

winning the Missouri State High School Swimming Championship.

The team included sisters Nikki and Kaylee Sisson, Madeline Nelson, Lauren Beatty, Emma Chadwell, Tori Harmon, Hannah Leif, and Macie Beairsto. It was through their hard work and dedication that they took overall first place with a score of 190, beating the runner-up by nearly 40 points.

I would also like to commend Nikki Sisson on winning the 50-yard freestyle, as well as the 200 and 400-yard freestyle relay teams for also taking first place.

Head Coach Steve Boyce and Assistant Coach Robert Muench should also be proud of their accomplishments in guiding this group of talented athletes. I commend them all on a job well done. The Springfield community is justifiably proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of these young ladies. This is the first swim team from Southwest Missouri to win the championship.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Glendale High School State Champion Girls Swim Team.

ALINA TRUJILLO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alina Trujillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alina Trujillo is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alina Trujillo 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 Alina Trujillo 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.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA DETHLEFS-TRETTIN

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angela Dethlefs-Trettin for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction,

which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angela Dethlefs-Trettin has been an active member of the philanthropic community in Iowa and across the country for nearly her entire life. Originally from Waterloo, she first served on the foundation board Teen Trust as a high school student. She went on to work at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa and helped to establish community foundations in many of the rural communities in that part of the state, working with local citizens to capture charitable dollars that will positively impact important community projects for generations to come. Her passion led her to the Iowa Council of Foundations, where she worked with grantmakers across our great state, and ultimately to her new role as Director of Community Investment and Initiatives at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Angela continues to volunteer her time for various philanthropic initiatives throughout her community and was recently named to the National Standards Board for U.S. Community Foundations. Outside of her personal and professional philanthropy efforts, Angela's focus is on her husband, Matt, and her son, Henry. In every facet of her life, Angela is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Dethlefs-Trettin for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angela on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MEL PARIS

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mel Paris, an American veteran from Illinois, who recently passed away on March 3rd, 2013. Mel was best known as a dedicated community leader, as well as an ardent public servant, and his loss is felt throughout the community.

Mel was truly a friend and advocate of working men and women across our state, along with those less fortunate. He held several positions throughout his career with the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), including President of his local union. Mel also served as a Winnebago County Board member, where he tirelessly worked for the betterment of his community.

Even after his retirement, he continued a life of service to others. Mel was elected as President of the UAW Rockford Area Building association where he continued to serve the members of the UAW, until his untimely passing. Mel touched everyone he met, and was some-

one whom you could always turn to with your personal or professional problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever grateful for Mel's contributions as a serviceman and leader in his community, and am deeply saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his wife Charlotte, the rest of the Paris family, and the entire Rockford community.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL EARL C. ACUFF USA (RET.) THE FORMER COMMANDANT OF THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2013*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Earl C. Acuff, USA (Ret.), the Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets from 1973 to 1980, who passed away on February 13, 2013. A native of Iowa, Earl Acuff learned to box as a young boy and became a Golden Gloves champion while in high school; he earned a full football scholarship to the University of Idaho, where he met his wife, Mary-Low, and enlisted in ROTC. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Earl Acuff was shipped to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, where he served as the executive officer to the 1st Intelligence Combat Platoon. He provided strong leadership as the unique unit scouted Japanese forces in the Aleutian Islands without resupply or personal contact with the outside world; after the war, the unit mapped the entire western coastline of Alaska.

Earl Acuff briefly left the military, working as a bush pilot, a big game guide, and a high school teacher in Anchorage before he was asked to rejoin the United States Army to teach Arctic survival skills. General Acuff went on to serve as commander of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division, and led the fight to defend Hills 255 and 266 during the Korean War. His extraordinary valor resulted in his being awarded a Purple Heart, second Combat Infantryman Badge, a Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Bronze Star with four Oak Leaf Clusters and V for Valor. He was a Master Parachutist who provided important insight as the United States Army reevaluated its Ranger training program; in 1965 he became the oldest man to successfully graduate as a United States Army Ranger at the age of 47.

Earl Acuff then earned a master's degree from George Washington University and worked for the United States Department of State before rejoining the battlefield as commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division Republic of Vietnam, where he earned his third Combat Infantryman Badge. In 1969 Earl Acuff became the Deputy Post Commander at the U.S. Army Infantry School.

One year later, he joined the faculty at Virginia Tech as a military science instructor. In 1974 Earl Acuff was promoted to Brigadier General and became the commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, where he continued the proud tradition of training young men and women to become the nation's military leaders.