

Well, today I rise in the House of Representatives to give Lupe the credit. Credit for his impact on business, his impact on Texas A&M, his impact on his community and his family.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. AARON ELSTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an integral member of the Chicago community.

On April 11th, we lost a dedicated leader of the Jewish faith. Mr. Aaron Elster, Vice President of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and a Holocaust Survivor passed away at the age of 86 on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah.

Mr. Elster worked tirelessly to ensure that the history of the Holocaust was not forgotten. He sought to provide all those he met with a greater understanding of what this tragedy meant for the victims, the survivors, their descendants, and the entire world—both then and now.

He was open about his personal experiences, recollections, and lessons learned—deciding to share these dark times with others in order to inspire a deeper sense of compassion and civility, while illustrating the dangers of intolerance.

During the holocaust, Aaron lived in the Sokolow Ghetto with his two sisters, mother, and father until the closing of the ghetto in September of 1942. He was able to escape the liquidation by hiding in surrounding farms until eventually seeking refuge in the attic of a Polish family's home, where he hid for two years until the end of the war. Only Aaron and his older sister, Irene, survived before eventually being smuggled out of Poland to DP Camps in Western Germany.

Aaron and his sister arrived in the United States in June of 1947. He was educated in Chicago and then went on to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea. He was the co-author of "I Still See Her Haunting Eyes," which chronicled the unfathomable atrocities and heartbreak he endured throughout one of the darkest times in our entire world history. Aaron spoke regularly to student groups and was especially dedicated to the Holocaust Museum's Brill Law Enforcement Action in Democracy Training, where he shared his childhood experiences with Chicago Law Enforcement Officers, helping them to understand their responsibilities while working to protect and serve our diverse community.

I echo the sentiments made by the CEO of the Holocaust Museum, Susan Abrams, when she wrote the following in Mr. Elster's Obituary: "Aaron was an incredible communicator, able to empathize with all walks of life—students, police officers, any group who visited the museum. Aaron spoke about his experience in the Holocaust with such emotion that you could not help but be moved and have a desire to act and make the world a better place."

Luckily, future generations will have the privilege of hearing Aaron Elster's story through his interactive hologram, which can be

viewed at the Illinois Holocaust Museum's "Take a Stand" Center. He was one of fifteen survivors selected worldwide, a tremendous honor, of which he was incredibly—and justifiably—very proud.

Mr. Elster is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, two sons, and three grandchildren. Today, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the rich life and many accomplishments of Mr. Aaron Elster.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARYBETH SHEA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marybeth Shea as she is named the 2018 Citizen of the Year by the Norwell Chamber of Commerce.

Marybeth is a pillar of the community, serving on seventeen boards and committees and being a staple in town politics and events. For thirty years, she has put the people of Norwell first, always trying to figure out how to better her community.

After first moving to Norwell, Marybeth immediately become involved in the Parent-Teacher Organization. Marybeth has stepped up at every point to improve our school and our community.

Marybeth spent eight years as president of the Norwell High School Boosters Committee, where she planned fundraisers and headed countless initiatives, including the creation of the Norwell High School Athletic Hall of Fame. She made every opportunity to advocate for the students of Norwell and worked to ensure their incredible athletic accomplishments would long be remembered.

Outside of school, Marybeth has become a familiar face in local politics and does not miss an opportunity to advocate and inform others about issues that have a direct impact on the town of Norwell.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Marybeth Shea for her dedication to her community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her work and wishing her all the best as she continues her efforts.

HONORING STAFF SGT. CAIN PAVLAK FOR BEING NAMED NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sgt. Cain Pavlak on being named the 10th Mountain Division Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Each year, Fort Drum holds a competition for the prestigious title of Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. The competition features an Army Physical Fitness Test, land navigation, marksmanship competition, an obstacle course, a six-mile road march and other strategy and endurance tests. This year, the title goes to Staff Sgt. Cain Pavlak, a cavalry scout

for the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team in the 10th Mountain Division.

On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to congratulate Staff Sgt. Cain Pavlak on winning this esteemed title. We are thankful to Staff Sgt. Pavlak for his dedicated service to the United States.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CYPRESS HILLS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leadership and staff of Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) on their 35th anniversary. This non-profit organization located in the Cypress Hills and East New York community was created in 1983 at the height of a nationwide grassroots movement to preserve and improve urban communities.

Today, after thirty-five years of dedication and commitment, CHLDC has helped transform Cypress Hills into a robust and thriving community. CHLDC works to provide crucial services such as: economic development; homeownership and housing development; entrepreneurship; education services; public safety; and open space. CHLDC has championed many projects from helping to create the first dual language school to developing more than 400 affordable housing units across the neighborhood. Thanks to their help, numerous hardworking local families have been able to realize the American Dream of homeownership.

On this 35th anniversary, I would like to take the opportunity to commend Michelle Neugebauer, Executive Director, Mr. Harold Green, Board President, staff and members for their tireless and unconditional commitment to our community.

KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WORLD DEBATERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege to be able to recognize the achievements and hard work of outstanding students in my community. As the 2017–2018 school year is winding down, two students from Kingwood High School are just getting warmed up.

Emily Grantham and Leila Saklou, Kingwood High School eleventh graders, have earned two of the five spots on Team USA at the World Schools Debate Championships. Competing in debate tournaments at Cornell University, Harvard University, Los Angeles, Germany, Croatia, and Taiwan, Emily and Leila have traveled the world.

