

for his passion and dedication to serving our great Country, his community and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

ERIC LI NAMED PRUDENTIAL
NATIONAL HONOREE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Li for being named one of ten national honorees for the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Eric's dedication to community service started at a young age when he spearheaded a school-wide relief effort following a deadly earthquake in Sichuan, China. He and his sisters also founded a nonprofit organization called We Care Act. The organization helps children around the world recover from major natural disasters. Currently, he is teaching his peers at Pearland Junior High West to refurbish computers that will be sent to orphanages in third world countries.

At such a young age, Eric has already impacted so many children around the world. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District, thank you for your commitment to philanthropy and congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH
ALEXANDER SCOTT, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Joseph Alexander Scott, Jr. The City of San Antonio and the Great State of Texas lost a community leader, civic activist, job creator, and friend with the passing of this great man.

Born on January 31, 1928 in Dallas, Joe Scott spent his life in service to those around him. From his service as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in the Korean War to his fourteen years as a teacher in Edgewood ISD and his unmatched record as a teacher in his Eastside community, Joe Scott truly embodied the concept of service above self.

Mr. Scott earned a bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University, a Master's degree from Our Lady of the Lake University, and attended St. Mary's University Law School.

Mr. Scott was first and foremost a family man. He was the first African-American licensed insurance agent in San Antonio and founded World Technical Services, Inc. (WTS) to provide jobs for people with severe disabilities and those who are unable to find employment due to past substance abuse or incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the legacy of Joseph Alexander Scott, Jr. He was my dear friend. I will miss his friendship and the City of San Antonio will miss his leadership, but his legacy will live on and he will be forever remembered.

LUTHERAN SOUTH ACADEMY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the baseball and softball teams at Lutheran South Academy for winning the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 4A state championships.

The road to success was not easy, but both teams persevered and brought home two state trophies. Lutheran South Pioneer baseball team finished the season with an 8-game winning streak that was capped off with a victory at the TAPPS 4A state tournament. The Lady Pioneer softball team completed their successful season with a shutout victory at the state championship. Each of these young athletes and their coaches has put in the time and the effort to become state champions. I am excited to see what these young athletes achieve throughout their time on the diamond. It's time for Lutheran South to expand their trophy case.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations on this outstanding victory. Thank you for bringing the gold back home.

IN HONOR OF CHRIS NORTON, LU-
THER COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015
AND SPINAL CORD INJURY AD-
VOCATE

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Norton, an advocate for those recovering from spinal cord injuries and a graduate of Luther College, Class of 2015 in Decorah, Iowa.

During his freshman football season, Chris sustained a serious injury that left him paralyzed from the neck down. In the aftermath of his injury, doctors informed Chris he had a 3% chance of ever walking again. This exceptional young man, after years of physical therapy and rehabilitation, overcame those odds and walked across the stage at his graduation this past weekend.

Moved to action by people with similar injuries he met during his rehabilitation, Chris, his family, and his friends started the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) CAN Foundation. This foundation is committed to increasing access to quality therapy options for those with spinal cord injuries. Recently, SCI CAN donated \$60,000 to Des Moines University, bringing the total donations of the Foundation to nearly \$375,000 to assist in spinal cord injury recovery.

I applaud Chris' important work with SCI CAN, his message of hope and healing, and wish him well as he continues to recover from his injury. I firmly believe Chris is both an inspirational figure and asset to his community. I wish Chris and his family the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

I encourage everyone to learn more about the SCI CAN Foundation by visiting their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheSciCanProject.

STAFFORD TRACK AND FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stafford Track and Field Team for earning the Class 4A second-place team state championship trophy.

Despite immense adversity during the final moments of the competition, the Stafford Team competed and brought home the silver. This win reflects the entire team's dedication to the sport, including outstanding efforts by Lynette Amaran and the young men of the 400 meter relay who both brought home gold medals. We are extremely proud of each individual on the team and the coaching efforts of Mr. Sergio Hinojosa.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire team in representing Stafford High School in the State Track and Field Championship.

HOW TO PREVENT THE FALL OF
BAGHDAD

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, Islamic State (ISIS) is a massive threat to America's national interests and to human decency. Each day brings more news of ISIS advances, terrorist attacks, military gains and horrible atrocities. And each day the Administration continues to deny its policies are failing.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that ISIS can indeed be stopped if it heeds the thoughtful recommendations which Kevin Carroll detailed in his May 27, 2015 Wall Street Journal OP/ED ("How to Prevent the Fall of Baghdad").

Mr. Carroll speaks with authority and first-hand knowledge. He served as a U.S. Army officer in Iraq and Afghanistan and as a CIA case officer in a Middle East war zone. Also, I had the benefit of having Kevin Carroll serve as Senior Counsel when I chaired the House Homeland Security Committee in 2011–2012. I found his advice to be invaluable. I urge the Administration to follow his advice today. I am proud to submit Kevin Carroll's article and urge all members to read and give thoughtful consideration to his proposals.

ISLAMIC STATE IS LIKELY TO USE THE TACTICS THAT WORKED IN RAMADI. THE U.S. CAN DO MUCH TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME

Islamic State, also known as ISIS, has seized control of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province just 70 highway miles from Baghdad. Fallujah, located between, is already a terror stronghold.

There is little doubt that ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi plans to capture the city whose name he bears. A man who declared himself a caliph, Baghdadi knows his home was the seat of the Abbasid caliphate, founded in the eighth century to which ISIS would like to return.

It would be a mistake for the Obama administration to continue to underestimate ISIS as the junior varsity. ISIS demonstrated operational capability recently, attacking in opposite directions to occupy both Ramadi and Palmyra, deep inside Syria.

Its Ramadi assault mixed terrorism with conventional tactics. At least 30 huge truck bombs, some reportedly as large as the one used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, obliterated the city's defenses, and ISIS forces poured through the breach. A similar attack could be in store for Baghdad. It is assumed that ISIS operatives are in the capital's Sunni enclaves, with more en route disguised as refugees.

The fall of Baghdad to ISIS would harm American strategic interests as the fall of Saigon did in 1975. The blow to U.S. credibility and the enhancement of ISIS's prestige, of its black flag rising over an evacuated U.S. Embassy, would be incalculable. To prevent this outcome, President Obama should consider taking the following actions.

Use strategic air power. America's unrivaled air forces can hit ISIS from anywhere: neighboring countries, the sea and the continental U.S. Yet the sorties flown so far have been minimal, and damage inflicted still less, even as ISIS held a parade in broad daylight in Rutba, Iraq, last week.

That is the kind of target our aviators dream of. Rules of engagement need to be loosened, U.S. air controllers sent to the front to call in strikes, and more combat aircraft put into the fight.

Launch ruthless special operations. Recent raids into Syria were daring and skillful. But a handful of missions do not resemble the operations led by U.S. Army Gens. Stanley McChrystal and Michael Flynn in 2006-07 that eventually broke the back of ISIS's predecessor, al Qaeda in Iraq, and drove it abroad.

At that campaign's height, commandos conducted multiple missions every night. They analyzed intelligence collected on one "objective" to find and fix targets they finished on successive raids. The rhythm, persistence and sheer number of those operations crushed the enemy. Emulate them now, starting near Baghdad.

Capture and interrogate ISIS leaders. Much of the intelligence exploited on those missions came from documents and electronics found in terrorist safe houses. But the best came from interrogations, some conducted on the battlefield as the smoke cleared.

Interrogators acted within the bounds of decency against evil men who deserved no quarter. Yet neither were military and CIA personnel constrained by the rules of evidence and criminal procedure, because their goal wasn't a courtroom conviction, but the location of the next high-value target. A robust program of capturing and roughly interrogating terrorists abroad should resume, first focused on the whereabouts of ISIS operatives in and around Baghdad.

