

Specifically, the Rising Star Award recognizes a high school student who exemplifies extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact and leadership.

A student at Arvada High School, Alyssa has proven to be a leader for the student body and exemplifies high moral conduct and provides a positive example for all students daily. Alyssa is the poster child for doing the right thing while also excelling in everything she puts her mind to.

Congratulations to Alyssa Martinez for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 70TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, and Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut. Israel's transition from Memorial Day to Independence Day is a time to reflect about the sacrifices of the people of Israel for their country. And, as the country transitions from sadness to celebration, it is an opportunity to recognize and praise the achievements of Israel.

Starting with its very founding, Israel has overcome immense obstacles, including near constant attacks from its neighbors. And yet, over the last 70 years, Israel has grown tremendously. Its economy is one of the most dynamic in the world, drawing investors and innovators from around the globe. Its contributions to technology, medicine, and culture have greatly benefitted the international community. Israel has a longstanding history of aid work, most recently providing aid to Syria and responding to natural disasters in Haiti. And, of course, Israel continues to be a refuge for Jewish people fleeing anti-Semitism.

On this 70th anniversary of the modern state of Israel, I celebrate the values that the United States and Israel share: the ideals of freedom and pluralism. Israel is a nation that prides itself on promoting freedom and self-determination. It seeks peace with its neighbors, and the United States must continue to support Israel in its quest for peace.

As a strategic partner and friend, the United States stands in solidarity with Israel against its enemies. We will continue to look for ways to strengthen the partnership between our countries. I am proud to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with our ally, Israel, and look forward to the nation's continued success.

RECOGNIZING GERARD PLACE AND ITS DEDICATED ADVOCATES DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we recognize April as National Volunteer Month to call special and deserved

recognition to Gerard Place and its dedicated advocates.

Gerard Place opened its doors and its heart to a community in need in 2000, under the auspices of twelve Congregations of Women Religious in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. These Women of Faith brought a closed city corner back to life for homeless single parents and children through counseling, education, employment, housing and life skills training.

With its core values ingrained in the organization's building blocks of compassion, reverence, integrity and collaboration, Gerard Place's programs have been highly successful as more than 90 percent have transitioned to independent housing.

Statistics are a required reporting tool of course, but Gerard Place's real impact is found in the faces and heard in the stories of second chances given and opportunities seized by women now living productive, purposeful lives. With individualized, intensive support, families are strengthened, careers are pursued and a better future is within reach.

Understanding the work is never complete, Gerard Place is expanding its offerings with the rehabilitation of the Community Center to bring classroom space, job readiness training and quality childcare to the neighborhood.

As is the case in so many of our mission driven non-profits, the leadership and staff of Gerard Place will be the first to share that so much of what has been achieved and so much that is left to do is only possible thanks to the tireless dedication of its amazing volunteers.

It is a belief I share as a true example of how lives are changed by those inspiring people among us who give their time, talent and treasure back to their communities. Without the more than 100 volunteers devoting more than 6,000 hours annually in a multitude of roles including engagement with program participants, staff support, event organization and board membership, the goals of Gerard Place would be unattainable.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to acknowledge and add my thanks to the outstanding volunteers of Gerard Place for everyday of every month they give hope and help to those they selflessly serve in our community.

HONORING JACOB AND JOAB BOWEN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my Hall County neighbors, Jacob and Joab Bowen, who were honored by the community as "Farmers of the Year" at the Annual Agribusiness Awards Program.

Jacob and Joab's father, Paul Bowen, started a chicken farm in 1987. Following his example, the two brothers have worked on their family's farm since its inception.

Each year, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and the Hall County Cooperative Extension host the awards ceremony to highlight achievements in our community's agriculture industry. In the last decade, Jacob and Joab have succeeded in managing their farm's

expansion, earning them an honor at this year's event.

What began as a small operation has grown into a large-scale farm that contains 16 chicken houses and several acres for cattle. Annually, the Bowen farm produces more than 22 million pounds of antibiotic-free chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bowen brothers for their diligence in a crucial yet often undervalued profession. Our communities depend on the food that Jacob, Joab, and many Northeast Georgia farmers produce, and I am grateful for their work.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD A. SARASIN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Honorable Ronald A. Sarasin on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Since January 3, 2000, Ron has directed the Society as it has communicated the rich heritage of Congress and the U.S. Capitol to a wide, diverse audience. School children, scholars, historians, artists, people from all walks of life, and even Members of Congress have learned more about this great institution because of programs offered by the Society.

Under Ron's leadership, classroom programs, symposia and lectures, awards and outreach, and recognition of the history of Congressional committees has flourished. The Society has brought elementary and secondary students to the Capitol for tours and visits to our offices. It has sponsored symposia where scholars have shared their research and insights. It has taught about Constantino Brumidi and his beautiful artwork. At a recent Society event, guests were invited to climb the temporary stairs and walk on the scaffolding to view the restoration of the ceiling of the Brumidi Corridors at eye level.

During Ron's tenure, the Society has dedicated over \$100,000 to fund fellowships for historians, political scientists, artists, and scholars of other disciplines. The Society even became a publisher, producing 12 books on Congress.

Ron has been a great ambassador for Congress. He has led countless numbers of students, visiting dignitaries, business executives, international guests, and Society members on tours of this great building. As a former Representative from Connecticut, Ron knows our institution well and has been generous in sharing his insights.

As Members of Congress, we too have been enriched by the Society. As guests to the annual presentation of the Freedom Award over the years we have met American icons such as filmmaker Ken Burns, historian David McCullough and writer, director and star of "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda. We have been honored by Society dinners celebrating the history of the Congressional committees on which we serve. We have been feted at welcoming receptions for new Members of Congress and at thank you receptions for Members who retire.

Ron's outstanding leadership was recognized when the National Endowment for the