

River, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. He has also done international conservation work in Mexico, Canada, the Republic of Georgia and China.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude my remarks by asking my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Parks Superintendent Jim Northup, an extraordinary public servant and patriot who has gone significantly beyond what would be expected of any individual, to learn about the magnificent beauty of our natural resources, our fascinating national history, and to do all that he could to protect, preserve and share what he had learned with his fellow citizens and with visitors from around the world.

RECOGNIZING COACH TIM THORNTON

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Tim Thornton, Head Coach of Peoria High School football, for his outstanding season and recognition as Coach of the Year.

Recently, Coach Thornton's football team won the Class 5A Illinois High School Association State Football Championship. In addition to this incredible accomplishment, Coach Thornton was honored with the title of Illinois Coach of the Year by Friday Night Football Magazine, and received Athletico's Coach of the Year Award.

Since Coach Thornton began his tenure as head football coach of Peoria High School, the team has made remarkable strides. This season, Coach Thornton achieved a record of 13-1, the best in the school's history. However, their success did not stop there as the team also went on to win the Big 12 Conference Championship and the Illinois State Championship, another best for the school's football program.

Coach Thornton has worked tirelessly with his players not only on the field, but also off, helping them to become valuable members of our community. As an extraordinary coach and mentor, Coach Thornton exemplifies what can be achieved through hard work and dedication. He is an invaluable member of our community and the 18th District, and I am honored to share the same hometown and values.

Coach Thornton is an extraordinary role model for the youth in our community, and I look forward to the great accomplishments that he will achieve in the future. I congratulate him on not only a fantastic season, but also a most deserved recognition as Coach of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE K. DODGE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Lawrence K. Dodge, who passed away on December 1, 2016.

A third-generation Californian and San Bernardino County native, Mr. Dodge grew up on a citrus farm in Redlands. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and served as an aviator with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. In 1969, at the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Dodge became the youngest CEO of a national insurance group. Dodge went on to found the American Sterling Corporation in 1977.

Through the years, Mr. Dodge was a generous philanthropist who gave back significantly to his community, including a gift to his high school, Redlands High School, which enabled the construction of Dodge Stadium. Dodge was also instrumental in the development of the Lawrence and Kristin Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, through what was, at the time, the largest single gift in Chapman's history. Dodge supported a wide range of organizations and projects serving families and children.

Many future generations will continue to enjoy the benefits of Mr. Dodge's perpetual kindness. Always the optimist, Mr. Dodge will be remembered for his interminable service to his country and his community.

JOHN TUCK BEING NAMED THE RECIPIENT OF THE WASHINGTON POST'S 2016 AGNES MEYER AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John Tuck for being named the recipient for the Washington Post's 2016 Agnes Meyer Award. Mr. Tuck is the fifth grade math and science teacher at Rolling Ridge Elementary School in Sterling, Virginia.

Mr. Tuck has served at Rolling Ridge Elementary with distinction for the last five years. He has been lauded for embracing out-of-the-box techniques to ensure that his students have everything they need to succeed in the classroom. Instead of desks, Mr. Tuck opts for four stations in order to involve every student, from the highest skill level to the lowest. He uses real life math situations in order to engage his students while creating a base for solid math concepts that his students will need throughout life. For these actions and many others, Mr. Tuck received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Award this year.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Tuck has done, and continues to do at Rolling Ridge will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize John Tuck for being named a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Agnes Meyer Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this honor, and I wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

OPINION PIECE BY BERNARD ARONSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to include in the RECORD an excellent opinion piece by Bernard Aronson, the United States Special Envoy to the Colombian Peace Process, which was published in the New York Times on December 14, 2016. Mr. Aronson has played a crucial role in supporting Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos in bringing an end to his country's 52 year war with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). I very much appreciate Mr. Aronson's service to our country.

Moving forward, I believe we must support Colombia in peace just as we have supported the country through years of war. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the next Congress in doing just that.

COLOMBIA NEEDS HELP TO MAKE PEACE LAST

(By Bernard Aronson, Dec. 13, 2016)

OSLO.—On Nov. 29, a 6-year-old Colombian girl, Yisely Isarama, was killed by a land mine in Choco Province. The same day, the Colombian Senate voted 75 to 0 to ratify peace accords to end the 52-year war between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC.

In microcosm, the two events encapsulate Colombia's past and its potential future.

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech here on Saturday, the president of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, the architect of the peace settlement, called the war "a half-century nightmare." It claimed 220,000 Colombian lives, most of them civilians', and drove six million from their homes. In United States population terms, that would translate into 1.3 million dead and 36 million displaced Americans. Colombians year after year are killed or injured by land mines at rates higher than in any country except Afghanistan.

Under the agreement, FARC combatants will disarm and demobilize over 180 days under United Nations supervision. For most Colombians, it will be their first day living in a nation at peace. But the peace settlement, hammered out in Havana after four and a half years of negotiations, and revised following the loss of a plebiscite, aims to do far more than silence the guns, as welcome as the end of the conflict is.

The peace accord sets out to bridge the great historic divide between what President Santos calls "the two Colombias": the Colombia of developed, modern urban centers and the Colombia of the vast, impoverished interior, where historically there has been little or no government presence and, as a result, little security, justice, rule of law or access to roads, health care and education. That is where the war was fought.

To close this gap, the government has committed itself to a far-reaching program of rural development for the largely peasant population that includes provision of land, titles, credit, roads, and crop substitution programs. To allow arable land to be cultivated safely, land mines must be removed.

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, which is monitoring the enforcement of the agreement, reports that half of all negotiated peace settlements fail and the conflict resumes. Those that succeed address not just security, but also the social and economic