

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller for their leadership in promoting LGBT rights. Their actions have set the stage for key victories for LGBT Americans.

REMA-ELENA THOMAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rema-Elena Thomas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rema-Elena Thomas is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rema-Elena Thomas 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 Rema-Elena Thomas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN T. KNOX

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a former Contra Costa Assemblyman, Mr. John Knox.

Mr. Knox spent 20 years in the Assembly, representing western Contra Costa County. Besides the state's environmental law, he sponsored laws creating the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which was signed by Governor Reagan and thwarted plans to fill in parts of the bay; authorizing state regulation of health maintenance organizations, rewriting standards for sales of stock and other corporate securities in California, and establishing regional planning agencies.

Even after he retired from the Legislature and joined a law firm, he was often brought back to preside as the house parliamentarian. A section of Interstate 580 leading to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge is named the John T. Knox Freeway because of his success in obtaining funding to rebuild a dangerous, undivided highway.

After his time in the Assembly, Mr. Knox was always willing to sit down and discuss issues, whether that be in classrooms or simply over lunch with colleagues and peers. He was always willing to lend his knowledge and experience to the betterment of the Contra Costa community.

John was an inspiration and a friend, and will be greatly missed by not only myself, but the entire Contra Costa community.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF JIM PADILLA ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Jim Padilla, who retired as the Henry County Sheriff on May 28. Sheriff Padilla has honorably served Henry County over the past 41 years and he will be greatly missed.

Sheriff Padilla began a lifelong career in public service as a member of the Kewanee Police Department for 8 years, and later served 33 years with the Sheriff's Department. He has dedicated his career ensuring public safety and protecting the lives of all individuals within our community. Sheriff Padilla always exemplified what it meant to be a strong leader and worked tirelessly to pass the public safety sales tax, which provided the department with the resources it needed to better serve our community. I am proud to have such dedicated civil servants in our Illinois' 17th Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, as the wife of a Sheriff, I know how hard law-enforcement officers work to keep our communities safe. I would like to again formally congratulate Sheriff Padilla on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

RICHLAND COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richland County Middle School in Olney, Illinois, for their recognition by the National Association of Music Merchants.

It is a great honor to be seen as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the United States. With help from director Eric Combs, the middle school's music program has shown commitment and support of the arts throughout the school and the community. The music program allows students to express themselves and grow as a person.

I applaud Mr. Combs and all of the participating students for their dedication to this program and for their hard work. I ask that we all congratulate Director Eric Combs and the students at Richland County Middle School for their Best Communities for Music Education Award.

SUGAR LAND, TX WINS BEST CITY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land for being awarded the "best city" by the Texas Travel Counselors.

Tourism and travel professionals recognized Sugar Land with this prestigious award after action-packed visits to Sugar Land's historic locations. These visits included the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center, Constellation Field and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Smart Financial Centre. The Texas Travel Counselors agreed that my hometown of Sugar Land offers an impressive mixture of old and new.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sugar Land for being awarded the "best city" by the Texas Travel Counselors. We're proud to have such an exemplary city represent TX-22.

ROSE MERRILL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rose Merrill for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rose Merrill is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rose Merrill 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 Rose Merrill for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.