

TRIBUTE TO LAURA WATTS

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 Laura Watts of Winterset, Iowa for being honored as the Rotarian of the Year by the Winterset Rotary Club.

Ms. Watts has been a member of this club for 35 years and has earned her Paul Harris Award and Paul Harris Plus pin. She has also been incredibly active, volunteering with events such as Husky Help Day, Birthday in a Bag project and assisted with the rotary Youth Exchange program.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Laura demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with her community. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Laura Watts for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF SARAH AND ROBERT WILKINSON

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the loving generosity of a family, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson, as the 2018 Angels in Adoption from the Tenth Congressional District of Virginia.

Earlier this year, the Wilkinson family was recognized by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors as the 2018 Loudoun County Foster Parents of the Year and, as a member of Congress, I am very pleased that the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, through its national public awareness campaign, has given me the opportunity to recognize this family for their demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

The Angels in Adoption tradition is well established in the Wilkinson family. When Sarah was six, her parents began fostering children who would eventually become her brothers and sisters. Within a year of their wedding in 2005, Sarah and Robert became foster parents to a teenager. Since then, the Wilkinson family have served as foster parents for nine children, and they have provided respite services for countless others. Sarah and Robert have four birth children, have adopted two children, and are currently in the process of adopting another child.

In addition to setting a stellar example for others by creating a beautiful family of fostered, adopted and birthed children, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson spend countless hours supporting other foster and adoptive parents. They lead a monthly support group for foster parents in Loudoun County, and Sarah leads a support group of moms living in the greater Northern Virginia area. The Wilkinsons also take part in the final session of the Loudoun

County's foster parent training program, offering practical ideas and encouragement to people who are about to embark on their new lives as foster parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to count among my constituents, Sarah and Robert Wilkinson. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating them for being recognized as the 2018 Angels in Adoption from the Tenth Congressional District of Virginia.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the 70th anniversary of one of Ohio's premiere educational institutions: Ohio Christian University.

The true story of this University is growth. From its humble beginnings on East Ohio Street in Circleville in September of 1948, the University quickly grew beyond its location, and moved to its current, 40-acre home on U.S. Route 22. In recent years, that growth has continued, with adult degree programs offered online, and satellite campuses in Chillicothe, Columbus, Dublin, Lancaster, Washington Court House, and Wilmington.

While its consistent expansion is impressive, the most important "growth" is the growth of the students who attend Ohio Christian University. With a Christ-centered, biblically-based, ministry-motivated curriculum, University students grow into capable and well-rounded leaders who are ready and able to "serve effectively in the church and society."

As Ohio Christian University enters this new decade, there are already ambitious plans in place to continue its growth. From fostering "an academic and community environment" to preparing "world-impact societal leaders," this is an institution that is not content with the status quo, and I applaud the continued efforts of Dr. Jon S. Kulaga, Dr. Hank Kelly, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students.

Ohio Christian University is an essential thread in our Ohio tapestry, and I am grateful to have it as a committed partner in our community. I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ohio Christian University on its 70th anniversary, as well as wishing the entire community a happy Homecoming.

HONORING ELIZABETH GLIDDEN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Glidden's 12 years of service as a Minneapolis Councilmember. She has served as a distinguished leader on the Council, including as the Council Vice President, and Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Ms. Glidden has an extensive list of accomplishments from her time in office. She has

been an advocate for workers' protection, helping lead the push for a \$15 municipal minimum wage and for paid sick and safe leave to provide job protections to up to 100,000 Minneapolis workers during illness. She is a champion for affordable housing, and was the chief author of the 2017 Minneapolis ordinance that prohibited discrimination against the 5,000 Minneapolis holders of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

Ms. Glidden led the pioneering effort to bring ranked choice voting to Minneapolis in 2006 to help avoid plurality outcomes and elect majority winners. It has since been used successfully in three Minneapolis elections.

A proponent of clean energy, she created the first-in-the-nation Clean Energy Partnership between Minneapolis and energy utilities to help promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in support of the city's Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Glidden helped direct city efforts on racial equity, including the development of One Minneapolis One Read, a reading program to encourage family and friends to have conversations about race, family relationships, and neighborhood history.

In addition to her contributions on the Council, she previously worked for ten years as an attorney practicing employment and civil rights law. Ms. Glidden has been a Board Member of Local Progress, a Board Member of Gender Justice, and serves on the Alumni Board of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Ms. Glidden is set to continue her advocacy on behalf of the residents of Minneapolis and Minnesota as the new Director of Strategic Initiatives and Policy for the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

On behalf of her Ward 8 constituents and the broader community, I want to congratulate Elizabeth Glidden on her many years advancing creative change for the City of Minneapolis, and on her tireless activism as a voice for equity, justice, and economic opportunity.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY AND JIM LENTS

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 honor Betty and Jim Lents of Greenfield, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 7, 2018.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING JORGE RAMOS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jorge Ramos, one of our nation's leading voices in Hispanic media who recently announced his retirement after nearly forty years with Telemundo 47.

