

fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ruth has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ruth in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 101st birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her nothing but the best.

HONORING THE LUFKIN LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS, THE 2017 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a different variety of thunder rolled across Williamsport, Pennsylvania in late August, which provided some respite from the devastating storms which were battering Texas . . . the “Thundering 13” from Angelina County, Texas captured the attention of millions and the title of a lifetime when they emerged victorious as the U.S. National Champions in the 2017 Little League World Series tournament.

The Lufkin All-Stars gained its distinctive nickname of “Thundering 13” during grueling two-a-day practices and games leading up to the tournament, when the young men pounded so many home runs that spectators said it sounded like thunder.

A single loss during the national tournament motivated the team even further, resulting in a rematch where they ultimately emerged victorious against the only team that challenged their bid for the national title.

With the strength of their camaraderie uniting them, and the unwavering support of their family, friends, and fans, this talented, resolute, and relentless national championship team never lost sight of the dream.

This remarkable accomplishment cannot be possible without the determination and hard work of every team member, along with the skill and experience of dedicated Head Coach and Manager Bud Maddux, along with Assistant Coaches Malcolm Deason and Ryan Deaton.

My most enthusiastic praise and congratulations goes to national champions Chip Buchanan, Malcolm Deason, Jr., Charlie Deaton, Hunter Ditsworth, Kolby Kovar, Lance Modisette, Christian Mumphery, Zach Phipps, Mark Requena, Collin Ross, Chandler Spencer, Blake Slaga, and Clayton Wigley.

The path to a championship title can be long and arduous, but the Lufkin All-Stars met the challenge sustained by the solid and enthusiastic encouragement of a fiercely loyal network of community support which provided the foundation upon which a national championship emerged.

These young men bear witness to the fact that anything is achievable though focus, hard work and determination. These are guiding life principles that lead to success not only on the

field, but will undoubtedly resonate through every endeavor these valiant championship players undertake in their entire lifetimes.

May God continue to bless these young people, along with their families, friends and neighbors in east Texas and beyond. It is an extraordinary privilege to recognize the Lufkin All-Stars, 2017 Little League World Series U.S. National Champions.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2017 graduating class of the Fairfax County High School Firefighter Program. Last year, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools created its High School Firefighter Program to provide training to students who are considering a career as a firefighter.

Students who participate in this program attend courses taught by qualified instructors at the Fairfax County Fire Academy. In fact, they receive some of the same training as new professional and volunteer firefighters. The course is grueling but upon successful completion, the students will receive six college credits. Should these students decide to apply to the Fairfax County Fire Academy, successful completion of this program will make them very competitive candidates and in fact, a few slots at the Academy are reserved specifically for the top student graduates.

This year, thirteen seniors are graduating as the inaugural class of the High School Firefighter Program. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following graduates:

Crisol Alvis Rodriguez, Nicholas Arko, Anna Fuentes, Joshua Hone, Alex Hurd, Henry Jimenez-Reyes, Nathan Leite, Gillian Mudge, Michael Murn, Jarod Rambo, Ben Rothwell, Richard Verrier, Leah Walters.

Mr. Speaker, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best fire departments in the country and in the world. I commend the department as well as the public school system for partnering in the creation of this program. I also applaud these young people for their desire to learn more about the department and for their interest in protecting our community. Northern Virginia is fortunate to have such dedicated young citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students on their successful completion of this program and in wishing them great future success.

CONGRATULATING DR. PAUL COREIL

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Paul Coreil. Dr.

Paul Coreil, born and raised in Ville Platte, Louisiana, has enjoyed a distinguished career with the 4H Program—the most recent achievement being his induction into the 4H National Hall of Fame. Honored as one of only 16 inducted across the nation, Dr. Coreil has played a major role in the program for more than 34 years and currently serves as the Director and Vice Chancellor Emeritus for the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. His work on the Marsh Maneuvers and the Louisiana 4H Foundation Squirrel Hunt has helped raise thousands of dollars to benefit Louisiana 4H programs. Dr. Coreil has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions 4H and to the great state of Louisiana. I applaud Dr. Coreil for his work and commend him on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY KARG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Henry Karg of Clarinda, Iowa on the occasion of his 104th birthday. Henry was born on October 29, 1913.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Henry's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Henry has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Henry in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 104th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Henry on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing him nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BERNARD FULLER

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent—Mr. Bernard Fuller. I am honored to congratulate Mr. Bernard Fuller, a teacher at Graham Middle School in Alamance County, North Carolina. Mr. Bernard Fuller is a 2016–2017 recipient of the Outstanding Special Education Teacher of the Year Award by the National Association of Special Education Teachers. This award was presented to 16 teachers across the nation and Mr. Fuller is the only teacher to earn the honor from North Carolina. Mr. Fuller has demonstrated a passionate commitment by developing special skills and going the extra mile for his remarkable students. He is an exceptional example for his