

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 Non-commissioned 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