

RECOGNIZING FATHER LEWIS
BROWN

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Lewis Brown on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination and recognize his 22 years of service as a United States Navy Chaplain.

Father Lew grew up in Elmira, New York as a member of St. Mary's Southside Parish. After graduating from Elmira Notre Dame High School, he attended St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary and St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.

In 1967, Father Lew was ordained by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, New York. He worked in different parishes and churches for more than 15 years, until beginning his tenure as a chaplain in the United States Navy in 1985. During his time in the Navy, Father Lew encouraged sailors and aviators with his kind spirit and strong faith. He served all around the globe, from Okinawa, Japan to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Since retiring from active duty in 2007, Father Lew has worked in both the Rochester Diocese and my family's church—the All Saints Parish in Corning, New York. He has had a profoundly positive impact on my life and I am constantly reminded of one particular piece of advice that he gave me several years ago: "Trust in the Lord; you propose, He'll dispose."

Father Lew has made our local community a better place by working with various organizations, including Catholic Charities USA and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. In addition, he continues to serve his fellow veterans by devoting his time to the Bath VA Medical Center. In recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to Catholic school education, Father Lew received the Seton Neumann Award from All Saints Academy in 2013.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Father Lewis Brown on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination and thanking him for his years of service to our country and local community.

HONORING DIANE PATRICK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Patrick Elementary School in the Arlington Independent School District for their recognition as a "Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School" for the 2016–2017 academic year.

Diane Patrick Elementary School opened in August 2015 with the aim of ensuring that its students were provided exceptional learning opportunities in a safe and emotionally supportive learning environment. From its inception, Diane Patrick Elementary's campus was designed with the students' interests at the forefront.

Prior to its construction, school leaders performed extensive research on which program to implement, examining the most successful programs at the highest performing schools across the country. The leaders at Diane Patrick Elementary School ultimately chose to work with the Flippen Group to bring their "Capturing Kids Hearts" program to its campus. As a part of the program, teachers and staff use innovative methods that increase students' connectedness with both peers and adults on campus, and create an environment where students are excited to learn.

For its dedication to the "Capturing Kids Hearts" program, Diane Patrick Elementary earned national recognition as a "Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools" award recipient for the 2016–2017 school year from the Flippen Group. Showcase schools were selected based on how well the schools implemented their processes as well as demonstrating progress in attendance, discipline, climate/culture, and academics. As part of the selection process, a Flippen group team visited each nominated campus to gather data and perform interviews. A survey was performed to get feedback on the climate and culture of the campus, as well as its conduciveness to learning.

I honor Diane Patrick Elementary School for their outstanding dedication to creating a safe and emotionally supportive learning environment.

FORT BEND SCHOOLS WIN EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Bend Independent School District (ISD) of Sugar Land, TX, for winning up to \$70,000 at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

The Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees won \$25,000 for the school boards award, while a teacher and a principal were also awarded for their leadership. Richard Embrick of David Crockett Middle School won the Rising Star Award, which recognizes teachers with less than 10 years of experience and awards \$5,000 for the winner and a \$5,000 grant for the school. Julie Diaz of Travis High School won the award for secondary school principal and received \$10,000 for herself and a \$25,000 grant for her school as well. Fort Bend ISD took home \$70,000 of the \$430,000 awarded at the ceremony. The winners are selected out of 58 finalists by a panel of judges comprised of school administrators and university and community leaders. Great job Fort Bend ISD!

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Fort Bend ISD for winning \$70,000 at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. Our children benefit from their commitment to education and we appreciate their hard work.

RECOGNIZING GARY PICHON'S
BIKE RIDE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Pichon, who just completed a 3,000-mile bike ride around our country.

Gary set out on a mission, not for the thrill of ride, but to see what he could learn about the landscape and people of our great nation. As he mapped a course across the states, Gary soaked up the beauty of America's cityscapes and countrysides.

In the towns that he traveled through, people were kind and ready to work. He also noted the plight of rural Americans, who are resilient and strong and often underappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I echo Mr. Pichon's respect for the hardworking Americans who give our nation enduring character. Mr. Pichon and I call northeast Georgia home and could not ask for better neighbors in a finer nation.

Gary's ride from coast to coast serves as a reminder of the diversity that makes our nation beautiful and the unassuming kindness that fuels our nation's endurance.

HONORING ALAN MCGRAW

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work of my friend Alan McGraw, mayor of my home of Round Rock, Texas. On May 25, he will step down after three successful terms leading this growing and dynamic Central Texas city.

Mayor McGraw's devotion to public service has made Round Rock a great place to live and work. He focused on bringing jobs to the area, prioritized keeping citizens safe through support of public safety officials, and improved transportation and quality of life for the citizens of Round Rock. From planned resorts to a downtown revitalization project to a state-of-the-art convention center, Round Rock has become a city on the cutting edge of urban development.

Round Rock has benefitted from Mayor McGraw's love of the outdoors. His connection with the owners of Bass Pro Shops brought the retail giant to Round Rock, further strengthening the local economy. McGraw's forward-thinking leadership resulted in the construction of the Round Rock Sports Center which has entrenched the City as the Sports Capital of Texas, further diversifying Round Rock's position in sports tourism.

While effective city leadership isn't easy, Texans aren't afraid of a challenge and Mayor McGraw has embraced every opportunity, no matter how daunting, to improve Round Rock. He shepherded the city through recent economic downturns and has worked tirelessly to inject realism to regional transit planning. His leadership has been a reflection of the very best values of the Lone Star State.

While McGraw isn't tired of the privilege of leading Round Rock, he knows that everything