

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MICROBEAD-FREE WATERS ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Microbead-Free Waters Act.

Microbeads, the small plastic particles contained in many face washes and other cleansing products, too often end up in America's lakes, rivers, and other water sources. In fact, a report last year from New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman found that up to 19 tons of microbeads could find their way into my home state's wastewater stream each year. These particles accumulate pollutants, increasing toxicity of our waters, and pose a threat to fish and other wildlife that ingest plastic.

I commend the many leading companies that voluntarily responded to these concerns by phasing out the use of plastic microbeads in their product lines, including L'Oreal, Unilever, and Avon.

I am pleased Congress acted this week to act on this important issue, with bipartisan legislation that will ban microbeads in personal care products beginning in 2017.

This legislation builds on the momentum from ten states that have passed legislation to ban microbeads—including nine just in 2015. Unlike some proposals that would put in place an unrealistic timeline for implementation, or phase in the restriction years later than H.R. 1321, this federal legislation will grant all parties sufficient time to eliminate microbeads, while ensuring quick action on this growing concern. The Microbead-Free Waters Act will ensure consumers know that the products they use each day will not pollute our precious lakes and rivers.

I urge the Senate to act quickly to pass this legislation, and congratulate Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for their hard work on this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on November 30, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on roll call vote Number 644 and roll call vote Number 645.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ESTHER ORTIZ CARDENAS

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Esther Ortiz Cardenas of Del Rio, Texas.

A beloved mother of 12 children, grandmother of 29 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and 8 great, great grandchildren, Mrs. Cardenas is a woman known for her devout faith, her hard work and her generous hospitality.

Whether it was cooking from scratch, making clothes for the family, tending chickens, creating home-made soap or tending her garden to put food on the table, she always worked hard to ensure her family never wanted for anything.

Knowing that God would always provide, Mrs. Cardenas never hesitated to feed the hungry or help others who were in need. When faced with troubled times, she turned to God, believing in answered prayers.

Surrounded by her family and friends, Mrs. Cardenas celebrated 100 years on November 28th of this year. Mrs. Cardenas is without question, a Proverbs 31 woman—a blessing to her family and her community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Esther Ortiz Cardenas on turning 100 years young and may you celebrate many more.

CONGRATULATING THE CRYSTAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL HORNETS FOR THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 1 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Crystal City High School Hornets for their first place win in the 2015 Class 1 Girls Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Crystal City Hornets for a job well done.

HONORING D. PATRICK CURLEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of D. Patrick Curley, who has dedicated

fifty years to the service of our Western New York community.

Mr. Curley was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. After graduating from Canisius High School in 1959, where he was first team all Catholic in tennis, he moved to Boston, where he graduated with an A.B. degree in mathematics from Boston College in 1963. He then returned to Buffalo to pursue an M.S. degree from Canisius College.

He was an instructor at D'Youville and Canisius Colleges, where he lectured in statistics, accounting, and business valuation techniques. Mr. Curley went on to work in banking at Marine Midland, before starting his own business consulting company, St. Lawrence Business Consultants, in 1977.

He remains president of St. Lawrence Business Consultants today, specializing in training seminars, economic development projects, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, corporate valuations and ESOPs. At St. Lawrence Business Consultants, he became the Washington liaison to Moog, Inc. He has also played a role in statewide economic development, including consulting with New York State's Ownership Transition Services Program and helping to retain more than ten thousand jobs in the state.

As a thirty year management seminar leader, Mr. Curley has conducted more than one hundred seminars throughout the United States with more than 3,000 participants.

He has served on the boards of several New York and international corporations, and is a member of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) under the auspices of the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Curley was a distinguished member of the board of the New York Power Authority from 2007 to 2012. And he was elected to three terms on the Orchard Park Town Board, where he served for 12 years and was regarded as an expert in public finance. He also served as chairman of sewer district #3 and was vice chair of the Southtown Recycling Consortium.

Mr. Curley has served in leadership positions for more than two dozen charitable, civic and philanthropic organizations. He founded the Orchard Park Council of the Arts and was a member of the National Board of Directors of the American Heart Association, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, and the President's Council of D'Youville College. He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Erie County Central Police Services, and director and chairman of the audit committee of a Western New York foundation. The Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce voted him Man of the Year, and he received multiple awards for his service to the American Heart Association.

For forty-six years, Mr. Curley has been a member of the Orchard Park Volunteer Fire Company becoming a life member in 1987. During this time he attended 5,147 emergency and fire calls.

An avid hockey enthusiast, he served as vice chair for the Southtowns YMCA board of managers, where he designed, financed, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

built an indoor ice rink. He also founded the Southtowns Hockey Officials Association, and was a referee for 35 years.

Mr. Curley is married to Carolyn G. Curley, the father of Jennifer Curley Reichert, Brendan Curley, and Shannon Curley Tower, and the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren. He is known for his colorful attire and positive attitude. He is a loyal, a proven consensus builder, cohesive team player, and a fair and effective leader. He never missed a St. Patrick's Day parade in Buffalo or New York City, or a chance to sing "God Bless America."

Mr. Speaker, Pat Curley is a proud American and Western New Yorker. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. D. Patrick Curley and thanking him for 50 years of commitment to his community, family, and country.

HONORING TONY YOUNG

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember an extraordinary advocate for individuals with disabilities, Mr. Tony Young.

Tony dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities and more importantly—helping individuals with disabilities advocate on behalf of themselves. He was the founder and first executive director of the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, a community resource and advocacy center run by and for persons with disabilities whose mission is to END dependence by empowering people with disabilities to live independently.

