TRIBUTE TO NICOLAS JEFFRESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 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.

Nicolas Jeffress attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

In 1776, we fought for our right to self-govern, and every day men and women give their lives to protect and defend those rights. But now we are facing a new threat to our independence, apathy. Every day people willingly give up their right to govern and wonder why their community is not reaching its potential. Just like in other parts of life though, building a great community takes work.

During my sophomore year, many students felt the pressure of both rigorous course loads and class rank competition, and some resorted to cheating. This situation was complicated by the fact that the penalties for cheating were not consistently enforced and when they were enforced, they were light relative to the potential gain. As I talked to more students and teachers, I became concerned that Dawson had a culture of academic dishonesty, much like professional cycling, where some felt cheating was necessary just to keep up. I could not let this be my school's culture.

I started working on how to address this problem by talking to other students. Although many were frustrated with the dishonesty, they did not think anything could be done to fix it. Fortunately, thirty students did care! When we met, we talked not only about the problem but how we could change it. Over the next three weeks we developed specific proposals around testing procedures, penalties and education. We took these proposals forward to our principal and even demonstrated how students were cheating using tools like camera pens. We also spoke to the Pearland ISD school board about our work at Dawson and provided them the proposals as well. Although the early conversations were sometimes difficult, we started to have an impact.

Over the summer between my sophomore and junior year, Pearland ISD wrote a new honor code that went into place at both Dawson and Pearland High Schools. As I read through the honor code during packet pick-up, I could see many of our recommendations almost verbatim. I thought of Yoda, ''Do or do not. There is no try''; I'm glad I decided to do. I got involved in my local community and changed my school.

As I become an adult, the political process will allow me to become even more involved in my community. During my Dad's school board campaign, I had the opportunity to meet many great public servants. We are so fortunate to have so many great people working hard on our community. However, with only 5% of people choosing to vote in local elections, I doubt we are reaching our full potential. We need more people willing to be involved, developing solutions to problems, bringing new ideas. Communities form districts, which form states, which make up a nation; all political movements start at grass root local communities and cascade to the national government. I certainly intend to do my part to honor the sacrifices so many have made to build the country we have today.

A TRIBUTE TO AMY OSTRANDER CROLL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Amy Ostrander Croll for being named a 2015 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Amy has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does and her exemplary work with Community Youth Concepts is a testament to that. As Executive Director, she is responsible for moving the organization forward—taking risks when necessary so that the goals of the organization can be achieved. In her free time Amy enjoys biking and serving others. She donates her time to the Urbandale Community Action Network and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. In all aspects of her life, Amy is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Amy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her 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 Amy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL SENATE CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the Fresno High School Senate Club. Fresno High School was founded in 1889 as the City of Fresno's first high school. The following year, the Fresno High School Senate was established on March 21, 1890.

The Foundation of the Senate is modeled after the United States Senate, with each member representing a state in our Union. Admission to the Fresno High School Senate requires a majority vote of the body for academically qualified candidates who are sponsored by an active member of the club. Candidates are required to attend at least three club meetings and present a speech to complete the application process. Upon admission, a U.S. state is permanently assigned to the new senator, who is then invited to declare a political party preference. The Fresno High School Senate is primarily a debate club and has the distinction of being the oldest continuously active high school club in the United States.

The Senate is governed by both a Constitution and bylaws and it follows parliamentary procedure set by Robert's Rules of Order. The organization instills knowledge of the law making process of our national government. Furthermore, the public speaking debate society addresses current issues of world, national, and community interest and concern.

The Fresno High School Senate Club meets every week on the Fresno High School Campus and is guided by a faculty member known as the ''President of the United States.'' Active Senators, in addition to being top academic achievers, also perform hundreds of hours of service to the greater Fresno community.

Over many decades, the Senate has produced dozens of outstanding alumni known as, ''Honorary Senators,'' who achieved distinguished careers in law, medicine, business, education, government, architecture, technology, the military, and other notable occupational fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fresno High School Senate on the significant milestone of its 125th Anniversary as I extend my best wishes for the organization's continued success in shaping the lives of young students, creating model citizens and nurturing the studies of United States history and government.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MOCKLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, Congressman PETE AGUILAR, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman TED LIEU, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman

SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman NORMA TORRES, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. John Mockler, who passed away on March 3, 2015. Mockler was one of the most influential voices on California education policy for more than 40 years, where he advised hundreds of Democratic and Republican lawmakers on public school funding. His legacy of public service, and support for public education, will impact California's public education system for many generations.

