

Minerva is very active in her community, reservation, and state. Minerva has been invited to numerous schools in Montana, served as President and Vice-President of the Montana Association of Bilingual Education (MABE), as well as Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA). She is an Ambassador for Indian Education for All, telling stories about how all people can learn the truth about Native American history, culture and philosophy into their classroom, bridging the gap of racism and teaching about the richness of indigenous people's history and culture.

Rarely does a single personal history reflect so vividly an individual's struggle and determination to make life truly meaningful. Minerva's strength and inspiring spirit match her drive to make the world a better place for her people. Today, as a widowed ranch woman, she still lives on her grandfather's land after three generations, next to the Little Rockies Mountains, where she was born.

IN HONOR OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE  
EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) chapter and the success of similar chapters throughout the country. Through teaching methods focused on development in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management, students participating in DECA are effectively prepared for their future careers.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's DECA chapter successfully equips emerging entrepreneurs with goal-setting, consensus-building, and project-management skills. By tapping into its students' varying interests and learning styles, DECA's adaptive business-development program engages students in a hands-on environment, including entrepreneur activities such as operating school stores, organizing fundraising events, and participating in business simulation competitions with other DECA chapters. DECA encourages its students to learn and practice smart business strategies, opening doors for students to develop and influence the business sector.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy successfully engages its students in business practices and has been named a Gold-level School-Based Enterprise (SBE). In earning this award, Western Sierra Collegiate Academy has completed a detailed written description of how its chapter adheres to select business model standards in the above methods. Chapters are categorized into three SBE levels: bronze, silver, and gold. Western Sierra's Gold-level placement qualifies them to participate in the exclusive SBE Academy competition, held at the International Career Development Conference.

Throughout secondary and post-secondary education, it is essential to instill in students common-sense principles utilized by today's businesses, and the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's chapter reaffirms this notion. The teaching methods and interactions that DECA applies allows students to learn the signifi-

cance and importance in one's ability to make choices and experience real-world business practices. The highly interactive nature of DECA allows students to understand the free market's benefits. The ability to teach these principles to students throughout high school and college is critical to our country's future free market drive and initiative.

Knowledge and practice of entrepreneurship coupled with interactive applications of smart business strategies in an educational environment not only teaches students how to engage in business with the necessary skills required, but also allows students to develop their own well-informed career goals. Currently, DECA chapters are in over 3,500 high schools and over 275 colleges, engaging over 215,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy DECA chapter for its tireless efforts to inspire and train successful entrepreneurs and look forward to following their successes.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES G. SCHLICHTER, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATION TO CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOTEMBA, JAPAN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles G. Schlichter, Jr. for his dedication to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Sister City relationship with Gotemba, Japan.

Since 1958, when the Gotemba City Assembly voted to establish a Sister City relationship with Chambersburg, PA, the two cities have enjoyed a strong and fulfilling bond, as illustrated by the many citizen exchange visits that have occurred over the years. While much credit is owed to those responsible for establishing this relationship, I believe it is just as important to recognize those, like Mr. Schlichter, who have helped maintain this meaningful connection. What's more, I would like to highlight the 30-year commitment Mr. Schlichter has made to helping guide and maintain Chambersburg's Sister City relationship with Gotemba.

As a trusted member of the local business community, Mr. Schlichter was a natural choice to represent our area in this international relationship via the Chambersburg Sister City Committee. The Sister City Committee was established by Chambersburg Borough Council, however it remains committed to raising its necessary funds through donations and contributions from local organizations and businesses. Thanks to Mr. Schlichter's stewardship, our community continues to reap the benefits of this longstanding Sister City relationship.

Today I am proud to celebrate the 30 years that Mr. Schlichter has given to upholding this 55-years-and-counting bond, and on behalf of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I say thank you.

IN HONOR OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELGIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of Elgin on its 150th anniversary.

Since it was formally organized in 1866 by a group of men, women and children who had escaped slavery and established Elgin's African-American community, the Second Baptist Church has served the Greater Elgin Community through ministry and outreach.

In its 150 years, the church has grown in both size and membership and remains an important part of our Eighth District Community.

From its humble beginnings, the Second Baptist Church of Elgin has expanded to include a soup kitchen, young adult ministry, prison ministry, bus ministry, couples ministry and street ministry.

The church has partnered with local schools to help at-risk students, donated funds to the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and in 2003 hosted a young State Senator by the name of Barack Obama as he introduced himself to our community.

I've met with their members when their League of Military Veterans came to visit Washington, DC, and I'm so proud of the connections they have forged that help keep our community connected and strong.

I am proud to honor the Second Baptist Church of Elgin as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and I look forward to their continued contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LATE SMITH  
BRETT LAWRENCE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Mr. Smith Brett Lawrence of Keene, New York, who was extremely dedicated to his family, his community, and his country.

Mr. Lawrence, known as Brett to most, served during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. He was an Adirondack Guide and lived the majority of his life in Keene, New York, located in New York's 21st Congressional District. Brett will be remembered by his family and friends as a loyal and dedicated man, with a wonderful sense of charity and a deep faith.

Brett devoted many years to organizations in his community including the Keene Valley Rod and Gun Club, the American Legion Post 1312, and the Keene Valley Congregational Church. Brett also drove sleds at the Lake Placid Bobsled-Run for 18 years, served with the Keene Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, and also served as the chair of the Town of Keene Republican Committee.

