

Mr. Xiaobo was instrumental in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, one of the most significant protests of communist rule in China.

Throughout his life, his works were banned and censored by the communist Chinese government. Mr. Xiaobo drafted some of the most influential literature to protest Chinese communism including *The Monologues* of a Domsday's Survivor and the October Tenth Declaration and created the Independent Chinese PEN Centre, a nongovernmental, non-profit and nonpartisan organization offering free association for Chinese writers.

Mr. Xiaobo was formally arrested four times by the Chinese government under such charges as "inciting subversion of state power." His works were deemed subversive by the Chinese Communist Party and actively censored. On June 26, 2017, Mr. Xiaobo was released from his prison sentence on medical parole after being diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. Mr. Xiaobo died on July 13, 2017 in Shenyang, China. Many believe his imprisonment greatly contributed to his deteriorating health.

Throughout his life, his work received international recognition as a defender of freedom from groups such as Reporters Without Borders, the Nobel Prize Committee, Hong Kong Human Rights Press, and many others. As a Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I feel especially motivated to bring to light Mr. Xiaobo's work.

Today, many others like Mr. Xiaobo are detained by their government as prisoners of conscience—a person who has been imprisoned for holding political or religious views that are not tolerated by their own government. We are grateful to live in a nation where our freedom of religion, press, speech, right to assemble and petition the government are protected at the highest level. With these remarks, I would like to commemorate a wonderful life dedicated to human rights and political freedom and bring attention to the many others who are threatened with becoming prisoners of conscience.

CONGRATULATING KYLIE MEIER OF THE CAMDENTON LAKERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kylie Meier of the Camdenton Lakers for her first-place finish in the 100m and 300m Hurdles at the 2018 Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championship.

Kylie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Kylie Meier for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 11, 2018 due to the Vice Presi-

dent's visit to the First District of Iowa. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 320 and YEA on Roll Call No. 321.

HONORING DOUG MCILROY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JARED HUFFMAN to honor Doug McIlroy for his commitment to sustainable agriculture and his work to protect the jobs and livelihoods of farmers in our community from overregulation. Mr. McIlroy is being honored with the Luther Burbank Conservation Award by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Mr. McIlroy was born in England and moved with his family to Marin County, California when he was an infant. He developed a passion for agriculture from an early age. He spent his summers driving tractors and picking prunes on his family's Aquarius Ranch near the Russian River in Healdsburg, California. Mr. McIlroy studied at the Santa Rosa Junior College and graduated from the University of California, Davis, with degrees in economics and plant science.

In 2001, Mr. McIlroy was recruited by Rodney Strong Vineyards to manage its estate vineyards and be its Director of Winegrowing. Due in no small part to his leadership, vineyards at Rodney Strong are now 100 percent sustainable. Much like the Sonoma County Winegrowers' mission, Mr. McIlroy's goal is for all of Sonoma County vineyards to be sustainably farmed.

In addition to his work at Rodney Strong Vineyards, Mr. McIlroy also sits on the Board of Directors for Sonoma County Winegrowers, United Winegrowers of Sonoma County and the American Vineyard Foundation. Within these organizations, Mr. McIlroy has worked tirelessly on environmental issues and has been at the forefront of every water issue growers have faced.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McIlroy is a passionate farmer, environmentalist and scientist who has a record for giving back to our agricultural community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Doug McIlroy here today.

HONORING THE BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

In 1900, several Bryan businesspersons recognized the need for a collective organization aimed at improving business in the area. After several months of planning, the Bryan Business League held its first meeting. The organization has been known by many names including the Bryan Commercial Club, the Downtown Bryan Merchants Association, and the Bryan & Brazos Industrial League. In 1918 they settled on another name, the Bryan and

Brazos Chamber of Commerce which is now known as the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, the Chamber has established itself as one of the best Chambers in the state of Texas, and it has played a large part in the development of the economies of both Bryan and the neighboring community of College Station. Today the Chamber's membership has grown to over 1,500 businesses including Fortune 100 companies, small-to-medium sized business, non-profits, civic organizations, divisions of Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M University System, Blinn College, representatives from local city and county governments, and individual citizens. The Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce unites business, civic, academia and government leaders with leadership focused programs and special events.

Like other Chambers of Commerce across the country, the Bryan/College Station Chamber is the voice of the business community to elected officials of local, state and federal governments. Once a year, members of the Chamber come to Washington to advocate for policies that will help our nation's business owners and employees. I always look forward to hosting the Bryan/College Station Chamber; and my team and I take great pride in making sure they feel welcome and at home.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce and recognizing their years of service to the Brazos Valley. It is an honor for me to represent such an outstanding group of entrepreneurs, local leaders, and visionaries in Congress.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our nation's Capitol to honor the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce on its 100th anniversary.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, our military, and our first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

CONGRATULATING MIKAYLA REED OF THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BLUE JAYS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mikayla Reed of the Washington High School Blue Jays for her first-place finish in the 800m, 1600m, 3200m Run at the 2018 Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championship.

Mikayla and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mikayla Reed for a job well done.