

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JASMINE MACIAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jasmine Macias for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jasmine Macias is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jasmine Macias is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jasmine Macias for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI AREA COMMUNITY FUND

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund. It is both an honor and a privilege to recognize the contributions this great organization has made to our community.

Established in 2001, the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund (YACF) is dedicated to building a permanent endowment to enrich the quality of life in the Ypsilanti area. The YACF's Advisory Committee includes community leaders who work together to award grants that meet the changing needs of Ypsilanti's community. The YACF has provided an outlet for people who are looking to give back to the community in a strategic way, receiving more than \$2.5 million in gifts, large and small, from those who care about Ypsilanti. These donations have directly supported local organizations and programs that serve Ypsilanti residents by awarding more than \$30,000 in competitive grants each year, and more than \$1.4 million in total support to local community projects and programs over the past 15 years.

Helping local health clinics provide access to quality health care, providing funding for new musical instruments and music instructors at the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra, helping Parkridge Community Center expand programming, and helping to rebuild the Rutherford Community Pool are just a few examples of

how YACF grants have made a real difference in the Ypsilanti community. The YACF's long-term investment strategy ensures that its endowment will continue to grow and allows the group to focus on the continued investment in our community's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the 15th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund. For fifteen years now, the YACF has displayed an immense passion and deep devotion for improving our community, and we wish them many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEYOUM TSEHAYE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, in honor of World Press Freedom Day—which was observed last week—I rise today to recognize the bravery of journalist Seyoum Tsehaye and to support press freedom around the world.

Seyoum Tsehaye is the uncle of Vanessa Berhe, a Villanova student who started the organization One Day Seyoum to advocate for press freedom and the release of unjustly imprisoned journalists in Eritrea.

In September 2001, the Eritrean government detained a number of journalists who had spoken out against the government. Seyoum Tsehaye was one of the journalists detained. He was taken from his home without an official arrest warrant. Mr. Tsehaye remains in prison and has yet to receive a trial.

Mr. Speaker, freedom of the press and freedom from unjust detainment are pillars of democracy and good governance here in the United States and in nations around the world.

CITY OF CARMI, ILLINOIS
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Carmi, Illinois upon her Bicentennial. Founded in 1814 and incorporated in 1816, the City of Carmi was named in the first home in Carmi, now known as the Robinson Stewart House. It is the County Seat of White County, Illinois.

Carmi has a rich history. Using her natural resources, early settlers used the river for transportation and was involved in agriculture. Today, Carmi citizens still benefit from the natural resources of the coal and oil industry as well as agriculture.

One of Carmi's most famous visitors was Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln visited the community to speak at a political rally in 1840 and

stayed in the building now known as the Ratcliff Inn. Today, The Ratcliff Inn is owned by the White County Historical Society.

Today, Carmi boasts of outstanding schools, several stores and businesses on Main Street, many museums owned by the White County Historical Society and a number of parks. I extend my congratulations to Mayor Jeff Pollard and the citizens of Carmi upon this celebration. May the City of Carmi have many successful years ahead.

HONORING JANICE ANN MAYS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janice Ann Mays on her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, and to thank her for over 40 years of public service. During a career spanning over 40 years, from 1975 to 2016, she served the House of Representatives as Democratic Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Committee on Ways and Means. She is a friend to all and well known for referring to everyone who meets her affectionately as "Sweetie."

Janice received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. She then received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia College of Law in Athens, Georgia.

Janice joined the Ways and Means Committee staff on December 15, 1975. She was one of three Tax Counsels and the only woman. Janice was given a small desk behind a door in 1104 Longworth. She was paid less than the men on her team and found women often excluded from organizations where tax policies were developed.

To say that Janice overcame obstacles and flourished is an understatement. She worked hard and went to school in the evening. She received a Masters of Law in Taxation from the Georgetown University School of Law. She was a founding member of an organization that gathered women in D.C. working on tax policy to discuss ideas and legislative initiatives. In May 1987, she was promoted to the Committee's Chief Tax Counsel and Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Select Revenue. In 1993, she became the Democratic Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Committee.

Janice's exhaustive efforts on behalf of the Congress and legendary work on the Tax Reform Act of 1986 have improved the lives of millions of Americans. She has managed with grace a Committee with broad jurisdiction that touches all aspects of American life—tax, trade, Social Security, Medicare, unemployment compensation, and many other income security issues.

If you ask Janice about her proudest accomplishment, she will smile and quickly tell you that it is encouraging people to work in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

government. She is proud of the Committee staff she has built. She has been a friend and a mentor to many on Capitol Hill—from interns to Staff Directors and Members. Staff on both sides of the aisle admire her and look up to her. For so many she has served as the model Capitol Hill staff person. If you catch her in a moment of reflection, she will say that it is leaving the people she has met, worked with, and mentored that cause her the most sadness.

I know I speak for the Members of the Ways and Means Committee—present and past—when I say we are truly honored to have worked with Janice. It is hard to imagine the Ways and Means Committee, and indeed, the House of Representatives, without Janice Mays. Her service has epitomized the very best in public service: hard work, loyalty and complete dedication to making government work for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in thanking Janice for the lasting mark she has left on the Ways and Means Committee and the U.S. Congress. I wish her the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her career and her life. Congratulations. We will truly miss you.

MYRA GUTZMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Myra Gutzmer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Myra Gutzmer is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Myra Gutzmer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Myra Gutzmer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM R. SNEAD

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of William R. Snead of Danville, Virginia, who passed away May 7, 2016 at age 92.

Mr. Snead was drafted into the United States Army in 1943 during World War II and trained in Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was part of the 5th Brigade of Amphibious Engineers which was attached to the 29th Infantry Division that landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day,

June 6, 1944. Snead was a company engineer with the 5th Division that landed after the first wave of infantry hit the beaches of Normandy to carry out the logistical and supply tasks that were essential to the Allied conquest of Europe.

Upon Mr. Snead's return from the war, he dedicated his life to farming in Pittsylvania County, later moving to South Boston, where he began to learn the trade of house painting, in which he would eventually start his own company, W.R. Snead Painting Company in Halifax until his retirement in 1984. Mr. Snead also served our community as a council member of the South Boston Church of God for many years, as well as a trustee, and taught their Adult Sunday school class for over 50 years.