Debate creates leaders. I also commend Emily and Leila's debate team and their coaches at Kingwood High School. Young men and women of all backgrounds have

come together, working as a team, to accomplish a single goal. This teamwork serves as an example for all of us. Congress should take notice of this squad.

The World Schools Debate Championships will be held this summer in Croatia from July 17 to July 27. More than 50 countries compete at this 10 day global competition for high school debate teams each year, discussing 13 diverse topics such as politics, philosophy, technology, and law. This global event promotes excellence, creativity, and critical thinking. Emily and Leila's success in the world class event is inspiring.

As a past patron of the World Schools Debate Championships, Nelson Mandela, said, "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up". Emily and Leila are already winners in my book, and have demonstrated an exceptionally high standard of excellence and talent. These girls have earned the distinction of representing not only Texas, but the United States. I know they will represent us with pride and dignity. Congratulations to Emily and Leila for their outstanding achievements. My best wishes are with them this summer.

Go Team USA, and Kingwood Strong.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING PAM ROMANO

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend from Jefferson, Pam Romano—a tireless advocate for adoptive families and children around the world.

In 2012, Pam and her husband Mark began the process of adopting two Russian brothers, Bogdon and Yura. In the same year, though, Russia enforced a ban on adoptions to the United States, separating the Romanos from their sons.

Since then, Pam and her husband Mark have assisted children caught in the crosshairs of this ban—like their two sons—by raising awareness on the issues dividing adoptive families. By meeting with lawmakers and sharing her family's story with others, Pam hopes to one day reunite with Bogdon and Yura.

Last year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute honored Pam as an Angel in Adoption, a title given to leaders who have made extraordinary strides in helping children in need of a family. Moreover, her efforts inspired me to recently introduce the Inter-country Adoption Information Act—a bill designed to bring transparency to the international adoption landscape, where families often struggle to access up-to-date, accurate information they need to navigate the adoption process.

Pam's efforts to bring her children home reminds us of the unwavering power of a mother's love. I'm grateful for her dedication to bridging the bureaucratic gaps between families and their adopted children.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENERAL H.R. MCMASTER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster. General McMaster has served in our military honorably for 34 years, and our country is better for it.

I first met General McMaster during our time at the United States Military Academy. General McMaster was my squad leader for Cadet Basic Training, known as "Beast Barracks." General McMaster, being from Pennsylvania, was amused by my then-Alabama accent. He gave me the nickname Huckleberry, which is how I am still referred to by my West Point classmates.

General McMaster was an excellent leader as a senior cadet, and he went on to be a highly decorated soldier as a junior officer in the first Gulf War. As he moved up the ranks in the my, he continued to be an outstanding leader, commanding troops overseas in Iraq. I was pleased when President Trump nominated General McMaster to be National Security Advisor and think he did a fantastic job in that role.

I wholeheartedly agree with those who have called General McMaster the "greatest soldier of his generation." It was an honor to serve under his leadership at West Point and I wish him all the best in his retirement. I hope it includes a lot of time spent reading and enjoying the comfort of his famous Hawaiian shirts.

AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION
ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes:

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. When Ranking Member PETERSON, who has done four Farm Bills and is one of the most moderate in our Caucus, is upset with the process and the result, it tells you that the well has been poisoned. But let me tell you a little about me and why I chose to be on the Agriculture Committee.

I came from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where I was proud to serve as Chairman of the state legislature's Appropriations Committee for twenty years.

There, I was able to secure billions of dollars for state programs that addressed urban and rural needs, roads and bridges, schools, the first Healthy Food Financing Initiative, and most importantly, many, many Agriculture programs around the entire state of Pennsylvania.

We should be in the business of first doing no harm, but here we are trying to pass off the

Farm Bill as bipartisan, when in fact, this is an assault on the working poor, the disadvantaged, seniors, and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania that would translate to an additional 199,000 individuals between the ages of 50 to 59 who would face cuts to their SNAP benefits. It is more difficult for older individuals to find work when unemployed and many people want to work more than 25 hours, but simply cannot due to lack of available hours, children, or age.

Almost 2 million Pennsylvanians benefit from the SNAP, with over 215,000 in my District alone, and with the majority of benefits going to those in great need. This bill before us is unworkable for Philadelphia. It fails them, the process fails them, and for that I give this bill an F.

HONORING LLOYD KNIGHT

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lloyd Knight. Lloyd was recently awarded the Jim Casey Community Service Award—one of the highest awards given to United Parcel Service employees.

Lloyd has been a part of the UPS team for over 10 years, joining the company after spending 20 years in the United States Air Force. Over his time at UPS, he rose to the position of Global Forwarding Freight Director and founded the UPS Veterans Business Resource Group.

A veteran himself, Lloyd helped found VETLANTA, an organization committed to bringing together the business community, non-profits, and government to help make the Atlanta region the best destination in the country for veterans. Additionally, Lloyd dedicates his spare time to veterans through his involvement in Hire Heroes USA and American Corporate Partners.

Lloyd has served both his country and neighbors in Georgia through his tireless service, leaving a lasting impact on local veterans and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Lloyd for the compassion he has shown others and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 10th 2018, I experienced a family emergency and so I missed Roll Call vote number 178 regarding the "Titus Amendment" (A003). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes." I also missed Roll Call vote number 179 regarding the "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018" (H.R. 3053). Had I been present, I would have voted "No."