

Leah Sims and the long-lasting, positive influence that she has left on Southern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING “THE MONETT TIMES” AND “THE CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT” ON THEIR MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two publications in Missouri’s Seventh Congressional District, which were honored with top awards at the Missouri Press Association’s (MPA) annual convention this September.

“The Monett Times” was distinguished with the State-Wide General Excellence Award, while “The Cassville Democrat” brought home the MPA’s Gold Cup—the association’s highest honor. For both “The Monett Times” and “The Cassville Democrat”—who have been in circulation 116 and 144 years respectively—these top awards are believed to be the first that each community publication has won.

In addition to these top honors, these prestigious small-town newspapers’ staffs and reporters took home a plethora of more than forty other awards, including a total of 13 first place honors, at the September 5th ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge accomplishment all around for the Monett and Cassville communities in Southwest Missouri—whose citizens have been humbly and amply thanked by both “The Monett Times” and “The Cassville Democrat” for their support leading to their honors. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to these publications and their teams on their work, which makes me proud to serve the people in Missouri’s Seventh Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROWNLEE FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Brownlee Family of Macksburg, Iowa, for being selected to receive the Iowa Farm Environmental Leaders Award. Receiving this award was Glenda, Dan, Megan, Kevin, and Alex Brownlee.

Presented by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, this prestigious Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award is a joint effort to recognize the exceptional voluntary efforts of Iowa farmers to preserve and protect the environment of our state.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by the Brownlee Family is a commendable one. Their willingness to dedicate themselves to great stewardship of their land is an example that should be followed by all Iowans. I am proud to represent them and Iowans like them in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives will join me in congratulating the Brownlee’s for their achievements and wish them nothing but continued success.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERKLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Berkley School District as it celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. The Berkley School District serves the cities of Berkley, Huntington Woods and the northern portion of Oak Park, all of which I have had the privilege of representing during my tenure in the House of Representatives.

The Berkley School District had its beginnings in 1840, only 3 years after Michigan attained statehood, in the Blackmon School, a one-room schoolhouse that was part of the Royal Oak Township School District #7. Berkley, like our nation, has changed dramatically in the last 175 years. What began as a one room school house in the area of Catalpa and Coolidge (Blackmon School) is now a comprehensive PreK–12 district including nine buildings and a commitment to personal excellence for all students. This commitment is evident in the achievement of Berkley School District students, whose high school graduation rate is 98%, with nearly 100% of graduates continuing their education at colleges and universities.

It is no surprise that Berkley School District students are so well-prepared for future success, as nearly 60% of its teachers have Masters degrees or higher, its high school students are offered more Advanced Placement courses than any other traditional high school campus in Oakland County, and the district is home to Norup Academy, the only K–8 International Baccalaureate program in the country which is housed on a single campus. Just a few weeks ago, Pattengill Elementary School was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015, which helps to illustrate the district’s commitment to excellence for the earliest learners as well as those preparing to graduate from high school.

As important as strong academics are to student success, the Berkley School District has helped students excel in music, the arts, and other extracurricular activities. Its orchestra, marching band and concert band have won numerous state honors, as has its capella, bell tone and concert choirs. Its students have had their artwork shown at national, state and local competitions. And students in the Berkley School District’s co-curricular programs, including marketing, communications, literacy and poetry, and robotics have won honors at the state, local, and national levels.

The Berkley School District has long benefited from strong community support, which I know firsthand. My beloved late wife Vicki and I raised our children in Berkley, and all four of them attended the Berkley Schools. Indeed, it is fair to say that the roots of my career in public service were planted in our involvement in the district. Vicki joined the Berkley Council for Better Schools in 1959, an organization committed to maintaining excellence in the

schools. We hosted Council meetings in our house and made many lifelong friends through our involvement.

This community involvement, which has been so meaningful to me personally, continues today. Parents frequently volunteer for school activities, voters support millages to improve students’ learning environment and to upgrade technology, and residents contribute to the Berkley Education Foundation, which supports classroom needs as well as the arts programs. In its 175th year, the district’s success is rooted in support from the community; it is shepherded by the committed leadership of the Berkley School Board, Superintendent Dennis McDavid and his administrative team; and most importantly it has as its cornerstone the teachers and other education professionals who every day demonstrate their commitment to helping children achieve their full potential.

As the Berkley School District celebrates this significant milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, staff, alumni and the entire community as they celebrate their rich history and continue their success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, Massachusetts as they kick off a yearlong celebration for their 300th anniversary. The establishment of this Congregational church was pivotal in the founding of the town of Longmeadow in 1783 and the great community that flourishes to this day.

The origins of the First Church of Christ come from the Pilgrims and Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony fleeing England to escape religious persecution. After the settlement of Springfield, Massachusetts was founded in the 1630s on the banks of the Connecticut River, a group of families came together and created the neighborhood of “longmeddowe,” as it was called at the time. At the time, the only church they could go to was First Church in Springfield, miles away from their homes. There were also a series of attacks on the settlers by local Native American tribes. Due to the hazardous journey, the families of Longmeadow decided in 1713 that they should have the right to build their own church in the safety of their neighborhood. During that period, the Massachusetts General Court needed to grant approval to form a parish. After Longmeadow’s fourth appeal to the Massachusetts’ colonial General Court, they were granted permission to create their own congregation. Since the church was the center of not only religious life, but also political life, Longmeadow was set on the path to become their own town.

The first meeting house was completed in March of 1716, where the town’s Green is located today. Meetings and services were held there despite the walls taking 13 years to be plastered and without a stove or heating for 50 years. These meetings were a chance for people to have a voice in their community and

local politics, a form of direct democracy that would be the cornerstone of American independence from the monarchy in Great Britain. Even today, Longmeadow elects selectmen, just as they did when the community was founded. The founders and parishioners of the First Church of Christ left a fine blueprint on how democracy at its most fundamental roots, can have a lasting effect on a community and on a nation.

