it. Since their arrival, Ron and Mary have been generous with their time and resources in supporting the civic and cultural institutions of Tacoma.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure at UPS, Dr. Thomas helped create the "Tacoma Public Schools Commitment," which created a clear pathway for local students to attend this private, liberal-arts education at an affordable price. Given the community's diversity and challenges in paying for higher education, this initiative will help grow future generations of engaged and educated citizens of Tacoma.

Mr. Speaker, I join the larger Tacoma communities in expressing my gratitude today in the United States Congress for Dr. Ron and Mary Thomas for their thirteen years of leadership and dedication. As the proud Representative for Tacoma, WA in the House of Representatives, I offer my best wishes on their future adventures together.

CONGRATULATING THE BAND CHEAP TRICK FOR THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE ROCK N' ROLL HALL OF FAME

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the band Cheap Trick on their induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. Cheap Trick is rightfully being honored by this iconic institution for their outstanding contributions to the music industry.

Cheap Trick, from our Congressional District in Rockford, Illinois, has performed over 5,000 times in the last four decades, sold over 20 million records and has 40 gold and platinum recording awards. They have also been recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for their incredible contributions to music and pop culture.

Cheap Trick has been a staple of rock and roll for the past four decades, and their music has provided inspiration for young musicians for years and for decades to come. Despite their demanding tour schedule, Cheap Trick has always remembered their roots in Rockford and has always found time to perform in their hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Cheap Trick for their contributions to the rock and roll community, and for always making Rockford proud. I congratulate them again on their well-earned induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING HORIZON COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Horizon Community Middle School for their participation at the White House Science Fair and for their recognition as a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow National Winner.

A classroom of 40 seventh and eighth graders designed and produced a fully functioning prosthetic limb for local disabled Marine Corps veteran, Kyle Kelly. The limb was designed to help Kyle live a more active lifestyle, even allowing him to hike, ski, and skateboard comfortably.

Three students from the Horizon group, Simon-Peter Frimpong, Grayson Fast, and Maya Maxfield-Villard presented this project to President Obama at the annual White House Science Fair on April 13th.

It's inspiring to see students taking an interest in solving real-world problems through STEM while also helping veterans in need. These student innovators serve as an example for students throughout Colorado and the United States.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the students and teachers of Horizon Community Middle School for all of your hard work on this important cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 155.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 155.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLISH DAY AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE CAPITOL

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize today's Polish Day celebration at the Connecticut State Capitol, and to congratulate the Polish people in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Europe's oldest written constitution.

Poland adopted the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. With the leadership of King Stanislaw August, Poland's constitution established many of the same principles of freedom and democracy ratified in the United States, like freedom of religion, the separation of powers, and political equality.

I am proud to represent New Britain, Connecticut, which has more residents of Polish descent than any other community in our great state. Polish-Americans have made invaluable contributions to the social, cultural, and economic life and history of communities in central and northwest Connecticut, and throughout our great state.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Poland, I am committed to strengthening the bilateral relationship between Poland and the United States. Those bonds of friendship date back centuries, and have only grown stronger through solidarity in the Cold War and continued collaboration to expand economic opportunity and promote security in the region and around the world.

So Mr. Speaker, on this Polish Constitution Day, it is my privilege to join neighbors across Connecticut and the entire United States in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Poland's first constitution. I know that this House joins me in honoring the many contributions of the people of Poland and those of Polish descent in developing democracy and furthering the cause of freedom throughout the world.

H.R. 5130, THE "STOP INFANT MORTALITY AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION ACT OF 2016" ("SIMARRA ACT")

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I introduced the "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness