

five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Latrell earned more than 40 merit badges and served his troop well with leadership and volunteering roles. Latrell's Eagle Scout Project was completed for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Iowa. He designed and built a portable can redemption shed that has raised more than \$500 for hospitalized veterans at the Des Moines VA Hospital. The work ethic Latrell has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Latrell and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING KADANCE
FREDERICKSEN AS RECIPIENT
OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER
SERVICE AWARD

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kadance Fredericksen, recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, for her outstanding community service contribution of over 122 hours this year.

Driven by her desire to help others, Kadance has organized events at her school including a canned food drive for the Crestview Homeless Shelter during which she was able to obtain 18.5 pounds of canned goods for donation. Additionally, she organized a "GO GOLD" day in her school to raise awareness for childhood cancer. This "GO GOLD" day is now a yearly event at her school.

Outside of school, Kadance has collected and delivered over 200 teddy bears for the Children's Coalition of Florida, delivered sandwiches, chips, and cookies to local police departments, and assisted with the Princess of Paradise special-needs pageant.

An organization that has a particular place in Kadance's heart is the Ronald McDonald House of Northwest Florida. Kadance spends much of her time here getting to know staff and families along with cleaning the facility, donating to the wish list, and hosting pizza parties for the families. In 2016 Kadance opened a lemonade stand to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Through this, she has since raised \$13,000 for the Ronald McDonald House.

In 2017, Kadance won the title of Little Miss Northwest Florida where she raised aware-

ness for the Ronald McDonald House. She has also used her pageant career as a platform to launch a campaign against bullying. She is currently Jr. Miss Sugar Sands and will compete for the title of Jr. Miss Northwest Florida in January 2019.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Kadance Fredericksen for her outstanding contributions to the community and for earning the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HOOPS FOR YOUTH FOUNDATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20-year anniversary of the Hoops For Youth Foundation and their achievements in helping and supporting at-risk kids in Washington, D.C.

Since 1999, the Hoops for Youth Foundation has brought together lawmakers, congressional staff, community leaders, and the lobbying profession in a bipartisan effort to help give children in our Nation's Capital a fighting chance with educational, family, hope, and career opportunities through countless hours of community service.

Mr. Speaker, the Hoops for Youth Foundation dedicates its support for organizations like Healthy Babies, Inc, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit, which supports at-risk families to have healthy babies and move out of the cycle of poverty. Healthy Babies reaches out to high-risk, low-income, substance-abusing, pregnant and parenting women, men, and their families. It removes barriers for health and success by helping clients identify what they need. Healthy Babies works with service provider partners to connect women and families to resources including health care, housing, nutrition, mental health services, educational support, skills building, substance abuse support, and employment. They stay with families long-term to give them the best chance for success.

The Foundation also supports important schools like The Cornerstone School of Washington, D.C., which provides a Christ-centered, nurturing, and academically rigorous education to the children of Washington, D.C.; and St. Anthony's, which continues to be a family and neighborhood tradition. The curriculum and environment at St. Anthony is based upon the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus Christ as understood by the Catholic Church. They are proud to offer a rigorous, standards-based academic program to students in Pre-K3 through grade eight.

Finally, the Foundation dedicates its support to Washington Jesuit Academy, which provides a high quality and comprehensive education to boys from low-income communities, offering them a safe, rigorous academic setting and advancing their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical growth. The guiding vision of the Washington Jesuit Academy is to create an education model that addresses the cycle of poverty that plagues our students' communities, and replaces it with a cycle of hope, determination and success. In order to challenge the city's widening achievement gap

and bleak graduation statistics for low-income males, WJA incorporates the Magis ("the more") and asks the important question: What more can we do for our students, our families and our community to change the face of urban education?

Mr. Speaker, the commitment and achievements over the past 20 years of the Hoops For Youth Foundation, Members of Congress, congressional staff, community leaders, and the professional lobbying community, should be recognized, for their incredible dedication to ensuring at-risk kids in our Nation's Capital have the opportunities to become the next generation of leaders.

We must also recognize those efforts to promote strong family values and commitment to success by programs like Healthy Babies, St. Anthony's, Cornerstone School of Washington, D.C. and the Washington Jesuit Academy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELIZABETH KAY GUNTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks one year since the passing of an outstanding conservative leader from Clarke County, Virginia, Elizabeth Kay Gunter, and, on this occasion, I rise to celebrate her extraordinary life with you and our colleagues.

Kay Gunter was a formidable champion of conservative political values, especially regarding the Right to Life. She was always an enthusiastic ally of those candidates and causes she championed and a formidable adversary of those who she opposed. To have influence in the political arena, Kay successfully ran for and served ably in the capacity of: Chairwoman of the Clarke County Republican Committee, member of the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia, Chairwoman of the Winchester-Frederick-Clarke Republican Women and Virginia Delegate to the Republican National Convention. Kay's interest in doing what she could to protect the sacredness of life led her to also serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the ABBA Pregnancy Care Center in Winchester. In recognition of her remarkable and long-lasting influence over politics in Clarke County, the important policy forum sponsored by the Clarke County Republican Committee, is now called the Nolan-Gunter Policy Forum.

While Kay Gunter dedicated much time and energy to politics, the foundation of her life was always her relationship with God. Although she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina, Kay's Christian discipleship led her to define and honor the profession of homemaking, during which, over a 55-year career, she successfully created a strong household of faith for her husband, Sam, their three children and their many grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Elizabeth Kay Gunter, whose courage and tenacity as a Christian disciple led her to extraordinary success as a political activist and homemaker.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND JIM LONG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joyce and Jim Long of Essex, Iowa for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They were chosen by fellow members of the Essex Community Club for this honor.

