

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 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.