

today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SEAMAN
1ST CLASS EDWARD SLAPIKAS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, who has finally come home to rest almost 80 years after his heroic passing.

Seaman Slapikas was tragically killed in action at the age of 24 while serving aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He was one of 429 crewmen who perished on December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seaman Slapikas was interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where his name was marked as “unidentified” on the Walls of the Missing.

Now, 77 years later, Seaman Slapikas’ remains have been identified thanks to the combined efforts of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Seaman Slapikas’ surviving family members. Since 2015, the DPAA has provided closure to over 120 families of fallen servicemen killed aboard the USS *Oklahoma*.

The return of Seaman Slapikas marks a momentous occasion, not only for the Slapikas family, but also for the community of Wanamie, Pennsylvania. The bravery of Seaman Slapikas was commemorated through the establishment of the American Legion Post 971, named for Seaman Slapikas and Petty Officer Keith Jeffries, a fellow serviceman who perished aboard the USS *Arizona* during the same attack. Seaman Slapikas’ niece, Ms. Leona Hotko, plans to ensure that her “favorite uncle” is laid to rest near his childhood home in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Wanamie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the heroic life of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, and posthumously thanking him for his service to our great nation.

HONORING PRESIDENT KEN
WOLLACK OF THE NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Kenneth Wollack, President of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), who is stepping down after a career in foreign affairs, journalism, and politics that has spanned 46 years.

An Illinois native and graduate of Earlham College, Ken broke into national politics as a member of the national staff of the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972. From 1973 to 1980 he was legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). He then became a co-editor of the Middle

East Policy Survey, a Washington-based newsletter, and wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the Los Angeles Times.

Ken joined NDI as executive vice president in 1986 and was elected president by the Institute’s board of directors in 1993. He has now led the Institute for more than two-thirds of its history, working on five continents to strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, promote citizen participation, and champion openness and accountability in government.

Through his years of service, Ken has testified before numerous congressional committees and has appeared on national television and radio as a trusted authority on world affairs. He has served on various task forces sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Center for U.S. Global Engagement, and the Atlantic Council. He currently serves on USAID’s Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, sits on the Commission on Presidential Debates’ Board of Directors, and was chairman of the development program of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations.

In a speech given at the 10th Anniversary of Georgetown University’s Masters Program in Democracy and Governance Ken reflected, “I confess to be an incurable optimist who for 32 years has worked in the optimism business.” His optimism and tireless dedication to promoting and protecting democracy, good governance, and human rights have earned respect and appreciation across the political spectrum in our country and abroad.

I have been honored to work with Ken and the entire team at NDI in implementing this hopeful vision through the bipartisan work of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP). From the time HDP began its work in 2005, NDI and its partner organization within the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute (IRI), have been indispensable partners in strengthening legislative institutions in twenty emerging or re-emerging democracies—ranging from Indonesia and Kenya to Ukraine, Georgia, Peru, Tunisia, and Sri Lanka. HDP has engaged member-to-member and staff-to-staff, while NDI and IRI have helped us organize workshops and exchange visits and have carried out mentoring and consultation aimed at improved legislative practice day-to-day in our partner countries.

This work simply could not have occurred without steadfast leadership from Ken. We have learned a great deal from him and have been strengthened and sustained by his unfailing support. I will forever be grateful to him.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with friends and colleagues in commending Ken for his remarkable career and for the commitment he has shown to our country’s highest ideals and purposes. In turn, he has enjoyed the steadfast support and love of his wife Leslie, his daughters Lauren and Alison, and his grandson, Cooper.

We thank Ken Wollack for his exemplary service and wish him and his family well as he begins the next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO TODD PEVERILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Todd Peverill of Glenwood, Iowa for being selected by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. Todd received this award for his many years of coaching successful cross country and track teams at Glenwood Community High School.

Todd has coached track since 1992 and cross country since 1998. Through his coaching and leadership skills he has led the Glenwood High School Rams to several team and individual championships and honors. Todd has been active in the Glenwood community by developing and maintaining cross country trails at Glenwood Lake Park and he has been an advocate for high school athletes and outdoor exercise enthusiasts.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Todd in the United States Congress. It is with great pride that I recognize him for his selection as the Citizen of the Year by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce and for his commitment to his community and school. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Todd on receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to convey my congratulations to the Republic of Azerbaijan and to all Azerbaijanis.

On May 28, 1918, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was founded, becoming the first Muslim democratic state and gaining their independence from the Russian Empire for the first time. While that independence was initially short-lived, taken away when Russia invaded in 1920, Azerbaijan again became an independent nation on October 18, 1991, and has since been an increasingly important ally for the U.S. in the South Caucasus.

Like the city I represent, Houston, Azerbaijan’s impressive economic growth has been driven by the oil and gas industry and shaped by adapting to the evolution of that industry. A number of American and international energy companies thrive in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan’s rapid development of its energy infrastructure and expertise has helped it play a crucial role in protecting European energy security and U.S. geopolitical interests by ensuring a stable and sufficient flow of energy to Europe.

As a secular Muslim country, Azerbaijan was a pioneer in extending equal political rights to women, becoming the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote in