

I will continue to work to protect and expand Social Security, improve health care affordability, and create affordable long-term care options.

Americans who have worked hard, raised families, and kept our country strong should be able to live their years in retirement with dignity and independence.

The Older Americans Act helps them do that by providing critical services to millions of senior citizens and their families.

Reauthorization of this important piece of legislation should occur as soon as possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote number 434. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

HONORING BEAR WALLOW DISTILLERY

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, small businesses across my district work every day to produce the goods and services needed to drive our economy, and today it is my honor to highlight one of them. My home state of Indiana has a long heritage of agriculture and manufacturing business, as well as a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. One small business in Indiana's 9th District, Bear Wallow Distillery, sits at the center of these proud Hoosier traditions.

Bear Wallow Distillery, located in scenic and historic Brown County, Indiana, is a home-grown success story. Founded and still owned by Mike and Susan Spagnuolo, their craft distillery opened its doors in August 2014. In the year since, the company has expanded its initial offering of Hoosier-made moonshine to include bourbon and several different whiskeys; all crafted from locally grown and supplied ingredients. Operating a still and a serving room, Bear Wallow has served thousands of thirsty Hoosiers. Visitors can see the distillery operation on behind-the-scene tours and sample local foods as well as drinks.

Bear Wallow does its part to support our long tradition of quality craftsmanship. The company creates its signature spirits using a traditional copper still from another family-owned small business, Vendome Brass and Copper of Louisville, KY. The small-batch, handcrafted spirits that Bear Wallow produces are then aged in charred American White Oak barrels and served up straight or as part of a cocktail. The business is known for its "Moonshine shake-ups," made with fruit elixirs and served in a tasting area featuring Prohibition-era decorations and a bare-wood bar made from locally milled red oak.

Bear Wallow refers to itself as "the first legal distillery in Indiana." The claim rings very true, as the success of Bear Wallow would not

have been possible even two years ago. Previous Indiana law prevented would-be entrepreneurs from operating small distilleries in the state. Following changes to the law in 2013, Mike and Susan Spagnuolo were on the front line pioneering this industry that is flourishing in Indiana's 9th District. Their small business, like so many others, is helping to create needed jobs, drive our local economy, and generate tourism throughout the state.

It is an honor representing entrepreneurs like the Spagnuolos who took a risk opening Bear Wallow Distillery. I hope their example serves to inspire other would-be entrepreneurs, and am pleased to highlight their good work today in this installment of Indiana's 9th District Small Business Spotlight.

CONGRATULATING SECKMAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Seckman Senior High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Seckman Senior High School for a job well done.

HONORING JOANNE LEINOW ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE DESERT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Joanne Leinow on her retirement after 28 years of service with the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program, whose mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Throughout her nearly three decades of service, Ms. Leinow has been involved in with BBBS in both large and small communities, all across the country including Cincinnati, Ohio, Los Angeles, California, and most recently here in our desert. From her contribution in 1960, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to her work with the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters in Los Angeles in the 1990s, and finally her most recent service over the past 9 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert, Ms. Leinow has made a tremendous impact on thousands of youth in our nation.

In 2002, Ms. Leinow was hired at the BBBS of the Desert to develop a site based mentoring program. Unfamiliar with the region, Ms. Leinow performed her BBBS "magic." In 2006

she was promoted to Partnership Development Director for her incredible job recruiting new volunteers, developing community and business partnerships, and making sure that the Coachella Valley community knew BBBS was the "go-to" agency for mentoring.

From the time Ms. Leinow became the Partnership Development Director in 2006, BBBS has seen a 108% increase in the number of children served, increasing from 333 children in 2006 to 555 in 2010.

Ms. Leinow's hard work and passion for public service does not go unnoticed. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Skip Walsh Award in 2011, which honors BBBS professionals who excel in the qualities of education, enthusiasm, and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Leinow's commitment to public service and particularly to stimulate children to overcome hardship through mentorship is an act of human kindness. On behalf of all those who have benefited from BBBS, and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Ms. Leinow for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PERCIVAL LOWELL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce an article entitled "The Bostonian astronomer who dreamed of Pluto" that was published in the Boston Globe on July 12, 2015. Written by Ted Widmer, this article reviews the life and accomplishments of Percival Lowell, the Boston astronomer that had a tremendous impact on the discovery of Pluto. As the *New Horizons* spacecraft sped past that distant planet this morning, this article stands as a tribute to ensure we do not forget Percival Lowell's part in this great human achievement of innovation and exploration.

