

while supporting families and individuals with disabilities so that they may thrive in Loudoun.

These programs include the Aurora School. Founded in 2003, the School is a private day school for students with special needs and behavior challenges. Founded in 2010, the Open Door Learning Center is an inclusive preschool for children with and without disabilities. The Center provides daily care with on-site behavioral and music therapy provisions for young children, many with developmental disabilities.

The ALLY “A Life Like Yours” Advocacy Center was founded in 2011 and serves as a community resource for information, advocacy and support for children with special needs, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who work with them. Founded in September 2017, the Ability Fitness Center is a therapeutic fitness and wellness center for individuals with neurological disorders including stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and cerebral palsy, and developmental disabilities. This past January, the Arc of Loudoun launched the Advantage Behavior Clinic. The clinic provides individualized behavior and verbal therapy, speech therapy, and social skills development for children with autism and other related disabilities.

I am thankful for the leadership of the Arc of Loudoun management team: Melissa Heifetz, Denise Daffron, YaTonya Abdullah, Eileen Shaffer, Megan Allman, Kendra McDonald, Amy Metaxa, Helen Parker, Matt Smith, Morgan Payne, and the entire staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arc of Loudoun on its 50th anniversary. May the Arc of Loudoun continue to assist in the cultivation of a better life for many years to come.

DANAIS REZA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

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

Danaïs Reza is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danaïs Reza 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 Danaïs Reza 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.

DAYTON ACCORDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of the Dayton Accords is something the Balkans are still coming to terms with. The scourge of war and ethnic division have for too long cast a shadow of these historic and beautiful nations. For nearly 30 years, we have worked with our friends in the region to bring peace and reconciliation. We have learned many lessons and overcome many challenges. We have achieved peace but it remains an uneasy peace that must be closely tended to.

The United States took on the responsibility when it intervened in the Balkans during the 1990s to find a political solution that enables freedom and peace between neighbors. We are not done with this responsibility. The Dayton Accords was an important agreement, but it was a flawed agreement. It did not solve all the region's problems and even created a few new ones. Peacekeepers remain in the Balkans to this day holding together the fragile agreement we constructed. If violence breaks out and if the region descends into chaos, it is our credibility that is damaged. But worst, it will reopen old wounds that are nearly healed. It is vital to our interests that peace, freedom, and prosperity triumph in the Balkans. Through Dayton we played a role in setting the current course, so have a stake in the region's future.

Having spent a lot of time in the region, I have developed a deep affection and admiration for the peoples of the Balkans. I know them to be a proud, resilient, and strong-willed community—not unlike my fellow Texans. Specifically, I am proud to have forged a strong friendship with our Serbian partners as co-chair of the Serbia caucus. In them I see hope for the future. At the time Dayton was brokered, the United States and Serbia were foes, with daunting disagreements about the future of the region. But today we are friends working towards closer ties and a stronger Transatlantic community. I have seen that in Serbian President Vucic we have a partner for the future. He is committed to a Serbia living at peace with its neighbors. This includes moving his nation into the European Union and tackling the thorny issue of Kosovo. We must show him our support.

Of course, our warming ties with Serbia and the rest of the region have caught the notice of the Kremlin. Russia has always felt the Balkans was under its sphere of influence. Dating back to the time of Soviet imperialism, Moscow has tried to force its will on the region. Vladimir Putin is trying desperately to upset the Balkan's integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. In 2016, Putin even tried to support a coup in Montenegro to prevent its ascension into NATO. The Kremlin's meddling in the region continues to this day, where it is sponsoring an elaborate and extensive disinformation campaign across the Balkans. Putin is hoping that by flooding the media in the region with lies, he can create division, unrest, and convince the people of the Balkans to move away from the West. The citizens of the region are freedom loving people yearning to join and prosper within the Euro-Atlantic alli-

ance, rather than the tyranny and violence of Putin's realm. We need to take a more active role in thwarting Russia's deceptions.

Putin, however, is not the only threat to the region. The rise of ISIS and migrant crisis has strained the resources of our Balkan friends. The threat of radicalization and returning foreign fighters is a shared threat which we must work together to combat. To forge our partnership with the Balkan states and demonstrate our commitment to stability in the region, it is required that the United States be attentive to their security concerns as much as any of our allies in Europe. Let us not forget that instability in the Balkans a hundred years ago sparked a course of events that led to two world wars, millions dead, and divided Europe. That is why it is crucial we remain steadfast partners to the Balkans.

The United States has a lot to offer to help guide the region towards a bright and peaceful future. We have an obligation because of Dayton to remain engaged and see that the problems of the past are overcome.

And that's just the way it is.

SKILLS FOR TODAY WEEK

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my House 21st Century Skills Caucus co-chair, Congressman DAVE LOEBSACK, I rise today to acknowledge Skills for Today Week.

Every American student should graduate high school with the knowledge and skills required for workplace, academic, and life success. Thriving today—finding and holding a well-paying job, succeeding in higher education, and becoming part of a healthy community—requires a deep grasp of rich content knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to address challenges and meet needs. Extraordinary schools and community programs in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and many other states across the country recognize this vitally important vision and are working hard to equip their learners with the critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity skills (the “4Cs”) they will need after graduation.

As the bipartisan co-chairs of the House 21st Century Skills Caucus, we love to highlight the innovative schools and community organizations—including high quality early learning providers and engaging community programs—that are blazing new trails to prime students for success. That is why we are pleased to acknowledge Skills for Today Week, which is scheduled from April 23–27. Skills for Today Week was created by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning to showcase how leading schools and beyond school programs are transforming teaching and learning, using a focus on the 4Cs to prepare students for economic, academic, and life success.

Policymakers and practitioners alike can learn from the diverse group of education innovators featured during Skills for Today Week events. We believe federal education policies should enable and invest in similar initiatives. As a result, we continue to strongly support the Every Student Succeeds Act,