

granted to everyone by the U.S. Constitution. The competition was open to all state bar associations, that selected local winners in each of three competition categories. The Katy Bar Association chose Alex's composition for its editorial submission.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alex Pratt for winning second place in the annual Law Day competition. Thank you for bringing this prestigious honor to Seven Lakes High School. We expect more great things from Alex in the future.

#### HISTORIC MEETING OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the events taking place on the Greek island of Crete, where Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has called a historic meeting of Orthodox Christian Churches.

This meeting, known as the Holy and Great Council, is the first of its kind in over a millennium. The fourteen Orthodox Christian Churches together have over 300 million followers around the world, including over a million Americans. These churches are self-governing but united by common dogma, faith, liturgy, and moral conviction, with the Ecumenical Patriarch serving as the "first among equals."

Three hundred and fifty leaders will attend this meeting, which is set to begin on Sunday and continue through June 26. They will discuss key issues facing Orthodox Christians, including the church's mission in today's world, the Orthodox diaspora, and relations with other Christian churches.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of his 2000-year-old Church. He holds numerous doctorates, including from Georgetown and Yale, and was awarded a Gold Medal by Congress in 1997.

The Patriarch has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation among all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Patriarch organized a gathering of religious leaders including Muslim Imams to condemn the attacks as an anti-religious act.

Mr. Speaker, the over one million Orthodox Christians in the United States represent diverse backgrounds and cultures. I join them in celebrating this historic meeting.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF JOHNSTON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Johnston, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in co-

operation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of Johnston has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide. When communities like Johnston are recognized it makes me proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress.

I commend the City of Johnston and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on this award and in wishing the city nothing but continued success.

#### CONGRATULATING FAITH WEN ON BEING NAMED A MEMBER OF THE 52ND CLASS OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Faith Wen, of Strafford, Missouri, for recently being named a member of the 52nd Class of the U.S. Presidential Scholars.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars program was established in 1964 with the intent of honoring the top high school graduates in the nation. It is an extremely prestigious award that is only granted to 161 graduating seniors, who are considered for admittance based on their proven track record of academic excellence. Applications to the Presidential Scholars program are by invite only, as applicants are either nominated by earning exceptional standardized test scores or by being specifically nominated by a Chief State School Officer.

Faith had to pass a rigorous selection process on her way to receiving this honor. As one of 4,000 initial candidates from over 3.3 million graduating seniors, Faith had already distinguished herself as a high achieving student. By being selected as one of 800 semifinalists, and then finally as one of the 161 award recipients, Faith has proven to be worthy of one of the highest academic honors attainable by a high school student.

Mr. Speaker, Faith Wen has earned the honor of being a U.S. Presidential Scholar through a combination of tireless effort, dedication to her studies and impressive intelligence. I'm proud to count such a remarkable young woman among my constituents. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Faith, and wishing her luck in all her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING COLONEL PAUL BALASH III

### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor DLA Distribution San Joaquin Deputy Director Colonel Paul Balash III on his retirement. I would also like to personally thank him for his many years of profound service to our Country and to San Joaquin County.

Colonel Balash was born on May 19, 1948 in Fremont, California. After obtaining his degree from San Diego State University, he attended the Marine Corps War College and the National Defense University. Col. Balash dedicated 34 years of service to the Marine Corps, beginning as a Private and retiring at the rank of Colonel. His outstanding leadership allowed him to serve as a logistician, strategic military planner, and a national security specialist.

Throughout his time in service he was involved in over 50 studies, analyses, and gaming events aiding the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense. Events under his supervision included the Comprehensive Material Response Plan, DLA and USTC efforts for material positional, distribution for a national defense strategy, and PRIME CHALLENGE III.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Colonel Paul Balash for his service and dedication to our great country.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM SNYDER FOR HIS 9 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Snyder on the occasion of his retirement from Ivy Tech Community College. For the past nine years, Tom has devoted his life to providing an exceptional educational experience to the students of Ivy Tech. Ivy Tech flourished immensely under Tom's strong leadership, and the Hoosier community is forever grateful for his dedication to our state and country's future leaders.

Tom has demonstrated a lifetime passion for serving his community and country. As a lifelong resident of Anderson, Indiana, Tom graduated St. Mary's High School. He attended Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, and graduated in 1967 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University after having served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force for 6 years. He applied his passion for learning and education to his service in the Air Force, working in research and development at various locations such as Vandenberg and Andrews Air Force Bases as well as the Pentagon.

Before serving as President of Ivy Tech, Tom worked as a business executive in the