

Linford for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Devorah Linford 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 Devorah Linford 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 Devorah Linford 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 130/131 my flight was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on both.

THE 4 CHAPLAINS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, anywhere there is someone in the military, there will be chaplains. They are men of God, doing God's work. Bringing faith in a time of misery, pain and sorrow, chaplains serve their spiritual duty on the battlefields alongside our servicemen and women. Chaplains help battle demons in every sense of the word. While their efforts are spiritual in nature, their courage deserves to be celebrated.

The Chaplain Corps was created in 1775 by the Continental Congress to be an essential part of the Army while ensuring American soldiers would have spiritual guidance available anytime. The corps is made up of both ordained clergy who are commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers who serve as chaplain assistants and they can be assigned anywhere they are needed.

One of the most famous stories about these brave faith warriors is the tale of the Four Chaplains. It was February 3, 1943. The U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* made up a three ship convoy that was moving from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. The ship was at full capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Only 150 miles from its destination, the *Dorchester* became a quick target for a German submarine. The hit was detrimental.

It was 12:55 a.m., when 902 lives were completely turned upside down. The *Dorchester* began rapidly taking on water. It was sinking. The ship's captain, Hans J. Danielsen, gave orders to abandon the ship.

The fate of the ship however was not much better; the icy waters gave many of the men

hypothermia, even killing some of them. All alternatives were bleak.

The torpedo hit killed and wounded many of the men. Those who were still alive were desperately trying to get aboard lifeboats and rafts and struggling to find life preservers. As mass chaos erupted aboard, four men remained calm and brave. Aboard the ship were four Army chaplains: Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Witnessing the situation in front of them, the chaplains took charge. They began quickly handing out lifejackets, prayers and words of encouragement. Rabbi Goode even gave his own gloves to a soldier. When there were no more lifejackets, the chaplains simply removed their own and handed them out, no questions asked.

In a mere 20 minutes, the ship slipped below the surface of the sea, drifting to its final resting place in the Atlantic. 672 men died. Only 230 survived. Among the casualties were the four selfless chaplains. They were an earthly liaison and a light of peace during a time of complete turmoil. It was a German death wish, but death was defeated by faith, the divine won that day at sea.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously as well as a posthumous Special Medal of Heroism; The Four Chaplains' Medal was approved by Congress and awarded by the President in 1961.

They were from different denominations and even religions, but bound together by a God's love and their faith in his eternal promise. The chaplains lived by a unifying example that transcends religions, countries and generations: laying down their lives for others, there is no greater love.

The epitome of selflessness, they fought a silent battle. While in a literal sense they lost, they gained all in the eyes of their creator.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY YMCA

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Kentucky YMCA by recognizing March 1st as Kentucky YMCA Day in Lexington, Kentucky.

On March 1, 1890, the Kentucky YMCA was incorporated by an Act of the Kentucky General Assembly. For 125 years, the YMCA has supported families and communities across our Commonwealth through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, social responsibility, and that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Nineteen YMCA Associations throughout Kentucky proudly serve more than 367,100 individuals, including 160,000 children and youth as well as 32,700 seniors. They also provide nearly \$7 million in financial assistance for families to participate in YMCA programs and membership. YMCAs mobilize almost 8,300 Kentuckians each year to volunteer and serve their local communities, including over 100 students in the Y-Corps service learning program who collectively perform over 1,500 hours of service.

The Kentucky YMCA is home to the largest YMCA Youth and Government program in the country, providing thousands of middle school, high school, and college-aged students the opportunity to become better leaders and engaged citizens through the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) and Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA).

The sixth district of Kentucky is proud to be home to 50 Student YMCAs and KYA/KUNA Delegations with over 1,000 student members, including my alma mater, Henry Clay High School. The mission of the Kentucky YMCA is to develop engaged citizens and servant leaders, inspired to set change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation, and world. The YMCA has and will continue to shape the future of the Sixth District and Kentucky.

Therefore, I encourage all Kentuckians and my colleagues to observe March 1, 2015 as "Kentucky YMCA Day."

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN ROTH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jonathan Roth attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Why should you be involved?

The United States was founded on the principle of freedom, freedom from oppression, freedom from foreign rule, and freedom to participate openly in our government. The United States rebelled against the British Crown so that they and future generations may experience the freedom they so desperately desired.

The national voter turnout for the 2012 general election dipped all the way down to 57.5%. That's almost a situation in which one in every two people doesn't vote. Only 65.1% of the voting eligible general population was registered to vote in that general election. For a nation that prides itself on its democratic processes, it is quite ironic that less than three fourths of the nation actually participates in that democracy. Our nation politically travels the world masquerading as the ideal democratic country when we rank in the lower half of global voter participation. There are many in our country that complain about laws and decisions made by those on Capitol Hill. Yet the majority of these people have never contacted a congressman nor attempted to voice their opinions in a constructive way. "No taxation without representation" was the battle cry during the United States' quest for freedom. Even though there are more problems than taxation in our country today, the representation part fits our situation perfectly. Our

government needs to be representative of the population as a whole. That means that everyone (or the majority) needs to participate. For a democratic government to function at its fullest capacity with the least amount of issues all demographics and cultures need to be represented so that all decisions that are made keeping the whole population in mind. Without an equally diverse voting populace some populations will not be represented as they should be. The majority of the problems that plague our country stem from the perception that some laws seem unfair to a certain group or groups in the nation. If everyone voted and voiced their opinion then those problems and perceptions would diminish greatly. Not only would these problems disappear there would also be an increase in national pride and patriotism. With an increase in voter participation more citizens would feel involved in how the nation is run and the democratic process. This increased national pride could lead to a decrease in social or hate crimes or perhaps even racial violence. If the populace feels included and an active part of the nation then they may look at themselves as a contributing member of the country and not an outsider in a foreign land.

