

The dedication demonstrated by Nicole Ahrens 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 Nicole Ahrens 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.

HONORING THE BONHAM POST OFFICE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Bonham Post Office, an historic building that has been an integral part of the Bonham community.

The Bonham Post Office, which celebrates its 100th year in March 2014, is a historical building of which the residents of Bonham are proud. Although the interior of the building has been altered to accommodate changing times, the beautiful exterior of the building with granite, large columns and stone remain today. At the time the Bonham Post Office was built, top-of-the-line materials were used to make it what many thought was the best looking building in the state of Texas. Prior to the building's opening as a working post office, it is estimated one thousand people visited the new building, which exemplifies the significance of the grand opening in 1914. The building is a reminder of the proud history of Bonham and Fannin County.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the Bonham Post Office on 100 years of achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important milestone.

HONORING BELL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES FOR BEING THE TOP EXPORTER IN ILLINOIS' TENTH DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Bell Flavors & Fragrances in Northbrook, Illinois (part of the suburban Chicago district I represent) for being the top exporter in the Congressional district.

After more than 100 years of providing innovative and unique flavor services, Bell Flavors & Fragrances today is a global leader in the field and an example of true success in the 21st Century global marketplace. A family-owned company, Bell Flavors & Fragrances has achieved tremendous success in the food, hygiene, fragrance and many more industries.

Bell Flavors & Fragrances constantly reimagines and reinvents its approach and products, ensuring its ability to enter new markets and find success all around the globe.

During a recent tour of the Bell Flavors & Fragrances facility, I was struck by the passion and dedication to excellence of all the managers and employees I met and truly impressed by the outstanding commitment to research and development.

Despite its global footprint, Bell Flavors & Fragrances remains a truly American success story, embedded in the community, employing hundreds and working to enrich the area it calls home.

Family-owned and operated companies like Bell Flavors & Fragrances, rooted deeply in the community, are the foundation of the Tenth District's strength. I am proud that innovative, growing companies like Bell Flavors & Fragrances call the Tenth District home.

HONORING BYRON MEADOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Byron Meador. Byron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Byron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Byron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Byron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Byron constructed a set of stairs to the outdoor classroom at Hawthorne Elementary School in Kearney, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Byron Meador for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA FERRIS—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Barbara Ferris of Los Feliz.

Ms. Ferris is the Managing Director of Symphony In The Glen (SIG), which she co-founded in 1994 with Arthur B. Rubinstein, a renowned film and television composer. Since the organization's founding, Ms. Ferris has fostered cooperative relationships with city agencies, managed the organization's finances, spearheaded fundraising efforts, and reviewed the day-to-day operations that

helped shape the vibrant, thematic programming that SIG audiences have come to expect. Ms. Ferris also developed SIG's pre-concert child/parent activities to introduce children to basic musical concepts such as how to play notes, how to conduct an orchestra, and how to recognize different instruments in the orchestra.

Through her work organizing free concerts with Symphony In The Glen, Ms. Ferris has been instrumental in fulfilling the organization's mission of cultivating new generations of classical music enthusiasts. Concerts were held at the Old Zoo at Griffith Park, on the lawn of the Griffith Observatory, and at the Los Angeles Zoo. This year Symphony In The Glen also coordinated the fourth annual "EEK! at The Greek," a community Halloween celebration held in collaboration with the Greek Theatre and Nederlander Concerts.

In addition to her work at SIG, Ms. Ferris is also an avid participant in civic life. She has long been involved with the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council and served a four-year term as Vice President of Administration. In 2011, Ms. Ferris was elected to the Board of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, which is the oldest residents' association in Los Angeles.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Barbara Ferris.

ROMAINE AKAKPO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Romaine Akakpo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Romaine Akakpo is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Romaine Akakpo 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 Romaine Akakpo 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVERENDS CLIVE AND RUTH KNIGHTS ON THE OCCASION OF ATTAINING AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of our country's newest citizens, Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights. For over ten years, Clive and Ruth have been an integral part of the Northwest Florida community, and I am pleased to congratulate them on their attaining U.S. Citizenship.

Clive and Ruth were both born and raised in the United Kingdom. Reverend Clive Knights was educated at Edgware School, followed by North London and Salford Universities. He then received ministerial training from St. Alban's Diocese at Stevenage and Madingly Hall, Cambridge University, commencing his Anglican ministry on St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1987. Reverend Ruth Knights, the daughter of a reverend, received her higher education at Southlands Teacher Training College and Birmingham University, where she majored in Divinity and Theology. Following graduation, Ruth taught Religious Studies in high school and became head of a religious studies department.

In 2003, the Lord called Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights to come to the United States. The Knights settled in Northwest Florida, where Reverend Clive Knights became Senior Pastor at Chumuckla Community Church. Reverend Ruth Knights also helped serve the community's religious needs when she joined the staff at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, where she currently serves as an Associate Pastor. After nearly a decade at Chumuckla Community Church, Reverend Clive Knights moved to Bagdad United Methodist Church, where he is the Senior Pastor.

