

Medical device manufacturers in Connecticut develop essential and lifesaving products that are critical to treating every patient whether in a physician's office, a hospital, a nursing home, or in the field by emergency responders. They provide well-paying jobs throughout my district making products that are sold throughout our country and exported around the world. I will continue to call for the medical device tax to be responsibly replaced.

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER  
SERVICE AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Smriti and Siddhant Ahuja for earning the President's Volunteer Service Award for the third consecutive year.

This prestigious award recognizes those who have taken action to positively serve the world around them. It is a great honor to earn this recognition once, but to receive the award three years in a row is outstanding. Smriti and Siddhant are currently juniors at Seven Lakes High School. Since age 4, these twins have spent countless hours volunteering and have worked hard to inspire others through community service. We are extremely proud of Smriti and Siddhant, and thank their parents for constantly encouraging a life of helping others.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Smriti and Siddhant Ahuja for earning the President's Volunteer Service Award. We are excited to see where your service takes you.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY L.  
BAARSTAD

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jeffrey L. Baarstad, an influential and respected educator who has been committed to the success of our community, and has bestowed an immeasurable and remarkable quality of education upon students in Ventura County.

For over a decade, Superintendent Baarstad has served the Conejo Valley Unified School District with an unwavering commitment to the education of over 20,000 students within 27 schools throughout the district. The Conejo Valley Unified School District is an essential resource for many residents of Ventura County and is one of the top ranked school districts in California thanks to the dedication of outstanding educators like Superintendent Baarstad.

The Conejo Valley Unified School District serves as a beacon, which continues to lead the way towards a higher standard of quality education and academic success for countless children across our community. The work that the Conejo Valley Unified School District has accomplished, with Dr. Baarstad at its helm, has been recognized for its distinction by many national and state organizations. In

2010, Dr. Baarstad became the Superintendent of Conejo Valley Unified School District, and only three years later was recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators for his outstanding work.

Extraordinary educators like Superintendent Baarstad exemplify Ventura County's commitment to education. Although Superintendent Baarstad will be retiring from Conejo Valley Unified School District, he is leaving a significant mark on public education throughout the region, and an immense impact on our community. I am certain his work will continue to inspire educators in their own commitment to providing an excellent education to students in Ventura County.

For these reasons, I graciously thank Superintendent Baarstad for his unwavering dedication as an educator for the past 35 years. It has been my sincere pleasure to work with Dr. Baarstad, whose influence will extend to many future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISAIAH  
CROWELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Isaiah Crowell, an outstanding football player and leader for the Cleveland Browns football team of the National Football League. Crowell will be hosting the Inaugural Isaiah Crowell Football Camp on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at the A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium in Columbus, Georgia.

Isaiah Crowell was born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, where he attended Carver High School. In high school, Isaiah excelled in football, track, and basketball. Upon graduation, Isaiah was a highly recruited athlete by the University of Alabama and the University of Georgia. In 2011, during a nationally televised conference, Isaiah chose to attend the University of Georgia.

During his freshman season at UGA, Isaiah lead the football team with 850 rushing yards and five touchdowns, which led to him being named the SEC Freshman of the Year by the Associated Press in 2011. For his sophomore season, he transferred to Alabama State University where he was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year, after rushing for 842 yards and 15 touchdowns. After two seasons, Isaiah finished fifth in Alabama State University's history in points scored (160) and sixth in rushing yards (1,963).

In the 2014 National Football League draft, Isaiah signed with the Cleveland Browns as an undrafted free agent. As a rookie, he made an immediate impact scoring two touchdowns in the season opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers. He finished his rookie season with eight touchdowns and over 600 yards. Isaiah will enter the 2015 football season as the starting running back for the Cleveland Browns.

But more than being a remarkable athlete, Isaiah has been incredibly active in the communities of Columbus, Georgia and Cleveland, Ohio and is dedicated to giving back to both communities.

