

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene and Roger Francis on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

#### HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF BARBARA PITTS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 70th birthday of Barbara Pitts.

Barbara was born on October 10, 1948 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She is a two-time graduate of Auburn University. In 1972, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and in 1974, a Master of Science in Education. She is founder and charter member of Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. It was chartered at Auburn University on January 12, 1974.

Barbara is the proud mother of Christopher Pitts and has been blessed with two grandchildren: Zaire and Chad Pitts.

Barbara is a member of Bell Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn where she has served in many roles. She is also founding member of Alabama New South Coalition and currently serves as Vice President of the Board.

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, her friends and family will surprise her with a birthday gathering.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Barbara's life and wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chinese American Medical Society as they host their 55th Annual Scientific Symposium and Annual Red Lantern Gala.

As the oldest and one of the largest Chinese American medical societies, CAMS provides meaningful support for Chinese American medical students, educates the Chinese American community on health issues that disproportionately impact Chinese Americans, and is a leader in research on the ever-changing field of medical practices and medical technology.

The Chinese American Medical Society's 55th Annual Scientific Conference and Red Lantern Gala stands as a testament to CAMS's dedication to recognizing talent and hard work from skilled professionals who dedicate their lives to improving the health of others in the Chinese American community.

I would like to specifically congratulate S. Chiu Wong as a recipient of the CAMS Scientific Award, as well as the Chinese American Nurses Association and UnitedHealthcare Asian Initiatives as recipients of the Community Service Awards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Chinese American Medical Society for decades of lifechanging work.

#### HONORING MARLENE KAYSER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marlene Kayser of Saint Paul, Minnesota on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Marlene's family will join her many friends to celebrate her extraordinary lifetime of service to others on September 23, 2018. Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed the day as Marlene Kayser Day in the State of Minnesota.

Growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota instilled in Marlene the values of hard work, sensibility and duty to others. A passion for promoting human rights and social justice has taken her across the state and around the world to further this vital work. Numerous organizations and causes including Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Planned Parenthood have benefited greatly from her generosity, leadership and skills as a volunteer and role model.

Over the decades, Marlene, her husband Tom, daughter Carol and sons Tom and David literally opened their arms and their Saint Paul home to the community to generously assist others. There they have served as host family to many international students, connected countless community leaders, and launched initiatives that improve our state and our planet for everyone. The open door of the Kayser home has been a tangible symbol of the hospitality and encouragement that Marlene offers.

Through her tireless work with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Marlene has traveled the world as a grassroots volunteer—at her own expense—to monitor conditions and to train leaders. She's spoken with citizens and professionals about domestic violence in places like Macedonia and Romania, then returned to Minnesota to provide her valuable skills as an effective fundraiser who builds relationships and spreads the word about these important issues.

Generations of social justice advocates have been taught by Marlene's example and mentorship. It has been observed by many that her gracious persistence and dignified determination in promoting women's rights inspires others to push harder and never give up when faced with challenges. Above all, she leads by example. When called to help, you can count on Marlene to provide vision, as well as the tenacity to see a project to completion.

It is a privilege to know Marlene as a friend, confidant and mentor. Her ability to offer wise counsel and inspiration has always been a welcome presence during my elected service. I am grateful for her kindness and grace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the many significant contributions of Marlene Kayser throughout her decades of human rights and social justice activism. As Minnesota prepares to observe "Marlene Kayser Day in Minnesota," let us all celebrate her

great impact in our state and around the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAMM AND JIM OLSON

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pamm and Jim Olson, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on July 28, 2018.

Pamm and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Pamm and Jim Olson on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

#### HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLEDO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 12, 2018*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary evolution of the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) presence in the City of Toledo as an umbrella group for the ten Sister Cities/regions which constitute this membership. Members and friends are gathering this weekend to celebrate its silver anniversary.

As TSCI celebrates its 25th anniversary, our community is also proud to celebrate what is regarded as the very first Sister City agreement when, in 1931, the Association of Two Toledos linking Toledo, Ohio with Toledo, Spain was born. That was years before President Dwight Eisenhower, in 1956, called for "citizen diplomacy" to create sister city relationships with the goal of promoting world peace. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., this organization oversees the establishment of sister city relationships which are mayor to mayor agreements that are initiated by citizens in interested cities across the globe and approved by local governing bodies.

In 1985, a relationship with Qinhuangdao, China was initiated, and it became a sister city to Toledo. Qinhuangdao and Toledo are both known as "The Glass City" because of their history of glass production.

When the oppression of communism ended in 1989 in Poland, a core group including Councilwoman Eleanor Kahle, future Councilman Peter Ujvagi, Ann Galloway and Sister Ann Frances Klimkowski, and myself discussed the formation of an association to reach out to cities coming to the light of freedom. Szeged, Hungary became the first Sister City in this new approach in 1990 and