In 2013, I was honored to see Mr. Snead receive the French Legion of Honor for his service during the Second World War and participate in a ceremony honoring Mr. Snead in Halifax. We remain forever grateful for Mr. Snead's bravery and sacrifices—may he rest in peace.

On the occasion of the passing of William R. Snead, I ask that the members of this House of Representatives join with me, Mr. Snead's wife Frances Jones Snead, his four children, ten grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, three great, great grandchildren, and the communities of Halifax and Pittsylvania in honoring the memory of a great American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JIM
CARPENTER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Carpenter on his retirement after forty-one years of dedicated service to St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School in Hanford, California.

For over four decades, Mr. Carpenter has been a dedicated educator and administrator at St. Rose-McCarthy School, working to shape the minds of countless children in our community. As a 1966 graduate of the school himself, St. Rose-McCarthy has played a significant role in Mr. Carpenter's life.

Upon his college graduation, Mr. Carpenter returned to St. Rose-McCarthy to teach in 1975. During his long career with the school, Mr. Carpenter served in various positions, and taught third, fourth, and sixth grade students. For seven years, Mr. Carpenter even served as the Principal of St. Rose McCarthy before his return to teaching in 2010.

As both a student and an educator, Mr. Carpenter spent over fifty years at St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School, which accounts for almost half of the institution's entire history. I myself had the honor of being a student in Mr. Carpenter's class, as he was my third grade teacher and basketball coach. Additionally, I had the honor of working with Mr. Carpenter as his United States Representative in 2014 and 2015, as he was instrumental in organizing many class trips to Washington, D.C. and introducing students to the legislative process, helping students to understand how our government works at an early age.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Carpenter for his decades of dedicated service and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 184 on passage of H.R. 4641, a bill to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING MR. CRAIG WHITTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Craig Whitton, who will retire after 27 years of public service with the City of Vallejo, California.

Mr. Whitton completed his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Public Policy at Duke University in 1983, before going on to earn his Master of Public Policy from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley in 1985.

After completing his graduate degree, Mr. Whitton spent more than 15 years working for the cities of Berkeley and Vallejo in California in a variety of economic development roles. Mr. Whitton then served as the Redevelopment Agency Director for the City of Fremont from 2001 to 2003, managing programs in commercial districts and affordable housing.

Mr. Whitton led the City of Vallejo's Community Development Department from 2007 to 2011, overseeing housing, economic development, and planning programs during a difficult time for the local economy. As an integral member of the team that managed the city's entry into and exit from Chapter 9 bankruptcy, Mr. Whitton helped craft a plan for Vallejo's economic recovery. Mr. Whitton now serves as Assistant City Manager for the City of Vallejo, and has been an important leader in managing the city's economic plan, overseeing housing and information technology initiatives, and working with local labor groups on behalf of the city.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Whitton dedicated his career to promoting the economic success of the communities he has served. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today and extend my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with his family.

FELIX DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Felix Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Felix Diaz is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felix Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Felix Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AUTOIMMUNE RELATED DISEASES ASSOCIATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th anniversary on the occasion of their annual Derby Luncheon and Auction.

Founded in 1991, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) was established with the mission of alleviating the suffering and impact of autoimmune diseases with the goal of eradicating autoimmune diseases throughout the U.S. and the world. AARDA's purpose is to initiate, foster, and facilitate collaboration among researchers, educators, advocates, and patient services in the autoimmune disease field while ensuring the highest level of effectiveness, ethics, and efficiency. We are proud to have such a distinguished national organization headquartered in the State of Michigan.

Autoimmune diseases affect upwards of 50 million Americans and are the second leading cause of chronic illness in the U.S. An autoimmune disease develops when the immune system, which defends the body against disease, decides the healthy cells are foreign. As a result, the immune system attacks healthy cells. Depending on the type, an autoimmune disease can affect one or many different types of body tissue. It can also cause abnormal organ growth and changes in organ function.

Many autoimmune diseases are well known including Juvenile and Type 1 Diabetes, Psoriasis, Crohn's, Fibromyalgia, Narcolepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. Many other autoimmune diseases are lesser known, but all are difficult, frustrating, and challenging for the individual suffering with the disease.

AARDA has been a tireless advocate for those impacted by autoimmune diseases,

which impacts not only the patient, but their family, workplace and communities. Their work has not only resulted in critical research, drug treatments, and answers but has also been a critical support to those who have been diagnosed. They are responsible for remarkable accomplishments.

AARDA initiated the founding of the Center for Autoimmune Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, providing a major grant to facilitate start-up and continued support of the Center's research program. AARDA's advocacy was also responsible for the establishment of the Centers for Excellence in autoimmune diseases at NIH. As the Association has grown, they have increasingly funded peer reviewed research. AARDA also focuses considerable energy on educating physicians, patients, and the public. It is through these educational efforts that the field has continued to refine its focus on autoimmune diseases and their impacts, so that ultimately scientists are able to find treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success in researching some of the most difficult diseases we face and in the support they have given so many.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COPELAND'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of Detective Mike Copeland, a financial crimes investigator from Chatham County, North Carolina.

For the past thirteen years he has served and protected the people by investigating crimes ranging from robbery and larceny to assault and homicide.

Recently, Detective Copeland managed to recover \$10,000 extorted from a victim. This noble effort marks just one example of how Detective Copeland continues to protect the ill-fated targets of malicious scammers.

I would like to thank Detective Copeland for his outstanding service and his work to protect those who become victims of financial fraud.

RECOGNIZING CARLA SANTORNO FOR HER WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD BY THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carla Santorno, the Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools. Earlier this spring, Ms. Santorno was awarded the Women in School Leadership award by the National Superintendents Association for the passion, dedication, and innovation she brings to the lives of students.

The Women in School Leadership award seeks to recognize women educational administrators who excel in their leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Ms. Santorno has gone above and beyond in these areas to help Tacoma School District students to succeed in life after school.

