

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIAN
KNOP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Christian Knop.

A senior at Alexandria High School in Alexandria, Alabama, won his 235th consecutive wrestling match this month to win the 195-pound weight class in Class 1A–5A.

Christian is the first wrestler to go undefeated and win four straight championships in the history of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).

Christian is ranked third in the nation for wrestling and has not lost a match since he was in the 8th grade. Knop plans to attend and wrestle at N.C. State.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Christian Knop on such an awesome achievement and wish him the best of luck in North Carolina.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IL-
LINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. It is an honor to recognize a court with such a rich and impactful history at the heart of the American judiciary system.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois traces its roots back to Illinois' establishment. Nathaniel Pope, serving as the Territory of Illinois' Secretary from inception in 1809, became its Delegate to Congress in 1816. There, he worked tirelessly on part of the territory's eventual admission to the Union as the state of Illinois in 1818. As such, it was only a natural progression for him to be nominated and confirmed as the first Judge of its new District, bringing with him strong anti-slavery views.

Eventually, the United States District Court for the District of Illinois was subdivided into the Northern and Southern District Courts in 1855. The Northern District led by its first judge, Judge Thomas Drummond, continued the tradition of protecting the rights of all people. One such example, was through the sentencing of the abolitionist John Hossack, who had violated the Fugitive Slave Act by abetting a runaway slave. Judge Drummond, conflicted between his duty to the rule of law and his abolitionist conscience, recognized Hossack was guilty of breaking the law, but chose to hand down a minimal sentence for the transaction.

Even as the Civil War raged on, Judge Drummond balanced his sense of duty and patriotism, actively supporting the Union and President Lincoln while still defending the Chicago Times' right to freedom of speech and criticism.

Today the court exists as the Northern District of Illinois and is led by Chief Judge Rubén Castillo. It has grown considerably during its 200 years and now contains 22 judicial posts, ensuring further public and juris prudential access to its resources and rulings. I am grateful to the District Court and its people, for laws are useless without justice.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on the 200th anniversary of the courts establishment. Through its celebration, we pay tribute not only to our institutions and the rule of law, but to our long-standing history of justice.

ANALENA SHAW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Analena Shaw for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Analena Shaw is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Analena Shaw is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Analena Shaw for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MARFAN
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue conditions to recognize February as Marfan Awareness Month.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition. About 1 in 5,000 Americans carries a mutation in gene called fibrillin which results in an overproduction of a protein called transforming growth factor beta or TGFB. The increased TGFB impacts connective tissue and since connective tissue is found throughout the body, Marfan syndrome features can manifest throughout the body. Patients often have disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. However, it is not the outward signs

that concern Marfan syndrome patients, but the effects the condition has on internal systems. Most notably, in Marfan patients the large artery, known as the aorta, which carries blood away from the heart is weakened and prone to enlargement and rupture, which can be fatal. It is for this reason that increased awareness of Marfan syndrome can save lives.

While there is currently no cure for Marfan syndrome, efforts are underway to enhance our understanding of the condition and improve patient care. I applaud the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for their research efforts in this regard. I encourage NIH to expand research efforts in this area.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment are the keys to managing Marfan syndrome and living a full life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting a Marfan education and awareness program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We can facilitate proper treatment by raising awareness leading to early diagnosis. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing February as Marfan Awareness Month.

MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN
GREECE

HON. PAUL MITCHELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Macedonian Caucus and representative of one of the largest populations of Macedonian-Americans in the country, I would like to include in the RECORD the following article from the BBC entitled "Greece's invisible minority—the Macedonian Slavs". I'm dedicated to maintaining and strengthening a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Macedonia, and urge my colleagues to join me in building and enhancing the cultural, economic, strategic, and governmental ties between our two nations.

[From the BBC News Stories, Feb. 24, 2019]

"GREECE'S INVISIBLE MINORITY—THE
MACEDONIAN SLAVS"

By ratifying an agreement with the newly renamed Republic of North Macedonia, Greece has implicitly recognised the existence of a Macedonian language and ethnicity. And yet it has denied the existence of its own Macedonian minority for decades, says Maria Margaronis. Will something now change?

Mr. Fokas, 92, stands straight as a spear in his tan leather brogues and cream blazer, barely leaning on the ebony and ivory cane brought from Romania by his grandfather a century ago. His mind and his memory are as sharp as his outfit.

A retired lawyer, Mr. Fokas speaks impeccable formal Greek with a distinctive lilt: his mother tongue is Macedonian, a Slavic language related to Bulgarian and spoken in this part of the Balkans for centuries. At his son's modern house in a village in northern Greece, he takes me through the painful history of Greece's unrecognised Slavic-speaking minority.

Mr. Fokas takes care to emphasise from the start that he is both an ethnic Macedonian and a Greek patriot. He has good reason