roles as the founding executive director of the Institute for Fisheries Resources, a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and a member of the Marine Fish Conservation Network.

A resolute and determined defender of the sea and those whose livelihoods depend on it, Zeke Grader is truly a force of nature. His work will continue to make a difference for years to come, and I send my deepest gratitude to Zeke for his outstanding service to California and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA ALEXANDER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rebecca Alexander, a native Californian who has overcome tremendous obstacles and inspired countless others to face their own challenges with courage and strength.

On April 14th, the Foundation Fighting Blindness will honor Rebecca Alexander with its Hope and Spirit Award at the Thirteenth Annual For the Love of Sight Visionary Awards Dinner here in Washington.

Rebecca was born in Oakland with Usher syndrome type III, a rare genetic disorder that causes progressive blindness and deafness. She began losing her sight as a teenager, and suffered a fall at age 18 that broke nearly every bone in her body. Today, Rebecca is almost completely blind and deaf.

Despite these daunting setbacks, Rebecca has persevered. Now 36 years old, Rebecca is a psychotherapist with two master's degrees from Columbia University and a successful private practice in New York City. She is also the author of a moving memoir, ''Not Fade Away.''

In addition to her professional achievements, Rebecca regularly teaches spin classes and competes in the Civilian Military Combine, CMC, for extreme athletes. Some of her extraordinary athletic feats include helping run the Olympic torch across America, participating in a 600-mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles, skydiving, and bungee jumping.

As the Foundation Fighting Blindness prepares to honor Rebecca, I want to join them in expressing my congratulations, appreciation, and profound admiration for this remarkable young woman.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MITZNER

● Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, our Nation was founded on an idea—an idea that every person has the right to freely speak, live, worship, work, and build flourishing lives for themselves and their families. And today I want to recognize a man who embraces those liberties and whose witness is exceptional. For a century, Mr. Mitzner has been a warrior for freedom.

David Mitzner was born to Jewish parents in Poland, and during World War II he lost his family to the Holocaust. He survived 8 long years in a Soviet gulag. A Russian officer told the men at the labor camp, ''Here you're going to live, here you're going to die.'' David refused to accept that as his fate and fought to live. In 1949 he defied his captors and escaped the iron grip of communism to come to the United States.

He arrived in New York with just $17 in his pocket. He didn't know English and didn't have any relatives to rely upon. He got his first job working for a hosiery manufacturer and today he is one of world's most successful private real estate investors whose projects span from Texas to Poland.

He works with the same vigor, energy, and gratitude as he did when he stepped onto American soil 66 years ago. And at 100 years old, Mr. Mitzner still goes into the office to make sure his company continues to operate with uncompromising integrity and excellence. He has pioneered development in cities across the world, and particularly in Warsaw, his childhood home, which was nearly destroyed by communism. His fellow investors said it couldn't be done but he proved them wrong.

As he often says, there are miracles all around us. David's life is a miracle and it is one that continues to overflow into all those who are blessed to know him.

In closing, I want to recount a brief anecdote from the Passover Seder, which I had the privilege of celebration with David and the extended Mitzner family last year. It was very close to his 99th birthday, and I remember him saying, ''99 is nothing. When I turn 100, that will be something.'' David, you are now 100, and it is indeed something. Happy birthday, friend, and thank you for the legacy you have built, not merely on bricks and mortar, but on upon your fortitude and your faith.●

CONGRATULATING JUSTICE BEST

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Justice Best on being chosen as a second prize winner in C–SPAN's national 2015 StudentCam competition. Ms. Best is a junior at Spanish Springs High School in Sparks, NV, and was one of 5,000 students in 45 States to compete. This was the largest amount of participants to ever enter the contest since it began 11 years ago. The competition allowed for middle school and high school participants and required the students to make a 5- to 7-minute documentary responding to this statement: ''The Three Branches and You: tell a story that demonstrates how a policy, law, or action by either the executive, legislative, or judicial branch has affected you or your community.'' Students were chosen based upon how well their videos demonstrated research and planning and upon their ability to include a diverse range of expert interviews on the topic. Last, judges paid close attention to the students' ability to demonstrate critical thought on their topics.

Ms. Best chose an important topic pertinent to Nevada on both a State and Federal level: the greater sage grouse endangered species listing. Throughout the documentary, she presented the two sides of the issue by interviewing professionals and locals with knowledge on the topic and concluded that listing the greater sage grouse as an endangered species would be detrimental to the Nevada economy. Ms. Best was one of 16 second prize winners, earning a total of $1,000. She is a shining example of how hard work and dedication result in success and stands as a role model for future Spanish Springs Cougars.

I am excited to see a local student bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Spanish Springs High School for her advancement in a national competition. She should be proud to call herself a top contender in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Ms. Best for her efforts and honorable representation of Nevada.●

CONGRATULATING SHIRLEY McLEE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Shirley McLee on being named Regional Magnet Teacher of the Year by the Magnet Schools of America. Ms. McLee was one of eight selected to receive the national award, recognizing her dedication to Ed W. Clark High School's magnet program. Her unwavering commitment to the program has grown it to be the success it is now, providing some of the best magnet courses in the Nation.

Ms. McLee was chosen as the western region winner out of teachers from Nevada, California, Oregon, and Arizona. The award recognizes full-time teachers who are dedicated to providing innovative programs to students, as well as promoting equity and diversity among those involved in the program. Ms. McLee's hard work has had great influence at Ed W. Clark High School and has positively contributed to the three different magnet programs offered to students, including the Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology, the Academy of Finance, and the Teacher Education Academy. These programs focus on specific areas of study pertaining to future career work and are available to students as they move through their high school coursework. They also offer extra hours of school instruction and a reduced student to teacher ratio, as well as collaboration between Ed W. Clark High School and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the College of Southern Nevada to offer college credit. Ms. McLee is a shining example of how devotion to a program can truly impact the lives of students. Her accolade is well deserved.