

the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. This program provides merit-based scholarships so students can have the opportunity to learn less commonly taught languages through summer and academic-year immersion programs overseas. The goal of this program is to develop a cadre of Americans with advanced linguistic skills and related cultural understanding, help Americans compete effectively in the global economy, and to spark a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures among American youth.

I am proud that Northeast Georgia is home to these exceptional students and I look forward to hearing of their future accomplishments.

HONORING BLOSSOM ROZMAN OF
ELLENVILLE

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mrs. Blossom Rozman of Ellenville, New York. For decades, Blossom has dedicated herself to serving and being an active member of the greater Ulster community. Through her passion and dedication, Blossom continues to work to change the world around her—for the better.

Among her many activities and accomplishments, Blossom was vital to the implementation of the holocaust studies program in the Ellenville Central school—the first full-year program of its kind in the country. She has also participated in numerous organizations, including serving on the executive board of the Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary and as past president of the Sisterhood of Congregation Ezrath Israel.

Throughout Upstate, I am thankful for the driven and compassionate individuals like Blossom who have committed themselves to strengthening our communities and building a better future. Ellenville shines a little brighter thanks to Blossom's tireless volunteerism and participation in civil society.

I am grateful for Blossom's many years of dedicated service to the 19th District and to New York state. Her many contributions will be felt for generations to come.

REMEMBERING MR. CAMERON
MARTINEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cameron Martinez, who tragically lost his life earlier this month. Cameron is remembered by all who knew him for his kindness, generosity, and enormous personality. He was a remarkable young man and a loving brother, son, and friend. I am proud to have personally known him and honor him and his memory.

Cameron was a rising star in our community. A native of Alcalde, New Mexico, he graduated this year from Española Valley High School, where he was a top student and ath-

lete. He was especially well known for his love of basketball, and his passion for the game earned him the nickname "Space Jam Cam." His teammates and coaches had great admiration for his work ethic and selflessness on and off the court.

Cameron was also a gifted student who was committed to advancing his education and career. After graduating from high school, he served his country working in the Information Technology Department at Los Alamos, one of our premier National Laboratories. In this role, he collaborated with a team of professionals working on some of our most pressing national security matters, including evolving cybersecurity threats. The sky was the limit for Cameron, and our nation lost a highly capable and driven future leader. Cameron was also an aspiring entrepreneur who was working on a clothing line.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Cameron in recent months and can personally attest to his warmth, work ethic, and determination to bring positive change to the State of New Mexico. With a simple gesture like a hug, Cameron could make you feel like you were the most important person in his life. I was one of the people lucky enough to receive such a hug.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deepest condolences to Cameron's parents, Valerie and Urban, as well as the rest of his loved ones and the entire Española community. Cameron was taken from us far too young, but we will always remember him as a bright, young star in New Mexico who positively affected so many people's lives. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING MERRICK MAKOWSKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Merrick Makowski. Merrick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Merrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Merrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Merrick has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Merrick Makowski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAY SCHULTZ

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Ray Schultz of

Avoca, Iowa for receiving the Outstanding Service Award from Iowa State University Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

Dr. Schultz is a 1960 graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Schultz developed a vaccine which helped lower the mortality rate for farrow-to-finish hog operations worldwide. He also has a remarkable track record of assisting hog farmers to help feed the hungry around the world. He has an impressive history of giving back to his community as well as his alma mater for full professional scholarships for the school of veterinary science.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dr. Ray Schultz for earning this award. His hard work and dedication has affected the future of veterinary medicine. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Schultz for his many accomplishments in the agriculture industry. I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING BETTY RUTH HELMS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Ruth Helms of Nevada, Missouri. Betty is 96 years old, a part of what many have called "the greatest generation," those Americans who bravely served their nation and the cause of liberty during World War II. In response to the overwhelming need for sailors to serve in the war, Congress authorized the Navy's WAVES program in 1942, which permitted women to serve in the Naval Reserve as commissioned officers and enlisted sailors. Betty answered the call, and volunteered to be a part of the very first class of women to complete training at the University of Wisconsin. After qualifying as a radioman, she served steadfastly in Jacksonville, Florida for over three years. After her service, she used the G.I. Bill and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, graduating from my own alma mater, the University of Missouri, in February of 1950. She used that education to start Helms Permit Agency in Nevada, which remains open for business to this day. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to this remarkable woman and the tens of thousands of women like her who responded to our nation's need in such a dire hour, and continued to lead in our communities after the war's end. I am personally thankful for her service and the honor of representing her here in the House.

HONORING LISETTE ESTRELLA-
HENDERSON WITH CALIFORNIA'S
THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE
YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisette Estrella-Henderson as a woman of the year. She is devoted to serving

her community and has a passion for giving back. Through her current role as the Solano County Superintendent of Schools, she works tirelessly to support educational services and serve the school districts in her community. As a charter member of 100 Women Who Care in Solano County, Lisette works to support women and young girls by donating to important programs that focus on bettering the community. She is a charter member of the Soroptimist Twilight Club in Solano County and generously volunteers her time to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls through programs that push for increased social and economic opportunities. Ms. Estrella-Henderson has played a vital role in promoting education equality and increased educational resources within her community. Her active engagement in the community includes leadership positions in programs such as the Migrant Child Education Program, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, Solano College Education Foundation, Positive Youth Justice Initiative Leadership Team, Juvenile Justice Coordination Council, Solano Coalition for Better Health, and many more. With a long résumé of outstanding achievements and leadership roles, Lisette's commitment to bringing about positive changes to her community is inspirational.

