

rehearsals, and finally theatrical production. I want to extend my congratulations to all who make this event possible. San Carlos is a special place where humor, a love of education, and copious amounts of talent combine to produce a beloved community tradition. Every two years San Carlos lights up the stage to support its schools. Learning to celebrate as a community of Americans is also a profound act of education. I wish this year's Chicken's Ball a spectacular season.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
HAMILTON COUNTY ENGINEER
TED HUBBARD

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Hamilton County Engineer Ted Hubbard for his 38 years of service at the county engineer's office and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Ted is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati who has committed his career to enhancing Southwest Ohio. He holds deeply the belief that honest public service is key to bettering civil society. Mr. Hubbard is right; our republic is built on the hard work and service of devoted men and women. Ted Hubbard is one such public servant.

Ted's tenure at the Hamilton County engineer's office was marked by a keen ability to forge relationships with the people, groups, and governments around him. Throughout his time at the office, whether as a design engineer, in permitting and construction, or as a deputy engineer, Ted had a positive impact on Hamilton County. Ted's leadership on projects such as Colerain Ave, Montgomery Ave, Fields-Ertel Road, Winton Road, and the Cross County Highway will benefit our community for years to come.

I wish Ted the best as he moves on to a new chapter of his life and thank him for his service.

May God bless Ted and his family.

HONORING KERISA BAEDKE AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kerisa Baedke, teacher and educator at Prairieview School in Waukee, as this week's Iowan of the Week.

Kerisa is a foreign language teacher at Prairieview School in Waukee, Iowa. In her Spanish classes, she has built an immersive, vibrant environment in which her students feel comfortable and confident learning a new language. By combining a bright, colorful array of decorations with interactive lessons—taught almost entirely in Spanish—Kerisa brings a world of art, culture, and history to Prairieview School.

Kerisa has a passion for teaching foreign languages and promoting different cultural ex-

periences in her classes. Her whole family speaks three or four languages, she says, and it's where she first discovered love and passion for language. She also comes from a family of educators; her parents both dedicated themselves to teaching. Kerisa said she was born to be a teacher and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

Prairieview School students look forward to Mrs. Baedke's class each year, including her well-known projects like creative cultural dances or the "Día de los Muertos" shoebox. Kerisa has made a lasting impression on her students, cultivating a passion for language and for learning. In fact, it was one of her students that nominated her for the Iowa State Education Association's Excellence in Education Award—and Kerisa won.

The accolades don't stop there. I am proud to say that Kerisa was also awarded with the National Education Association's Horace Mann Award. This prestigious national honor is awarded to only five teachers each year for their outstanding contributions to their students and to the teaching profession. Kerisa is the first ever teacher from Iowa to receive the Horace Mann Award, and I know the entire Prairieview School community is delighted by her achievement.

As a mom, I know that education is the single most important investment we can make in our children. I am proud to know that our children have teachers like Kerisa helping them learn and grow. It is her commitment to creating an engaging, nurturing, and most importantly exciting environment for students to learn that makes her a pillar of our community. It is my honor to celebrate Kerisa Baedke and recognize her as the Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL
(DAN) DILL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Daniel Dill, who passed away on September 17, 2019 at the age of 48 after a lifetime of public service to his community.

Born on June 11, 1971, to Danny and Grace Dill, Dan attended Fortuna High School, then studied wildlife management at Humboldt State University. After graduating, Dan worked for the Pacific Lumber Co., where he became a senior wildlife biologist in 1995. In 2008, he went to work as a wildlife biologist at Six Rivers National Forest, and he was named deputy district ranger for the Orleans/Ukonom Ranger District in 2012. He then became district ranger for the Mad River Ranger District in 2015. Dan also was a member of the Scotia and Fortuna volunteer fire departments, and the Scotia School Board.

Dan's commitment to the U.S. Forest Service and the communities it serves was particularly apparent during the 2015 wildfires on Six Rivers National Forest where he displayed tremendous leadership. Recognized for being in tune with residents' needs during and following the fires, he worked diligently to address critical forest fuels management and restoration projects in the area. Dan knew how to bring diverse groups of people together to

bring these efforts to fruition. Even during trying times, Dan remained a cheerful and understanding individual focused on doing good work for the forest and the people who live in it.