As former President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Free institutions rest upon the character of citizenship." Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights exemplify the high character, leadership, and faith that have been the hallmarks of so many great American citizens. On behalf of the entire United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate Clive and Ruth and welcome them as fellow citizens of this great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that on March 4, 2014, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 488, supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democracy, a reduction in violent crime and calling for an end to recent violence. I am pleased that this resolution expressing support for basic human rights passed the House decisively.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOBBY O'GUREK, RECIPIENT OF THE PANTHER VALLEY IRISH AMERICANS ASSOCIATION SHAMROCK AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bobby O'Gurek, who on March 17, 2014 will receive the Shamrock Award from the Panther Valley Irish Americans Association. Bobby was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1982, to Robert and Patricia O'Gurek. He has lived with cerebral palsy since birth, and become an indispensable part of his community.

He graduated from Panther Valley High School in 1999, where he was named the "Most Persistent Student." Bobby went on to Lehigh County Community College, where he earned his associate's degree as a Computer Specialist with a concentration in Web Development. After college, Bobby began designing websites for S & O Computers, LLC. In 2010, he established his own web design business. To date, Bobby's company has designed and maintained 19 websites for local government offices and small businesses.

Since he was a teenager, Bobby has volunteered his time to keep his community safe as a member of the volunteer Diligence Fire Company No. 1 in Summit Hill, Pennsylvania. After joining in 1994, he is now a senior member, auditor and trustee of the Fire Company, and he contributes his technological expertise to designing and maintaining the Fire Company's web page.

Although cerebral palsy prevents him from walking and speaking on his own, Bobby is involved with many outreach programs to spread awareness about disabilities. In 1998, he started speaking via the assistance of technology at the Pittsburgh Employment conference, hosted for speech pathologists and individuals with all kinds of disabilities who use augmentative communication technologies. Bobby was selected in 2007 to receive the Edwin and Ester Prentke AAC Distinguished Lecture Award in Boston, an award presented annually to a community activist who uses a communication device. He was asked to give a speech at a Massachusetts conference entitled "My Life with Assistive Technology and Community Interactions." Bobby is also a participant of "Through Their Eyes" conference at East Stroudsburg University, where he has addressed students majoring Speech Pathology. He is also an ambassador for Prentke Romich Company, increasing knowledge across Pennsylvania about the assistive technology that helps him communicate.

Bobby O'Gurek's work throughout his life has made his community a safer and brighter place. His perseverance in overcoming cerebral palsy to get his education and start his own business, his willingness to devote his time and technological skills to serve the Panther Valley, and his refusal to let his disability prevent him from achieving his goals are nothing short of inspirational. I congratulate Bobby O'Gurek on his years of service to his community and wish him many more.

DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a piece published in the Wall Street Journal on February 27 highlighting the latest disappearance into the Chinese security system of the prominent human rights defender Gao Zhisheng. It is deeply alarming that Mr. Gao has been in and out of the Chinese prisons, disappeared, and tortured for almost a decade now. As the op-ed piece by Jared Genser, Gao's pro bono legal counsel, notes, ". . . no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013." Following his most recent disappearance, Gao's

courageous wife, who has testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

I have "adopted" Gao through the Defending Freedoms Project, an initiative of the Lantos Commission, launched in conjunction with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Amnesty International. I am committed to continuing work towards the day when he can breathe the fresh air of freedom. I echo the sentiments of Mr. Genser, who concluded in the Journal piece, "It is time to reunite Gao Zhisheng with his family. He and his loved ones have suffered long enough."

DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

(By Jared Genser)

Gao Zhisheng, one of China's most prominent and courageous human-rights lawyers and prisoners of conscience, has again disappeared into the bowels of the Chinese state's security system. For more than a year, his family has desperately tried to access him in Shaya prison in Xinjiang, a remote province in western China. But all these efforts have been rebuffed and no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013. In response to Mr. Gao's most recent disappearance, his wife on Thursday in Geneva filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

A self-taught advocate and legal rights defender, Mr. Gao was once recognized among the country's top 10 lawyers by China's Ministry of Justice. Yet his advocacy for the country's most vulnerable, including factory workers, coal miners, victims of land seizures, and persecuted Christians and Falun Gong practitioners, led the authorities to target Mr. Gao and his family with threats and intimidation starting in 2005. He has been in and out of prisons and subject to disappearances and torture for nearly a decade.

Officials closed his law firm, disbarred him and placed his wife, Geng He, and their young children under 24-hour surveillance. Police stationed inside the family's home repeatedly harassed them. In school, the children were taunted and put under constant watch by the police—even when using the restroom. Because of this unbearable treatment, Geng He and her children fled China and have since been granted asylum in the United States.

Mr. Gao's family is safe now, but he remains in danger. In 2006, he made a coerced confession to "inciting subversion" and was given a suspended three-year prison term. In 2007, Chinese officials tortured him by shocking him with electric batons, holding lit cigarettes up to his eyes, and piercing his genitals with toothpicks. On other occasions, they put him in restraints and beat him repeatedly with handguns. In 2009 and 2010, police disappeared Mr. Gao and tortured him further.

In December 2011, just before the expiration of his suspended sentence and after 20 months of having been held in unknown locations, the Xinhua news agency announced that Mr. Gao would be imprisoned for the remainder of his original sentence. Since then, family members have been allowed to visit him only twice for half an hour on each occasion. Although scheduled for release on Aug. 22, he has now disappeared once again, leaving his family with renewed and urgent questions about his health and safety.

Mr. Gao's imprisonment, torture and disappearances have brought tremendous suffering to him and his family. In testifying recently before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gao's daughter Grace