SAM HOUSTON: PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Houston, Texas, bears the name of Sam Houston, perhaps one of the most important figures in Texas history. Without his steady, stoic leadership, Texas would not be the great state that it is today. Indeed, it might have never even existed.

Let me tell you more. In the summer of 1836, Texas had successfully won its independence from Mexico. Under the leadership of General Sam Houston, the Texan forces overran Santa Anna's army at the Battle of San Jacinto. Houston himself was wounded during the battle, having caught a musket ball in the leg. But he did not let the pain from his wound cloud his judgement.

When by chance the Texans discovered the disgraced Mexican dictator Santa Anna disguised as a private, he was brought to Houston. Many in the Texas Army wanted Santa Anna executed, but Houston, knowing that he could negotiate favorable terms of surrender directly with el Presidente, refused to give the order. Rather, he brokered the treaty with the leader which gave Texas its independence from Mexico. Texas remained a sovereign Republic for nine years.

With independence secured, the Texans turned to its government. David G. Burnet, who had been serving as the president of Texas since the March 2 declaration (what we celebrate today as Texas Independence Day), called for a general election.

The new nation already faced debt problems and issues with army pensions. But with each new concern that surfaced, the choice to lead Texas became more obvious: the hero of San Jacinto.

This was not Houston's first rodeo in government. He served in U.S. Congress representing Tennessee and then as governor of Tennessee. Public service brought him to Texas in 1832, where he was sent by President Andrew Jackson to negotiate treaties with Native Americans. On top of his previous experience, his courageous actions at San Jacinto made him the clear choice in the minds of most Texans to lead the country.

On September 5, Houston won in a landslide election, earning 5,119 votes out of a possible 6,640. So strong was the din from the Texas Congress for Houston to take office as soon as possible that President Burnet moved his inauguration date forward two months. When they first convened after the election, the Texas legislature's first vote was to swear Sam Houston into office that very same day. After taking the oath and delivering a brief, impromptu speech, Houston calmly unhooked his sword and handed it to the Speaker of the House, thus casting off an "emblem of his past office" and following George Washington's example of the primacy of civilian rule. Not a man inside was unmoved by this small but significant act.

Mr. Speaker, Sam Houston was a great Texan and a great American. He is an icon whose memory deserves our utmost respect and admiration. Today, we are all proud Houstonians.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING JOHN GONZALES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Gonzales. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John reset veteran headstones at the local historic Mount Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Gonzales for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Oak Grove Baptist Church of Sterling, Virginia, on the

celebration of its 150th anniversary. In 1868, Reverend Robert Woodson, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, moved to the town of Herndon in Northern Virginia. Finding that there were no Baptist churches that were welcoming to African-Americans, Reverend Woodson interested Mrs. Ellen Thompson, a fellow Baptist living nearby, to help him establish what was initially called the Colored Church, on October 10, 1868, in the community of Oak Grove, located in the town of Sterling. Oak Grove was one of five communities in Eastern Loudoun County that were founded by former slaves after the Civil War ended in 1865. The name of Oak Grove was adopted, in part, because of the stately oak trees surrounding the church grounds.

Over the period of a century and a half, 13 pastors have served at Oak Grove Baptist Church. In addition to the important leadership exercised by these men, the church has been blessed with dedicated and faithful women leaders who greatly contributed to its success, including Ellen Thompson, "First Mother" and founder of the church, and Sister Ada Lee, who labored for 90 years, as the "Second Mother" of the church, before passing on in 1998, at the age of 107. There were many other unsung heroes during the long history of the church, including those whose financial generosity allowed the Oak Grove property to grow from "a little ole' spot beside the railroad track" to a six-acre property next to the current WO&D bicycle trail. Since 2011, the congregation has been led by a gifted yet humble pastor, Gregory L. Spurlock, a native of Petersburg, Virginia. He is married to the former Lottie Cassandra Mickens, also of Petersburg, who is a school principal in Loudoun County. Pastor Spurlock and First Lady Lottie are the proud parents of three children, Ivana, Brandon and Gregory, Jr.

The key to understanding how this church has thrived over its long and illustrious history is its clear and simple mission. Simply put, "The Oak" exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the inspiring leadership of Pastor Spurlock and First Lady Lottie, coupled with the guidance of the elders of the church and the dedicated support of the Deacons and Deaconesses, each member of Oak Grove Baptist Church has pledged his or her life to Christ and has covenanted with each other to demonstrate His Spirit through worship, witnessing and ministering to the needs of others. Whether the church is engaged in ministering to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of each church member and family or is taking a leadership role in the annual One Loudoun Revival, or putting on its Car Show and Community Day, or hosting a Women's Conference or a voter registration drive, "the Oak" has always been hallowed ground, where, through acts of faith and love, its members are tirelessly engaged in the blessed work of transfiguring lives, one person at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary history of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Thanks to the loving service of hundreds of disciples over the past 150 years, I am confident that the indelible mission, values and traditions of Oak Grove Baptist Church will guide the congregation's vitality and success over the next 150 years.