

open space, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel of Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, for their many valuable contributions to their community.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
RUMFORD'S NATIONAL MAIN
STREET DESIGNATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Rumford on receiving a national Main Street designation and for joining the Maine Downtown Network program.

The National Main Street Program was launched in 1980 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For over three decades, this program has promoted the revitalization of downtowns across the country by leveraging local assets such as cultural or architectural heritage, local enterprise, and community pride. Since 2009, the Maine Downtown Center, MDC, has served as the state coordinator for the National Main Street Program. MDC has done an excellent job building a network of participating communities over the last several years.

As a national Main Street designee, Rumford will receive guidance, resources and professional training in community development from MDC. They will also have access to MDC staff, 24-member volunteer Advisory Council and the National Main Street Center resources. Rumford is capitalizing on its distinct character, through a unique public-private partnership, to stimulate economic vitality in the heart of their community.

This recognition acknowledges the hard work that the Town of Rumford and its business community have put towards strengthening the local economy. Their efforts are already yielding dividends and making the region a better place to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the town of Rumford and on their outstanding achievement.

HONORING CAPITAL ENERGY
GROUP INCORPORATED (CEG)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Capital Energy Group Incorporated (CEG) as the 2013 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, as well as its president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr.

CEG is a District of Columbia small business specializing in energy efficient windows and glass installation. CEG has been awarded contracts on three of the largest projects in the District of Columbia, the U.S. Coast Guard building at the Department of Homeland Security complex at St. Elizabeths, Progression Place—The United Negro College Fund Building, and City Center D.C. In addition to work-

ing on large-scale projects, CEG has completed projects for Anacostia Senior High School, Unity Healthcare and Building K167 in Southwest D.C. Because of CEG's high-quality work, it has now become the largest African-American owned glass and window company in the national capital region. CEG has used its growth to further its goals of employing D.C. residents and promoting glass/glazing as a career option.

CEG's president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr., has over 30 years of experience in the glass/glazing and window industry. He continues to share his knowledge with future generations by establishing apprenticeship programs for District residents to learn more about window glazing and installation.

I ask the House to join me in honoring Capital Energy Group Incorporated and its president and chief executive officer, Norman H. Jones, Sr., for their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the residents of the District of Columbia, and in commending Capital Energy Group Incorporated on becoming the 2013 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year.

RECOGNIZING LOUDOUN
STUDENTS WHO "BEAT THE ODDS"

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four remarkable students from my congressional district who were recently awarded college scholarships through the "Beat the Odds" program.

Hosted by the Loudoun Bar Association, "Beat the Odds" provides financial support to area students who have overcome challenging, and often tragic circumstances. The students who received awards this year have endured hardships ranging from sexual abuse to illness to poverty, yet have still achieved great success in the classroom or on the athletic field.

I had the privilege of attending a ceremony for the recipients on Thursday, May 23, in Leesburg. It was an honor to meet the students and hear firsthand how they overcame adverse situations. Their ability to remain positive and work hard despite the difficulties they face is inspiring. I wish them all the best as they embrace this wonderful opportunity and move on to college.

The recipients of this year's scholarships are: Jonathan "Cory" Dickey of Loudoun County High School, Shannon Hayes of Park View High School, Leanna Moron of Loudoun County High School and Vineetha Thekkel of Tuscarora High School.

I submit two recent news articles from the Loudoun Times-Mirror and Leesburg Today on these remarkable students.

[From the Loudoun Times-Mirror, May 24, 2013]

FOUR LOUDOUN STUDENTS AWARDED "BEAT THE ODDS" SCHOLARSHIPS

(By Alanna Dvorak)

Looking at Loudoun County High School senior Leanna Moron, one wouldn't suspect the challenges she's overcome.

The poised girl of Thai and Bolivian descent is an academic, sitting within the top

10 percent of her class. She takes time out of her day to work with English Language Learners. She will be attending Penn State to study nursing.

She's also endured multiple traumas, from sexual abuse, financial struggles, alcoholic family members and "tremendous heartache and pain."

"To know what she has lived through everyday and see her still be who she is is amazing," said Megan Dunn, a guidance counselor at Loudoun County and the person who nominated Moron for the award.

Moron received a \$6,000 scholarship from the Loudoun Bar Association's Beat the Odds program at a ceremony May 24 at the historic courthouse in Leesburg. "It's an amazing honor," Moron said. "I'm very thankful for this scholarship and this opportunity."

The Beat the Odds program awards scholarships to students who have overcome significant life obstacles, such as abuse, illness or poverty. A national program, the Loudoun chapter was founded nine years ago by members of the Loudoun County Bar Association.

"In a given year, there are roughly 245 days we hold court," said Juvenile and Domestic Court Judge Pamela Brooks, who hosted the ceremony. "I have two favorite days: today and adoption day."

In addition to Moron, three other students received merit awards at the ceremony.

Jonathan "Cory" Dickey, a senior football player and wrestler at Loudoun County High School, received a \$2,000 award. At age 14, he physically stopped his alcoholic father from strangling his mother. His father left and the family was forced to make do with food stamps, social security benefits his mother, who is unable to work, receives and a part-time job Dickey took on. Still: the family was unable to stave off foreclosure.

"I did it not only for myself, but I try to be strong for my brothers," Dickey said. "It is very tough growing up at an early age but I think it's made me a stronger person in the long run."

Park View's Shannon Hayes' parents divorced when she eight, after her father's struggles with alcoholism made it unsafe for her. Two years later, her mom became ill and her father moved back in with the family to help out.

"I thought our family was finally growing back together," Hayes said.

However, her father was diagnosed with Leukemia and died just 15 days before Hayes' 13th birthday. Hayes' family has also struggled financially.

Hayes received a \$2,500 award to put toward her education at Penn State, where she plans to study biochemistry to become a genetic engineer.

Vineetha Thekkel of Tuscarora received the third merit award of the evening. Thekkel and her parents came to America in 2009 and the then 13 year old immediately had to take on an adult role, trying to find transportation for the family from the airport. Once the family settled in Leesburg, the young teenager then solicited for jobs for her mother and deaf father. Despite being laughed out by numerous business owners, Thekkel was able to help her parents find employment. They currently each work three jobs.

Thekkel credits much of her success to agencies around Loudoun County who supported her family during their financial struggles with food stamps and free medical care and teachers who personally supported her.

"With their support, I was able to stay on top of my schoolwork," Thekkel said.

Thekkel will be attending Mt. Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio and hopes to become a missionary doctor. She received a \$2,500 scholarship.