Tacoma Public Schools serves more than 30,000 students from kindergarten through grade 12, and employs more than 5,000 individuals. Under Ms. Santorno's leadership, Tacoma Public Schools has been recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction as one of the state's most innovative districts and has seen important improvements throughout the system across many different areas. Graduation rates have steadily increased in Tacoma high schools, decreasing the achievement gap. The district has developed a legislative agenda and has led the promotion of the Whole Child Initiative, which seeks to systematically focus on students' social, emotional, and academic needs. As a part of this effort, Ms. Santorno has initiated meaningful relationships with over 40 community organizations and has dramatically increased parental involvement. Additionally, Ms. Santorno has increased efforts to provide transparent achievement results, develop a data-driven system to recognize each student's needs, and align the budget process with the school board's strategic accountability system. All of these innovative efforts have bettered the lives of Tacoma students and the community as a whole.

Carla Santorno has committed her life to public education. She spent most of her career as a teacher, principal, administrator, and area superintendent in the Denver Public Schools before moving to Seattle to serve as chief academic officer for Seattle Public Schools. Ms. Santorno has been with Tacoma Public Schools since 2009, and has served as superintendent since 2012. The progress that has been achieved in just a few years at Tacoma Public Schools is truly remarkable and I look forward to her continued work to improve the lives of Tacoma's young people.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Carla Santorno for her inspiring work and incredible enthusiasm. Her unrelenting dedication to the Tacoma community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

DANIEL PERGOLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Pergola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Pergola is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Pergola is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Pergola for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING HARRY
FRIEDMAN

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harry Friedman from Key Largo, Florida for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts which takes years of dedicated effort. Community service and leadership are the most important tenets of being a Boy Scout and Harry has proven to possess both.

Harry's service project involved constructing a community garden located at the Keys Jewish Community Center in Tavernier, FL. Harry then arranged for the harvested vegetables to be donated to the Burton Memorial Church for their Food Bank Program. This program has assisted in feeding the homeless by adding locally grown, fresh vegetables to their diet on a regular basis.

Many of my district's constituents have already been positively affected by Harry's contributions to our community. We are all grateful for his dedication to service and know he will go on to accomplish great things.

On behalf of the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF MR. HENRY
WILSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I met and got to know Henry Wilson in January of 1969 when I took a job as the Executive Director of Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission where Mr. Henry Wilson was a member of the Board of Directors.

Henry worked for Western Electric at its Hawthorne Plant; which at its height, employed 45,000 people in its operations. Henry came off the assembly line and ultimately became the Director of Community Relations. Western Electric was incorporated in New York in 1915 and became the telephone monopoly until 1984 when it split and became AT&T Technologies. Henry as a pioneer in corporate community relations used his position at Western Electric to assist local community charitable, not-for-profit and faith institutions in fund-raising, planning and program development activities.

Mr. Wilson was a great advocate for education and youth programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and YMCA activities.

He loved Chicago, he loved the Englewood community where he lived and especially the North Lawndale Community where much of his work was centered.

CELEBRATING WILLIE BROWNING

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Willie Browning's service to central Texas. On May 12, she will retire from over 20 years of work in the veteran community as a volunteer Veterans Service Officer in Harker Heights. Her commitment to putting our troops and veterans first reflects the very best of the generous spirit of the Lone Star State.

Willie knows that the interests of our brave men and women who have served in uniform must remain a top priority for the United States government. A veteran herself, she has truly exemplified what it means to give back to her community. Along with her military service and commitment to ensuring veterans get what they earned, Willie's involvement in multiple civic organizations and her work as a published author are just a few reasons she is admired and respected by many.

Following the death of her husband, SGM William Edwards Evans, Willie didn't waste any time combining her talent and passion to proactively overcome the challenges both in her life and in the lives of others. She worked as a selfless and effective daily volunteer, helping to process over 140,000 claims from veterans and their families. Over the years, she became a trusted ally and resource for veterans in central Texas. There is no doubt that Willie's perseverance and formidable skills helped many who otherwise may not have received benefits.

Willie Browning's positive impact in her community deserves the utmost praise and recognition. With the love and support of her three daughters, three sons in law, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Willie has played a huge role in directly helping to improve the lives of so many veterans. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish her the best in both her much deserved retirement and all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF
REVEREND AARON N. GIBSON,
SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Aaron N. Gibson, Sr. on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. As the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Long Branch community.

Installed as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Long Branch, New Jersey on May 19, 1996, Rev. Gibson brought with him a wealth of experience that has helped him lead his congregation and oversee an extensive expansion of the church. Prior to his call to serve the Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson served as an Associate Minister of the Fulton Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, Assistant Pastor of the Gospel Service in Vogelweh, Germany and Director of Parish Development

for the Chaplaincy during his service to the U.S. Army Chaplain Board. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Rev. Gibson served in the Chaplain Corps for 27 years, reaching the rank of Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School and the Commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy.

In addition to his service to Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson is an active member of the community. He is a co-founder of the Urban Ministerium of Long Branch and served as its first President, a position he held for over 10 years. Rev. Gibson is also a member of the Permanent Council of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association of Central Jersey and previously served as its Second Vice-Moderator and Acting Moderator. He is also a member of the NAACP and has been recognized for his many contributions to the community, ministry and country, achieving both the Legion of Merit military award and the Whitney M. Young Service Award, among countless others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Aaron Gibson, Sr. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

ADAM SEAMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adam Seaman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adam Seaman is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adam Seaman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adam Seaman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE WASHINGTON
PREMIERE OF WALK
WITH ME: THE TRIALS OF
DAMON J. KEITH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Damon J. Keith's outstanding career and service to the United States as we celebrate the Washington premiere of the documentary Walk With Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith. Judge Keith has a long and distinguished record and this documentary honors

his legacy by chronicling some of his most notable accomplishments.

From an early age, Judge Keith excelled in and out of the classroom. He graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit, where he ran track. He went on to become the first in his family to earn a college degree when he graduated from West Virginia State College in 1943. After serving in the U.S. Army for three years, he continued his education and earned his law degree from Howard University Law School in 1949.

In 1967, Judge Keith became the second African American to sit on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan after being appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. He served as a Judge for the Eastern District from 1967 to 1977, and was named Chief Judge in 1975.

During the decade he served the District Court, Judge Keith delivered a series of key civil rights rulings including: *Davis v. School District of the City of Pontiac* (1970) (school desegregation); *Stamps v. Detroit Edison Co.* (1973) and *Baker v. City of Detroit* (1979) (employment discrimination and affirmative action); and *Garrett v. City of Hamtramck* (1971) and *Zuch v. Hussey* (1975) (housing discrimination).