Joyce and Jim have lived in the Essex area for almost six decades. The couple graduated from high school in 1954 and married a year later. Jim served in the military and operated the family farm. Joyce enrolled in nursing school and was employed by the Montgomery County Hospital for 24 years. Joyce and Jim have three children and have been active in the Essex community. Jim served on the city council and on the Page County Landfill Board. Joyce is a member of the quilting crew at St. John's Lutheran Church. Joyce said, "giving back to the community is just something you do. We don't think anything of it." Jim added, "Essex has been a wonderful place for us to live and raise our children. It's an honor and nice to be recognized."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Joyce and Jim Long for being selected the Grand Marshals for the Essex Labor Day parade. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication can affect a community. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Joyce and Jim on receiving this honor, and I wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL
ALOYSIUS RYAN**

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and legacy of Master Sergeant Michael Aloysius Ryan. Born on May 15, 1946, Master Sergeant Ryan dedicated his life to his country through his service with the Armed Forces. Earning his High School GED through the United States Armed Forces Institute, he went on to serve two tours in Vietnam and one in the Persian Gulf.

Throughout his service, Master Sergeant Ryan earned many decorations, medals and commendations, including two Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Rifle MIG Expert Badge.

Returning home to transition into the Air Force Reserve, Master Sergeant Ryan continued to serve his nation as a member of the 106th Rescue Wing of Westhampton Beach, New York. Once again answering the call of

duty, Master Sergeant Ryan stepped up in the immediate aftermath of September 11th as a part of the search and recovery mission at the World Trade Center. Within one week of working the pile at Ground Zero, Master Sergeant Ryan contracted an incurable lung disease, one he would succumb to nearly seventeen years later.

Master Sergeant Ryan was kind, loving, dedicated, funny, intelligent and a passionate sportsman. He was a loving husband, loyal brother, amazing father and caring grandfather, but most of all he was an American hero. Having dedicated centuries of his life to serving his fellow Americans, he did not hesitate to step up even in our nation's darkest moment. For his bravery and heroism, and the sacrifice of his family, our country will be eternally grateful. Let his memory serve as a promise to always care for our nation's veterans, first responders and all those who stepped up in the aftermath of September 11th.

**FRANCE RECOGNIZES TEXAS AS
AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is distinctive in many ways. Texas was an independent nation for nine years. In fact, some Texans still think we're an independent country.

Texas had gained independence from Mexico in 1836 and had immediately set up a republic. The reason for the call for independence was because Mexico had abolished its democracy and set up a dictatorship with Santa Anna as the Supreme Dictator. Texans and Tejanos—Mexican or Spanish person born in Texas—were determined not to live under an imperial dictatorship and went to war with Mexico to gain independence. This was a fight for liberty. Independence was gained on April 21, 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto where General Sam Houston and his boys defeated a superior Mexican army under the leadership of Santa Anna.

After Texas set up a government, it then built an army and a navy. Texas then sought official recognition of the Republic of Texas from other nations.

On this day, September 25, 1839, King Louis Philippe of France formally recognized the Republic of Texas. This was the first country after the United States to recognize the republic. This treaty allowed Texas commerce to be admitted to France on a most favored nation basis. Great Britain soon followed in recognizing Texas as an independent nation. Texas would proceed to engage in commerce with the United States, Mexico, France, and Great Britain.

Dubois De Saligny of France was appointed as chargé d'affaires and soon moved to Austin. He bought 21 acres just east of the Texas Capitol in Austin and began construction of the house known today as the French Legation. Today, there is a similar site where the Texas Legation was in Paris, France. The French residence is now a historical site in Texas. It acts as a reminder that Texas was once a country.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ERIC ACCIME

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Accime, a highly successful executive with more than 20 years of experience in the building and engineering industry and a generous philanthropist, who has had an outsized impact on underserved and impoverished communities around the world.

Mr. Accime, a product of Florida International University, participated in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project I founded to intervene in the lives of at-risk boys of color and steer them onto a pathway to success. I am extremely proud that Mr. Accime has utilized the mentorship and assistance he received as a springboard to personal and professional success while remaining committed to giving back and serving those in need.

After graduating from FIU, Mr. Accime returned to the 5000 Role Models as a staffer and helped mentor other boys and young men of color, working to instill in them the same skills, confidence, and vision that has served him over the course of his career.

Since entering the private sector, Mr. Accime has built an impressive body of work and been recognized for his outstanding contributions. His expertise spans the development and construction management of large multi-use real estate, municipal and commercial projects. To date, he has spearheaded various high-profile projects valued at more than \$600 million. His accolades include the National Award of Excellence for a project built in Tampa, Florida, which was designated one of the two best projects in the United States for fiscal year 2000.

Although remarkably accomplished, Mr. Accime has retained the same values of service and community that drove him as a young staffer with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. His professional and philanthropic endeavors have helped significantly improve conditions, particularly for underserved children, both in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Accime has been integral to numerous relief efforts, having partnered with USAID, Habitat for Humanity, the Breaking Point International Corp., and the National Society of Black Engineers of Alexandria, Virginia, to provide resources and build vital infrastructure.

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Mr. Accime worked to help design and build a new National Campus of Health and Sciences there in collaboration with USAID. The project utilized cutting-edge design and delivery techniques to ensure the facility's sustainability, which was vital to Haiti's recovery and was estimated to produce approximately 1,500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health practitioners over a 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Accime for his exceptional achievements and humanitarian contributions. I am proud to call Mr. Accime a friend and can personally testify to his generous and hardworking spirit.