This weekend, Isaiah will be hosting a football camp that is part of the USA Football FUNDamentals program in partnership with NFL Play60. This program introduces children to football by teaching basic skills in a fun and energetic environment. Certified clinicians use a series of drills to show passing, catching, and running skills in a non-contact setting. The purpose of this camp is to ensure that children are learning and having fun while being active.

Isaiah was selected to bring this program to Columbus, Georgia, through the NFL Foundation's player grant program. The Columbus community is proud that Isaiah plans on making this area a priority for his charitable efforts throughout his NFL career and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I have long said that in our area of Middle and Southwest Georgia, we have some of the best, the brightest, the most creative, and the most talented young people anywhere in the world. And Isaiah Crowell proves that beyond the shadow of a doubt! This young man is a true representation of what it means to triumph in the face of adversity. Throughout his personal struggles, Isaiah has shown what it means to preserve and chase his dreams. I support Isaiah in his NFL career and I am immensely proud of the spirit of philanthropy that Isaiah is bringing to his local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in recognizing and commending Isaiah Crowell for his remarkable accomplishments as an athlete and for his generous heart and humble spirit as a philanthropist.

RECOGNIZING MR. GRANT JONES  
OF KUKURUZA GOURMET POPCORN

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Grant Jones, of KuKuRuZa Gourmet Popcorn of Seattle, on receiving the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Washington State 2015 Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Today's KuKuRuZa began modestly as Popcorn Pavilion in the garage of his father-in-law, Charles Brown. Shortly after, in 2011, Grant was approached by the original owners of KuKuRuZa with an offer to sell their business to Grant, who jumped at the opportunity. In just three short years, Grant, together with the strong support of his wife, Ashley, grew KuKuRuZa into a multimillion dollar international company.

Since 2011, KuKuRuZa has expanded from one downtown Seattle location to 17 stores in Washington state and around the world. During this time, KuKuRuZa's sales have increased substantially; from \$360,000 in its first year to \$2.7 million by 2014. Much of this success is due to strong demand for KuKuRuZa's products and the company's expansion into international markets, which include 13 stores in Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. At the store location in Japan, for example, customers are said to stand in line for up to two hours to purchase KuKuRuZa's products.

Despite its rapid growth into an international company, KuKuRuZa continues to put its consumers first and strives to keep its ingredients

organic, fresh, and local to the Pacific Northwest. The company's success has resulted in considerable growth in recent years and generated economic activity and jobs that have benefited Washington state.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Grant Jones in receiving this year's SBA's 2015 Young Entrepreneur Award. I look forward to hearing further great things from Grant and KuKuRuZa in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER "ED"  
REILLY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Representative JOHN LARSON of Connecticut to honor the long record of service to working men and women by Peter "Ed" Reilly, retiring Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the Ironworkers Union Local 15, of Hartford, Connecticut. Ed has been a leader in Local 15 for 19 years, advocating for his members who build the infrastructure of our state—buildings, transportation, water works and mass transit—leaving a lasting legacy which will benefit Connecticut businesses and families for generations. He did so while ensuring his members receive fair wages with health benefits and pension security which are the pillars of middle class prosperity.

During Ed's tenure, he created and maintained a strong apprenticeship program providing apprenticeships to young residents of Connecticut—many from low income families who otherwise would not have had any chance to escape their circumstances. He literally has transformed the lives of thousands with his apprenticeship efforts.

Ed has also served as a leader in Connecticut's labor community, presiding over the greater Hartford Building Trade Council, Eastern Connecticut Building Trade Council, and Connecticut Building Trade Council. He was a frequent presence at the State Capitol, calling on his deep understanding and respect for the political process. Ed drew his strong political knowledge in part from his father Peter Reilly Sr., who also led Local 15 and later had a distinguished career as Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Labor. The Reilly family can be proud of a compelling and unique political and governing legacy in the State of Connecticut.

Lastly, we want to note that all of these accomplishments came with a high personal cost. Ed's workday started at the crack of dawn and ended late at night, with little or no break, even on the weekends. Ed and his family—his wife Noreen and his children Peter and Raeanne—have earned a long and fruitful retirement. We both ask the full House to join us in extending our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Ed and his family as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

HONORING DR. PAUL HOMMERT

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to recognize Dr. Paul Hommert, Director of Sandia National Laboratories and President of Sandia Corporation as he prepares for retirement.

In 1976, Paul began his career as a member of the technical staff for Sandia in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Paul stood out among his colleagues, and gradually was given increased responsibility with a broad range of programs and management assignments. He led programs supporting energy research, and from the mid- to late-1990s, Paul served as the Director of Engineering Services.

Paul went on to become the Director of Research and Applied Science at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in the United Kingdom, where he led the science and engineering division responsible for the country's nuclear deterrent. From 2003 to 2006, Paul served as the lead for the Applied Physics Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory, charged with nuclear weapon design and assessment, weapon performance code development, and weapon science support.

In 2009, Paul returned to Albuquerque to serve as the Executive Vice President and Deputy Laboratories Director for Sandia's Nuclear Weapons Program, eventually becoming the Director of Sandia National Laboratories and President of Sandia Corporation.

Paul has propelled Sandia to new heights, bolstering its reputation as the nation's premier science and engineering laboratory for national security and technology innovation. In recognition of Paul's efforts and accomplishments, the Federal Laboratory Consortium named Paul Laboratory Director of the Year in 2013 for his steadfast commitment to Sandia's technology-transfer activities.

Paul has received numerous accolades and achieved many accomplishments throughout his career. Most notably, he inspired and prepared a new generation of scientists and engineers who are making important contributions to our national security.

It is with great honor and privilege that I take this moment to thank Paul for his service on behalf of the United States of America. I wish him continued happiness and an enjoyable, well-deserved retirement. His successes and contributions will always be appreciated.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLAIRE  
KNOPF

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Claire Knopf as she is honored by the Monmouth County Historical Association at its 40th annual Garden Party on June 28, 2015. Claire's exemplary leadership and contributions to the Monmouth County Historical Association and the greater Monmouth County area are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

A resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey since 1986, Claire has been an active and charitable member of the community. She has been an outstanding leader of the Monmouth County Historical Association for many years, serving as a trustee, first vice president and 20th president of the Board of Trustees. In addition to her work with the Monmouth County Historical Association, Claire has volunteered on the Rumson Country Day School Executive Council, the Leon Hess Cancer Center at Monmouth Medical Center Women's Council, the Spring House, the Two River Film Festival and the Junior League of Monmouth County, among others. Her involvement with numerous local charities and organizations reflect her passion to help others and improve our communities. Her leadership and hard work have greatly benefited the Monmouth County area and her efforts are admirable.

Claire received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Boston University. She and her husband Woody reside in Rumson and are the proud parents of three beautiful children.

For over 115 years, the Monmouth County Historical Association has provided Monmouth County residents and visitors with a vast background of our local history and heritage. Its efforts to preserve and promote our local history through programs, exhibits, and resources are valuable to our community and help to ensure that this important knowledge is available for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Claire Knopf and the Monmouth County Historical Association for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING CASTRO VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
JIM NEGRI ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim Negri, Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) Superintendent, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this month.

Born in Oakland and a resident of Castro Valley since 1985, Jim has devoted his career to educating students in California and, in particular, the East Bay. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics and teaching credential from the University of California, Berkeley, and his master of arts degree and administrative credential from Saint Mary's College.

Jim has played a major role in educating East Bay students for many years. He held a variety of positions in the Pleasanton Unified School District and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District as well as worked as a superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District. Since 2009, Jim has been the CVUSD Superintendent.

Jim also has been active in the field of education administration. He served in many roles in the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), such as co-chair of the State Curriculum, Instruction, and Evaluation Committee and President of ACSA Region VI (Alameda and Contra Costa counties).