Dan is survived by his wife Dawn, his daughters Emily and Ava, his parents Danny and Grace, and his brother Brett. His tremendous service to the country through his work in the U.S. Forest Service is a legacy that will improve the Six Rivers National Forest for generations to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Daniel Dill and his many important contributions to Northern California and the U.S. Forest Service.

RECOGNIZING THE REMARKS OF
AMBASSADOR MARTHA BÁRCENA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I am honored to include in the RECORD remarks made by Her Excellency, Martha Bárcena Coqui after she was recognized for the prestigious Mr. South Texas Award for the 123rd Washington's Birthday Celebration on February 22nd, 2020 in Laredo, Texas. The Mr. South Texas designation is presented to a deserving individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the growth and development of Laredo and the South Texas region. Ambassador Bárcena is a distinguished career diplomat and noted for being the first woman appointed Ambassador of Mexico to the United States.

AMBASSADOR MARTHA BÁRCENA'S REMARKS AT
MR. SOUTH TEXAS LUNCHEON

I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition that showcases the closeness of our ties at a very important time.

I want to thank the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association and the International Bank of Commerce for putting together this great event.

I also want to thank Mayor of Laredo, Pete Saenz, the officials that work at the City of Laredo and the rest of the business community leaders and special guests that join us here today.

American writer James Baldwin used to say that "the past is all that makes the present coherent". Today, I believe that the present of Laredo and the U.S. cannot be understood without its shared history with Mexico.

Texas is close to us because its history is closely intertwined with Mexico and with Mexican and Latino immigrants in this country.

As the first female Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S., I have proudly repeated that the Latino community, and among them, the Mexican community, are the past, the present and the future of this country.

In fact, my own personal story reflects the stories of millions that live on either side of the border but comprise one close-knit community. My grandmother's ancestors arrived from Europe in the Mayflower and finally settled in Texas. They were what Emma Lazarus brilliantly described as the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free".

My great great grandfather, Leonard Pierce Jr., from Maine, served as President Lincoln's Consul in Matamoros, where he cared for the Confederate territory refugees and enlisted Union sympathizers. His family

finally settled in Laredo, where my grandfather, a French immigrant, married Rachel Pierce Cushman. My grandmother, Claire Jannet Pierce was born here in 1904. The family migrated to Mexico later on, but other part of the family stayed here.

That is why, the last time I was here I got to visit a school that bears the name of my great aunt, Alma Allerton Pierce Elementary.

I can feel this sense of fellowship, supported by a binational, bilingual and bicultural community, that is so characteristic of Laredo.

Our border is one of the busiest and most frequently crossed international borders in the world, but it is way more than a customs and immigration checkpoint.

When we talk about the border, we are also talking about us. We are talking about people that move, that invest, that shop and that socialize across the boundary line.

When we talk about the border we talk about ranchers, railroad builders, miners, investors and immigrants. We talk about thousands of people who cross the border every single day in both directions to work, conduct business, attend school or get medical treatment.

When I come to the border, I see an environment of opportunity defined by social and commercial exchanges, and of common natural landscapes. I also see it as the symbol of our economic stature as a region. Together, the 10 Border States would constitute the world's 4th largest economy.

Dear friends:

We are neighbors by geography, but partners and allies by choice. In less than a century, we transformed mistrust into a strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship.

Our special partnership has made us grow together and prosper together. Today, the great state of Texas has witnessed firsthand the benefits of the close trade with Mexico, twenty-eight years after NAFTA was signed here in San Antonio.

Under NAFTA, exports from Texas to Mexico increased 350%. In a striking comparison, Texas' exports to Mexico are greater than all U.S. exports to Japan and India combined.

Mexico is Texas main trading partner, its first export destination and its number one source of imports.

Our bilateral trade rose to more than 200 billion dollars in 2019 and there are almost half a million Texans whose jobs depend on trade with Mexico.

Moving forward, we are confident that NAFTA successor, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, USMCA or TMEC, will be a strategic component for economic growth in North America and the ongoing creation of opportunities in cities like Laredo.

With the passing of USMCA, we accomplished three additional objectives:

(1) To support North America's competitiveness, with rules of origin that strengthen regional value chains

(2) To increase trade and investments, and

(3) To restore certainty and stability

Now is the time for implementation and as Laredo is the main port for bilateral trade we have multiple challenges ahead, particularly in the area of infrastructure and personnel for the port, to be able to grasp the opportunities that we have ahead of us.

But when I talk about infrastructure is not only the ports of entry, it's water sanitation, and it is also realizing that we share a common environment and discussing how are we going to deal with the challenges that a border wall will bring to that environment.