In conclusion voter participation is essential to the overall success of our country. Not only is it a founding principle of our country but it may also lead to an increase in common understanding between various social and ethnic groups decrease in violent crime and frustration over perceived unfair legislation.

CHRISTIAN CASTILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian Castillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Christian Castillo is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Castillo 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 Christian Castillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF DR. YOSEF ALFREDO ANTONIO BEN-JOCHANNAN, DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AND KEMETAPHYSICIAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and historic contributions of my

dear friend Dr. Yosef Alfredo Antonio ben-Jochannan (Dr. Ben), one of our community's most distinguished scholars who passed away on March 19, 2015. Dr. Ben was the foremost intellectual on the history of religion and its impact on the world. He was an influential professor and activist—a pioneer of Africana studies. Dr. Ben was a man who believed in the value of digging deep for facts that have been long obscured. He has inspired generations of scholars and students with his tireless research and thoughtful teachings.

Dr. Ben's cultural journey began as a student of Arthur Schomburg in Puerto Rico and Edward Wilmot Blyden in St. Croix, where as a youth he spent time participating with Pedro Albizu Campos during Puerto Rico's independence quest in the 1950s to providing African-centered reading material to Malcolm X in the early 1960s and educating young teenaged Five Percenters at Harlem Prep during the late 1960s. Through his annual fact-finding tours to Kemet (Egypt) for over four decades, he helped uncover the history of Africa and our own roots. Dr. Ben accomplished a great deal in his life, most notably writing 49 books on African history. Dr. Ben was well known for his thought-provoking assertions on the influence of Africans on ancient civilizations. Dr. Ben was a regular invited special guest on the popular late Gil Noble's "Like It Is" television Sunday show.

A man way ahead of his time, Dr. Ben spoke truth about the origins of world religion and documented it to prove it. I am proud to have called Dr. Ben my neighbor. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. While I am sad that Harlem has lost a great prophet and spiritual leader, I know Dr. Ben's legacy will live on for many years to come.

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) on their 50th Anniversary. I am proud to represent the students, teachers, and parents of ABC Unified. Their educational excellence is a source of pride for the 38th Congressional District.

In 1965 the school districts of Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita combined to form ABCUSD. The school district serves Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk.

The district's motto "Student Achievement—Our Main Thing," exemplifies the district's leadership and dedication to strong counseling, staff development, and alternative education programs. ABCUSD has received numerous awards and recognitions for its educational excellence. In recent years, it was the recipient of National Blue Ribbon, California Distinguished Schools, and Schools to Watch awards.

ABCUSD is a prime example of how educators and community groups can work together for the benefit of our students. In 1999, ABCUSD and the ABC Federation of Teachers formed the ABC Labor Management Part-

nership. This collaboration is focused on student achievement and has inspired many districts and unions to form similar partnerships. The district also has a strong history of working with local colleges and local businesses to build vibrant educational programs for its students.

This year, ABCUSD will be celebrating 50 years of excellence. On this special occasion, I would like to congratulate the ABC Unified School District, the teachers, faculty, students, and parents, past and present, who make the ABCUSD community so exceptional.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAY DAVIS' RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Dr. Jay Davis, President of the Hertz Foundation, who will be retiring after decades of service to our country as a scientist and philanthropist. Jay resides in Livermore, California, in my congressional district.

Dr. Davis graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in 1963 and 1964 respectively. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with his PhD in physics.

For three decades, Dr. Davis worked as a scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), supporting the lab's fusion program through research in nuclear physics and material science. Dr. Davis also founded the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry at LLNL.

Following his service at LLNL, in 1998, Dr. Davis used his science background to support the Department of Defense as the Associate Director for Earth and Environmental Sciences. He worked to develop and enhance arms control treaties and twice served as an inspector for the United Nations Special Commission's mission to Iraq following the first Gulf War. During his time with the Department, he served as the founding Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Because of Dr. Davis' exceptional service to the nation, he was twice awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Department of Defense's highest civilian award.

In 2009, following his exceptional career in public service, Dr. Davis was elected to serve as President of the Hertz Foundation. The Hertz Foundation provides talented PhD students in the Applied Sciences and Engineering the opportunity for financial and fellowship support to pursue their careers. On top of his work at the Hertz Foundation, Dr. Davis has also been a tireless advocate for benefits owed to retired lab employees.

Dr. Davis' distinguished legacy of service to the Livermore community and the nation will continue through his scientific accomplishments and his philanthropic work at Hertz foundation. I wish Jim all the best in his retirement.