

of the medical device tax, are two important indicators that our best days of medical innovation are ahead for our manufacturers, as well as the millions of Americas who rely on lifesaving medical devices.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate everyone at Liberty Clark on achieving this certification, and I thank them for being one of the best manufacturers in Minnesota.

HONORING REVEREND GORDON GRIMM

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Gordon “Gordy” Grimm, who passed away last month at the age of 86.

Reverend Grimm was an ordained Lutheran minister and a leader in the field of addiction recovery in Minnesota. Through his work with the Hazelden Foundation, he pioneered the Minnesota model of treatment, which revolutionized addiction treatment and brought dignity to recovering alcoholics and addicts.

Reverend Grimm’s work was recognized on the national stage. President Ronald Reagan selected him as a part of the White House Conference for a Drug Free America. He also served as a goodwill ambassador in Minnesota and alongside First Ladies Betty Ford and Rosalynn Carter at the United States Capitol.

Reverend Grimm was known not only for his work but for his kindness. A colleague described him as a man with “no sharp elbows, only open arms.” His life’s work touched so many in need.

We offer our condolences to his wife, Esther; his three children, John, Mary, and Jim; and the many who knew and were impacted by Reverend Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gordon’s legacy lives on through his family and all the people he helped. I thank him for a life well-lived.

RECOGNIZING BRAXTON BATTAGLIA, A TRUE MINNESOTA HERO

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Braxton Battaglia of Blaine, Minnesota.

Braxton is a 10-year-old gymnast who is currently fighting B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Despite the overwhelming nature of a diagnosis like this, Braxton has shown a drive to overcome by focusing on others and starting the TeamBraxl Fund, an effort designed to help other kids and families at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital.

Not surprisingly, Braxton has been recognized for her strength and heart for service. The University of Minnesota’s gymnastics program presented her with the Abby Szott Courage Award, which recognizes an individual’s incorporation of gymnastics to overcome major life obstacles. She also recently received her very own spot in the University of Minnesota Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Braxton is an inspiration to everyone. While she is currently in remission, her will to fight will remain as strong as ever. Her chemotherapy continues until 2021.

We will all continue to pray for Braxton and her family.

Mr. Speaker, Braxton inspires us all to help others, even in the midst of our own challenges. I thank Braxton, and may God continue to bless her and her family in the months and years ahead.

CONGRATULATING SCANDIA INTERNET FOCUS GROUP

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Scandia Internet Focus Group for receiving the Good Neighbor Award for their efforts to secure additional funding for broadband expansion in Scandia, Minnesota.

Because of the focus group’s efforts, more than half a million dollars will go toward building out internet service for more than 200 homes through the State’s Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.

Building out broadband to the last mile will give unserved and underserved communities access to the digital world, allowing access to vital educational resources, telehealth services, and an increasing amount of commerce done online.

Thanks to the Scandia Internet Focus Group, this service will meet and exceed the State’s goals for 2022 and 2026.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Steve Kronmiller, Patti Ray, Beth Mohr, Eric Mohr, Aron Larson, Christopher Johnson, Chris Frymire, Jesse Pereboom, Travis Waite, Kristen Novaak, John Carney, and Andy Brogan.

□ 1030

AMERICANS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, surprise medical bills can be financially devastating for families. Patients must be protected from this harmful practice.

As Congress considers solutions to this issue, I urge Speaker PELOSI to reject any proposals that include government price-setting.

Setting price controls on private transactions gives more power to the Federal Government and reduces access to healthcare.

Congress must pursue solutions that hold patients harmless, increase transparency, and resolve disputes that arise from surprise bills.

CONGRATULATING MELANI SHAFFMASTER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melani Shaffmaster of New Castle High School on being named the 2019–2020 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year.

This is Melani’s second time honored with this title, having led her team to three straight volleyball State championships. Melani has had a remarkable high school career with thousands of assists, and kills, and hundreds of aces and digs. Not only has she been a mas-

ter on the court, but she has also maintained a 3.9 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, Melani is a true role model for any student athlete, and I wish her the best of luck in college and in her future.

CONGRATULATING RIVER VALLEY RESOURCES ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate River Valley Resources on celebrating their 30th anniversary.

On a recent visit to RVR Clearinghouse in Madison, Indiana, I was able to witness the wonderful services that are provided to both adults and children. RVR currently provides programs and services in 14 counties in southeastern Indiana and central Indiana.

RVR strives to create a competitive workforce through job readiness training, life skills management, job placement, and is also a Child Care and Development Fund voucher agent in 12 counties.

Mr. Speaker, I thank RVR for the wonderful work that they do, and I wish them a happy anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MATT PEIFFER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Muncie resident and Ball State student Matt Peiffer. His Muncie-based organization, A Voice for Kids, is one of 30 winners in T-Mobile’s second annual Changemaker Challenge.

The Changemaker Challenge asks kids aged 13 to 23 to come up with ideas to help their local communities. A Voice for Kids advocates for the improvement of the foster care system.

A former child in Indiana’s foster system, Peiffer has already helped improve the system, and this award shows that people around the Nation are noticing his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Matt and A Voice for Kids for making their community and the Hoosier State a better place.

CELEBRATING SHELBYVILLE ROTARY CLUB’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shelbyville Rotary Club for celebrating 100 years of service.