However, what may have been Brett's greatest service to his community was his role as Keene's Santa Claus for the past 40 years. Dressed as Santa Claus, Brett would visit the

neighborhood houses, area hospitals, St. Agnes School, and often made house calls upon request. His role as Santa eventually earned him important recognition by Keene Central School's Honor Society, which honored him as "a graduate who has made outstanding contributions to our town, state, and nation." Brett will be missed by many for his dedication to civics through his involvement in many local organizations in Upstate New York and beyond.

I thank Brett's family for sharing him with the community and send them my most heartfelt condolences on his loss.

IN HONOR OF THE CRIGHTON  
PLAYERS/PLAYERS THEATRE  
COMPANY 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the same year that Mickey Mantle slugged his way to his 500th career homer, Andy Griffith was America's favorite TV dad and sheriff and Cabaret took home theatre's coveted Tony Award, a group of community leaders got together in Conroe to talk about how best to bring the arts to their city.

They gathered at the Montgomery County Library to form the Little Theatre of Conroe. Their first performance of "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker" was held in the Conroe High School auditorium.

Blessed with a faithful audience, the Conroe theatre stalwarts were able to purchase the old Hunt Plumbing Building in Conroe in 1967 where they performed comedies, dramas and dinner theatre fare. At the end of their first decade, they joined forces with the city of Conroe to produce their first musical to coincide with our nation's bicentennial celebrations.

"Oklahoma" was performed at Conroe High School to a standing room only crowd. Two years later, they wowed with "South Pacific".

It was about a decade into the Little Theatre's venture when Frank and Hallie Crighton Guthrie were exploring the possibility of donating their family's vaudeville theatre in downtown Conroe. All they asked was that the name be maintained and the theatre used primarily for the performing arts and that the Little Theatre of Conroe would be the resident theatre group.

With the help of architect Harry Devlin, fundraising artistry of Rigby Owen, and the sweat equity of the Little Theatre troupe, the run down theatre was reborn as the "Crown Jewel of Montgomery County." The Crighton Community Theatre then reopened with "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia," a play about a small Texas town.

For 30 years, the Crighton Theatre was home, but when the City of Conroe decided to invest in a downtown revitalization project, the 1947 Weisner building was repurposed as a state of the art theatre for the Crighton Players. It is in this theatre where they produce several shows each season to sold out crowds, including more than a thousand season ticket holders.

The Players Theatre Company brings the arts home to Conroe with studio programs,

summer arts programs, senior programs, C. Kidz, The Players' Old Time Radio Hour, the City of Conroe's Shakespeare Festival and annual community celebrations.

Their theatre conservatory program provides community members high quality arts instruction and corporate partnerships expand the reach of what started in the hearts of a small group of theatre lovers.

Experienced directors, actors, and technical crews voluntarily give their all for each performance and faithfully carry out the vision that began in the Montgomery County Library a half a century ago.

As we celebrate the Players 50th anniversary season, we rejoice in their successes and we can't wait to see what they do in their next 50 years.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT OF  
2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Conscience Protection Act, S. 304, which is simply another unacceptable attack on women's reproductive health.

The sole purpose of this bill is to deny access and create additional barriers for women seeking safe and constitutionally protected medical procedures. After relentless attempts in this Congress and in the courts to curtail a women's right to choose, this bill is yet another measure designed to make it harder for women to get medical information critical to their health and safety.

This bill bypassed regular order and was rushed to the House floor days before Republican leadership plans to leave town for seven weeks. Yet, House Republicans are refusing to vote on—or adequately fund responses to—the many crises that endanger our public's health, from the Zika virus to gun violence to the epidemic of opioid addiction. Instead, House Republicans are choosing to vote on this bill to limit a woman's right to choose—the 13th vote in this Congress that undermines a woman's ability to make informed decisions about her own personal health and family.

I strongly oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

GREAT JOB WAYZATA BASEBALL

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Baseball team for winning the Minnesota state baseball championship.

The Wayzata Trojans stormed through the three game state tournament with an early decisive victory, a walk-off home run in the semifinals, and a solid pitching performance that allowed only five hits during the final contest. This resilient defensive effort, coupled with scoring four runs in the final two at bats

in the fifth inning, ultimately resulted in the Trojans winning their first state championship with a score of 9–1.

Baseball is a game that fosters teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. I also want to recognize their commitment not just to their sport, but to the time spent in the classroom and in the community to become outstanding student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, the family, fans, and the entire Wayzata community are very proud of this team. Congratulations again to the Trojans on winning the high school baseball championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 440 on H. Res. 822. I mistakenly recorded my vote as yes when I should have voted no.

PHILADELPHIA BLUE SOX

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Blue Sox, a thirteen-and-under little league baseball team from my district who have earned national recognition and have won five tournaments just this year with a sterling record of 40 wins and only 6 losses.

The team is made up of 14 handpicked players from Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. The boys are committed and train year round, often early in the morning and late into the night, when school and their parents allow.

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of their head coach Michael "Zoom" Zolk, Tom Ditro, and Michael "Big Zoom" Zolk, as well some help from the Philadelphia Police Department, the hard work and dedication of the Blue Sox has translated into an impressive string of victories.

We in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District are proud of this exceptional group of young men, and we are eager to see them continue to succeed. Go Blue Sox.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 447, on July 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on an amendment offered by Rep. GRAHAM (D-FL) to H.R. 5538.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.