

of the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale (CSAIR) community.

A father of three, Robert often experiences CSAIR through the eyes of his children. That is why it felt natural for him to accept the challenge of leading the Young Family Children's Program. For two years he planned weekly Shabbat and annual High Holiday services for CSAIR's large and owing under five set and their families. Robert's leadership role in YFCP helped offer parents a meaningful way to connect with one another, while their children participated in spirited services filled with prayer, song, stories and dancing. Through Robert's commitment to the success of YFCP, so many young CSAIR families have felt welcome in shul and integral members of our synagogue community.

Robert grew up in Atlanta, where he and his family attended a Reform synagogue. He attended Jewish day school in Atlanta where he met his future wife, Avi, in high school. Fast forward to five years ago when, after graduating with a JD and an MBA from Boston University, Robert settled in Riverdale with now Rabbi Avi Killip and their 6-month-old. Looking for an observant and committed egalitarian community, the young family found a home at CSAIR. Here they have celebrated two more life cycle events—one naming and one bris—with our congregation. Now all three children, Judah, Dasi, and Gabe, call CSAIR “our shul.” The Killip family has indeed become part of the CSAIR family and Robert's leadership role in YFCP has helped make the shul even more welcoming to young children and their parents.

This year, CSAIR is celebrating Robert at their annual Gala Celebration as one of their distinguished honorees. They have chosen a terrific individual to honor. I would like to send my personal congratulations to Robert on the occasion, and thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the community.

RALPH O. FRANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Private First Class Ralph O. Frang, United States Army, for his service to our country.

Private First Class Frang served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945, serving in Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe during World War II. Private First Class Frang's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 bronze battle stars and the Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Private First Class Frang started his military career training with the 10th Mountain Division in Colorado before transferring to the 101st Airborne Division as a paratrooper where he participated in the D-Day landing at Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944.

Private First Class Frang's courageous service has charted the path for future generations of men and women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Private

Frang for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS J. MIDDLETON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas J. Middleton on his retirement from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) after 27 years of service. Since June of 1991, Mr. Middleton has held INL positions of increasing responsibility: physical security officer, physical security manager, safeguards and personnel security manager, protective force manager, Security and Emergency Services Division director, Facilities and Site Services deputy director and Laboratory Protection director.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Mr. Middleton received a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts and science and is a martial artist with a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo. Prior to working at INL, he served six years as a special agent with the U.S. State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Before moving to Idaho, he was the assistant regional security officer for the American Embassy in Guatemala.

Mr. Middleton completed his service to the Laboratory as the Director of Laboratory Protection, to which he had oversight of programs that secure critical national research facilities, and the development and deployment of applied nuclear science research assets. He also managed 550-plus employees and a \$110 million annual budget.

Mr. Middleton's greatest joys are spending time in Idaho's great outdoors and with family. One of his greatest accomplishments was climbing the Grand Teton when he turned 50 years old.

Mr. Middleton exemplifies qualities in knowledge and skills that have been essential to keeping the nation and INL strong and secure, and I thank him for his service.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF RONALD L. REHNER, SR.

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ronald L. Rehner, Sr. Ronald Rehner was a family man and known to many as a school teacher, who taught in the New York communities of Rochester and Elmira, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and even as far away as Moshi, Tanzania, teaching geography at Mawenzi Secondary School. Ever concerned with current affairs, Ron would bring real world issues to the classroom to give context to his lessons. Beyond his work in the classroom, during his time in Tanzania, Ron was an active member of the United States Peace Corps. After applying his gifts abroad, Ron returned to the United States to teach history at Thomas Edison High School in Elmira, New York.

After retiring from being a school teacher, Ron worked at Chemung County RSVP and in the garden department at Chase Pitkin. During his free time Ron enjoyed going camping, hiking, cooking, and gardening.

Ron's interest in politics was put to good use as the legislative chair of AARP Chapter 276. Ron and his entourage of red shirted colleagues were familiar faces in my office and were frequent attendees at my town hall meetings. Ron was an effective communicator and a tireless advocate. He was never shy about standing up for what he felt was right.

When Ron was not working, he would volunteer his time to give back and improve the community. Ron volunteered with many organizations in his community. Ron shared his time with Senior Notebook, the Department of Aging Advocacy, Age Friendly Coalition, Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, Poverty Coalition, Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Health Priorities Squared, and First Presbyterian Church. No matter where he went or what he was doing he always had a smile to give and welcomed all.

