

Baeth and her team at small business, Golden Openings, Inc.—located in Urbandale, Iowa, for receiving the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award and the Community Excellence Award presented last evening here in Washington, D.C.

Golden Openings, Inc. provides area businesses with the tools necessary to make their grand openings memorable. From ribbon cutting to groundbreaking, they have over 20 years of experience that has helped them earn these prestigious honors. Their unique capabilities and products give new businesses a foundation upon which they can build a successful future. Winners of the Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award must display a commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiative. Golden Openings, Inc. is the epitome of these qualities as they focus on engaging their community, providing unparalleled customer service, and constantly finding new ways to grow their business.

It was quite the evening for Kimberly and her team as they were also awarded the Community Excellence Award. Recipients of this award must show leadership within their community and display a willingness and commitment to improving the quality of life for all of its residents. These qualities were on full display in 2016 after two police officers were tragically killed in the Des Moines metro area. Golden Openings, Inc. was able to bring together over 35,000 yards of blue ribbon that residents and businesses alike hung in memory of the two officers. As you drove through the metro area you could see how the entire community was embracing the friends and families of the two officers. It is because of businesses like Golden Openings, Inc. and community leaders like Kimberly that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to serve leaders like Kimberly and her entire team in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I recognize them all today for receiving these esteemed designations. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on receiving these awards, and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

COMMENDING GUAM SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ FOR HIS TIRELESS ADVOCACY FOR CANCER RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate my good friend and the Speaker of the 34th Guam Legislature, Benjamin J.F. Cruz, on being awarded the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's National Distinguished Advocacy Award. This is the Cancer Action Network's highest national advocacy honor and Speaker Cruz is being presented with this award for his lifetime of advocacy for cancer research, education, and outreach, as well as the introduction and passage of the Youth Protection Act of 2017 in the 34th Guam Legislature, which

raised the minimum age to purchase or access tobacco products on Guam to 21 years. On March 24, 2017, Speaker Cruz's measure became the first bill enacted into law during the 34th Guam Legislature and made Guam the third jurisdiction nationwide to enact legislation raising the age to purchase tobacco products to 21 years.

Speaker Cruz's bill furthers efforts on Guam to reduce smoking on Guam and raise awareness among youth and young adults of the harmful effects that smoking and tobacco products have on a person's health. On Guam cancer is one of the leading causes of death in our community. Numerous community organizations, non-profits, and government agencies have partnered to promote research and community engagement to assist cancer patients and their families. Increased educational campaigns have also been ongoing to raise awareness of cancer and ways to reduce risks. Speaker Cruz's bill is an important compliment to these efforts, and I commend him, his staff, and all community stakeholders who were critical to its passage.

I have had the pleasure of working with BJ on numerous policy initiatives and joined him in supporting many of Guam's community organizations and the causes for which they advocate. As a former attorney, judge, and Chief Justice of Guam, and now as a legislator and current Speaker of the Guam Legislature, he has been a true public servant and champion for our island.

I join the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in commending Guam Speaker BJ Cruz for his advocacy for cancer research, outreach, and education, and for the enactment of the Guam Child Protection Act of 2017. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate him, as well as his entire staff and policy team, on this award, and I look forward to our continued work together for our island and community.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF LYNCH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the centennial birthday celebration of the City of Lynch on September 16, 2017, a remarkable milestone for a historic coal mining camp in Harlan County, Kentucky. I include in the RECORD, an article published in the Lexington Herald Leader on February 24, 2017, which provides a detailed overview of our historic coal town in a story written by reporter Bill Estep entitled, *It was the world's largest company coal town. As it turns 100, it fights to stay alive.*

In 1917, U.S. Steel purchased 19,000 acres of land in Harlan County at the base of Black Mountain, Kentucky's highest peak, to produce the coal needed to make steel during World War I. By the 1940s, Lynch, Kentucky was the "largest company-owned coal town in the world," boasting unmatched water and sewer infrastructure in the area, a local hospital, schools, retail stores, recreational activities and a diverse workforce.

While our storied coal town has suffered tremendous losses over the last century with the

coal industry's decline, it hasn't terminated their pride for the City of Lynch. The citizens have honorably preserved the historic efforts of local workers and immigrants from more than 30 foreign countries who tirelessly worked miles underground, producing enough coal to power our nation for generations.

Today, the City of Lynch is embracing its heritage and working to boost tourism to capture the historic treasures of this community that served as the epicenter of coal production 100 years ago. I applaud the local leaders and entrepreneurs who are reimagining the future of coal country and working to integrate this small, rural town into the digital economy.

Mr. Speaker, our Appalachian heritage is uniquely defined by the sheer grit of the mountain people who are determined to not only survive, but thrive, in our small, rural American towns. I am proud to join the City of Lynch in celebrating its 100th birthday.

[From Lexington Herald Leader, Feb. 24, 2017]

IT WAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANY COAL TOWN. AS IT TURNS 100, IT FIGHTS TO STAY ALIVE

(By Bill Estep)

LYNCH.—The valley along Looney Creek in Harlan County was a wooded wilderness in 1917 when U.S. Steel, hungry for coal to make steel during World War I, bought 19,000 acres and set about creating the largest company-owned coal town in the world.

The company built an entire town from scratch—hundreds of houses, stores, schools, a hotel, a hospital, a baseball field, a fire station, water and power plants and industrial buildings, including a machine shop and the highest-capacity coal tipples anywhere.

Despite the buzz of work and grand intentions, some thought the town would be a flash in the pan.

The L&N Railroad refused to extend tracks to Lynch from Benham, a coal town about a mile away, because officials felt the town would die after the war when demand for steel went down, according to one history by a U.S. Steel official.

The company built its own tracks, and Lynch survived. The town at the foot of Kentucky's highest peak, Black Mountain, turns 100 this year.

In that century, Lynch has mirrored the history of Eastern Kentucky as coal jobs swung up and down and families moved out to find work during hard times.

More than half the coal jobs in Eastern Kentucky have disappeared since a precipitous slide started in 2012. At the end of 2016, there were fewer miners on the job in all of Eastern Kentucky than there were at the U.S. Steel mines at Lynch at their peak.

The town's population has declined to less than 800 from a peak of 10,000, and a third of the houses are vacant, according to U.S. Census figures.

Now, like the rest of the region, Lynch is looking for a new way forward. Residents are trying to promote tourism and small businesses to create jobs, and a study about the possibility of merging with two nearby towns is underway.

The challenges from an anemic economy and a declining tax base are steep, but many in Lynch have a fierce pride in the historic town and are determined to breathe new life into it.

A committee of volunteers is working to schedule events each month to mark the anniversary. On Jan. 1, local churches rang their bells for 100 seconds, and in February, residents put up red ribbons around town. The big event will be in September, with plans for a car show, vendors, family games and performances by several bands.