Tony also served as a senior public policy analyst with United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. He worked as the director of Residential Services and Community Supports for the American Rehabilitation Association in Washington, D.C. and served as president of Open Access, a consulting firm focusing on the design, development, evaluation and analysis of policies, programs and services for persons with disabilities.

For the past 16 years, Tony has held various positions at SourceAmerica where he led strategic and policy initiatives all with the singular goal of helping more individuals with disabilities to join the workforce.

Tony was a positive force in the lives of thousands, if not millions, of people with disabilities across the nation through his advocacy and the positive changes he supported. Tony passed away earlier this week at his home in the 11th District of Virginia. Although he will be greatly missed, his legacy will endure through those he touched, those he helped, and the societal changes he championed.

CONSTRUCT THE NATIONAL
EISENHOWER MEMORIAL

HON. MAC THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative MIKE THOMPSON

and Representative SANFORD BISHOP to urge our colleagues in Congress to move towards the construction and completion of the National Eisenhower Memorial as a fitting tribute to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and the 34th President of the United States.

As admirers of Dwight D. Eisenhower and his impact on history, it has been an honor to serve on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. It is our hope that Dwight D. Eisenhower and our country receive a memorial that properly commemorates his roles as General and President that helped shape our nation for the better. We believe the current proposed design achieves this goal.

For over ten years, the Commission has worked to develop a memorial that pays tribute to Eisenhower's achievements as both General and President. During this process, there have been some differences of opinion on how to best honor Eisenhower's accomplishments. Unfortunately, there has also been a fair amount of misinformation in many news stories and reports.

The Memorial was first authorized by Congress in 1999. Within the past few months, all final design and site approvals have been obtained under the process required by Congress from the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Since its inception, the Commission has consulted with members of the Eisenhower family. David Eisenhower was an original member of the Commission from 2001 through 2011, during which time the architectural firm and Memorial design were approved by unanimous votes.

Time is of the essence for our remaining World War II veterans. Funding of construction in Fiscal Year 2016 will allow the Memorial to be completed by the summer of 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Further delays would mean that those who fought under Eisenhower's command would not see its completion and call in to question whether the Memorial will ever be built. Now is the time to move ahead.

HONORING MAJOR KRYSSTYL WATSON'S
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Major Krystyl R. Watson, for her outstanding year as an Army Fellow in my Washington, DC office.

Krystyl, a Florida native, joined my staff last January as part of the Army Congressional Fellowship Program. Her extremely hard work and dedication has made her a vital part of my team that ensured that not a single day of her year in my office was wasted.

Before coming to Washington as a Fellow, Krystyl built quite the resume as a law enforcement officer in Florida. From her time as a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Tampa to her year spent deployed as a company commander

with the 912th Human Resources Company in Afghanistan, Krystyl brought a wide range of valuable experiences to Capitol Hill.

From day one, Krystyl dove right into the role of a legislative aide and was as meticulous as a seasoned staffer. There was never an issue she didn't care to learn, and her fresh perspective was invaluable. Her experiences in the U.S. Army Reserve and Florida Department of Law Enforcement were instrumental in helping me introduce important legislation to stop fraud against veterans and in securing critical funding for service members and veterans through the appropriations process.

With energy, optimism, and the unmatched work ethic of a soldier, Krystyl has helped make her year with my office one of my most productive yet. More than just helping with legislation, Krystyl has been an invaluable resource for the veterans in Florida's 17th Congressional District. Whether assisting with congressional inquiries or helping a veteran with a VA issue, Krystyl was always happy to take a veteran's phone call and find a way to help.

Over the last year, Krystyl was an outstanding legislative aide, earned her master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University, ran the Marine Corps marathon, and became an irreplaceable member of my team. Krystyl will be greatly missed, but I have no doubt that she will continue to set a standard of excellence in everything that she does.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE T. SAKATO

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of George T. Sakato.

George Sakato was born in Colton, California in 1921 and grew up in Southern California. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, his family moved from California to avoid the mass internment of Japanese Americans, and his family resettled in Arizona.

In 1944, at the age of 23, Mr. Sakato volunteered for the U.S. Army and joined the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. At 5 feet 4 inches, he was not your storybook soldier. What he lacked in stature, however, he made up for in bravery and devotion to his brothers in arms.

In October of 1944, Private Sakato's unit was sent on a mission to rescue 281 captured American soldiers in the Vosges Mountains of northeast France. In the firefight, Private Sakato's squad leader was killed after his unit pushed enemy German combatants from their defensive positions.

With no commanding officer, Private Sakato stepped up to lead his squad. He charged the enemy position. Singlehandedly, he killed 12 enemy soldiers and then, with the help of his unit, took 34 more as prisoners.

For his bravery, Private Sakato received the Distinguished Service Cross and was recommended for the Medal of Honor. Yet, like so many other Japanese-American soldiers during WWII, he was denied that honor due to deeply ingrained anti-Japanese racism.

More than a half century later, on June 21, 2000, Mr. Sakato and 21 other Asian-American veterans were finally given the recognition they had earned for their actions in combat and were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Clinton.

On Dec. 2nd, 2015, at the age of 94, George Sakato died in Denver, Colorado. George Sakato was one of the trailblazing men and women whose hands have shaped the United States into the great nation it is today. His example of bravery, humility, and love for his country is one to admire and emulate.

My condolences go to his daughter Leslie, and the rest of the Sakato family.

RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY
VOLUNTEERS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two constituents from my district, Thomas Sullivan and Daniel Disselkamp, who spent three weeks in northern Haiti building and upgrading powerlines to help communities receive affordable, safe, and reliable electricity. The power linemen from Nolin Electric Cooperative were the second group to volunteer their services on this project.