THE BOSTONIAN ASTRONOMER WHO DREAMED OF PLUTO

(By Ted Widmer, The Boston Globe)

This Tuesday, July 14, at 7:49:57 a.m. EDT, the *New Horizons* spacecraft will rendezvous with Pluto at a point in space nearly 3 billion miles from Earth. It's been a long strange trip.

New Horizons launched nearly a decade ago, on Jan. 19, 2006. It received a gravity boost from Jupiter in 2007, and has been cruising at more than 30,000 miles per hour ever since. It won't even slow down as it passes by the planet at the end of the solar system, but it will gather data and take photos as it screams silently by.

By 7:49:58, the moment will have passed, and *New Horizons* will be seeking new adventures in the Kuiper Belt.

For New Englanders, there are a couple reasons to feel proud of the fly-by. The mission is the first in the "New Frontiers" series, named after President Kennedy. And Pluto is something of a local concern. Though Pluto was formally discovered by a Kansan named Clyde Tombaugh in 1930, he was spurred to look where he did because of calculations made years earlier by a Bostonian astronomer, Percival Lowell.

Lowell was born in 1855, near the State House—the epicenter of “the Hub of the Solar System,” as Oliver Wendell Holmes famously called the city. More than most, Lowell helped Boston live up to that claim, with his relentless research into the heavens. The astronomical symbol for Pluto, a P and L mashed together, is a tribute to him. And by laying out instructions for where to look for the celestial object he called “Planet X,” Lowell was like the owner of a shoveled-out parking spot, leaving a battered lawn chair as a space-saver, to mark his territory forever. How Boston is that?

Lowell was an unlikely astronomical pioneer. He grew up privileged, one of a brood that included Harvard’s future president, A. Lawrence Lowell, and the poet Amy Lowell (whom he called “Big Fat Baby”). He could have coasted, the way so many wealthy Americans did in the smug years that followed the Civil War. But three deep passions seized him, and helped him to achieve escape velocity—enough to leave Boston’s gravity forever.

The first of these was Japan. In 1883, after a brief period managing family investments, he set sail for what he called “the morning land,” in search of spiritual enlightenment. Americans had begun to appreciate Japanese design at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, so fresh and direct in contrast to the grandiloquent statements of the Gilded Age. A small wavelet of Bostonians traveled there, or even established residence, including William Sturgis Bigelow (who gave 40,000 Japanese artifacts to the MFA), Isabella Stewart Gardner, Edward Sylvester Morse, and Ernest Fenollosa. Lowell happily joined this expatriate tide, which fit perfectly his desire to declare independence from the Hub.

He lived in Japan for 10 years, and wrote prolifically about Shintoism and other aspects of a culture that he found un-Bostonian in every way—except for its ancestor worship. At the same time, Boston helped him immensely, by distributing his esoteric musings through well-trusted outlets like *The Atlantic*. His writings inspired other Japanophiles, and they helped Lowell gain the confidence to explore other worlds. These he was beginning to glimpse, by climbing Japanese mountains, where it was understood that spiritual understanding came more quickly. The Buddhists revere what they call “celestial” enlightenment. Typically, Lowell found it in his own way, by searching the skies for unusual objects.

In 1893, he began to devote intense study to the planet Mars, the second of his three obsessions. Learning that Mars would be approaching close to Earth the next year, he dropped everything and began to prepare. He purchased land on an elevated plateau near Flagstaff, Ariz., brought two large telescopes, and for the next 23 years devoted his attention to the place he named Mars Hill. It became a kind of transcendental-astronomical paradise for him, and he delivered philosophical musings, like, “To stand a mile and a half nearer the stars is not to stand immune.” Lowell’s principal thesis—that Mars contained a network of canals, and was likely inhabited—was more imaginative than scientific.