He was unanimously affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in the landmark civil liberties case *U.S. v. Sinclair* (1971), known as the "Keith decision," which found that wiretap surveillance absent a court order in domestic security cases to be unconstitutional, contributing to the passage of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Keith to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, where he served for 18 years until he took senior status in 1995. During the 1980's, he chaired the Sixth Circuit and Judicial Conference Committees commemorating the Bicentennial of the Constitution.

In the wake of post-September 11 civil liberty challenges, Circuit Judge Keith, ruled in *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft* (2002) that the absolute closure of deportation hearings in "9-11 special interest" cases was unconstitutional, thereby ensuring openness in government proceedings.

Judge Keith is widely revered, having received numerous honors and awards, including: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's highest award, the Springarn Medal, in 1974; the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award in 1997; the Edward J. Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice in 1998, presented by a panel comprised of a United States Supreme Court Justice, a federal circuit court judge, and a federal district court judge; and honorary degrees from Harvard University, Yale University, Georgetown University, the University of Michigan, Tuskegee University, and over thirty other institutions.

Throughout his career, Judge Keith has consistently stood as a defender of the Constitution and civil rights of all people.

On the occasion of the Washington premiere of the documentary *Walk With Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith*, I applaud his many accomplishments. I am glad that Judge Keith's story is being shared and that many more people will have the opportunity to learn of his contributions to our Nation.

ST PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Strasbourg, Illinois.

On April 15, 1866, even before the formation of the Village of Strasbourg, worshipers came together to form St. Paul's. The congregation at first had no building in which to worship, and so the first members would meet in each other's homes or in public schools. But it would not be long before the first church was constructed, and in 1954 the current church was built, which to this day offers Sunday services.

The parishioners of St. Paul's feel devoted to their parish and to each other, as generations have worshipped together as members of an extended family. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has a long tradition of community involvement and care, and for 150 years it has been serving the spiritual and emotional needs of its members and the community.

St. Paul's celebrated its 150th anniversary with a special service and an appearance from the Concordia Seminary Touring Choir of St. Louis, and its celebration will continue with special events scheduled for later this summer. I look forward to the continued success of St. Paul's, and I extend my best wishes as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 2016, on Roll Call Number 180 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4957, To designate the Federal Building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4957.

On May 10, 2016, on Roll Call Number 181 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5052, Opioid Program Evaluation Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5052.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES RAGLAND

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Ragland of Palm

Beach County who passed away in August after a courageous fight with brain cancer.

Charles Ragland was a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, a dedicated public servant and inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Following his graduation from the University of Miami in 1965, Charles joined the United States Army and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. After receiving a commission as a Lieutenant, Mr. Ragland completed Jungle Warfare School in Panama before serving two years in Vietnam as a member of the First Cavalry Division.

Mr. Ragland served honorably and courageously while in Vietnam, receiving a number of commendations for his service. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Bronze Star with Valor and an additional Bronze Star.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army in 1969, Charles began what would be a long and successful career in finance. He began working as the National Coordinator of State Finance Chairman for President Gerald Ford's 1976 Election Campaign. After leaving the campaign, Charles worked with Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Cancer Foundation in Miami and the American Red Cross—Palm Beach County Chapter before finding his true calling as an Investment Director with Wells Fargo Advisors.

Alongside his prominent financial career, Mr. Ragland continued to selflessly serve his community. He served as the President of Kiwanis of Palm Beach as well as chairing the board of Pine Crest School at Boca Raton. Most notably, Charles was the Founding Board Chairman of Operation Homefront—Florida. His exemplary dedication to his community and to helping veterans in need through this organization earned him the prestigious Wachovia Way award in 2008 and the 2010 Wells Fargo Volunteer of the Year award.

On October 29, 2010, Mr. Ragland was diagnosed with a stage four Glioblastoma. This highly malignant form of brain tumor is unfortunately difficult to treat as it reproduces quickly and is made up of a multitude of different cell types which do not all respond to treatment in the same way. Charles outlasted Glioblastoma's median survival rate of 14 months, fighting off the disease for nearly five years until his passing on August 2, 2015.

Mr. Ragland will be sorely missed but his memory will live on through all of the lives he impacted. While we all are deeply saddened by his passing, I hope that Mr. Ragland's fight may raise awareness for this deadly disease so that others might beat this cancer in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for all of Palm Beach County in saying that we are grateful for Mr. Ragland's service and I know that he will live on in the memory of his family and friends. Charles Ragland was a soldier, a skilled businessman and dedicated pillar in his community, who lived his life in a way that we should all strive to live our own. Charles will be truly missed.

DESTINY GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destiny Garcia is an 8th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

DECLASSIFICATION OF THE 28 PAGES OF THE 9/11 JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling on President Obama to finally declassify the 28 pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

This year will mark 15 years since the horrific September 11 attacks that struck at the heart of our nation, and shook us to our core. The United States suffered an immeasurable tragedy that day, but for the victims and their families, their loss is beyond words. They lost sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sisters and brothers. These families' lives were forever changed, and their road to healing is made all the more difficult by the questions that remain unanswered.

These classified pages in the 9/11 joint congressional inquiry contain vital information about the circumstances surrounding the attacks, and can provide crucial guidance for our future counterterrorism policies. I have personally read these pages and am confident that they can be released without compromising intelligence-gathering sources and methods. The Obama Administration is currently undertaking a review and is expected to announce its decision in the coming weeks. I strongly urge it to complete its review as soon as possible and declassify the 28 pages.

I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan effort to give the families the answers they deserve. Together with my colleagues Congressman WALTER JONES and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE, we introduced H. Res. 14 urging the President to release the pages. I want to thank Congresswoman GWEN GRAHAM for organizing these speeches that are bringing re-

newed attention to this matter. I also want to acknowledge and thank former Senator Bob Graham for his hard work as Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence when the Joint Congressional Inquiry was written, and his steadfast advocacy for making these pages public.

Mr. Speaker, the victims' families and our nation experienced a profound personal loss and after 15 years they deserve to have their questions answered. The declassification of the 28 pages will be an important step in that direction.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF COL. TANYA S. BAKER FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Tanya S. Baker of Woodbridge, VA on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Army. Throughout her 30 year career, Col. Baker has selflessly served our country and community; namely, during the time she spent as North American Aerospace Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), at the Pentagon. NORAD USNORTHCOM is a tremendous institution and its Washington Office is charged with building trusted relationships with mission essential partners, such as DHHS. NORAD USNORTHCOM provides command and control of Department of Defense (DOD) homeland defense efforts and coordinates Defense Support of Civil Authorities. In performing both of these critical missions, USNORTHCOM defends America's homeland and protects our people, national power, and strategic freedom of action.

