

am positive that Cole will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF ELENI M. ROUMEL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eleni Marie Roumel for her dedicated service to the House of Representatives and specifically to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Eleni has been with the House Office of General Counsel since October 2012, during which time she has provided invaluable counsel to House Members, Officers, and staff on a variety of legal issues. She has vigorously defended the institutional prerogatives of the House, and greatly assisted the Committees in fulfilling their important constitutional oversight roles.

Of special importance to the Committee on Ways and Means, our staff came to rely on her expertise and guidance in connection with many of the Committee's investigative and oversight activities, as well as in connection with the Committee's interactions with the Executive Branch. Eleni was a trusted advisor on many aspects of the Affordable Care Act, and worked tirelessly to ensure the Committee's investigative efforts in overseeing the enforcement of the law were successful. Eleni has been instrumental in the Committee's efforts to combat Executive Branch overreach and vindicate the House's Appropriations Clause authority. In addition, Eleni has exemplified the role of counselor to Committee staff as someone who was eminently reliable, knowledgeable, creative, and genuinely a pleasure to work with. She will be greatly missed.

This month, Eleni will continue her distinguished career of public service by commencing her new role as Deputy Counsel to the Vice President of the United States. Eleni served the House with great distinction, and we know she will serve the Vice President with that same level of distinction. On behalf of the many Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee staff, who benefitted from her insightful counsel, I say thank you. We extend to her our very best wishes for her continued success.

CRYSTEL WARE NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Crystel Ware for being awarded the 2018 Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) Educator of the Year.

Crystel is the math and science facilitator at Williams Elementary School in Rosenberg, TX. The TABSE Educator of the Year award is gifted to teachers who truly make a difference

with their students and demonstrate an unparalleled commitment to enhancing the quality of classroom instruction by using innovative teaching techniques. Ware also previously received the Educator of the Year award from the Houston Area Association of Black School Educators in 2017. Her achievements were recognized on February 25th at the TABSE'S annual conference in Houston.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Crystel on receiving this honor. We thank her for her dedication to her students and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes in the future.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SHANTHI VISWANATHAN

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, like so many Americans, I was deeply moved by the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. The tragic loss of 17 lives to a gunman was another devastating reminder of the danger of too many guns being readily available in our culture.

In the face of the Parkland shooting, I would like to pay special recognition to Mrs. Shanthi Viswanathan, an Algebra teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Known as "Mrs. V" to her students, Mrs. Viswanathan's quick thinking and firm and resolute actions very likely helped save the lives of her students.

As the Miami Herald reported, Mrs. Viswanathan knew something wasn't right when she heard the second fire alarm of the day sounding shortly before classes were to end on February 14th.

Mrs. Viswanathan immediately put paper over the window so no one could see inside. She then told her students to take cover and get on the floor in the corner of the room.

When the SWAT team came to the outside of Mrs. Viswanathan's classroom and told her to open the door, she opted not to take any chance that it could have been a trick by the gunman.

"Knock it down or open it with a key. I'm not opening the door," Mrs. Viswanathan said.

It was indeed the SWAT team, and they knocked down the door and ushered the students to safety.

When Mrs. Viswanathan knew there was danger, she exemplified the truest form of the Hindu concept of dharma, or duty, in protecting those she was responsible for. These actions were brought to my attention by the Hindu American Foundation which continues to support the victims as part of its broader commitment to Ahimsa, the Hindu concept of nonviolence.

I recently visited Broward County where I had the honor to speak at the Hindu American Foundation's annual gala. The Hindu American Foundation, or HAF, has stood up during the ongoing public debate over guns in our society and has supported legislation to, among other things, repeal the ban on allowing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from conducting research into gun violence in

the United States. In taking its policy positions, HAF is guided by both public policy concerns and ethics, along with Hindu scripture.

It is my sincere hope that the days and weeks ahead, Congress shows the same commitment to dealing with gun violence that Mrs. Viswanathan and the Hindu American Foundation already have.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS HILT ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Thomas Hilt of Whitehouse, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Thomas' offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2022. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of a lifetime.

Thomas brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2022. While attending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Thomas was a member of the National Honor Society, received the school's academic award, and participated in DECA and German Club.

Throughout high school, Thomas participated in rowing, where he served as team captain and received his varsity letter and coaches award. I am confident that Thomas will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Hilt on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Thomas will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA KUNZE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sheila Kunze of Lewis, Iowa on her retirement as the Cass County Clerk of Court. Sheila began her duties in the Clerk's office in 1979, and has served the citizens of Cass County for almost 39 years.

Appointed as the Cass County Clerk of Court in 2001, Sheila said when she joined the Clerk's office she was hired as an office