

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JORDYN ASHBURN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordyn Ashburn for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jordyn Ashburn is a 9th grader at Mapleton Early College High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordyn Ashburn 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 Jordyn Ashburn for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327
AMERICANISM AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 in Springfield, Virginia and the winners of its 2017 Americanism Awards.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) traces its beginnings to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War established local organizations to bring awareness to their service and to advocate for veterans retirement benefits and improved medical care. Annually, the nearly 2 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries contribute more than 8.6 million hours of volunteerism in the community, including participation in Make a Difference Day and National Volunteer Week.

With approximately 600 Comrades and 150 Ladies Auxiliary members, the Springfield VFW Post 7327 stands out for the depth of its commitment to our community. Often called "The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia," Post 7327 has one of the most aggressive Adopt-a-Unit programs in the entire VFW organization to support our service members stationed overseas. VFW Post 7327 visits the VA hospital at least quarterly, bringing along goodie bags for our Wounded Warriors. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, VFW Post 7327 adopts military families in need through the USO and provides them with meal baskets for each holi-

day, gifts for children, commissary cards for the parents, and a Christmas party where the children can meet Santa and receive a gift-filled stocking. The Ladies Auxiliary members collect, sort, and distribute more than 2,000 pieces of clothing each month to various charitable organizations.

VFW Post 7327 is a strong supporter of local youth organizations, including the Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Little League Baseball, that contribute greatly to the education and well-being of our children.

Each year, VFW Post 7327 bestows awards to local students who have submitted outstanding essays on a theme and to local teachers and public safety officers in recognition of their extraordinary actions and dedication. I am honored to include in the RECORD the names of this year's honorees:

Patriot's Pen

- 1st Place: Alexia M. de Costa
- 2nd Place: Austin Matthew Lathrop
- 3rd Place: Serina Ahmed

Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place: Timothy A. Withington
- 2nd Place: Jenna L. C. Huber
- 3rd Place: Sean M. Franklin

Teachers of the Year

- Elementary: Joash Chung
- Middle School: Cindy Downing

Public Safety Awards

- Assistant Chief Gary E. Gaal
- Police Officer First Class Christopher Cosgriff
- Lieutenant Justin Palenscar

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking VFW Post 7327 for its continued efforts on behalf of our community and in congratulating the honorees of the 2017 Americanism Awards.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
RICHARD KEVIN BARNARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Reverend Richard Kevin Barnard, who passed on March 18, 2017. Reverend Barnard has served as a minister in the Reformed Episcopal Church since July of 1989. Prior to that, he served 18 years at The Chapel of the Cross in Dallas, Texas and most recently at Christ Church Anglican Ft. Worth.

Before coming to The Chapel, Reverend Barnard was Director of Communications for the International Bible Society, which was then located in East Brunswick, New Jersey. In that capacity he was a regular participant in the monthly White House Forum for Religious Organizations during the Reagan Administration

and represented the Bible Society at public and private events, traveling to Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

At my invitation on July 26, 2006, Reverend Barnard served as Chaplin of the Day for the United States House of Representatives.

Reverend Barnard's gracious presence and true dedication to the work and word of Christ has been an instrumental part of my life. He encouraged his congregation to remain faithful to pursuing our walk with Christ daily.

HONORING STUDENTS WHO RAISE
MONEY FOR LEUKEMIA AND
LYMPHOMA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize a few high school students from San Antonio and the surrounding area who raised over \$500,000 in 7 weeks while campaigning for the Students of the Year title, a campaign launched by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Ella Behnke, 16, a senior at Alamo Heights High School, raised over \$334,000 in 7 weeks to become The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "2017 Student of the Year." Ella was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoblastic Lymphoma at the age of 2. She has been in remission for several years now.

P.J. O'Toole, 15, a freshman at Smithson Valley High School in Spring Branch, Texas, raised over \$50,000 during the 7-week campaign, becoming the "2017 Student of the Year Runner Up." P.J. was the only freshman to run in the campaign against 11 upper classmen.

P.J. is also a leukemia survivor. At the age of 6, he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). With only a 70 percent chance of survival, today P.J. is in remission.

Raising over \$50,000 each means that both Ella Behnke and P.J. O'Toole will have the opportunity to name an LLS research grant in honor of whomever they choose.

For the South Central Texas Chapter—San Antonio Inaugural Campaign, 12 candidates raised an outstanding \$502,000 this year.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Students of the Year campaign is a fundraising competition in communities across the United States in which participants vie for the title of Student of the Year. They raise funds for blood cancer research in honor of local children who are blood cancer survivors.

In appreciation of all they have done, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their efforts to advance the treatment of Leukemia and Lymphoma.

● 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF NRECA INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS FROM ALABAMA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank nineteen constituents from my district who work for Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, located in Prattville, Alabama; Covington Electric Cooperative, located in Andalusia, Alabama; and Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives, located in Montgomery, Alabama. Volunteering as power linemen and staff liaisons for NRECA International, these Journeyman Linemen have dedicated themselves to building and upgrading power lines to help communities receive affordable, safe and reliable electricity.

They have worked side by side with NRECA International in the town of Guastatoya, Guatemala, and in the city of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and most recently on the USAID-funded Pilot Project for Sustainable Electricity Distribution in Caracol, Haiti.