Throughout his life, Ron earned many accolades for his hard work and dedication to his community. Ron was recognized with the Mildred Parfitt Award, the Jefferson Award, and named the Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care's Distinguished Volunteer of the Year. He was also nominated for the coveted AARP Andrus Award.

Ron will be missed by the many communities and countless individuals he made an impact on over a lifetime of good will and service to his fellow man. I will certainly miss his presence.

I ask that this legislative body join me to remember the life of Ronald L. Rehner, Sr.

WARREN SPAULDING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Warren A. Spaulding, United States Army, Retired, for his service to our country.

Colonel Spaulding graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1952. Upon his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant, he served in the Air Defense Artillery branch, and later transferred to the Field Artillery branch of the United States Army. Colonel Spaulding served multiple tours of duty in both the continental U.S. and international tours in Japan, Korea, the Republic of Vietnam and Germany.

Colonel Spaulding's dedication to military education led him to serve as a professor of military science at the University of Colorado—Boulder, in the “Golden Buffalo Battalion” from 1973 to 1975. Colonel Spaulding was recently inducted into the University of Colorado's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Golden Buffalo Battalion Hall of Fame for his untiring efforts as a military educator. Following his military retirement, Colonel Spaulding continued his work in education at the Colorado School of Mines—working to keep the ROTC detachment on the Colorado School of Mines campus.

Colonel Spaulding's courageous service has charted the path for future generations of men and women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Colonel Spaulding for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE WORK AND
LEGACY OF COLONEL RON PERRY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work and legacy of Colonel Ron Perry, USA, Retired. This Texas native's life has been one of continual service and he has made lasting impacts on our brave warriors at Fort Hood and across the Army.

After receiving his commission in the Infantry in December 1974, COL Perry served his beloved nation and Army at installations around the world. His nearly three decades of honorable service saw him excel at some of the most challenging duties anyone in the military could shoulder. COL Perry's work didn't go unnoticed as he received numerous awards and decorations saluting his efforts.

Following a brief stint in the private sector, COL Perry returned to the Army to serve as the civilian Deputy to the Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood. In this critical role, COL Perry called on his decades of expertise to support The Great Place as it continues to be one of the world's premiere military installations. His institutional knowledge and efforts toward championing the base, the thousands stationed there, and the community that supports them cannot be adequately quantified, nor equaled.

COL Perry's commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to ensuring the Army remains the world's greatest military force is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted public servant. As he begins the next phase of his life, I salute his decades of work and proudly join his colleagues, friends, and family in wishing him nothing but success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA JOHNSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alyssa Johnson of Mount Ayr High School. Alyssa was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 29, 2018.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alyssa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alyssa on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

KATY OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR
THEIR LIFE SAVING ACTIONS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Dustin Garcia and Matthew Newport of Katy, TX for receiving recognition for their efforts to go "Above & Beyond."

On April 10th, Matthew and Dustin responded to a major car accident at Avenue D and 10th Street in Katy and then proceeded to perform CPR on a female injured until firefighters could arrive on scene. The officers are credited with saving the young woman's life and are true heroes to their community. On May 14th, Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner presented the officers with "Above & Beyond" recognition for their actions. Matthew has worked 2 years for the Katy Police Department. He previously served as an officer in Sugar Land and Eagle Lake. Dustin has been an officer in the Katy area for over 2½ years and holds no prior police experience. These two men are a true inspiration to their community and serve as an example to all of us.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dustin and Matthew for earning this well-deserved award. I thank them for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF
AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on Octo-

ber 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. The completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption and enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the centennial of their Republic Day. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

HONORING HARPER CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harper Chapel United Methodist Church in Osage Beach, Missouri. On Sunday, September 23, 2018, the congregation will be celebrating the church's 150th Anniversary. This historical accomplishment is even more impressive when considering Missouri was not quite 50 years a state when Harper Chapel UMC was established near the Grand Glaize and Osage Rivers.

In 1868, Mr. Thomas Ezard and Mr. Thomas Harper began a Methodist class that would set the groundwork for Harper Chapel UMC. During the years this class met in various homes and the local log school house. The Southern Methodist Bishop appointed the Circuit Riders who led the class. Then in 1880, the community welcomed their first "regular preacher", Tom Rodgers. A new era was ushered in on April 20, 1911 when Asa and Ethel Farmer and E.P. Wade generously donated one acre of land in trust to the Methodist Episcopal Church. This land is the present site of Harper Chapel UMC.