

CONGRATULATING THE GULF
COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Gulf Coast Community Foundation on being named the silver award winner for excellence in communications by the 2012 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. Sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the awards program recognizes affective communications efforts to increase public awareness of foundations and corporate giving programs throughout the United States. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation received the honor for its 2012 Agenda for Action in the category of annual or biennial reports.

Since 1995, The Gulf Coast Community Foundation and donors have been a community asset through its philanthropy work. The Gulf Coast has welcomed more than 500 charitable funds, created by generous donors, and have invested more than \$127 million in grants in the areas of arts and culture, health and human services, education, civic and economic development, and the environment.

In addition to awarding grants to nonprofit organizations and scholarships to qualified students for postsecondary education, Gulf Coast creates and funds initiatives designed to effect long-term, systemic change in the communities it serves. Current initiatives include a STEM education initiative to improve student achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math in Sarasota and Charlotte county schools. Gulf Coast also offers low-interest disaster-relief loans to critical local health or human service nonprofit organizations rebuilding in the aftermath of a disaster.

I am proud to honor the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the largest community foundation in Florida, on having been named the silver award winner for excellence in communications by the 2012 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. I would also like to recognize its exceptional efforts to enrich Florida communities. We hope to see the foundation continue to grow and have a lasting impact for community.

IN HONOR OF ELI AND CHEDVA
TREITEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a poignant episode in the Chumash reveals a strength of character few can claim. Leah's seemingly odd response to Rachel's request for the Dudaim, "Is it not enough you took my husband? Now you want these too?" begs a question. Didn't Leah know what Rachel did for her? Meforshim explain, Rachel must have given Leah the simonim in a way that concealed the truth. Doing for others is certainly praiseworthy; doing inconspicuously and with

great personal sacrifice warrants the crown called "a good name".

In this regard, Ohavei Torah is especially proud to honor its parents, Eli & Chedva Treitel, with the Keser Shem Tov award. Few positions are as thankless as that of Shul Gabbai. How remarkable it is that the diverse mispallelim of Monsey's Ateres Rosh feel unanimously blessed to have a true "Yehoshua" caring for all the needs of their shul: material, emotional and spiritual. The secret lies in one word: respect. The unparalleled kovod that Eli shows each person and every single shul need never fails. He keeps track of every aliya and chiyuv, buys and sets up Seudah Shlishis each week, sits on the board of directors and locks up the shul each night. For over 10 years, he does it all, notwithstanding his demanding position as Loan Officer for Meridian Capital, one of the largest Mortgage Brokers in the country.

A talmid of Ner Yisroel, Eli's personal avoda reflects equal dedication. It is unheard of for him to miss his early Daf Yomi. Together with Chedva, they share an uncanny ability to make everyone comfortable, traversing all community sectors and ages. Recently, a young man felt reassured enough to open up to Eli about a misunderstanding with his Rebbe. Eli's insight and empathy helped the teen mend the rift, prompting the Rebbe to remark that such helpful advice must have come from an exceptional advisor.

Like her husband, Chedva pursues shalom and chesed. Active in her children's schools and shul functions, her main priority remains always being vigilant about the feelings of others by seeing everyone in a positive light. Her soft-spoken, friendly and unassuming manner belies how much she actually accomplishes, often anticipating needs before being asked. Nothing is too difficult—extra driving, rearranging her schedule, full course dinners for neighbors in need and of course, quality time for each of her children. As Rabbi Pechter describes, "The respect and warmth they afford to everyone is unparalleled." This type of humility, honesty and gentle demeanor make their son Lippy a pleasure to have as a talmid at Ohavei Torah as well.

Both Eli and Chedva's parents model the midos that make their children and grandchildren so well-liked. Eli's parents have upheld the tzarhei tzibor in LA for 50 years: Barbara Treitel as the beloved Hebrew reading specialist at Yavneh Hebrew Academy, now teaching her third generation and Stanley Treitel who tirelessly works on multiple political projects and community affairs on behalf of Klal Yisrael. Chedva's parents, Reuben & Sandra Botnick, noted attorney and real estate broker, respectively, are part of the founding family of Toronto's orthodox community.

Eli and Chedva's children are a great source of pride to their family and community: Lippy, a senior at YOT, Rachaeli, a freshman at Ateres Bais Yakov in Monsey and Michal and Chaim, who attend Yeshiva of Spring Valley. Just as the Treitel Family carries the responsibilities of the community, may the they merit to carry their Keser Shem Tov with overflowing brocha, ad meah v'esrim shana.

I proudly join with Yeshiva Ohavei Torah in honoring this wonderful couple.

A TRIBUTE TO HANNAH
JORGENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Hannah Jorgensen, a 13-year-old, 4-H'er of Adair, Iowa, who has been named the state's top middle school youth volunteer for 2012 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. Since 1995, 345,000 American youths have participated in this program, with only 102 state honorees chosen each year. Hannah's path to this prestigious award began with her efforts through Reach Out Iowa, a federally funded grant that supports young people who benefit their local communities through service. To accomplish this goal, Hannah worked with her peers to create and provide pillowcases and care packages for the emergency homeless shelter, MICA House in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Hannah felt the MICA House mission of "providing a safe, secure and nurturing environment for families and single women who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness" was the perfect partner to assist in her efforts. Shortly after working with the children of MICA House, Hannah quickly made plans to do much more than she originally had planned.

Through her efforts with MICA House, Hannah discovered that the facility was sorely in need of books for children, most notably educational books related to agriculture. Hannah made it her personal mission to raise enough money to donate a total of 500 books to be split between MICA House and the inner-city schools she would visit while in Washington, D.C. Hannah persuaded the members of the Corn & Soybean Association of Adair County to reach into their own pockets, as well as recruit the help of the Iowa Corn Growers Association and the Iowa Soybean Association to raise a total of nearly \$1,000. With this support, Hannah doubled her initial goal and sent each location a total of 500 new children's books to be read and enjoyed for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Miss Jorgensen for her sincere dedication to positively impact the lives of others in her community and beyond. Hannah's commitment to a cause greater than herself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Hannah, thanking her supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts both at home in Iowa, and in our nation's capital.