

for his 42 years of service to HEB and the people of Laredo.

TRIBUTE TO ABILITYONE AND BOSMA ENTERPRISES

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary partnership between the AbilityOne Program and Indiana's own Bosma Enterprises.

AbilityOne is an extraordinary initiative that helps people with disabilities. It is the largest single provider of employment for people who are blind or face other significant disabilities. The Program puts more than 47,000 Americans to work by providing products and services to both federal government and commercial customers.

For twenty five of the past 100 years that Bosma Enterprises has been in business it has partnered with the AbilityOne Program to serve hundreds of Hoosiers each year through Community and Center-Based Services; services that have helped disabled Hoosiers achieve a greater level of independence and self-esteem. Their partnership has also enabled many people to gain employment in good paying Indiana jobs. Nearly 60 percent of all employees at Bosma Enterprises are blind or suffer some degree of visual impairment. But Bosma's partnership with AbilityOne is about more than just the number of people. It is about the individuals that are being assisted.

One such man was stay-at-home dad Don Green. Retinitis pigmentosa left Don totally blind making it very difficult for him to reenter the job market after taking time off to care for his twins. On more than one occasion he was asked why potential employers "should have to make accommodations for someone who is blind." Almost 200 applications later, Don was disenchanted, dismayed and about to give up when a friend encouraged him to check into the opportunities provided by Bosma Enterprises. That application changed his life as Bosma hired Don as a material handler in its warehouse.

Bosma Enterprises was able to offer Don a job because of its contracts through the AbilityOne Program. Through this important program, Bosma provides exam and surgical gloves to VA hospitals across the country and has created nearly 100 jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired in Indiana. Today, just six years later, Don is the Production Supervisor managing 40 people working on the exam glove lines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work Bosma Enterprises is doing in partnership with the AbilityOne Program and ask all Hoosiers to join me in recognizing the life altering work they do each and every day. They open doors of opportunity and help make the state of Indiana a better place to live. In the words of Don Green, "It means everything to be able to have a job. I am so glad that I am able to take care of my family and give them a better life."

STRONG COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two members of the Brazos Valley Community-Girl Scout Troop 28028—Sarah-Leanne Sherman and Katie Stone. These young women received the Silver Award, the second highest Girl Scout award and the highest award at the middle school level.

Sarah-Leanne and Katie have continually showed their commitment to changing society and helping their community. They were awarded the Silver Award after running a cheer and dance camp for the children staying at the Fort Bend Women's Shelter over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. At the end of the camp, the children were able to perform their routine for their mothers.

I am proud to represent two young leaders who possess a strong commitment to service. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sarah-Leanne and Katie for earning this distinguished award. I look forward to seeing what Sarah-Leanne and Katie do in the future.

HONORING MS. KAREN TAYLOR, SOLANO COUNTY'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Taylor as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district and I am proud to recognize Karen as one of them.

Ms. Taylor is a considerate woman with a loving and giving heart, and is always seeking to help the less fortunate in our community, especially youth, homeless, and elders. From block parties that she put on as a teenager to field trips to take kids to Lake Tahoe to see snow for the first time, she has been a fixture in her neighborhood and the Vallejo community. Forming activity groups, such as Karen's Tiny Tots and Karen's Girls Clubs for kids and teenagers, she has helped young people in Vallejo experience and see the best in themselves.

Ms. Taylor has strived to improve our community for more than thirty years. She has worked with kids to perform plays, has hosted meetings on pregnancy prevention for teenage girls, and has devoted countless hours of work to the Solano AIDS Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Taylor not only for her commitment to bettering the lives of the less fortunate around her, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Taylor's unyielding dedication to the people that make region unique is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Brain Awareness Week and the importance of educating students and the general public on brain science in the United States and around the world. I'd like to highlight an issue that's important to me and the people of California's 14th District. Traumatic brain injury, known as TBI, affects over 1.7 million people in the United States each year and costs Americans almost \$77 billion annually in direct and indirect medical costs. The effects of TBI on the brain vary greatly. TBI includes concussions, which may not show brain damage on an MRI, but can lead to headaches, fatigue, behavioral changes, and long-term effects on cognition or personality. More severe TBIs may lead to loss of consciousness for over 30 minutes, and can result in severe headaches, seizures, loss of motor coordination, and agitation. TBI can result from falls, car accidents, or due to combat trauma or athletics.

TBI has been called the signature wound of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and many of the TBI cases from these wars are due to injury from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The DoD states that since 2000, more than 287,000 U.S. service members have sustained a TBI. Research indicates that TBIs are related to development of PTSD or major depression in veterans, and being able to accurately diagnose and treat TBI is an important step in caring for the mental and physical health of our veterans.

TBI is also an issue in athletes of all levels, ranging from high school sports to professional sports. It is estimated that 300,000 sports-related concussions occur each year. In recent years, repeated concussions in athletes have been shown to be related to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) that leads to increased irritability, and eventually dementia. Many people with traumatic brain injury never get diagnosed, and there are not reliable treatments available for those who do get diagnosed. Being able to accurately identify and then treat TBI is important for the health and long-term well-being of high school athletes, professional athletes, service members, and veterans.

In an effort to improve diagnosis and treatment of TBI, the University of California, San Francisco is leading several federally-funded research initiatives. UCSF will be directing an \$18.8 million award from NIH that will support research on how to improve diagnosis and treatment for TBIs, which are frequently undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, and undertreated. UCSF has also received a \$17 million Department of Defense award that aims to improve clinical trials for TBI which may lead to better treatments. Researchers will use data from thousands of patients to identify effective measures of brain injury and recovery using brain imaging, biomarkers, and other tools. This may lead to the first successful treatment of TBI.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that thousands of dedicated scientists are making to unlock the mysteries behind the human brain.