We have shared this environment for centuries, and this construction can change it permanently. This is something that we have to reflect on, because, above all, the wall

will be a symbol that will separate us, while our rivers, our landscape and our bridges had united us.

Dear all,

Mexico is well aware that all of the opportunities that stand before us cannot be fully seized, and will not be fully seized, without a careful reconsideration of the difficulties that lie ahead.

There is no silver bullet that will resolve all of our challenges overnight, but we are confident that we are moving in the right direction.

Today, the U.S.-Mexico relationship is at a crossroads, and the decisions that we take from now on will impact the direction of both our countries and the lives of millions of people.

We have sensitive pending issues like migration, where reality requires that we see it, not as a national security problem, but as a phenomenon that can allow us to establish a link between demographic profiles and labor markets.

We are convinced of the necessity of a continuous dialogue, especially on divisive issues, because as long as we remain neighbors, American and Mexican futures will be intertwined.

The role of cities like the two Laredos, its community and its values are key in this shared future. Thank you very much.

HONORING JUSTIN MITCHELL

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Mitchell of Franklin-Simpson Middle School, located in Franklin, Kentucky. As an 8th Grade Social Studies teacher, Justin received the American History Teacher of the Year Award from the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This prestigious honor is a testament to the professionalism Justin demands of himself every day and a recognition of the great influence he has had and will continue to have within Franklin-Simpson Middle School.

Active at the state level, working to push education into the future, Justin serves as the Vice Chair of the Education Professional Standards Board and the Assessment and Accountability Council. He continues to organize enriching trips for students to Colonial Williamsburg, VA, and teach at Western Kentucky University's Center for Gifted Studies.

He has committed his career to working with community leaders to improve opportunities for the next generation and ushering in a brighter future for the Commonwealth.

His impact on Simpson County, and public education, cannot be overstated. I've seen the great work Justin Mitchell has done, and join with all of my constituents in the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky in congratulating him.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ROBERT E. HILL

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I would like to wish Mr. Robert E. Hill a happy 100th birth-

day and recognize his service to our nation as a citizen and veteran. After graduating from Paulett High School in Cooksville, Mississippi in 1939, Mr. Hill joined the United States Army. After completing Basic Training, Mr. Hill served our nation for over four years and saw service during World War II. Mr. Hill served his country honorably on the Italian Peninsula and was a part of the Rome-Arno, Northern Appennines, and Po Valley campaigns. At the end of his service, Mr. Hill held the rank of sergeant. On behalf of our country and state, I would like to thank Mr. Hill for his service to our great nation and wish him a happy birthday.

HONORING AMORY "AMO" HOUGHTON JR.

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, Amo Houghton was a dear friend and for many of us, probably the most respected member of Congress from either party. He was thoughtful, positive and constructive. When Congress was bitterly divided during the Newt Gingrich era, it seems almost quaint now, Amo stepped up to bring us together. He was always the voice for civility, thoughtful policy and bipartisanship before that became merely a talking point.

Amo was a modest, quiet, unassuming gentleman. You would never know that he was the only fortune 500 CEO to ever serve in Congress, coming from a distinguished family long successful in business, politics and philanthropy. Yet, he was unpretentious. He cared about good policy and more important than the institution, he cared about the people . . . members and staff.

He was a thoughtful conservative who voted against gimmicks like a balanced-budget amendment despite its popularity with his Republican colleagues. He was against the Iraq war when it had overwhelming support from not just the Bush administration and fellow Republicans, but the majority of the American public.

Amo was ahead of his time in so many ways.

He was deeply concerned about the human dynamic. He didn't just care about "people." He cared about you. He was a strong supporter of the "Faith and Politics" program and efforts at racial reconciliation. His was a unique voice. His positions would be almost unimaginable in today's Congress, but anyone who knew Amo would respect him and more than a few would quietly agree with him.

When I was first elected, I luckily moved into an office next to Amo's. He helped this former freshman member in innumerable ways. His wife Priscilla was herself an amazing person: strong, thoughtful, understated, and civil. She was a dedicated bike rider and was cremated in her favorite dress, wearing a bike pin as did all the ushers at the funeral.

Amo was a consistent voice for people in Congress to do the right thing. He and Priscilla touched many of our lives and made us better people. His participation and example can, and should, live on in this Congress and beyond. His friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and admirers share a profound sense