Jorge has been with Telemundo 47's news team since the beginning, serving as an original founding member of the station's news operations. Throughout his time at Telemundo 47, Jorge helped the station achieve many milestones, including historic ratings. In both July and August of this year, the 11pm edition of Noticiero 47 Telemundo anchored by Ramos was ranked as the most-watched local newscast in the entire New York market, regardless of language.

Jorge began his media career in 1972, working at the radio station WKVM in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He later joined Telemundo 47 in 1979 where he served as the station's first field reporter. His talent and tenacity on camera was rewarded shortly thereafter when he was named news anchor—a position that he has held ever since.

Jorge is the recipient of seven Emmy awards for journalistic excellence and worked closely with the Tri-State's Hispanic community for over 35 years. Throughout that time, he has collaborated with many community organizations, non-profits and charities, in addition to serving as grand marshal and godfather of numerous parades throughout the Tri-State region.

Mr. Speaker, multiple generations of Telemundo 47 viewers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut look at Jorge as an extended member of their families. He has been a steady, calming and always-smiling presence at their dinner tables and in their living rooms for nearly forty years. Finally, Jorge is the proud father of a former Marine and has been a steadfast advocate for Hispanic veterans as they return into civilian life.

Mr. Speaker, Jorge Ramos has served our community and our country well. I would like to thank Jorge for his service and I am proud to recognize his many professional accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 180TH BIRTHDAY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 180th birthday of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia.

While it is difficult to find written histories, biographies, memoirs, and other accounts of religious life in the South prior to abolition, Rev. Clarence M. Wagner has identified historical evidence that a group made up predominately of freed slaves organized Gainesville's First Baptist Church in 1838. Rev. Wagner details

his findings in the book Profiles of Black Georgia Baptists.

In 1901, under the Rev. Jack Nichol's leadership, the congregation erected a new church building on the corner of Gainesville's Pine and High Streets. Rev. Nichol answered the call to ministry around 1877, and he is the first person known by name to pastor this body of worshipers, shepherding the flock from 1877 to 1903.

The First Baptist Church was rebuilt in 1923 under the leadership of Rev. William Dorsey. Today, the church gathers at 1810 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, where Rev. Isaac Whitehead Jr. pastors the congregation.

I join the First Baptist Church in celebrating their 180 years of worship in Northeast Georgia and wish the church many happy years of ministry ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DEEPA WILLINGHAM

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Deepa Willingham for receiving the 2018 United Nations Association of Santa Barbara Peace Prize.

Mrs. Willingham was born in Kolkata, India and received her primary and secondary education under the stewardship of Mother Teresa. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Calcutta, she moved to the United States to pursue Masters and Ph.D. degrees.

Mrs. Willingham has dedicated her life to empowering girls and women through education. She founded Pace Universal, a non-profit organization that works to end human trafficking, elevate women and children from poverty, and uplift communities. She opened an environmentally sustainable school for more than 200 girls at the Piyali Learning Center in the rural Indian village of Piyali Junction.

Mrs. Willingham has been a leader in Santa Barbara County through her roles as President of Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley as well as Rotary International District Governor. While president, she was named Rotarian of the year and chaired two Rotary Districts Annual Poverty Conferences, during which she helped to initiate its 5-point poverty-eradication plan. Mrs. Willingham has participated in volunteer efforts internationally by attending National Immunization Day in India and traveling to Mexico to construct cement floors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the United Nations Association of Santa Barbara in celebrating the exemplary career of Deepa Willingham as she receives the 2018 Peace Prize.

RECOGNITION OF MS. EVANGELINA MENDIOLA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Ms. Evangelina

Mendiola, for her extraordinary contributions as an adoptive and foster parent in Broward County, Florida.

Ms. Mendiola was recognized as a 2018 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Currently in the process of adopting her fifth child, she also regularly opens her home and heart as a caring foster parent. Indeed, she is admired in her community for her steadfast commitment to the welfare of children. Ms. Mendiola's long-standing dedication truly exemplifies the values of the Angels in Adoption program.

Founded in 2001, CCAI is a nonprofit organization with the vision that every child should know the love and support of a caring family. Every year, CCAI selects a small group of outstanding individuals, families, or organizations across the nation to be recognized as Angels in Adoption. These honorees have gone above and beyond to demonstrate commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Evangelina Mendiola is a member of our community, whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her inspiring commitment to the welfare of children, and wish her the very best as she continues to make the dream of a family a reality for the children she has given a warm and loving home.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HELEN PETERSON

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 Mary Helen Peterson of Red Oak, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mary Helen celebrated her birthday on August 24, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary Helen's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary Helen has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary Helen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary Helen on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STERLING WOMEN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristina Bouweiri, the founder of Sterling Women and CEO of Reston Limousine,