The project is one to commercialize power from the Caracol Industrial Park generation station that is currently serving 8,000 consumers in Caracol and surrounding communities with electricity 24 hours a day. When the project is complete, a total of 10,000 consumers will have access to electricity. One of the major factors contributing to ending poverty and improving the quality of life for people around the world is access to affordable and reliable electricity.

Only about 13 percent of Haitians currently have access to electricity, so the services provided by these linemen will have a positive impact on thousands of lives. Obtaining electricity access is an important step toward achieving improvements in healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.

That is why today I would like to thank and recognize Thomas Sullivan and Daniel Disselkamp for their service.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER CHAD
C. SCHUMACHER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Commander Chad C. Schumacher, United States Navy.

For the past year, Commander Schumacher, a proud naval aviator and graduate of the United States Naval Academy, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs

and intelligence matters. Commander Schumacher executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Commander Schumacher directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Commander Schumacher took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Commander Schumacher's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Commander Schumacher for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, humor and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. As an F-18 Hornet pilot with 2000 flight hours and 400 arrested landings, Commander Schumacher completed multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served as an instructor at the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). Commander Schumacher is headed to the Pentagon where he will work in Legislative Affairs for U.S. Northern Command. I have no doubt that Commander Schumacher will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Commander Chad Schumacher are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Commander Schumacher, thank you. Best wishes to you and God bless you, your family, and all the men and women in uniform. Fair winds and following seas.—and GO NAVY BEAT ARMY.

TRIBUTE TO LANDMARK INN
STATE HISTORIC SITE OF
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Landmark Inn State

Historic Site of Castroville, Texas, on the completion of its extensive restoration efforts. The Landmark Inn State Historic Site, which is a Texas Historical Commission property, preserves an important part of Texas' history. The Landmark Inn not only protects the cultural and natural value of this area, but also ensures that future generations of Texans will be able to enjoy its rich history.

The Landmark Inn gives unique insight into the lives of Texas' earliest settlers. The city of Castroville was established on September 3, 1844, by entrepreneur Henri Castro and a group of settlers from the Alsace region of France. One of its earliest inhabitants was a man named César Monod, who was elected Mayor of Castroville in 1852 and built a combined home and store to serve travelers along the San Antonio-El Paso road. In 1853, a merchant named John Vance bought the property and built living quarters for his visitors onto the existing store, including galleries, a family residence, and even a multistory bathroom. This became the Vance Hotel. Several other entrepreneurs, including George L. Haass and Laurent Quintle, built a dam on the property that diverted water from the Medina River to power a gristmill. Finally, in 1925, Jordan T. Lawler converted the gristmill into Castroville's very first electric power plant. It is over a hundred years later in 1981 that the Landmark Inn was dedicated as a historically designated site.

The 23rd Congressional District of Texas stretches from San Antonio to El Paso, along over 820 miles of the border, and includes Castroville, a gem that is home to over 2,600 residents. The Landmark Inn provides an opportunity for today's Texans to deepen their understanding of Castroville's early pioneers. Those dedicated to the Landmark Inn's restoration emulate the hard work and values evident in this great city's founders. The level of excellence shown in preserving the rich history of this site is a reflection of the residents of Castroville and their values, and their devotion to tradition serves as a source of pride for the entire city and the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. It is my honor to represent Castroville, and I wish continued success to the Landmark Inn in its future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA
HIGH SCHOOL COMETS FOR
THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Comets for their first place win in the 2015 Class 2 State Girls Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
THE BETTY DEVANE COVINGTON
LIBRARY AT DUMFRIES ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the "Betty DeVane Covington Library" at Dumfries Elementary School in Dumfries, Virginia. This year marks Mrs. Covington's 54th year in education and her 53rd year with the Prince William County Schools, having served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, and now School Board member. Mrs. Covington's tireless work has helped shape the minds and hearts of thousands of students, both young and old.

Mrs. Covington's longevity in the community is noted by many firsts. She served as the principal of the Saunders Kindergarten Center, the first public kindergarten in Prince William County; in 1995, she became the first elected School Board member in Dumfries, now Potomac Magisterial District; and she received the inaugural Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Prince William-Manassas, Educator of the Year Award, which was later renamed in her honor.

With a career dating back to 1961, Mrs. Covington has worked in numerous elementary schools within the county. Nine of her 11 years as a classroom teacher were spent at Dumfries Elementary School. Three years were spent as an assistant principal of Dale City Elementary School. During her tenure, the school participated in a pilot program for year-round education. From 1974 to 1976, Mrs. Covington served as principal of the Saunders Kindergarten Center. She ended her career after 19 years as principal of Kilby Elementary School. That same year, she was elected to the Prince William County School Board. Mrs. Covington served as the Dumfries School Board member for one year before returning to Dumfries Elementary School as the appointed principal for six years. Upon her final retirement from education administration in 2005, Mrs. Covington was again elected to the Prince William County School Board to serve three consecutive terms.

Over the course of her career, Mrs. Covington has been recognized for her commitment to educating the students of Prince William County. She has been nominated for The Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and Prince William County Principal of the Year. Her accolades also include receiving the Service Award from the School Board, Women of the Year from the Soroptimist Club, the Zontas Club, and Commission for Women, Minerva Award for Public Service by the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Human Rights Award from the Prince William County Human Rights Commission, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Betty Covington for her unwavering dedication to serving the children of Prince William County, first in the classroom and more recently as a member of the School Board representing the Potomac Magisterial District. Mrs. Covington has been an integral

and essential part of Prince William Public Schools through her commitment to public service for the betterment of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
SERGEANT MICHAEL JOE NAYLOR

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Sgt. Michael Joe Naylor of the Midland County Sheriff's Department. Sadly, Sgt. Naylor was taken from us in the line of duty on October 9, 2014.