In Guatemala, they constructed a power line to electrify three villages, Mirador, Tamarindal, and Castanal, bringing a better way of life to more than 300 families. In the latest project, more than 9,000 consumers in Caracol and 10,000 more consumers in surrounding communities will eventually be connected with electricity.

The service and sacrifice of these linemen and electric cooperative staff will ultimately impact the lives of thousands of Guatemalans and Haitians, resulting in improvements in healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.

For all of you who have given your time, Bruce Adamson, Kevin Anderson, Lamar Daugherty, Reed Daugherty, Jimmy Gray, Aaron Ismail, Keith Hay, Michael Kelley, Michael Longcrier, Darren Maddox, Ross Parker, Kevin Powell, Heath Smith, Ted Stettler, Alan Thrash, Josh Till, Clay Walker, Josh Winburn, and Julie Young, I thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, Monday, April 10th marks the 38th anniversary of the 1979 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA).

The United States and Taiwan are bound by shared values, and the TRA commits the U.S. to providing Taiwan with the arms needed for its defense, while advocating a peaceful resolution to the contentious issues separating Beijing and Taipei. The people of Taiwan may rest assured that regardless of changes in administrations or the partisan composition of Congress, the TRA endures. Taiwan's freedom, democracy, and security will remain one of the highest interests of the United States,

and our relationship will continue to grow and strengthen in the years and decades to come.

In 1982, three years after the TRA's enactment, President Ronald Reagan issued the Six Assurances, another important component in strengthening this relationship. Together, the TRA and the Six Assurances have been instrumental in providing Taiwan with the security and space necessary for its people to build one of the most vibrant democracies and societies of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I was gratified to hear that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to the TRA and the Six Assurances in his confirmation hearing earlier this year. I know many of my colleagues will join me in seconding this commitment.

I also noticed that Chinese President Xi is visiting the United States this week. It is our hope that the upcoming Trump-Xi meeting is constructive as U.S. engagement of the PRC is important to the peace and stability of the region. It is also our hope and insistence that US-Taiwan relations and Taiwan's security and interests are not in any way compromised.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration in moving forward on the issues that are of mutual interest between our two countries, and I offer my best wishes to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of this 38th Anniversary.

MARIA ALEJANDRA FRAYRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maria Alejandra Frayre for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Maria Alejandra Frayre is a 12th grader at Aurora West College Prep Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Maria Alejandra Frayre 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 Maria Alejandra Frayre for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA PTAS AND PTSAS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2017 Northern Virginia District PTA Annual Award recipients. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent

Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) in Northern Virginia serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs and PTSAs that excel in this mission as well as the individual Volunteers of the Year.

I am pleased to congratulate the following PTAs, PTSAs, and individuals on being recognized by the Northern Virginia District PTA for their immeasurable contributions to the education of our children:

NOVA District PTA Elementary School Volunteer of the Year Finalists: Laura Allen, Camelot ES PTA; Eileen Gorman, Hollin Meadows ES PTA; Julie Shepard, Springfield Estates ES PTA;

NOVA District Secondary School Volunteer of the Year Finalists: Phyllis Lovett, Fairfax High School PTA; Monique Roberts, Franklin Middle School PTA; Michele Buschman, Lake Braddock Secondary School PTA; Martha Coleman, Mount Vernon High School PTA;

NOVA District PTA Outstanding Administrators of the Year Finalists: Principal David Jagels, Centreville High School PTA; Principal Chuck Miller, Mark Twain Middle School PTA; Assistant Principal Michelle Taylor, Oakton High School PTA; Principal Evan Glazer, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology PTA; and Principal Larry Aiello, Parklawn Elementary School PTA;

Outstanding Elementary PTA of the Year: Annandale Terrace Elementary School PTA;

Outstanding Secondary PTA of the Year: Annandale High School PTA;

Outstanding Educator of the Year: Leslie Smith, Weyanoke Elementary School PTA;

Outstanding School Staff Member of the Year: Judith Edwards, Lake Braddock Secondary School PTA;

Virginia PTA 100 percent Membership Award Recipients: McKinley Elementary School PTA; Nottingham Elementary School PTA; and

Virginia PTA Advanced Dues Membership Award: Reston Montessori School PTA.

A special note of appreciation is extended to Debbie Kilpatrick, NOVA District Director, Jeff Wright, Asst. District Director, Denise Bolton, District Secretary-Treasurer, along with honored speakers Nathan Monell, National PTA Executive Director, Lorraine Hightower, 2016 VA PTA Child Advocate, and Donna Colombo, VA PTA Vice President of Membership. Lastly, I commend the following Northern Virginia District PTA Executive Board Members for their support and dedication: Ron Henderson, Advocacy Chair; Michelle Leete, Communications Chair; Mike Woltz, Diversity Outreach Chair; Judy Dioquino, Events Chair; Cathy Petrini, Reflections Chair; Patricia Franck, Special Projects Chair; Charles Britt, STEM Special Committee; Ramona Morrow, VA PTA Family Engagement Chair; Joy Cameron, Alexandria City Council PTA President; Chris Ditta, Arlington County Council PTA President; and Kimberly Adams, Fairfax County Council PTA President.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding