

me in recognizing the Museum on its many years of devotion to preserving the legacy and connection of the Kennedy family to Cape Cod.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MRS.  
MARY HENDERSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Mary Henderson. Mrs. Henderson has devoted 50 years of outstanding service to the Dos Palos-Oro Loma Joint Unified School District. During these years, she has been a truly brilliant educator, serving her community and teaching generations of children in the Central Valley.

Mrs. Henderson has selflessly devoted her entire professional career to public education. She began her career in 1967, serving as a paraeducator for eight years before becoming a teacher in 1975. Mrs. Henderson has been educating, impacting, and improving the lives of hundreds of children for five decades, demonstrating a remarkable dedication to education. In addition to teaching our children, Mrs. Henderson is deeply committed to improving literacy in our community. She has spent countless hours working with adults as well as children, teaching them how to read.

Mrs. Henderson has been described by those who know her as an exceptional, skilled, and caring teacher. She provides her students with both endless patience and rich knowledge, and she always has kind words of encouragement. Mrs. Henderson is fondly remembered by generations of grateful students whose lives she has touched. Beyond her service as an educator, she is also an active member of Friends of the Library, supporting libraries in Merced County by volunteering at libraries and working on book donation programs and fundraising events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Henderson for the 50 years of extraordinary and dedicated service. Through her teaching, compassion, and example, Mrs. Henderson has left a lasting impact on her community. It is fitting and appropriate that May 26th, 2017 be declared "Mary Henderson Day" in Dos Palos, California.

RECOGNIZING JULIA MATTOCKS  
ON HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Julia Frances Mattocks, who celebrates her 99th birthday this Sunday.

Ms. Mattocks, Galesburg's 'Rosie the Riveter', serves as a role model in our community due to her tireless work ethic and dedication to serving others. As the United States entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor

in 1941, she stepped up and did her part to protect Americans abroad. With her sister Helen, Julia completed rivet work on B-17 Flying Fortresses, and worked at the Lockheed Vega plant in Burbank making Quonset huts for the military and airplane parts at Gale Products. Ms. Mattocks ultimately sacrificed her hearing in one ear and received chemical burns across her arms due to her work on behalf of our country. I celebrate and admire the role that she—and many other women—played in supporting our nation during a time of war.

Ms. Mattocks is a true inspiration for many people, and her passion and dedication makes her a unifying force within our community. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Julia's contributions and service to our community and our nation. I wish her a Happy 99th Birthday, with more to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in recognition of international students and scholars, and the U.S. institutions of higher education they attend, all of which are bearing the brunt of this Administration's rhetoric and actions. To ensure our nation's security, economic well-being, and academic leadership, we must remain an open and welcoming nation.

According to the Association of International Educators, international students and their families contributed nearly \$33 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2015–2016 academic year. International students who have spent time in the United States become informal ambassadors when they return home, carrying an appreciation for common values, counteracting stereotypes about the U.S., and enhancing respect for cultural differences. They also act as cultural liaisons for U.S. students and help them succeed as global citizens.

Actions taken by this Administration have generated a great deal of uncertainty within U.S. academia. Many currently-enrolled international students and scholars will choose not to travel home at the end of the academic year, for fear they might not be allowed to return in the fall. Unsurprisingly, for prospective students, nearly 40 percent of higher education institutions reported application declines in international students for the first time in many years.

We must stop the anti-immigrant rhetoric and make the United States an open and welcoming country for the bright, ambitious international students who contribute greatly to our country.

I urge my colleagues and the Administration to recognize the vital contribution international students and their families make when we welcome them to this great country.

To the international students and scholars who may be unsure about coming, I say: Your

contributions are valued and you are welcome here.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. THOMAS  
C. PLEGER

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to acknowledge the life of a devoted community leader and dedicated educator, Dr. Thomas Pleger, who passed away at the age of 48 on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Thomas was born on April 24, 1969, to Ernest and Barbara Pleger, and grew up just across the border from Menominee, Michigan in Marinette, Wisconsin. He earned his doctoral degree in archaeology and anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and spent 21 years teaching at various private and public institutions throughout the region. Following his tenure as Campus Executive Officer and Dean at UW Baraboo-Sauk County, Thomas followed his passion for education into the Upper Peninsula where, on July 1, 2014, he became the eighth president of Lake Superior State University, a position he would hold until his untimely passing.

As the president of Lake Superior State University, Thomas is remembered for his warmth, generosity, and tireless devotion to the school and its students. Lake Superior State University experienced a tremendous period of growth under Dr. Pleger's stewardship, including the implementation of a One Rate tuition plan, the financial restructuring of the university, the advancement of the R.W. Conzidine Hall Renovation project, and the procurement of funding for the proposed Center for Freshwater Research and Education. These accomplishments eventually led to him earning an appointment to Governor Rick Snyder's 21st Century Economy Commission, where he applied his extensive background in education to identify Michigan's economic priorities for the next 20 years.

Beyond the campus, Dr. Pleger's leadership translated into real results for his community. Indeed, it was not uncommon for Thomas to lend a listening ear or life advice to prospective students, and he was known to connect on a personal level, with a lighthearted sense of humor. Today, Dr. Pleger is survived by his wife, Teresa, father, Ernest, brother, Tim, sons Matt, Andrew, Chad, and Collin, and his sister, Amy Pfister. Not only will Lake Superior State University bear the positive impact of Dr. Pleger for generations to come, but communities around the country will benefit from the countless lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Pleger's outstanding career in education cannot be overstated, and his family and community can take great pride in knowing that the Upper Peninsula is a better place thanks to his life's work. On behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in recognizing an outstanding public servant whose contributions will continue to bless Yoopers for many years to come.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of international students, scholars, and the U.S. institutions of higher education they attend who have been unfairly penalized by the administration's efforts to limit travel to our country.

I'd like to share with you the story of Khalid Al-Awadhi, an undergraduate student at CU Boulder from the United Arab Emirates, who is studying electrical and computer engineering.

Khalid is president of CU International, a campus organization that helps international students adjust to campus life. He is well known for his welcoming demeanor and enthusiasm. Khalid is driven by his commitment to make CU Boulder a better learning experience for all international students. The personal connections he has built have truly made a difference for the experience of hundreds of students on campus by building bridges and connecting cultures.

May is a critical month on the college calendar. Many currently-enrolled international students and scholars will choose not to travel home at the end of the academic year, for fear they might not be allowed to return in the fall. In addition, the anti-immigrant rhetoric and uncertainty created by our broken immigration system makes the United States less attractive to the students and scholars who we want to contribute to our campuses and communities.

To ensure our nation's security, economic wellbeing, and academic leadership, we must remain an open and welcoming United States. So, to the international students and scholars who may be unsure about coming to study at institutions like CU Boulder and Colorado State, I say: Your contributions are valued and you are welcome here.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LEE HENDEE

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District and the citizens of Wilmington, Ohio to honor the life and memory of Robert Lee Hendee. A pioneer of Southwest Ohio's radio, in his 50 years as a behind-the-scenes support and an on-air personality, Lee became a familiar name and voice in his Wilmington community.

Lee embodied the American Dream. Following his education at the International School of Broadcasting in Dayton, Ohio, he went on to work at WKFI in Wilmington, WSRW in Hillsboro, and WBZI in Xenia, before ultimately fulfilling his dream of owning his own radio station in 2015.

As the owner and founder of the nonprofit WALH in Wilmington, Lee brought the power of radio to his community; he interviewed resi-

dents and celebrities alike, and unified his neighbors by bringing them information and giving them a voice. I always appreciated the opportunity to stop by the station and catch up with him. His devotion to Wilmington was undeniable.

Aside from being the man with the voice, he was an avid sports fan and was fiercely dedicated to creating positive change in the lives of young people. He was the proud owner of Ultimate Impact Wrestling, a longtime boys' baseball and girls' softball coach, and a talented bowler.

Lee touched the lives of countless people with his infectious spirit and memorable voice. He will be fondly remembered by those who loved him, especially his mother, his brother and sister, his wife, his four children and his six grandchildren.

## RECOGNIZING THE RETURN TO EL PASO ROOTS EVENT

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise and join with my colleague, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, to acknowledge and celebrate the "Return to El Paso Roots" event, which will take place May 26 through 29, 2017 in El Paso, Texas. This historically significant event salutes the African American families, friends, and students who attended the historic Douglass School, the first school for African Americans in El Paso.

Andrew Morelock established the school in 1883 as a refuge and haven for the children of African American El Pasoans barred from attending schools with white children. First named Franklin School, it became Douglass School in tribute to the noted abolitionist and statesman, Frederick Douglass. The school sought to allow children to thrive in a fully supportive community committed to their success and academic achievement. Douglass School provided much more than a quality education; it also provided community and a sense of well being and belonging for its students.

The school desegregated in 1955 following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, and the site is now an historical site in El Paso. Douglass students excelled, and the school produced a notable array of successful graduates, including the family of my esteemed colleague, Congresswoman LEE.

During the "Return to El Paso Roots" event, former students, families, friends, and El Paso residents will come together in celebration at the historic McCall Neighborhood Community Center. The late Leona Ford Washington, a retired Douglass schoolteacher, founded the Center in 1983. She dedicated her life to the needs and development of the El Paso African American community. It is pertinent to highlight the history of The McCall Neighborhood Center as it prepares to host many events for "Return to El Paso Roots".

The McCall Neighborhood Center is the former home of Marshall and Olalee McCall. Mr. McCall was the first African American

postal worker in El Paso, and his wife, Mrs. McCall, was a principal at Douglass School. Following Mrs. McCall's tenure as principal from 1937 through 1944, the home served as a daycare center as well as her music studio. The McCall Neighborhood Center is an important foundation in the El Paso community.

In this celebration, we acknowledge and honor the tremendous contributions of the African American community to the success and development of El Paso, and the work they have done to make our community, the State of Texas, and our country a more just world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join Congresswoman LEE and me in saluting the Douglass School students, families, and friends who will come to El Paso to commemorate and celebrate this remarkable community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MAE JEMISON FOR HER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AS AN ASTRONAUT AND SCIENTIST

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mae Jemison, a physician, scientist and astronaut whose pioneering career has furthered our understanding of the world around us. Dr. Jemison has achieved excellence across a number of disciplines as a result of her hard work and perseverance.

After receiving a medical degree from Cornell Medical College and completing her medical training, Dr. Jemison served as a Peace Corps Medical Officer, treating Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia and Sierra Leone. She was then accepted into NASA's astronaut program in 1987, providing launch support and assistance until her space mission aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* in September 1992. During her mission, Dr. Jemison conducted scientific experiments on bone cell research and the effects of weightlessness on the human body, which contributed to advancements in our understanding of life sciences. She then resigned in 1993 from NASA, and has since founded several companies, including BioSentient Corp., which develops treatments for chronic pain and stress disorders.

Dr. Jemison has had an extraordinary career and has affected countless lives through her work. In addition to breaking down barriers as the first black woman in space, Dr. Jemison has utilized her medical background and business acumen to develop novel medical treatments for a variety of illnesses. She has also excelled in academia, working as a professor at Dartmouth and Cornell, and is the founder of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, a nonprofit that promotes science education initiatives. Collectively, Dr. Jemison has had an indelible impact on a variety of disciplines through her work, and she continues to inspire new generations of scientists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Dr. Mae Jemison for her outstanding career. Dr. Jemison's work with NASA, in medicine and in business has impacted and inspired countless individuals.