

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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEGAN
ELIZABETH BARRON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Megan Elizabeth Barron, who recently passed away on September 10, 2015, at the age of 24. Megan was an extraordinary person, and she will always be remembered as a young woman who lived her life with purpose and great dedication to her family, community, and strangers via her writing and advocacy for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa.

Megan passed away surrounded by her loving family at the University of Miami Hospital. She was born on January 26, 1991, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Richard E. Barron and Elizabeth Ward. Megan was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, an extremely severe skin condition that led her to write about her life experiences and further inspire others. She was an extremely talented young woman who was admired by many and always asserted her right for respect.

Regardless of the obstacles Megan encountered she remained positive and was a scholar who focused on her studies. Megan graduated salutatorian of Coral Springs High School in 2009. She went on to graduate from Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University in 2013. While at Duke, Megan was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and she founded the Duke Disability Alliance.

Among her many accomplishments Megan was a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Advanced Placement Scholar of Distinction and a Florida International University book award winner. She received the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award in general scholarship and the annual Spirit Award from the Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa Research Association (DebRA) of America. Megan also interned with the White House, Senator BILL NELSON of Florida's legislative office and the Library of Congress. During her last two years Megan served as the Social Media Coordinator for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).

Megan was a model of comportment in the face of daunting adversity. Despite her illness, she never seemed to let it get in her way. She enjoyed history, food, flowers, travel, poetry, writing, the Pittsburgh Steelers, ballet, sailing, French culture, politics, and the arts. Megan is survived by her father Richard E. Barron, mother Elizabeth Ward, stepfather James Patrick Ward, and brother Jason R. Barron.

The poem below titled *The Butterfly Child* written by Megan back in 2003 perfectly depicts her inspiring persona and the way in which she served as a role model and inspiration to those that she met.

A fragile little butterfly
Whose been cursed but doesn't know why
Who sees the world through different eyes
And soars with the wings for the butterflies
For the precious little butterfly
Is different and she knows
That crying doesn't ever help
But sometimes her struggling shows
To be a butterfly in such a world
Where people are so vain

She tries to keep her chin up
She knows she can't complain.
Although her physical differences
Make life become a fight
She has been blessed in different ways
And sheds the world with light.
Though people are judgmental
To the precious butterfly
Her mind is one in a million
Her mind is her tool to fly

The curse has been put on the butterfly
Yes, she knows it's true
But she won't let it stop her
From soaring to the sky
The Miraculous little butterfly
Puts up a mighty fight
But that won't stand in this Butterflies way
From spreading her inspiring light

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saying farewell to a young woman who embodied passion and inspiration, Ms. Megan Elizabeth Barron. Her genuine character and loving commitment to life will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING TWIN CITIES PUBLIC
TELEVISION'S "BELIEVE IN
BLACK YOUTH" PROGRAMMING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Twin Cities Public Television's efforts through the American Graduate initiative to provide Minnesota's African American youth with a platform to share their educational journeys, challenges, and success stories with our community.

American Graduate is a multi-year public media initiative through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that aids local communities across America in finding solutions to the high school dropout crisis that plagues our nation.

I am proud that in Minnesota, Twin Cities Public Television's contribution to this national effort has been to explore not only the state's achievement gap in our African American community, but also the belief gap that fuels it. There is often a significant division in belief between what children and families of traditionally marginalized groups believe they can accomplish and what others in positions of power believe these youth are capable of. TPT's effort is aimed at exposing these barriers to success and providing youth with an opportunity to share their stories.

TPT's American Graduate supported programming is called "Believe in Black Youth," which includes segments on "Almanac," TPT's weekly public affairs program, online spots and much more. The cornerstone of TPT's efforts is a thirty minute documentary titled "Black Brilliance" which chronicles the journeys of five African American high school students to graduation and their dreams for the future. It is through stories like those told in "Black Brilliance" that TPT seeks to help change the narrative of a belief system about Minnesota's marginalized African American youth from one of inadequacy and disadvantage to one of value and worth.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education, and

ensuring that all of our nation's children have the best chance for success in life is the most important job we have as leaders, teachers, parents, and Americans. I am truly pleased to see Twin Cities Public Television address these critical issues and advancing the voices of those in our community who have found it so difficult to have their voices heard.

HONORING ALBERT CHEN FOR HIS
LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Chen on the occasion of his retirement. For 30 years Albert has served as Telamon Corporation's leader. He and his wife, Margaret, founded Telamon Corporation in 1985 and since then have turned it into a multi-million dollar company that employs hundreds of people and provides opportunities for people to do meaningful work. The Hoosier community is forever grateful for Albert's dedication to making Indiana a better place.

Albert, a Taiwan native, has been an innovator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. After receiving his degree from National Cheng-Chi University in Taiwan, Albert came to America to pursue a career in business. He received his master's degree in Mathematical Sciences from Portland State University and started his business career with GTE on the west coast. He later relocated to Indiana to fill the role of Manager of the Midwest region for GTE. Albert and Margaret decided to lay roots and build their business in Carmel, Indiana.

Albert is the founder, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Telamon Corporation, a company based in Carmel, Indiana. Telamon, a company whose mission is to simplify business for their clients, specializes in simplified solutions for telecommunication networks, business process outsourcing, energy management, industrial assembly, and telehealth services. Since its founding in 1985, Telamon has developed into one of the largest private companies in Indiana and is consistently ranked as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States. The company employs over 1,400 people, has ten domestic locations and three international facilities, two of which are in China. Additionally, the company is involved with improving the local communities. They launched the Telamon Foundation, which places special emphasis on non-profit organizations that focus on arts and education.

Promoting diversity in employment and throughout business operations is an important priority to Telamon, and Albert is proud that his company is a certified Minority Business Enterprise. Albert, who is also a graduate of the Executive Minority Business Program at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, takes pride in his heritage and has a passion for teaching Asians and Americans about each other, their diverse cultures and how to work together to build trust, share knowledge and create opportunities on U.S. soil and abroad. He established the America China Society of Indiana, which he created as a foundation to