Col. Baker was commissioned via Georgetown ROTC in May of 1986, after matriculating from George Mason University. She received her commission as a Medical Service Corps Lieutenant and served in many notable assignments of increasing responsibility, including Federal Coordinating Center Coordinator at Tripler Army Medical Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii and Battalion Commander for the Army Reserve Careers Division, 13th Battalion, in Aurora, CO. Such roles have enabled Col. Baker to positively and significantly influence her colleagues, fellow Soldiers, as well as the future strategic leaders of our military.

Col. Baker holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from George Mason University and Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College. Col. Baker also completed a second Senior Service College—the Air War College. In addition to her academic success, Col. Baker has received an extensive number of awards and decorations. These include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation Award and Army Staff

Identification Badge. Such accolades are indicative of the high caliber of her unfailing and dedicated service to our nation.

On June 6th, 2014, Col. Baker assumed duties as the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services, at the Pentagon. As a Coordination Officer, Col. Baker has directly and significantly contributed to NORAD and USNORTHCOM's mission success in response to the Unaccompanied Children Humanitarian Crisis and the international and domestic responses to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. The trusted partnerships that Col. Baker meticulously built among diverse stakeholders will remain as her key national-level contribution and legacy. Even though she will no longer be present at NORAD and USNORTHCOM on a day-to-day basis, her legacy will inevitably carry on.

Col. Baker is supported in her retirement by her parents: Thermus R. Baker, Sr. and Ruth B. Baker; her brothers: Thermus R. Baker, Jr., Everett S. Baker, Gary B. Baker, and Reginald M. Baker; her sister Monica R. Frazier; and her faithful companion and dog Zoe Simone.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Col. Baker on the culmination of a distinguished 30 year career in the United States Army. I wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING MR. BRAD ONORATO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Mr. Brad Onorato for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain

Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Brad to further the preservation of our nation's great open spaces.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is an honor to highlight their continued commitment to the spiritual and cultural life of the Washtenaw County community.

In 1916, The Beth Israel Congregation was established, and for many years was the only Jewish congregation in Ann Arbor. At its inception, the congregation celebrated the Jewish High Holidays in the home of Osias Zwerdling who served as the President of the congregation for forty years. The congregation was without a Rabbi until Joshua Sperka who served from 1932–1934. For many years, the Beth Israel congregation occasionally had a Rabbi, but made the community work through a wonderful spirit of volunteerism and faith. Today, the congregation is blessed to have the leadership of Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal.

The Beth Israel Congregation has had an important influence on Jewish life in Washtenaw County. In fact, Beth Israel was one of the first conservative congregations in southeast Michigan to become an egalitarian congregation. For the Beth Israel congregation, participation in, leading, or chanting the service is an important aspect of the congregation and they have fully welcomed LGBT individuals into this congregational life. Beth Israel Congregation's services reflect Ann Arbor's rich diversity; making it one of the leading advocates for the ordinations of LGBT rabbis in the Jewish diaspora. Beth Israel is a faithful, forward looking congregation that is growing, welcoming new members, and staying positively involved in the community, in the finest tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation and wish them many more years of faithful service.

JAMES TRESKO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Tresco for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

James Tresco is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Tresco is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Tresco for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GUNNY SERGEANT GEORGE A. CRISWELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell as he retires from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). Gunny Sergeant Criswell served in the USMC for 20 years and deserves to be commended for his outstanding service and dedication to our country.

Gunny Sergeant Criswell was born in York, Pennsylvania on March 18, 1972. From a young age he embodied the traits of a Marine; he is selfless, courageous, intelligent, loyal, and enthusiastic. It is no coincidence that Gunny Sergeant Criswell would dedicate his life to serving our country and become a heroic leader to our nation.

During his most recent overseas deployment from November 10, 2011 through October 31, 2012, he served as the Staff Non-Commissioned-Officer-in Charge of CJ3 Borders Division, Combat Joint Task Force and Regional Command—East. While he was deployed, Gunny Sergeant Criswell was in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII in Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan as well as other locations throughout Afghanistan. The mission of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII was to facilitate coordination of near-border combat operations and emergency de-escalation of fires between Coalition Forces, Afghan National Security Forces, and the Pakistani Military.

While stationed in the Bagram Airfield, Gunny Sergeant Criswell witnessed a situation in which 2000 local Afghans attempted to breach an entry control point. When Sergeant Gunny Criswell returned to the United States, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his valiant service where he was subject to over 45 indirect fire attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the career and noble service of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell. It is with great pride that we thank him for his genuine selflessness and service to our country.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF U.S. AND CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and offer

my heartiest congratulations to the professional musicians and leadership of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM). This year, the union which represents more than 80,000 professional musicians will convene and celebrate its 100th Annual International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 20, 2016. Many members of Congress maintain a close personal relationship with the professional musicians of this storied organization many of whom live and work in your respective districts. I know you like I wish them another 100 years addressing the complex issues that drive the American music industry.

For more than 119 years, the AFM has represented the interests of musicians working in America's major and regional symphony orchestras like the Washington National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and many others. The organization also represents jazz, country and pop greats such as Winton Marsalis, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, and Willie Nelson to name a few. AFM musicians for decades have performed the sounds movie goers around the world have been privileged to hear in such epic American films as Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Sponge Bob Movie, the Wolf of Wall Street, and Trumbo to name a few. These incredibly talented American musicians have performed under the batons of such distinguished American internationally recognized composers and AFM members as John Williams, Clint Eastwood, Lennie Niehaus, and others.

The AFM also has a unique set of accomplishments on Capitol Hill, successfully representing musicians in the areas of performance rights, copyright, intellectual property, federal appropriations, immigration reform, Department of Transportation regulatory reform, Department of the Interior regulatory reform, as well as work in the area of tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, no other national instrumental music organization has the tenure and reach of the American Federation of Musicians having affected legislation and regulations that have helped more than one million professional musicians, students and amateur professionals create uniquely American music.

The AFM's longevity is so storied that the United States Department of Labor recognizes it as one of a few American labor organizations that has existed for more than 100 years and proudly displays a plaque in honor of that accomplishment in the corridors of the Department of Labor.

As a performing musician myself, I understand the nature of the music business and recognize that the work of the AFM has benefited more than its own members but has been a driving force in the advancement of America music recognized the world over as some of the most progressive and entertaining domestic product in great demand around the globe.

So, I ask members of congress to join with me in celebrating a unique American institution comprised of some of the best musicians recognized across the globe. Our hats are off to those who make American music great.

A TRIBUTE: REMEMBERING THE
2015 AMTRAK DERAILMENT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 8 people who were killed, as well as the more than 200 people injured in the Amtrak train 188 derailment one year ago today in Philadelphia. This tragedy affected the entire region, touching the lives of hundreds of people across the country. It serves as an important reminder that we must work to ensure the necessary safeguards are in place, in order to protect Amtrak riders and employees from unnecessary heartbreaks such as this.

On this day, it is also important to remember and be thankful for the selfless work of our first responders and hospital staff that treated the victims and consequently saved lives. Equally important was the open hearted response of the residents of the area, who truly showed the nation why we are known as the "City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection" by immediately opening their doors to the victims and providing food and water. In spite of this terrible tragedy, we can be proud of the humanity exhibited by all those who offered help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring the victims of the train 188 derailment one year ago today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on April 28 through 29, 2016, I was inadvertently detained on Rollcall Votes 176, 177, and 179. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yes" on each. In addition, I was inadvertently detained on Rollcall Vote 178. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "no."

MASON KIM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mason Kim for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mason Kim is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mason Kim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mason Kim for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on May 11, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote number 182 due to a meeting with Senator PAT ROBERTS. If I had been in attendance, I would have voted yes on roll call vote 182.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express deep concern over the recent surge in hostilities along the front line between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This outbreak of violence has claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

The recent violent clashes followed a successful visit to the U.S. by President Aliyev of Azerbaijan, which included meetings with Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Kerry, as both reaffirmed U.S. support for expanding ties with Azerbaijan, a reliable strategic partner in a tough neighborhood.

Given Russia's apprehension with the strategic Southern Gas Corridor project championed by Azerbaijan and providing energy security for our allies in Europe, and Azerbaijan's security alliance with the United States, this latest upsurge in fighting is another sign of Moscow's meddling in the affairs of states along its borders.

As we've seen in Eastern Ukraine and Georgia, Russia continues to exploit separatist movements along its periphery to pressure America's friends and bring them back into its orbit.

Unfortunately, it's not the first time that Armenia—the Kremlin's key regional ally and the host to a number of Russian military bases—is being used as a proxy to intimidate U.S. partners, including Azerbaijan and Georgia.

As the latest loss of life shows, Armenia's nearly complete economic, political and military dependence on Russia no longer is a threat to its neighbors alone—it's a security challenge to Armenia itself.

These latest hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia once again remind us of the urgency to find a peaceful solution to the protracted Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

I urge the Administration to step up its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and work with both sides to stabilize the situation.

Meanwhile, in the face of increasing Russian interference and aggression against its neighbors, the United States should remain steadfast in its support for our friends in Azerbaijan.

IN HONOR OF JOHN MORRIS
DAVIS' EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE
TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I seek to honor the life of John Morris Davis, Jr., who died May 7th 2016 due to a cardiac arrest suffered while volunteering as a firefighter in Kenly, North Carolina.

Mr. Davis had a fierce passion for serving his community, as made apparent through his role as a local police officer and also as a volunteer firefighter. He always sought to provide aid to people in need, frequently showing up to help even on days he wasn't expected to. Mr. Davis' heroic bravery in seeking to save the life of another speaks volumes about his character and his dedication to the motto of others before self.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Dwaina; three children, Courtney, Autumn, and Hanna; and his brotherhood of the Kenly Fire Department.

John M. Davis, like so many of our brave firefighters and policemen, sacrifice time with their families and loved ones to ensure our community's safety. We are forever indebted to them for their courageous service.

CONGRATULATING KIMMIE
ETHEREDGE ON HER RETIREMENT AS PRINCIPAL OF KAY
GRANGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kimmie Etheredge for her nine tremendously successful years as Principal of Kay Granger Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Principal Etheredge came to the Northwest Independent School District in north Fort Worth in 2007 to open Kay Granger Elementary. She helped build a community in the new suburb by meeting parents and encouraging them to be a part of their children's education. She called and personally welcomed every incoming student to the new school.

She developed a strong academic and parental and community support base, and is extremely popular among current and former students and their families. Under her leadership, the campus has averaged over 10,000 volunteer hours every year.

The school won the district's Partner in Education Campus of the Year Award three years in a row. It received an exemplary rating in academics for five straight years. It was chosen as a state School of Character in 2012, and was designated a National School of Character the following year.

During her 28 years in education, Principal Etheredge spent 12 years teaching Fourth Grade, two years as assistant principal, and 14 years as a campus principal. She was named a 2014 Texas National Distinguished Principal.

Principal Etheredge has co-chaired the Texas Elementary Principals and School Administrators (TEPSA) State Schools of Character Initiative since 2011. She is a sought-out speaker statewide on character development, teacher and campus morale, and fostering grit in both student and adult learners.

The statewide TEPSA group has chosen Etheredge to be co-director of its Transformational Leadership Community program. She will be mentoring new principals throughout Texas, and training others to be mentors as well. She will leave Granger Elementary next month to move on to her new position.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Principal Etheredge as a friend and admired her leadership as a principal and in the community. We will miss her in our local schools, but we know she will now be improving all of our schools. Please join me in congratulating her for her service, and wishing her well in her new endeavor.

PABLO FLORES-CERVANTES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Pablo Flores-Cervantes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Pablo Flores-Cervantes is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Pablo Flores-Cervantes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pablo Flores-Cervantes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID R. STONE
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. David R. Stone for his contributions and years of service to the field of nonprofit community mental health. I congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Dr. Stone has committed his entire career to nonprofit community mental health. For the past 27 years, he has served as Chief Executive Officer of Sound Mental Health, which is one of King County's most comprehensive mental health providers. Services provided include mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral health services to children, men, and women. Following the passage of the Affordable Care Act, under Dr. Stone's leader-

ship, Sound Mental Health successfully facilitated the integration of behavioral health with primary care, realizing tremendous growth from this alignment. His unrelenting dedication to mental health services resulted in Sound Mental Health growing to 80-plus programs, supporting more than 20,000 people, and generating annual revenue in the millions of dollars.

