

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

has its season and that it's time to allow the next generation of leaders to take the stage. Retirement from office won't give him much idle time. He'll fill his days at his law practice, start up an archery retail business, and spend time with his beloved wife Kathy and two children.

Mayor Alan McGraw has done what all public servants are elected to do: put the needs of the people first. He's led Round Rock to new heights and positioned my home town to continue its progress into a bright future. I salute his leadership, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him nothing but the best for the years ahead.

HONORING WILLIAM PETITE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere congratulations to my constituent, William Petite, on his upcoming retirement after more than 11 years of federal civilian service and 6 years of military service.

Mr. Petite began his service to our Nation in 1969, when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to serve in the Vietnam War, during which he earned, among other decorations, the Purple Heart. He later enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a Non-Commissioned Officer on armored vehicles until his discharge in 1981.

Mr. Petite later began working with tracked vehicles as a mechanic, supervisor, and in quality control with Boeing. He subsequently worked with Northrop-Grumman and Letterkenny Army Depot until 2009, when he accepted a position as a Quality Assurance Specialist with the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) working out of BAE in York, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Petite's workload focused on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle ACAT-1 program; specifically, he aided in the initial development and updates to the Bradley program surveillance plan. His colleagues describe him as a dedicated, persistent, and outstanding leader who took great pride in supporting the customer, the Warfighter, and contributing to the defense of our Nation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate William Petite on his service to our Nation and wish his family continued great success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF THE AMAZING WORLD OF DR. SEUSS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to include in the RECORD entitled "Oh, the places you'll go when visiting the new Seuss museum" that was published in

the Boston Globe on May 25, 2017. This article comes ahead of the grand opening of The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss in Springfield, Massachusetts this June. This impressive museum honors the legendary work of Springfield native Theodor Geisel, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss. Geisel inspired generations of children and adults with his stories that have become iconic in American folklore.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that everyone will have the chance to visit this exemplary place and enjoy the marvels that Dr. Seuss created.

[From the Boston Globe, May 25, 2017]

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO WHEN VISTING THE NEW SEUSS MUSEUM

(By James Sullivan)

SPRINGFIELD.—Theodor Geisel loved his father, but he was a practical man. Not for him your fantastic tales of elephants and giraffes and a brass band, as the boy daydreams in Geisel's first children's book, "And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street." The boy in the tale, inspired by Geisel's childhood, tells his father the truth: He'd seen a plain old horse and wagon.

Geisel—better known by his pen name, Dr. Seuss—may have had to leave this horse-and-wagon town, the place where he was born in 1904, to free the full potential of his extravagant imagination. Yet throughout his life the Springfield of his youth remained a touchstone.

Now, 15 years after the city unveiled its Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden at the Springfield Museums, crews are scrambling to put the finishing touches on the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss, the first museum dedicated to the life and work of the revered children's author and illustrator. Opening on the first weekend of June, it's not on the real Mulberry Street, but it's just a few blocks away.

"He left here at a certain age, but this was always his hometown, make no mistake," said Leagrey Dimond one of Geisel's two stepdaughters from Audrey Stone Dimond, his second wife. Dimond was in Springfield recently to help set up the museum displays, which include a recreation of Geisel's cozy living-room workspace in the family's hill-top home in La Jolla, Calif.

"This was our soapdish," Dimond said, holding up one artifact as she led a group of sneakpeekers through the galleries.

The Seuss museum will be housed in the William Pynchon Memorial Building, a two-story stone-block Georgian colonial located on the Springfield Museums quad, in the former home of the local history museum. Inside, the rooms feature expertly rendered murals from Seuss's books, painted by a team of UMass honors-college students under the direction of artist John Simpson. There are oversize figures from his books and a tribute to Geisel's childhood home in Springfield, and the second floor walls will be lined with one-of-a-kind Seuss artworks, many of them doodled specifically for his stepdaughters.

"You never knew when he'd come in and drop a little something on your bed," recalled Dimond, 59, who owns a small bookstore in San Francisco. Her sister, Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, is the sculptor who designed the memorial garden on the lawn in the quad, which includes bronze statues of the Lorax, Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and other famous Seuss creations.

"People ask where he got his ideas from," said Dimond, who was 10 years old when her mother married her "step-pop." "Who knows? What matters is they were there."

Geisel, who had no biological children, had pet names for his stepdaughters. He called Dimond "Lee Groo," or "Snunny." (He dedi-

cated his book of tongue-twisters, "Oh Say Can You Say?," to "Lee Groo, the Enunciator.")

But for all of the wacky wordplay for which he was renowned, Geisel was also a voracious reader of books for grown-ups. He loved a good mystery, Dimond recalled, and "he could recite from memory entire pieces of Shakespeare."

She fully expects the museum to attract plenty of adults who are just as enthralled as the children.

"As you grow older, you love him in more and more ways," she said.

Simpson, the art director (who is married to the president of the Springfield Museums, Kay Simpson), said it's been a joy for him to bring the pages of Seuss's books to life on the walls of the museum. As a Springfield native whose favorite story growing up was "Yertle the Turtle," "it's been the greatest honor to lose myself in his lines and marks," he said.

Each room is a new immersion. The yellow walls of Geisel's home studio are the same yellow they were in La Jolla, said painting contractor Walt Reynolds, who was on his hands and knees on a drop cloth, finishing the trim. The ceiling in the basement, which will be a children's activity room, will be painted purple, he said. All the walls will be coated with polyurethane, for easy cleanup.

"My grandkids are dying to come in," said Reynolds. "Hopefully my grandkids' grandkids will see this."

Until now, Dimond has been reluctant to call attention to her place in Geisel's life. She did name her bookstore Thidwick, after the "Big-Hearted Moose" of the 1948 Dr. Seuss book. But it's one of his lesser-known works.

With the opening of the museum, it was time to ensure that the Dr. Seuss legacy will have its permanent home, she said: "I emptied out my house. I kept one lamp, a blue sheep, and a couple of pictures."

She's never felt the need to speak publicly about the private life of her step-pop. Anything you need to know about what he was like in person is contained in the books, she said.

"The kindness, the warmth, the wit, the sense of fun—it's all there. He can absolutely speak for himself."

NEIL ETSON

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Eton, a World War II veteran, as well as a small business owner and entrepreneur in Southern Illinois for over 50 years. He is being honored by the Rotary Club of Richland County for his service during World War II, where he served honorably as a Staff Sergeant with the 766th Military Police Battalion.

After the War, Neil made a home for him and his family in Olney, IL, where he founded an energy company, Eton Oil Corporation. Eton Oil Corporation operated successfully for over 50 years and provided many jobs in his community. Neil has been very involved in the energy sector as a Board Member of the Canadian Oil Corporation, a Steering Committee Member for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and on the Committee on National Preservation Drake Well Museum in Titusville, Pennsylvania.