Sgt. Naylor's life was dedicated to the service of his community and our county. After graduating from high school, Mike enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served 26 honorable years and earning the rank of Senior Master Sergeant before retiring.

After retiring from the military in 1999, Mike joined the Midland County Sheriff's Department. Through the years, Mike rose through the ranks and served as a leader on the police force. He was actively involved in many initiatives within the department, most notably serving as Commander of the Midland County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. In addition to serving as a Deputy Sheriff, Mike was also an emergency medical technician. Mike's noble duty to always protect others is one of the many reasons that made him special to Midland County.

Anybody who knew Mike would say that he was a compassionate and selfless professional that went above and beyond to serve his fellow man. His lifetime of service was recently recognized by the state of Texas with the renaming of State Highway 191 as the "Sergeant Michael Naylor Memorial Highway". I had the privilege to be a part of this dedication ceremony and am grateful for that opportunity.

On December 27th, we will be celebrating Mike's 48th birthday. Although the wounds of his loss are still fresh in the hearts of many back home, we must all come together and remember all of the good that Mike offered to the world. We are blessed to have individuals like Mike that serve our communities. His service exemplifies every aspect of the American spirit and makes our communities stronger and safer. His life is an example of how one's service can make their home a better place. His legacy will forever be carried on by his wife Denise, the rest of his immediate family, and his family of first responders.

HONORING THE FIRST BROADCAST
AND GRAND OPENING OF KEXP'S
NEW HOME AT SEATTLE CENTER

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first broadcast from KEXP's New Home in Seattle, and to salute the station as it prepares for the Grand Opening of its new home for music discovery in April of 2016.

Since its founding in 1972, KEXP has always been a champion for music discovery.

With a radio broadcast and online stream that reaches over 200,000 people per week as well as a video channel that reaches 750,000 more, KEXP has provided music lovers with decades of trusted, curated music discovery experiences, and introduced a global audience to new artists from the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

As a public radio station with vibrant community support, KEXP empowers its DJs to make bold choices and push themselves creatively, introducing audiences to new artists, and putting music in context by sharing stories, connecting musical threads, and juxtaposing today's emerging artists with the seminal artists that inspire them.

KEXP provides bands from the Pacific Northwest a stage from which they launch their music careers. KEXP connects thousands of artists to millions of music lovers. KEXP connects talent to record labels, promoters, and the music industry. The result is powerful; a thriving population of artists and bands who have the opportunity to successfully perform and present their art. KEXP is invigorating the community by helping arts and culture thrive in the Pacific Northwest.

With the opening of its new home at Seattle Center, KEXP will be able to serve the community in exciting new ways. It will host free live performances, create new educational partnerships, create public engagement spaces, and house cutting-edge broadcast and production technology.

As we tune in and celebrate the first broadcast from this state-of-the-art facility, I would like to convey my congratulations to KEXP on the opening of its new home as well as the growing number of opportunities it will create to bring great music into the lives of those in the 7th Congressional District and around the world.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 22,
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RE-
AUTHORIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, while I support the policy merits of this bill, I have strong concern about some of the funding mechanisms used to help pay for it. The concerns include provisions for drawdown and sale of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), selling 66 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to provide \$6.2 billion in offsets over 10 years.

As is often the case, what we have accomplished here is nothing more than an unsustainable budget gimmick. As adjusted for inflation, the average price per barrel of oil currently stored in the SPR is \$74. At a time when the global price of oil hovers at less than \$40 a barrel, and as OPEC continues to produce and flood the global market at historic rates, with no end in sight, I simply do not see how we can budget the sale of SPR oil at \$94 per barrel on average over the next 10 years to total \$6.2 billion in revenue. Our SPR was never intended as a budget gimmick, it is

about our energy and national security. Despite our record domestic production of crude oil, I believe it is irresponsible to use a vital national energy security asset as a budget gimmick.

Besides the fact that the math simply doesn't add up, I philosophically oppose the increasing tendency of the federal government to reallocate money intended for one purpose to then fund unrelated policy initiatives. It is disingenuous and irresponsible. And in the case of the surface transportation bill funding mechanisms, this approach is symptomatic of a larger problem.

The Highway Trust Fund was designed to be funded primarily through a user pays, user benefits model in the form of the federal gas tax. The increased fuel efficiency of vehicles, in conjunction with several policy and regulatory factors, has gradually eroded the gas tax's ability to keep pace with investment demands over time.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we begin work now to modernize the funding formula for the Highway Trust Fund and return to a user pays model. The longer we turn a blind eye towards addressing the user fee model, which has not been adjusted since 1993, and continue to ignore the need to build a 21st century funding mechanism reflective of the technological advancements at our disposal, the more fearful I am of passing a sustainable, long term investment to address our nation's ailing infrastructure in the future.

I applaud the chamber on its work to pass this 5-year bill, and I look forward to continuing work to ensure the next bill is more fiscally responsible, adhering to a paid for measure more closely aligned to a user pay, user benefit system.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTERS REFORM
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers Reform and Improvement Act (H.R. 3842). This bipartisan bill will codify and reauthorize the duties and responsibilities of Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETCs). FLETCs improve domestic preparedness, prevention, and response to terrorism by providing basic and advanced training to federal employees involved in federal law enforcement activities or homeland security operations. I am proud that this important national security work occurs in several locations across the country, including in my home state of New Mexico.