Mr. Speaker, The First Church of Christ still has much to offer to its parishioners and is still the cornerstone of Longmeadow even after the original meeting house has long been replaced. As they continue to celebrate their 300th anniversary year, I wish them all the best in their endeavors to preserve their rich history and community involvement that has been the legacy of the First Church of Christ.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE BALKANS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a resolution to recommend the designation of a Presidential Special Envoy for the Balkans.

In November of 1995 the United States government spearheaded a series of peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, that ended more than three years of warfare and ethnic cleansing that plagued much of the Balkans region. Ultimately, from those talks stemmed the Dayton Peace Accords, which essentially established the new-nation state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, as time has evolved since Dayton, the U.S. has made uneven attempts to continue this important dialogue and revisit the many weaknesses in the original Dayton Agreement. As many have said over the years, the Dayton Accords solved the war of the 1990s but did not fully resolve the Constitutional and governmental needs for this new nation state.

The time has come to lend our services in aid to this important region and help Bosnia thaw her "frozen conflict," as it has been referred regarding the present situation. This new nation must continue to move forward toward full integration into our important western alliances. Bosnia and Herzegovina must further develop active and free capital markets in order to help secure governmental structures that fully protect the economic, political, and religious rights for her three recognized constituent peoples—the Croat Bosnians, the Bosniak Muslims, and the Serb Bosnians.

Croat Bosnians have had over the years trouble consistently electing a truly representative Croatian to the tri-partite Presidency in Sarajevo. In addition, many Croats in Bosnia still do not have full ownership of their pre-war properties and are unable to return to their homesteads. A country is respected for how it treats its smallest constituencies, and in reality the future success of the Croats in Bosnia is the glue that will hold Bosnia and Herzegovina together in the future.

While the U.S. has urged the Bosnian government to initiate needed revisions them-

selves, we have witnessed this relatively new nation state, which maintains great political and economic potential, actually fall back into occasional violent patterns as witnessed in February 2014.

As the Representative of the 44th district of California, an area steeped in Balkans culture with a very active Croatian American community, I have heard firsthand the concerns arising from growing general instability and the economic and political difficulties experienced by the Croatian Bosnians, the smallest of the three Dayton recognized constituent peoples of Bosnia.

As I have stated before, this region is integral to the future success of our interdependent international community and a Europe that is whole and prosperous. We have an obligation to support the democratic and free market progress that has been hard won over the last two decades in the Balkans. The United States and Europe cannot be distracted by other regions dominating the news.

My Resolution will establish a much needed independent Special Envoy for the Secretary of State. This Envoy shall fully investigate the current state of affairs and provide a comprehensive report to the Congress and the Administration. This report will recommend additional and alternative methods for assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in developing a fully functional and stable system of government—a system that her people so adamantly desire and fully deserve.

Therefore, I call upon this 114th Congress to designate a special Presidential Envoy to evaluate the successes and shortcomings of the Dayton Peace Accords, and to provide tangible policy recommendations so that we may assist this region to fully establish the security and prosperity that its citizens demand for themselves. It is my greatest hope that the United States can remain a catalyst for change and success in the Balkans, as it illustrated earlier during the era of the Dayton Accords.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN PAULINE LUND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evelyn Lund of Lenox, Iowa, for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment, and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years.

Evelyn was born and raised in Adams County, Iowa and has served on the Adams County Youth and 4-H committee. Her encouraging smile and positive attitude with all 4-H members made her a great fit for her role as a youth leader. Evelyn and her husband Paul are the parents of three children, Nancy, Laurie, and Charles. Each of their children were active in 4-H programs growing up. Today, Evelyn encourages a third generation of 4-H members in Adams County to develop skills and confidence through various 4-H programs.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Evelyn for earning this award. She is a shining

example of how encouragement and a positive influence can have a lasting impact on our youth. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Evelyn for this accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DON EDWARDS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I note the passing of our former colleague, Don Edwards, on October 1. While Don retired from his seat representing his district in Northern California in 1994, he left a lasting legacy after his 32-year career in the House.

Taking office in 1963, Don came to Congress at a time when our country was in dire need of men of conscience and the courage to lead on issues concerning civil rights, civil liberties, and the proper limits of government power. Don answered the call, quickly registering his support for landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a Member of the Judiciary Committee, he became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, a position he used for decades to protect the fundamental rights of all Americans.

He fought particularly hard, in reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, to preserve the Section 5 preclearance requirements for states that had a legacy of voting rights abuses. He realized how critical this law is to the foundational aspirations of America, and said, "If you can't vote, you are not a real citizen."

Another area where Don focused his energies concerned the uncovering and elimination of abusive government surveillance. Having been an FBI agent for a brief period prior to his military service in World War II, Don brought to Congress an understanding of the need for government to enforce the laws while not violating the civil liberties of those it is designed to serve. His work on the Judiciary Committee included actions to reign in government surveillance, and he was also instrumental in shutting down the House Un-American Activities Committee, whose sad legacy continues to caution Congress not to abuse its considerable powers.

In matters of foreign affairs and the use of U.S. military power, he showed wise judgment in opposing the Vietnam War and also opposed the use of military force in other instances, such as the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991.

I knew Don Edwards as a principled man who never stopped believing that the government's coercive powers should be subject to the highest levels of scrutiny, and that we should never forget that our government exists through the consent of the governed, with the purpose of preserving and not eroding our rights. We are grateful for his service to Congress and this country. He will be missed, but we will continue the work he devoted himself to in the Judiciary Committee and in Congress.