Born on October 2, 1941 in Chicago and raised in Harbison Canyon near San Diego, Mockler was the son of William and Jane Mockler and had three sisters: Elsie, Lynn and Virginia. Mockler attended the University of San Francisco at 16, and subsequently graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a degree in Economics. A lifelong Democrat, Mockler cut his teeth in San Francisco politics, where he became active in union politics and was the executive director of the Youth Against 14 campaign in 1964. Proposition 14 would have made it legal to discriminate against home buyers on the basis of race.

Mockler is best known as the architect of Proposition 98, the 1988 initiative that established a minimum level of state financial support for public schools at 40 percent of general fund spending. Proposition 98 remains a central feature in state budget negotiations for the past quarter century. His familiarity with the law made him an indispensible advisor to Governors Gray Davis and Jerry Brown as well as legislative leaders including former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Mockler's one-time boss.

He is survived by his life partner Carol Farris, two children—Robert and Jessica, five grandchildren Willa, Clara, Sidney, Zachary and Auden, and countless friends and admirers.

Today, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation salutes and honors the life of Mr. John Mockler. Mockler will be remembered for his tenacious support for schools and teachers and his legacy is felt with the enrollment of every kindergartner and the graduation of every senior class. We join all of Mockler's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING GLORIA COLEMAN DOTSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Gloria Coleman Dotson.

Gloria Coleman Dotson grew up and lives in Claiborne County as the oldest of seven children of Curtis Coleman and Ethel Allen in the town Ulysses S. Grant said was "Too Beautiful to Burn." She is a 1973 graduate of Port Gibson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Jackson State University in 1977.

After graduation, Ms. Dotson was employed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors in the Chancery Clerk's Office. She worked under the supervision of two Chancery Clerks: Mrs. Stella Jennings-Greenwood and Mr. Frank Wilson. She worked in the Chancery Clerk's Office for twenty-five years as Deputy Chancery Clerk prior to being elected Chancery Clerk in 2000. She is currently serving her fourth term as Chancery Clerk.

Ms. Dotson is a member of First Christian Disciples of Christ Church, a choir member and Sunday School Treasurer. She is involved in several civic organizations including: Port Gibson Main Street, MS Cultural Crossroad Gloria Board of Directors, Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact, a member of NAACP and the Chancery Clerk's Association.

Ms. Dotson has been married to Joe Dotson, Jr. for twenty-two years. They are the proud parents of three children: JaBari, JaNetra, and JoKevy. They have an eleven year old granddaughter, KaMeryal and a one year old grandson, KaMari.

The title "Chancery Clerk" does not adequately describe the various duties and responsibilities that Ms. Dotson has attendant to in the office. The Chancery Clerk's Office has a multitude of duties and functions which are governed by an assortment of statutes and court rules, along with following guidelines established either by the State Department of Audit or the Department of Finance and Administration. The Chancery Clerk's position is a four year elected term.

Ms. Dotson often states, "I thank God for allowing me to serve as a Public Official. I love my job. When I'm not serving my constituents, I spend time with my family and friends, work in the yard and reading."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gloria Coleman Dotson for her dedication and support to the Claiborne County Community.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH ON THEIR BICENTENNIAL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Portsmouth on their bicentennial anniversary and celebration.

For 200 years, Portsmouth has stood proudly along the Ohio River, a gateway to the region and a testament to the work ethic of Southern Ohioans.

Since incorporation in 1815, Portsmouth has been an industrial power house. A leader throughout the years in the rail, steel, and notably shoe wear industries, the people of Portsmouth know the value and pride from a hard day's work. They were the backbone of America's industrial boon.

Today, Portsmouth stands firmly with one foot rooted in our shared history and one foot striding into the 21st Century. The well-known flood walls are a towering testament to the storied history of the region and its people, which include panels of the Hopewell culture, the NFL charter team Portsmouth Spartans, and a litany of community leaders throughout the city's history. Famous sons include Roy Rogers and Branch Rickey.

The city is home to Shawnee State University, hosts thousands of cyclists for the Tour of the Scioto River Valley, and celebrates annually at the River Days festival.

I am honored to represent Portsmouth today, an area of the state with such a rich history and strong community. Again, I congratulate Portsmouth on this historic milestone, and I wish the city the very best over their next 200 years.

A TRIBUTE TO BEN NELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ben Nelson for being named a 2015 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Ben has the determination and talent to be successful in all that he does and his work with Pivot Wealth Strategies LLC is a testament to that commitment. As the President and Cofounder of Pivot Wealth Strategies, Ben is able to pursue a personal passion of his in his professional life. He maintains an active schedule outside work, volunteering and supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ben in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ben on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 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