However, I have concerns about one particular provision within H.R. 3842: The ability for FLETCs to offer state and local law enforcement agencies training, which is meant for federal security personnel. Although I strongly believe that federal security personnel need to coordinate and work closely with state and local law enforcement agencies to prepare, prevent, and respond to terrorism, I have grave concerns with the ability of community

police departments to have complete and unrestricted access to military-style training at FLETCs.

For example, the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) has access to every Department of Energy National Training Center (NTC) class, which are intended for federal law enforcement personnel to protect our nation's nuclear materials. APD has completed dozens of DOE-instructed classes, including lessons on "vehicle ambush," "tactical leadership assault executions," and "how to lead a small element in a combat situation." The U.S. Department of Justice is currently reviewing APD's use of NTC classes, resources, and facilities.

I encourage FLETCs to enact sensible oversight mechanisms and restrictions on state and local law enforcement access to FLETC resources and facilities. FLETCs should have criteria to determine what training topics or classes, if any, are appropriate for state and local law enforcement. FLETCs should also consider the duty assignments and responsibilities of individual officers when determining allowing access. In addition, police departments under a Department of Justice consent decree for violating the constitutional rights of Americans or departments with a history of excessive or unnecessary force, should not receive military-style training provided by FLETCs.

I will continue to work with the Administration on strengthening the mission of FLETCs and on ensuring that state and local law enforcement have appropriate access.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT
AND TERRORIST TRAVEL
PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 158, the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act. I agree that Congress has a responsibility to carefully examine the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and to take appropriate steps to improve the program and ensure our national security.

Yet I am concerned that this bill would allow for the arbitrary discrimination of individuals based on their nationality. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the language contained in H.R. 158 is written so broadly that all nationals of Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan would have their VWP revoked, even if they have never resided or traveled to Iraq or Syria and only have nationality for those countries as a result of their parents.

This bill would also terminate VWP travel privileges for anyone who has been in Iraq and Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011, including those traveling to Iraq and Syria for professional purposes. This includes anyone from a journalist to a humanitarian aid worker. Congress can take steps to improve the program and ensure our national security without putting in place blanket provisions that allow for the discrimination of individuals based on their nationality. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these issues as this legislation moves forward.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2130, RED RIVER PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule for H.R. 2130, the "Red River Private Property Protection Act."

The President has announced that this bill will be vetoed in the event it reaches his desk.

With just one legislative day before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, we should be focusing all of our time and attention on matters that address the real problems and major concerns of the American people.

And right now the American people are very concerned about the harm and threat posed by "lone wolf" and "franchise terrorists" that we saw in Paris last month and just last week in San Bernardino, California.

These tragedies follow on the heels of mass shootings in Tucson, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, Colorado Springs, and now, most recently, in San Bernardino, California.

These senseless mass shootings remind us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop.

And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Public Act of 2015" (H.R. 1076).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to co-sponsor, would close the dangerous loophole that allows terrorist suspects to legally buy deadly weapons.

H.R. 1076 would bar the sale or distribution of firearms to any individual whom the Attorney General has determined to be engaged in terrorist activities.

Mr. Speaker, if a person is considered by the federal government too dangerous to board an airplane or to enter the United States, he or she surely is too dangerous to be permitted to purchase or obtain a firearm.

It is unconscionable that we have not acted to close the loophole in federal law that permits a terrorist lawfully to obtain and carry firearms.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004 more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist have successfully purchased weapons in the United States.

It is simply intolerable that more than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to purchase guns in the last 11 years walked away with the weapon they wanted, with just 190 rejected despite their ominous histories.

To close this loophole, I call upon Speaker RYAN to bring H.R. 1076 to the floor immediately.

H.R. 1076 grants the Attorney General the authority to deny a firearms license to individuals for whom there is a reasonable belief that

the individual may use a firearm or explosive in connection with terrorist activity.

This legislation was originally crafted in 2007 and endorsed by President Bush's Justice Department, has bipartisan support in the House, and is supported by prominent Republicans and counter-terrorism & law enforcement experts.

H.R. 1076 greatly reduces the likelihood that a terrorists can obtain some of the most lethal weapons in America.

Right now a terrorist can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against H.R. 1076.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1076 will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

It deserves a vote in the House.

CONGRATULATING THE FESTUS
HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS FOR
THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 3
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus High School Tigers for their first place win in the 2015 Class 3 Boys Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

HONORING SERGEANT THEODORE
TRAVIS, SR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to Sergeant Theodore Travis, Sr., a man committed to duty and family, who lost his life in service to this nation.

A Niagara Falls, New York native, Theodore Travis chose active-duty to support his young family after serving in the U.S. Army Reserves. He was a member of an elite team, the 101st Airborne—a Screaming Eagle and initially traveled to Fort Campbell, leaving behind his wife, high school sweetheart Cynthia, and two young sons, Theodore Jr. and Stefan. Sergeant Travis left the United States with his unit on an assignment to aid peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

Following their mission, Sergeant Travis and his comrades boarded a plane in high spirits and with great anticipation of returning to their families for Christmas. Tragically they never made it home. On December 12th, 1985, Arrow Air Flight 1285, carrying homeward bound members of the 3rd Battalion, 502nd

Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, crashed in Gander, Newfoundland. On that day 248 members of the 101st Airborne Division, including Sergeant Travis, were killed in the worst air disaster in U.S. military history.

This year, as we recognize the 30th anniversary of this disaster, family, friends and the community will gather at New Hope Baptist Church in Niagara Falls to remember Sergeant Travis, known to all as a "giver." He gave help to his community, gave his faith to the church, gave his love to his wife and children, and gave himself in service to the military in defense of this country, in the name of peace abroad, and in hopes of giving his family a better life.

So today, on behalf of a grateful nation, with a heavy heart we remember Sergeant Theodore Travis, Sr., who in selfless service to the United States of America, gave until he could give no more. Sergeant Travis, his family, and the others who lost their lives on Flight 1285 will be forever remembered for the great sacrifices they have made.

CONGRATULATING THE BRAHMA
KUMARIS AND SISTER JENNA ON
THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
MEDITATION MUSEUM II

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Brahma Kumaris and Sister Jenna on the grand opening of the Meditation Museum II in Tysons Corner, Virginia.

The Brahma Kumaris is a non-profit organization with over 9000 branches in 120 countries. Founded in Hyderabad, Sindh in 1936, the Brahma Kumaris seeks to help individuals re-discover and strengthen their spirituality through self-reflection, meditation, and participation in activities of social and humanitarian concerns.

Sister Jenna began her spiritual journey with the Brahma Kumaris and is the founder and director of both the original Meditation Museum in Silver Spring, Maryland as well as this new location in Tysons Corner. Sister Jenna and several of her colleagues created the "Pause for Peace" campaign which has expanded into new programs including the Pause for Peace in the Classroom and Pause for Peace Spaces. Sister Jenna's commitment and influence have been recognized with numerous awards and proclamations including the President's Lifetime National Community Service Award, the Every Day Hero Award, and the Friendship Archway Award.

The benefits of meditation are scientifically proven. According to Psychology Today, meditation has been shown to increase immune function, decrease depression and anxiety and even positively affect higher-order cognitive functions in the brain. Perhaps the most profound aspects of meditation are those that cannot be measured scientifically. Self-awareness, inner-peace and tranquility, becoming one with your surroundings and your faith, and true acceptance of and respect for all others regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or economic status are but a few immeasurable and invaluable benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Sister Jenna and all who

have worked to make the grand opening of the new Meditation Museum II a reality and in wishing them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND CAROL
ADDRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry and Carol Address of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 25, 1965 at St. Patrick's Church in Council Bluffs.

Larry and Carol's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Dave, Teresa and Deb, along with their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Address family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of this great state. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING MAUREEN NICHOLSON
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE TOWN
OF POMFRET, CT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute Maureen Nicholson's more than thirty years of service to the Town of Pomfret, Connecticut. Maureen has served in all corners of local leadership since she moved to Pomfret in 1988, most recently as the town's First Selectman.

From her start in Pomfret, Maureen was involved in the Parent Teacher Organization, Recreation Commission, Democratic Town Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Finance, and Tree Warden, among many more town and regional organizations. In 2009, she was elected to the Board of Selectmen, and in 2012 was elected First Selectman.

During her years as First Selectman, Maureen secured almost half a million dollars in grants for the Town of Pomfret. She secured the town's emergency shelter and began work to bring large-scale solar power to the town. Maureen saw the potential cost-savings in collaborating with neighboring towns to share accounting and auditing services, and launched an innovative initiative with the Town of Brooklyn. It is this enterprising spirit that delivered forward thinking policies to Pomfret, and the town and region have benefitted.

Maureen also worked to increase awareness for residents of Pomfret by founding and editing the Pomfret Times, and redesigning the town's website to promote and inform residents of the town's resources and news. Her other non-governmental achievements include service on the Day Kimball Hospital Women's

Board, founding of the Pomfret Gardeners, membership on the Community Regional YMCA Board, and serving as Director of the Performing Arts of Northeastern Connecticut.

I ask my colleagues to please rise to thank Maureen for her years of steadfast dedication. Although her leadership as First Selectman will surely be missed, I am confident that her commitment to Pomfret will continue in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the "Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2015," authorizes 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships and converts 16 temporary bankruptcy judgeships to permanent status, based on recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States. With respect to the 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships, they are authorized pursuant to section 3 of the bill as follows: 2 for the District of Delaware; 2 for the Eastern District of Michigan; and 2 for the Middle District of Florida. With respect to the 16 conversions, they are authorized pursuant to section 2 of the bill for the following districts:

- 5 for the District of Delaware;
- 2 for the Southern District of Florida;
- 3 for the District of Maryland;
- 1 for the Eastern District of Michigan;
- 1 for the District of Nevada;
- 1 for the Eastern District of North Carolina;
- 2 for the District of Puerto Rico;
- 1 for the Western District of Tennessee; and
- 1 for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This legislation responds to a serious need. Since the last time additional bankruptcy judgeships were authorized, which was 10 years ago, the 6 districts that would be authorized additional judicial resources by this bill have experienced a 55 percent increase in weighted filings, according to the Judicial Conference.

All 16 of the temporary bankruptcy judgeships that the bill converts to permanent status are set to lapse as of May 25, 2017. As the Conference observes, "These bankruptcy courts would face a serious and, in many cases, debilitating workload crisis if their temporary judgeships were to expire."

The need for these additional judicial resources is based on a comprehensive analysis performed by the Judicial Conference based on a formal survey of all judicial circuits conducted pursuant to section 152(b)(2) of title 28 of the United States Code. Criteria considered include the workload of each court, case filing statistics, and geographic factors, among other matters.

CONGRATULATING THE HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL BLACK CATS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Herculaneum Black Cats for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 State Boys Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home 2nd place to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Herculaneum Black Cats for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FLETCHALL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret Fletchall on the celebration of her 102nd birthday. Margaret celebrated her 102nd birthday on October 31, 2015 in Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Margaret's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Margaret has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Margaret in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 102nd birthday. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Margaret for reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES ON THE OPENING OF THE FAIRFAX VETERANS BENEFITS OFFICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr. and Department of Veterans Services Benefits Director Tom Herthel on the opening of the new Veterans Benefits office in Fairfax City.

