

TRIBUTE TO NORMA AND JACK
POPE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Norma and Jack Pope of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married May 26, 1956 at St. John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Norma and Jack's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Scott and Julie, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Norma and Jack on this momentous occasion.

MINNESOTA MOURNS FOR JACOB
WETTERLING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on October 22, 1989 a heinous, evil crime was committed against a young boy. For nearly twenty-seven years that unsolved crime devastated a family, terrorized a community, and has haunted the people of Minnesota.

The young boy was eleven-year-old Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph, MN and this week we finally learned the truth. Jacob was abducted and murdered by a sexual predator who is presently facing federal child pornography charges.

For twenty-seven years the disappearance and uncertainty of Jacob's whereabouts unleashed a mix of emotions—grief, anger, sadness, but always there was hope. Jacob's mother and father—Patty and Jerry Wetterling—never gave up hope. They inspired hope and compassion from the unimaginable pain of losing their son. Patty's advocacy on behalf of missing and exploited children has made her a national expert and a leading national voice for laws and policies that keep children safe. Not only has she dedicated her life to bringing Jacob home, but she has made protecting families and children her mission. Patty is a woman with incredible courage, strength, and determination whom I admire and respect.

In 1989, Jacob's disappearance transfixed Minnesota. My own household was no different. My son was Jacob's age and my daughter a few years younger. We all wanted to see Jacob come home. I feared for my children's safety. Parents were afraid and so were children all across Minnesota.

It is with much sadness and grief that we now know that Jacob was murdered soon after he was abducted. His remains have been

found. The truth has been revealed. And, the Wetterling family can bring their son home and mourn for him with all the love, dignity and respect that Jacob deserves.

May Jacob now rest in peace and may the prayers of all Minnesotans give the Wetterling family comfort during this difficult and sad time. And, this October 22nd, as I have every year since his disappearance, I leave a light on to remember Jacob and all the children who are still missing.

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OUT-
COMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT
OF 2016

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues Mr. REICHERT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. REED, I am proud to introduce today the Improving Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act, which provides federal tax incentives to private sector employers that hire youth transitioning from the foster care system to independence.

The outcomes for transition age foster youth in this coup are heartbreaking: half are unemployed at age 24; half will spend time in a homeless shelter; and 70 percent will be reliant on government assistance after emancipating from foster care. The federal government has both an economic and moral interest in improving outcomes for these youth.

In 2008, we passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which recognized the challenges faced by youth transitioning out of foster care and enables them to continue to receive supports and services until they turn 21. In passing that bill our goal was not to extend dependency on the foster care system, but rather to use the additional time spent in extended foster care to help them become independent. While extended foster care is providing a critical lifeline for thousands of youth across the country, more needs to be done to help these youth connect with career opportunities and attain self-sufficiency.

A key strategy will be engaging the private sector in this effort. There is a developing partnership in California between the nonprofit iFoster, public child welfare agencies, community-based organizations, and the grocery industry to create an employment pipeline for foster youth that is already demonstrating great success in preparing foster youth for competitive work, and supporting them on the job to ensure retention and promotion. The Improving Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act will make transition age foster youth categorically eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), an existing federal credit that provides incentives to businesses to hire employees from certain populations with specific employment challenges. In doing so, this bill will help encourage other sectors to follow the grocery industry's lead in hiring and investing in our nation's foster youth and starting them on a successful career path.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important legislation.

HONORING OLYMPIC GOLD
MEDALIST KELSI WORRELL

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Olympic gold medalist Kelsi Worrell, of the Third Congressional District, in her recent accomplishments at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio, and to commend her for her outstanding dedication to the sport of swimming.

Kelsi, who is a resident of Westampton, worked diligently to help the United States Women's Swim Team win a gold medal in the women's 4x100m medley relay. In addition to her great accomplishment at the Summer Olympic Games, Kelsi has continued to be a role model for so many young children with aspirations of greatness. Her hard work and determination has instilled a great sense of pride within the local communities of South Jersey. Her achievements exhibit the great pride with which Kelsi represents herself and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Olympic gold medalist Kelsi Worrell as a member of their community, who has shown a desire to represent her nation with great honor and has worked continuously to do so to the best of her ability. I am honored to recognize her accomplishment and dedication to her sport, before the United States House of Representatives.

DAN PIKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dan Pike for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

An active Colorado conservationist, Dan began advocating for the environment in 1976 when he opened an office for the Nature Conservancy and drafted the first ever Colorado conservation easement. Since then, Dan has continued to defend the environment as a founding member of both the Mountain Area Land Trust in Evergreen and Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy and as retired president of Colorado Open Lands. Under Dan's leadership, Colorado Open Lands has made vast contributions to the protection of open space, preserving five thousand acres of Jefferson County land overall.

Dan's civic achievements include Vice Chair of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, Chair and Founder of the Mountain Area Land Trust, and a legislative member of the Colorado Conservation Easement Tax Credit Task Force. In 2015, Dan received the Friend of Open Space Award from the Palmer Land Trust for his recent efforts to protect southern Colorado. Recently, Dan has been working on the Jeffco Vision 2020 plan as well as coaching youth sports.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dan Pike for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.