Earl Acuff also began a competitive career in racquetball, earning 20 gold medals at major national and international tournaments and induction into several halls of fame.

Brigadier General Acuff was predeceased by his wife, Mary-Low, and son, William, and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his children, Thomas, Dan, Ardis, Rodney, Janice, Teresa, and Dawn, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Brigadier General Acuff and his dedicated service to the nation.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Bloomfield, located in Essex County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its Bicentennial Anniversary.

Bloomfield has a rich history that dates back to pre-revolutionary days. The land that would become Bloomfield was bought by English settlers from the Yantecaw Indians, a tribe of the Lenni Lenape, in the 1600s. In 1812, the town which was part of Newark, broke off and was incorporated as the Township of Bloomfield, taking its name from the historic Presbyterian parish in town named for Joseph Bloomfield. At that time it covered a vast 20.52 square miles, though many of the outlying towns soon would become their own municipalities. That same year, a Justice of the Peace and four constables were elected, as well as a Township Committee formed. By 1816, Bloomfield had opened a post office. In the following years the township government became further formalized.

As Bloomfield developed, so did its system of education; a characteristic that it takes great pride in today. The first school was set up in 1758, and more followed. In addition to this, by 1810, a notable private school named Bloomfield Academy was established. Later, in 1868, the building was taken over by the German Theological School of Newark, the forerunner of Bloomfield College. A special school law was passed for the Township of Bloomfield in 1849, establishing the public school system. Though rejected by social circles for its "proletarian atmosphere" at first, the school system grew in popularity and educational facilities. Today it comprises 11 schools, including Bloomfield High School, with over 6,000 students.

A very important facet of Bloomfield's history is the congregation of Old First Church. Formed in 1796, it was named to honor the Revolutionary War general Joseph Bloomfield. This building is still standing, now called the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Another aspect of Bloomfield's history is the first newspaper, the Bloomfield Gazette, published in 1872. Later, in 1883, this became the Independent Press, which is still published in Bloomfield to this day.

By the 19th Century, many changes had taken place. The Newark and Pompton Turnpike (now Bloomfield Ave), allowed Bloomfield to become a commercial center, housing many industrious mills and factories. Additionally, with the opening of the Morris Canal in 1831, commerce increased and provided recreation for the inhabitants. By the end of the century, many other amenities had reached Bloomfield; a railroad, streetcars, banks, telephone service, mail service, and lastly, electricity and sewage lines.

The industrious town of Bloomfield played a part in American history, most notably during the Civil War, as well as World War I and II, providing many vital materials and aid. Set up in 1830, the Oakes Mills provided the town with yarn and cloth, but after being rebuilt due to a fire, the mill then specialized in flannels. During a period of financial crisis, the people of Bloomfield kept the Mill alive, and in turn, the Oakes Mills again flourished, producing tweeds and wools. During the Civil War, Oakes Mills provided a great deal of the indigo blue cloth for the Union uniforms. Later, they provided most of the material used in making fire and police uniforms. In addition to the contributions of the Oakes Mills, during the World Wars, the Township of Bloomfield held many drives to collect essential materials needed by the troops, such as metals, bandage linens, and other commodities. Despite its closure in 1945, the Oakes Mills remain an important facet of Bloomfield's history.

Today, Bloomfield boosts a rich history, alongside its diverse population and culture. Its close-knit community atmosphere is a defining feature of the town, as has been maintained since the early years. Bloomfield is home to a middle and working class population, and also boasts many organizations, such as those in the cultural arts, and civic and neighborhood associations, with which many residents are involved. The Township of Bloomfield is proud to celebrate its history and looks forward to its future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Township of Bloomfield and its residents as they celebrate their Bicentennial Anniversary.

ALYSIA MORA-PINA

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 Alysia Mora-Pina for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alysia Mora-Pina is a 12th 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 Alysia Mora-Pina 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 Alysia Mora-Pina 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 LORI GELHAAR

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 Lori Gelhaar 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.

Lori Gelhaar serves as Kaplan University's Director of Career Services and Corporate Relations, where she manages all aspects of the Career Services department after redeveloping the entire department from scratch. Under her tenure, Kaplan University has seen career placement for graduates spike to an average of 94% as she coordinates and markets all employer relations events. Her work at Kaplan University has earned herself, her college, and her department numerous awards at the state and national levels. Outside of work, Lori is the chair of the Employers' Council of Iowa, on the board of directors for the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, and founded Keeping Educated Youth in Des Moines. Lori has been married to her husband Gerry since 2003, and together they have three children: Tyler, Devin, and Madison. In every facet of her life, Lori 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 Lori in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Gelhaar 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 Lori 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 JAMES H. DRUMWRIGHT, JR.

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special World War II veteran, Mr. James H. Drumwright, Jr. of Richardson, Texas. Recently, Mr. Drumwright, along with three other North Texas veterans, received France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor, for their extraordinary service on the French battlefield. During the ceremony, Frederic Bontems, consul general of France in Houston, pinned the Knight in the French Order of Legion of Honor on these four

men for their notable actions to combat tyranny across the globe.