The 11th District of Virginia is home to almost 54,000 veterans. More than 70% are veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf. The opening of this new center will ensure that they receive timely access to the benefits they have earned.

The opening of this office is yet another step in addressing the needs of our veterans. While the statistics indicate that overall, veterans in the 11th District may be more economically or professionally secure, the dedicated men and women who have served our country in uniform are still plagued by the same issues that veterans around the country face including prolonged disability or appeal processing times, difficulty scheduling appointments with the VA medical centers, and delays in receiving Post 9-11 GI Bill educational benefits. We must do more to ensure that these issues and others are addressed and resolved. For our community, the statistics are encouraging. The percentage of unemployed veterans is 3.3%, two percentage points better than the national average. The percentage of veterans living below the poverty line is 2.2%, well below the national average of 12.5%. More than 60% of veterans in this district have a bachelor's degree or higher, almost twice the national average.

These numbers speak to the character of these individuals and also to the network of support services that have emerged in the 11th District. We, as a community, are united in our efforts to provide any and all assistance and guidance needed.

Mr. Speaker, providing care for our men and women in uniform after they return home from the battlefield is a sacred obligation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and its dedicated staff on the opening of this new Veterans Benefits Office, and I offer my continued support and assistance to these ongoing efforts.

OYSTER CREEK'S STAR TEACHER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brittany Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom by the Houston Texans.

Ms. Mayland is a kindergarten teacher at Oyster Creek Elementary School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. Her positive impact and commitment to her students led one of her students, Izabelle Paul, to nominate her for this award presented by the Houston Texans and First Community Credit Union. Her dedication to creating a fun and engaging learning environment shows her star quality in the classroom. The students at Oyster Creek are lucky to have her.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, THE
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CON-
FERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the University of Houston Cougars capped off their thrilling season with a 24–13 win against the Temple University Owls in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game. Houston won by 11 points and led from the very start of the game. With this win, the Cougars finished the regular season 12–1. They now face a matchup against the #9 Florida State University Seminoles in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl.

What is most amazing about the Cougars successful season is the fact that it was engineered by a rookie head coach: Tom Herman. Herman is a former national championship winning offensive coordinator at Ohio State University and a previous recipient of the Broyles Award for the nation's top assistant coach. He came to the University of Houston as a first-time head coach this season. This type of success in a coach's first season is rare. Herman's Houston team was led by its do-it-all quarterback, Greg Ward, Jr., who finished the season with 2,590 passing yards, 16 touchdowns, and only 5 interceptions. The All-Conference quarterback also tacked on 1,041 rushing yards and 19 touchdown runs for good measure. The excitement of watching this team play brought me back to 1989, when Coach Jack Pardee's run-and-shoot offense led the Cougars to a 9-win season and quarterback Andre Ware took home the Heisman Trophy.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Herman and the Houston Cougars aren't finished just yet. After the Cougars New Year's Eve duel with perennial powerhouse Florida State, the team will refocus its sights on coming back strong again next year. With the Cougars locking in Coach Herman to a contract extension and returning many of its key contributors, this team will be a force next year and hopefully for years to come. I look forward to spending December 31st ringing in the New Year with friends, family, and another Cougars victory. Go Cougars!

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia.

On July 3, 1902, the late William Chin donated a parcel of land for what would later become the site of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Initially, the site was used for the Agnewville Mission Sunday School. Under the leadership of Sister Florence Chin and Reverend Bras Clark, with the support of Neabsco and Ebenezer Baptist Churches, members of the community established a Sunday school class for

the residents of Agnewville. It was not until years later when the members of the Agnewville Mission Sunday School founded Mount Olive Baptist Church. The cornerstone for the church was laid on October 15, 1915. Together, Brother George W. Ray, Brother William Chin, Brother George Thomas, and other men from the congregation built the original church edifice on Telegraph Road.

Since the founding of Mount Olive Baptist Church, six pastors have graced the pulpit leading the congregation in worship, praise, and discipleship. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following names of each of the governing pastors of Mount Olive Baptist Church since the church's founding in 1915:

Reverend William Davis, Reverend William Tyler, Reverend George W. Pratt, Reverend Edward W. Burrell, Reverend Frederick L. Ray. Most recently, Reverend Clyde W. Ellis, Jr. was called to the pulpit on March 3, 2011, to lead the congregation.

Reverend Ellis, the spiritual son of Reverend Ray, became the sixth pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under Reverend Ellis' leadership, Mount Olive has both literally and figuratively flourished beyond the walls of the sanctuary on Telegraph Road. With more than 400 members, Mount Olive's weekly worship is temporarily being held at Freedom High School on Neabsco Mills Road until the construction of the new edifice is complete.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Pastor Ellis has nurtured a thriving congregation that will no doubt continue to grow and fulfill Mount Olive's mission of worship and praise. I would like to wish Pastor Ellis and his congregation the very best as they celebrate their heritage and plan for a successful future.

HONORING CORPORAL TIBOR
RUBIN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, December 5, 2015, the city of Garden Grove lost a genuine American hero when, Tibor "Teddy" Rubin, a Holocaust survivor and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, passed away due to natural causes. He was 86 years old.

Corporal Rubin began his extraordinary life on June 18, 1929, in Pastzo, Hungary. His father served in the Hungarian Army and was a veteran of the First World War. When Corporal Rubin was only 14 years old he was sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. He survived the 14 months of captivity until his prison camp was liberated by American forces in May 1945. Tragically, his father, stepmother, and younger sister would perish.