Dr. Stone has been an influential leader in the field of behavioral health in the community as well as all over the country for the past 42 years. He is known for his gracious manner and his strong business sense. Dr. Stone's perseverance has elevated the conversation about mental health and changed the way our community views this important field. Dr. Stone's influence has changed minds and impacted the mental health field tremendously.

Prior to serving as the CEO of Sound Mental Health, Dr. Stone served as the Executive Director for Mental Health Services of Upper Pinellas and Baltimore Mental Health Systems. Dr. Stone is very active in the community. He serves on the board of directors for Mental Health Corporations of America and the Washington Community Health Council while also finding time to be an active member of the King County Mental Health Providers Association.

Dr. Stone earned his B.A. in Psychology from Eckerd College, his M.A. in Psychology from the University of Florida, followed by a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, also from the University of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Dr. David R. Stone for his admirable leadership as CEO of Sound Mental Health and congratulate him on his recent retirement. His work will undoubtedly continue to impact the mental health community for many years to come.

HONORING MS. CASEY
BADMINGTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Ms. Casey Badmington for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open

and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Casey to further the preservation of our nation's great open spaces.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVINE CHILD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Divine Child High School Music Program in Dearborn, Michigan. The longevity of musical excellence at Divine Child's Music Program, which gives young musicians opportunities to develop and showcase their talents, is known and valued throughout the Dearborn community.

Divine Child High School was founded in 1958 as a co-ed Catholic high school centered on Christian values and traditions. With a strong tradition of excellence in partnership with the community, Divine Child is committed to providing opportunities to nurture students academically, creatively, socially and spiritually. Divine Child High School develops youth who will pursue lives of responsibility and leadership.

Since 1966, Divine Child High School Bands and Choirs have provided a rich musical backdrop for all school events. This tradition serves as an inspiration for today's students, as well as generations of Divine Child graduates. Today, the music program includes nearly twenty percent of Divine Child's student population with over one hundred performers. Divine Child musicians and vocalists have shared their talents locally, nationally and internationally, showcasing ten music groups including marching, symphonic, jazz, musical, and pep bands. The program has won best band awards from America's Thanksgiving Parade to Mackinaw City and has performed at Disney World, The Field Museum in Chicago and The Old Post Office in D.C. Divine Child High School Bands have learned from advanced clinics at Vanderbilt University, Catholic University and with Broadway conductors in New York City. In addition to public appearances, Divine Child Pep Bands greet incoming freshmen in the fall and celebrate graduation with the seniors in the spring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Divine Child High School Music Program and we wish them many more years of success.

HONORING HELEN AND TAYLOE
MURPHY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen and Tayloe Murphy of Mount Holly, VA for their many years of dedicated service to conservation, beautification and preservation efforts in Virginia.

Helen has been engaged in preservation and conservation activities for over 50 years. She has served on the boards of the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Department of Historic Resources, the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and the Rappahannock Community College. In addition to serving on these boards, Helen served as the President of the Menokin Foundation from 2004 to 2010 and the President of The Garden Club of Virginia from 1992 to 1994.

Tayloe has also dedicated his life to public service. After graduating from Hampton—Sydney College, Mr. Murphy attended law school at the University of Virginia and then went on to serve as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. Continuing his public service career, he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1982 to 2000, and was later appointed Secretary of Natural Resources during Governor Mark Warner's administration. While a member of the General Assembly and as Secretary of Natural Resources he served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission and was its chairman three times. Tayloe has practiced law since 1960, and he has been a leading voice for environmental interests for decades, playing an instrumental role in the development of key legislation, regulations and policies. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Preservation Virginia. He is a former President of the Northern Neck Historical Society and serves on the Board of Directors of Union Bankshares Corporation. Tayloe just finished his term as President of the Menokin Foundation after serving for six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have shown an unwavering commitment to the conservation of Virginia's natural resources. Their leadership and hard work has not gone unnoticed. The Murphy's active involvement has made their community a better place and I am proud to have them as residents of the First District. I thank both Helen and Tayloe for their leadership of the Menokin Foundation and for working tirelessly to protect our natural resources and environment for future generations.

BROOKE CATLIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brooke Catlin for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brooke Catlin is an 11th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award

because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brooke Catlin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brooke Catlin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE ZIKA PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS:
THE URGENT NEED FOR THE
PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY FUND-
ING REQUEST

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the topic of the Zika Virus threat that is real and something that the Congress should address.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, which has a core mission of emergency preparedness of state and local governments to be equipped to react to emergencies make me acutely aware of the potential for the Zika Virus to be a real challenge for state and local governments in the coming months.

I thank President Obama for his leadership in requesting \$1.9 billion to address the threat of the Zika Virus.

The Administration due to the threat posed by Zika has used funds allocated for Ebola, which will need to be replaced once Zika funding is available.

The region of the world impacted by Ebola is still seeing new victims and the funds allotted for Ebola are therefore still needed.

I like many of my colleagues with districts along the Gulf Coast am well aware of the presence of mosquitoes.

These areas are known to have both types of the Zika Virus vectors: the *Aedes Aegypti* and the *Aedes Albopictus*, which is why I held a meeting in Houston on March 10, 2016 about the evolving health threat.

I convened a meeting with Houston, Harris County and State officials at every level with responsibility for combating the Zika Virus to discuss preparations that would mitigate the spread of the mosquitoes that can carry the virus.

Houston, Texas, like many cities, towns, and parishes along the Gulf Coast, has a tropical climate like parts of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean. Tropical climates are hospitable to mosquitoes that carry the Zika Virus.

In addition, Houston has a large and very diverse population that travels to many of the Zika Virus impacted zones, located throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean where mosquito transmission of the Zika Virus is the primary means of exposure to the illness.

I have identified shared concerns among state and local agency officials regarding a

need to have a plan to address the Zika Virus in the Houston and Harris County area that would include every aspect of the community.

Part of the Zika Virus response must be to ensure that we are doing all that we can and should be doing to reach every community.