Mr. Drumwright, born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, made the courageous decision to serve his country at the early age of 17. In 1939, he volunteered into the National Guard, and in February 1941 he joined the 29th Signal Company of the Army's 29th Infantry Division. With his companions and approximately 160,000 other Allied forces, he stormed the beaches of Normandy, France on D–day. At Omaha Beach, Drumwright courageously fought to liberate St. Lo, a key city to opening the Falaise Gap, which allowed the Allied forces to expel the Nazi Germans from northern France. Early in the invasion, Drumwright was injured and evacuated to England for treatment, but only a short five months later, he was back in the thick of battle with the 29th company.

At the end of World War II, he returned to Norfolk, Virginia where he received his graduate degree in Architecture in 1949. Throughout his studies, he remained in the Army Reserve until 1953 when he was called back into active duty during the Korean War. After retiring from the military, Mr. Drumwright began the next phase of his life working at DuPont, one of the largest chemical companies in the world. At Dupont, he met his wife, Amy Wright, and they now have two children, James and Kelley. Throughout recent years, Mr. Drumwright has remained active in various organizations recognizing veterans, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and Boy Scout Troops of America, and has enjoyed traveling with his wife all across the globe.

Mr. Drumright served our country with distinction, and I thank him for his sacrifice. Our country is blessed to have men like Mr. Drumwright who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and democracy across the world. His courage is a testament to the American spirit: a spirit of bravery, selflessness, and commitment to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an American patriot, Mr. James H. Drumwright, Jr. We honor your achievements and sincerely thank you for your service. God Bless you and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING PRESTON ''PRES'' HENNE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Preston ''Pres'' Henne, who will culminate a truly outstanding 44-year career in the aerospace industry when he retires from Gulfstream Aerospace on March 31, 2013 as senior vice president for Programs, Engineering and Test.

During Pres' 19 years with Gulfstream, he was responsible for leading the teams which designed, developed, tested and certified the Gulfstream V and G550 aircraft, which earned the Robert J. Collier trophies from the National Aeronautics Association in 1997 and 2003, respectively. The trophy is awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics and astronautics in North America.

Under Pres' direction, Gulfstream developed and certified six new aircraft—the G650, G550, GV, G450, G280 and G150. In conjunction with these new products, Pres was also responsible for launching a number of industry-leading product enhancements, including the Gulfstream Enhanced Vision System and Synthetic Vision-Primary Flight Display.

Most recently, Pres oversaw the development of the company's much-anticipated G650, one of the world's most sophisticated business-jet aircraft. The G650, which entered service in 2012, was designed with technological advances such as a digital fly-by-wire system, triplex flight management systems, auto emergency descent and enhanced and synthetic vision systems. Pres also supervised the design and development of the G280, an aircraft that has been noted for its best-in-class performance, cabin comfort and technology.

Pres was also instrumental in the establishment of a strong engineering organization and a Research and Development Center campus with four office buildings and a state of the art laboratory building. All of which reflected Pres' extraordinary vision for the future of Gulfstream's product development.

Pres earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering with highest undergraduate honors from the University of Illinois in 1969 and a master's degree in engineering from California State University at Long Beach in 1974.

Pres is a Fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. His awards include the AIAA 1996 Engineer of the Year Award, the AIAA 2001 Hap Arnold Award for Excellence in Aeronautical Program Management, the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Award for Distinguished Service, a 2012 Living Legend of Aviation Award from the Kiddie Hawk Air Academy, the AIAA 2012 Reed Aeronautics Award and a 2012 Aviation Week Laureate Award.

SUPPORT OF TIFA WITH TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to endorse the resumption of Trade Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) negotiations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan). After five years of inaction, I was pleased to see these important talks get underway once again.

I believe that much progress was made during the previous rounds of TIFA talks and that improvements were made in intellectual property protection in particular. Furthermore, I am aware that many other challenges, including the need for even stronger intellectual property protection safeguards and market access for many American products, need to be resolved.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with many officials of the Taiwanese government, and I am pleased to hear of their willingness to come forward and resume talks to improve our mutual trading relationship. Many of these trading differences can be best resolved through the resumption of active bilateral negotiations.

Taiwan currently serves as our 10th largest goods trading partner, and has been a longstanding political ally and partner to the United States. Bilateral goods and services trade totaled $85 billion in 2011. Increased economic relations between the United States and Taiwan will provide significant economic advantages to both countries.

I am proud to express my strong support for strengthening the bilateral relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan is an important ally and trading partner, and we must continue to further our relationship.

ALLY BUCKNER

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 Ally Buckner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ally Buckner is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ally Buckner 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 Ally Buckner 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 NIKKI SYVERSON

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 Nikki Syverson 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.

Nikki Syverson is the Event Director at the Des Moines Wine Festival Foundation where she has helped grow the event from three days to eight days and add monthly wine tastings. The extended festival format was such a success in the previous year that event organizers are doubling down on their efforts this year. Nikki volunteers her exemplary event planning skills by planning ChildServe's Bubble Ball Gala and the Des Moines Community Playhouse's Hollywood Halloween