But despite Lowell’s failure to find signs of extraterrestrial life, his years of close observation yielded much valuable data, and helped people see our planetary neighbor in new ways. The science fiction industry was not slow to follow his lead, and tales of Martian invaders have never failed to sell. He built an important establishment in Arizona, the Lowell Observatory. And once again, he fell in love with an exotic land—this time, the Southwest, where he wandered happily, collecting plant specimens by day, and stars by night.

Lowell’s third passion took him even further afield. Earlier in life, as a young man recently graduated from Harvard, he had tired of Boston’s predictability, and written, with the studied weariness of the young, that he was considering “migrating to another planet or ceasing to exist.”

In 1905, he began an obsessive search for a new planet, beyond Neptune, the legendary “Planet X.” He predicted where it might be found, and even photographed it in 1915, although he was not aware that he had. He died a year later, but it would have delighted this otherworldly thinker to know that his research lived on and provided a road map to the sky-gazers who followed in his wake.

In 1930, when Pluto was finally pinpointed, there was universal excitement. Walt Disney named Mickey Mouse’s dog after the discovery. The element plutonium was also named after Pluto. There were now nine planets—a number that felt right. It seemed as if Lowell had found final vindication, after all those years chasing Japanese ghosts and Martian canals.

But year by year, as scientists got to know Pluto better, they liked it less, finding it smaller than expected, icy, and dubious in other ways, including its orbit and its relationship with neighboring objects. In 2006, 101 years after Lowell began his search for it, Pluto suffered the ultimate indignity when it was downgraded to a “dwarf planet.” The fleeting fly-by this Tuesday may help restore luster to the object formerly known as Planet X. But more than likely, we will have to look elsewhere for Lowell’s vindication.

Fortunately, it’s not too hard to find. In June, scientists began to get excited again about the possibility of life on Mars, and research is coming into the Martian subsoil. A different monument to Lowell exists right here, in Cambridge’s Mount Auburn Cemetery. He is not buried there, that would be too predictable (his actual grave is at Mars Hill, in Arizona). But a piece of petrified rock, left by his instruction, gives his grave’s real location, and testifies to the enduring individuality of a Bostonian who wanted to be present, but not too present. Percival Lowell always encountered the world on his own terms.

**CONGRATULATING NEW HAVEN
HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS BRONZE
MEDAL AWARD**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Haven High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school’s administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing New Haven High School for a job well done.

**TRIBUTE TO STANLEY AND WILMA
EMBREE**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stanley

and Wilma Embree on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2015.

This couple was married in North Carolina in 1945 and farmed in Adams County until the 1980’s. Stanley and Wilma now live in Atlantic, Iowa in Cass County. Stanley and Wilma’s lifelong commitment to each other and to their children and family truly embodies Iowa’s values. I congratulate this devoted couple on their 70 years together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**DISTINGUISHED OFFICER EDWARD
ALFRED THOMAS**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Houston Police Headquarters will soon be renamed in honor of the retired Senior Police Officer Edward Alfred Thomas, a fitting tribute to his lifelong service to the city of Houston.

Police Officer Edward Alfred Thomas, also known as “Mr. Thomas” around the station, has provided 65 years of service as an officer to the Houston Police Department.

Officer Thomas served the Houston Police Department from January 12, 1948 to July 23, 2011. His accomplishments are numerous and include The 100 Club, Officer of the Year, the Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Chief of Police Commendation.

Officer Thomas served nearly 20 years prior to the Civil Rights Movement and was one of the first African-American police officers to integrate into the Houston Police Department.

Fellow officers declare that Officer Thomas has been an incredible example of perseverance, courage, and duty to the Houston Police Force.

Several organizations support the proposal to name the Police Headquarters in Officer Thomas’s honor such as the African American Police Officer League (AAPOL), Houston Police Officer’s Union (HPOU), the Houston Organization of Public Employees (HOPE), and Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers (OSSO).

The City Council unanimously approved the proposal to name the Houston Police Headquarters in his honor on June 15, 2015.

And that’s just the way it is.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,921,010,337.51. We’ve added \$7,525,044,062,425.42 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could