CDC has a disease surveillance unit at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The participants in the March 10, 2016 meeting I hosted on the Zika Virus provided insight into each of the areas that local governments will have to address.

The participants in the March 10, 2016 meeting I held in Houston included:

Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine; Dr. Umair Shah, Executive Director for Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services; Dr. Dubboun, Director of the Harris County Public Health Environmental Services Mosquito Control Division; Dr. Gruber, Assistant Commissioner from Regional and Local Health Services for the State of Texas; Dr. Raouf Ararat, Houston Health and Human Services Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness; Stephen Williams, Director of Houston Health Department; Dr. David Persse, Physician Director, Emergency Medical Services, Houston Public Health Authority; and Julie Graves, (Confirmed) MD, MPH, PhD, Regional Medical Director, Health Service Region 6/5S, Texas Department of State Health Services.

The collective wisdom of these experts revealed that we should not let the fear of the Zika Virus control public policy; but that we should get in front of the problem, then we can control the Zika Virus from its source—mosquitoes.

The fight against the Zika Virus will be neighborhood by neighborhood and will rely upon the resources and expertise of local government working closely with State governments with the support of federal government agencies.

The consensus of the experts is that the existence of the Zika Virus are through: health community communication with the public; correct vector control; surveillance; planning; keep yards clean, road ways, and lots free of any breeding environments for mosquitoes; and community engagement in the work that must be done is essential.

Poverty and the conditions that may exist in poor communities can be of greatest risk for the Zika Virus breeding habitats for vector mosquitoes.

Illegal dumping of tires; open ditches, torn screens, or no screens during the long hot days of summer will make for a perfect storm for the spread of the virus.

Mr. Speaker, I will remind my colleagues that eighty percent of those infected will not know they have the Zika Virus.

An uninfected mosquito biting this person can spread the virus when it bites other people.

The rate of spread of the disease by the *Aedes Aegypti* is problematic because the mosquito will bite many people to collect enough blood to lay eggs.

The *Aedes Aegypti* has evolved to rely exclusively on human blood, which means it adapted to fly low—close to the ground; seeks any opportunity to enter homes; can breed in as little as a cap of dirty water; is known to breed in fish aquariums; plant water catch dishes; or tires.

Blood is essential for breeding of the vector mosquitoes for the Zika Virus and the Aedes Aegypti is seeking an opportunity that keeps it near people.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to be alarmed, but we should be preparing to do what we can to prevent and mitigate the Zika Virus in communities around the nation.

We know that 33 states have one or both of the vector mosquitoes.

It is anticipated that the Americas including the United States can expect 4 million Zika Virus cases in the next four months and to date there are over a million cases in Brazil.

The most serious outcome of the Zika Virus exposure is birth defects that can occur during pregnancy if the mother is exposed to the Zika Virus.

The virus is believed to invade the central nervous system of the developing baby and inhibit brain development, which can result in: still births; microcephaly; the rate for the Zika Virus exposure far exceeds that number.

Microcephaly is brain underdevelopment either at birth or the brain failing to develop properly after birth, which can cause: difficulty walking; difficulty hearing; and difficulty with speech.

There are no tests to detect the virus and there is no vaccine or cure.

If we do not act—the public reaction to Ebola will seem tame compared to how the public might react to the arrival of mosquitoes transmitting the Zika Virus.

I call on my colleagues to pass the President's request for the \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations.

If you are not sure whether the Zika Virus is a potential problem in your districts, I challenge you to hold a meeting like the one I held in Houston on March 10, to become informed.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF THE D.C. CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION COMMITTEE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing not only our outstanding high school artists in the District of Columbia who participated in this year's Congressional Art Competition, but also the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee which made this year's competition a success.

Since its inception in 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has encouraged the artistic talents of high school students from across the country. This year my office received 135 pieces of artwork from students in grades 8 through 12 from 24 public, charter, and private schools in the District, the largest number of D.C. schools, that have ever participated in this annual art competition.

But the untold story of the Congressional Art Competition is of the volunteers whose time and expertise are responsible for executing the entire competition. Here in the District of Columbia, this year's competition would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee:

THOMAS ATKINS, OWNER, TERA GALLERY

Mr. Atkins, a former staff member whose many duties included the annual art competition, generously continues to serve as an advisor who assists wherever he is needed.

WILLIAM BROWER, OWNER, JBV PRODUCTION

Mr. Brower provided the valuable services of setting up the venue for the reception, as well as clean up at the end of the evening.

YAIDA FORD, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FORD LAW FIRM

Ms. Ford did a tremendous amount of outreach to secure art supply donations and prizes for all of our student participants, including an iPad for the second place winner.

She also dedicated her own time to volunteer for day-of operations at the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Reception.

TIFFANI GOMEZ, SALES ASSOCIATE, BLICK ART SUPPLIES

Ms. Gomez is one of the most passionate members of the committee. She helped secure art portfolios for student artwork, and helped with day-of operations at the reception.

ERIC KOKUMA, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES, MILITARY OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY; JENNIFER LITTELL, PROGRAM LEAD, CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Mr. Kokuma and Ms. Littrell were in charge of entertainment for the reception, and recruited Ward 1 ANC Commissioner Frank Agbro to perform with his family jazz band.

DONNELL LEWIS, PRESIDENT, ONE CREATIVE SOURCE

Mr. Lewis is the generous and enormously capable longtime chairman of the committee.

CAMILO MANJARRES, CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW,
CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Mr. Manjarres has worked diligently to facilitate committee meetings and logistics for our annual art competition, and expanded the competition's community outreach to increase participation.

PATRICIA MITCHEL, SYSTEMS ANALYST, AMTRAK

Ms. Mitchel has been a very active member of the committee. She has worked tirelessly to secure food and drink donations for our reception, including cupcakes from Georgetown Cupcakes and food from &pizza.

ZOMA WALLACE, CURATOR AND ART BANK COORDINATOR, D.C. COMMISSION ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Ms. Wallace took on the responsibility for the day-of logistics, and essentially curated the competition to make sure that all of the student art was strategically placed and easy for participants to review. She also served as a juror, and helped select this year's winners.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each member of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee for their indispensable work in this year's competition, and I take this opportunity to again thank the student artists for submitting such wonderful work.