The rotary club has been a beacon of service in the Shelbyville community for this century. Last year alone, the club raised funds for the Shelbyville Boys Club Youth Football program, Pantry Pals, SCUFFY, the Blue River Community Foundation, and Girls Inc. The rotary club also provides scholarships for every high school in Shelby County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Shelbyville Rotary Club for their service and dedication to Shelbyville and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JUAN GUAIDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, last week Venezuelan interim President Juan Guaido was welcomed with

bipartisan support in this Chamber as President Trump's guest for the State of the Union.

For years, Venezuela's united Socialist party has pushed a once prosperous country towards desperate poverty and open tyranny.

The wrongful detention of the Citgo Six for more than 2 years demonstrates the corrupt nature in which Maduro will do anything to remain in power.

The United States and the Organization of American States should institute greater pressure and tighten sanctions against the Maduro regime and his cronies in order to support a return to a democratic Venezuela.

I stand with President Guaido and the people of Venezuela and call on Maduro to step down and release the Citgo Six and all political prisoners or face greater sanctions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILMER
PLATE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas's great veterans, Lieutenant Colonel Wilmer Plate, who recently passed away at the age of 99.

Will was born in 1919 and began his long career of service shortly after the start of World War II. Will led numerous missions during the war as a commander of a 10-man crew in a B-24.

Following the end of World War II, Will continued his service for more than three decades until his retirement from the Air Force as a chief warrant officer 4 and shortly after as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Plate continued to provide crucial insight into World War II by publishing his memoir entitled, "The Storm Clouds of War: Reflections of a World War II Bomber Pilot."

Will earned numerous medals and awards for his service, including, among many others, the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Will was a true American patriot, one of which all Americans and Arkansans can admire, and I extend my deepest respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORREST
WOOD

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas's great outdoorsmen, Mr. Forrest Wood, who recently passed away at the age of 87.

Born in Flippin, Arkansas, Forrest was considered a pioneer in the fishing industry and the father of the modern bass boat.

He founded Ranger Boats, a bass boat company that he designed and built principally for black bass fishing with his wife Nina. In 1968, Forrest was instrumental in the formation of the bass fishing tournament circuit.

As a long-time Arkansas game and fish commissioner, he was a strong conservationist and devoted to Arkansas, the Natural State. Forrest was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sport Fishing Associa-

tion of America and the BASS Federation. Forrest was also inducted into the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Outdoor Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Forrest was an inspiration and friend to many across our State, and I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING RON CHASTAIN

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Ron Chastain for recently being appointed as the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army.

General Chastain was born in Paris, Arkansas, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve upon graduation from the ROTC program at Arkansas Tech University.

General Chastain's distinguished military service in the Arkansas National Guard spanned nearly four decades, including service as adjutant general and receiving Federal recognition as a major general of the line in 2005.

General Chastain spent over 30 years working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency where he was responsible for the administration of Federal farm programs at the county, district, and State level.

General Chastain has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his career, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.

I thank General Chastain for his decades of service to our Nation, and I wish him well in his new position with the U.S. Army.

HONORING KRISTEN MUSGROVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kristen Musgrove from Nassau County, Florida, for having earned the Milken Educator Award.

This distinguished award recognizes teachers, principals, and educational specialists who have made a profound impact on their students and school communities.

Ms. Musgrove teaches math to the sixth grade students at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School and was the only teacher in the State of Florida chosen for this very prestigious award.

Our educators are tasked with teaching and inspiring the next generation of Americans and Ms. Musgrove has gone above and beyond as demonstrated by preparing and guiding her students in the development of valuable problem-solving skills.

In fact, under Ms. Musgrove's instruction, her classes lead the Nassau County School District with a 97 percent math proficiency. Ms. Musgrove's dedication to her students extends beyond the classroom, as she also offers tutoring at a weekly after school math camp.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida and the grateful students and parents of Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, I thank Ms. Musgrove for her lifelong dedication to excellence in the classroom and congratulate her on receiving the recognition she so well deserves.

HONORING THE HIDTA PROGRAM

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 30 years of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program known as HIDTA. This program has played a vital role in helping keep our communities safe and drugs off our streets.

For the last several years, law enforcement officers have been on the front line of the opioid crisis that our country is facing, and now for the first time in decades, the CDC has indicated that the overdose death rates are expected to decline. This is thanks to the HIDTA program and our local, State, and Federal partners taking down the drug smugglers and traffickers.

I would like to highlight some of the incredible officers from the north Florida HIDTA who received recognition on February 6 at the 2020 National HIDTA Conference and Awards banquet.

Winning the team award for Outstanding Investigative Support Center were: Kim Jones, Louis Ceragioli, Joe Delaney, Robert Hoisington, Ralph Little, Kevin Miller, Stefanie Miller, Paul Pilliod, Jared Padilla, and John Watson.

Winning an award for Outstanding Task Force Commander was Florida's own Corey M. Taylor of the Ocala Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate each and every one of them. These awards are well deserved, and I thank them for helping to keep our communities safe.

THANKING DR. WILLIAM GRISCOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, to honor, and to give thanks to Dr. William Griscom, the President of Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, who retired recently at the end of January.

Dr. Griscom, across his 23 years at the helm of Thaddeus Stevens, transformed the institution into one of the most successful 2-year-degree granting institutions in the Nation, boasting an over 96 percent placement rate for its graduates. In fact, last year, there were 1,400 employers seeking to fill 4,000 jobs all looking to hire Thaddeus Stevens' 365 graduates.

Dr. Griscom increased enrollment at the school from nearly 500 students when he started in 1996 to over 1,200 students enrolled today, completing capital projects worth tens of millions of dollars to increase the school's capacity, and led the school through accreditation with the Commission of Higher Education Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.