There is also a role for police work. ISIS has devotees in all 50 U.S. states; hundreds of Americans traveled abroad to fight for them, and some number have returned. The FBI and state and local law enforcement should make aggressive use of antiterror statutes to question—and perhaps flip into informants—suspects who may be in contact with terror leaders with details of ISIS plans regarding Baghdad. Congress should reauthorize the National Security Agency's signals intelligence programs identifying such communications between Americans and known terrorists abroad.

Send ground combat forces. Despite U.S. efforts to restrain them, the Iraqi army is now unable or unwilling to stand and fight ISIS alone. Its commanders have shamefully thrown down their weapons, discarded their uniforms, and abandoned their men and posts when ISIS threatens. The Iraqi army needs a backbone transplant.

U.S. airborne units can arrive quickly to secure Baghdad's airport and the long and

vital road from the city to that airfield. More Marines can better defend the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Americans can stiffen Iraqi lines around the city, and provide artillery and engineer units needed in urban combat. U.S. cavalry units can launch what imperial Britain called "punitive expeditions" to destroy ISIS lairs further afield.

The arrival of thousands more American fighting men will improve the Iraqi army's performance. It was no accident that the Sunni Awakening and U.S. surge succeeded at the same time in 2006-07. As U.S. troops poured in, Sunni sheiks cast their lot with what Bing West memorialized as the "The Strongest Tribe" in his book of the same name.

There are natural advantages to defending Baghdad, which the Iraqis can exploit if steered by U.S. troops. To seize the capital, ISIS's lines of communication would expand, a logistical challenge that would leave them more vulnerable to counterattack. The Iraqi army's lines of communication would helpfully contract.

The Tigris River is a significant obstacle, and a defensible one. Urban combat favors prepared defenders. And Baghdad is a dense city, its population having swelled to more than seven million, crammed into a place the size of Baltimore or Boston.

Most important, the predominantly Shiite Iraqi army would be fighting to protect its brethren, unlike previous battles in mostly Sunni cities where they broke and ran.

This fight is winnable. But if the administration whistles past the graveyard and insists its policy is working even as ISIS nears Baghdad and our diplomats there, the White House may face a debacle that makes Benghazi seem minor in comparison.

KECHI OKWUCHI'S ST. THOMAS
UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Kechi Okwuchi, for her recent graduation from St. Thomas University in Houston.

Over the past ten years, Kechi has had to overcome many hardships. On December 10, 2005 Kechi was the only survivor of a horrific plane crash at Port Harcourt International Airport in Nigeria where her plane made a crash landing nearly 70 meters off of the runway. The crash claimed the lives of all of the other passengers on board including 108 of Kechi's classmates and friends. After receiving medical treatment in South Africa, Kechi moved to Pearland to receive medical treatment at Shriners' Hospital for Children in Galveston. At her May 16th Commencement Ceremony, Kechi was selected to give a speech before crossing the stage and receiving her degree. She has met and conquered many obstacles on her way to receiving her diploma. Her positive outlook throughout it all is truly an inspiration.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kechi for graduating from St. Thomas University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, and 260. If present, I would have voted "no" on roll call 253, "yea" on roll call 254, "yea" on roll call 255, "yea" on roll call 256, "yea" on roll call 257, "no" on roll call 258, and "no" on roll call 260.

SABLATURA MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT COUNCIL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sablatura Middle School Student Council on receiving the National Association of Elementary School Principals' Student Council Excellence Award for the 2014-2015 school year.

This prestigious award recognizes the outstanding efforts and hard work of students striving towards leadership, citizenship, community service, and campus spirit. This is the fourth year that the Association has awarded Sablatura's student council excellence. We appreciate the dedication that the faculty sponsors make to developing young leaders in Pearland, Texas and look forward to seeing what these students achieve in the future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Sablatura Middle School Student Council for this remarkable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, June 1, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 264, "yea" on roll call vote 265, and "yea" on roll call vote 266.

Finally, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 267 in opposition to H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act.

JAELYNN WALLS GIRL SCOUTS OF
THE USA GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jaelynn Walls, for earning the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award, the most prestigious Girl Scout honor.