Corporal Rubin, immensely thankful for his liberation by American forces, wished to join the U.S. Army in order to repay the country that he felt he was so indebted to. After failing twice to enlist due to poor English, he was finally able to join in 1948 as a rifleman with I Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Corporal Rubin's courage is made evident by his Medal of Honor citation. Corporal Rubin

fought bravely and did everything to protect his brothers in arms. He distinguished himself on October 30, 1950, during a nighttime assault on his unit's position by an overwhelming Chinese force. Corporal Rubin manned a .30 caliber machine gun and fended off the assault until his ammunition was exhausted. Because of his valiant and selfless actions the Chinese assault was slowed and his unit was able to successfully escape the overwhelming enemy force. Corporal Rubin would be severely wounded and taken as a prisoner of war. He chose to remain a prisoner rather than taking a Chinese offer to be sent back to his native Hungary. Corporal Rubin risked torture and execution on multiple occasions in order to retrieve food and aid for his fellow imprisoned Soldiers. His horrific experience as a Holocaust survivor gave him the skills necessary to remain hopeful and keep himself and his comrades alive in a terrible situation.

Unfortunately, because of an anti-Semitic superior, Corporal Rubin's courageous military service would go unrecognized for another 55 years. He would finally be awarded the Medal of Honor on September 23, 2005, for his heroic actions in the Korean peninsula.

Corporal Rubin is survived by his wife, Yvonne, and his two children Frank and Rosalyn Rubin. He was a proud American and the kind of model citizen we should all strive to be. Corporal Rubin, despite everything he went through in life, preserved his optimism and his terrific sense of humor. His extraordinary immigrant story is an inspiration to us all. His passing is a great loss for our country, but his memory will forever live on.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CON-
GRESS TO INSTALL THE D.C.
SEAL IN THE MAIN READING
ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFER-
SON BUILDING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to require the Library of Congress to install the District of Columbia seal in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. The Library is one of the few buildings in the District that remains open to the public on most holidays. It provides not only D.C. residents but visitors and researchers from across the nation with access to incomparable resources. The bill requires the Library to depict the District's seal on the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, where the seals of all the states and territories that existed when the building was constructed, except for the District, are depicted. D.C.'s seal was readily available at that time and should have been included. The seals of Hawaii and Alaska are not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time of the creation of the stained-glass windows argues for the inclusion of the District, which, after all, was in fact the nation's capital at the time. We are asking that omission of D.C. be corrected immediately. This omission was brought to my

attention by a District resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the Library.

The residents of the District have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the Library of Congress, was burned, prompting construction of the current Library of Congress building with the state and territory seals. It is, therefore, without question that the District and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained-glass windows that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized.

There is existing evidence that the seal of the District should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, has a painted depiction of the D.C. seal, along with state seals, on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces our request to be represented among the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public. There is no reason why the D.C. seal cannot be added with the planned restoration of the stained-glass. The right time to add the seal of the District would be during the planned restoration.

Congress already includes the District of Columbia, or has corrected the omission of the District, when honoring the states. For example, the District of Columbia War Memorial honors District residents who served in World War I, the World War II Memorial includes a column representing the District, the flag of the District is displayed among the flags of the fifty states in the tunnel connecting the House office buildings to the Capitol, and D.C.'s Frederick Douglass statue now sits in the Capitol alongside statues from the 50 states. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the District flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation was also enacted to give D.C. a coin after it was omitted from legislation creating coins for the 50 states. We also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the 50 states, and worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags across from Union Station. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal, along with the seals of the states, in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

I urge support of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2015, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 681, 682, and 683. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on consideration of the resolution, "yea" on ordering the previous questions, and "yea" on agreeing to the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN AND BARBARA
BLANK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Edwin and Barbara Blank of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Edwin and Barbara's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Blanks that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING VALARIE MCCALL ON
THE OCCASION OF HER APPOINTMENT
TO THE CHAIR OF THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT AS-
SOCIATION (APTA)

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Valarie McCall on her appointment to the Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). APTA strengthens and improves our public transportation to ensure that all Americans have access to that option in their communities across our nation. Valarie is a great model for all aspiring public servants across the country, and is deserving of our recognition and gratitude for this achievement.

Valarie began her distinguished public service career as the Director of Cleveland's Empowerment Zone, where she managed a \$200 million budget and worked to advance job planning and placement initiatives, as well as providing financing to businesses. She was also the youngest city clerk for Cleveland's City Council and served on a countless number of boards benefitting her community. Today, Valarie serves as the Chief of Government and International Affairs for the City of Cleveland. As the first person to hold this position, she acts as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and State and Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and international organizations.

With her in-depth public service experience, I have no doubt that APTA will benefit tremendously from Valarie's Chairmanship. Her national appointment makes Ohio proud.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing her distinguished record of public service.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R.
1076 "DENYING FIREARMS AND
EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS
TERRORISTS ACT OF 2015"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been marked by senseless violence across the globe and in our own country from Tuscon, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, and now most recently in San Bernardino, California.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop! The senseless mass shootings in Paris and San Bernardino remind us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country. And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Public Act of 2015" (H.R. 1076).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to co-sponsor, would close the dangerous loophole that allows terrorist suspects to legally buy deadly weapons. H.R. 1076 would bar the sale or distribution of firearms to any individual whom the Attorney General has determined to be engaged in terrorist activities. It also would grant the Attorney General the authority to deny a firearms license to individuals for whom there is a reasonable belief that the individual may use a firearm or explosive in connection with terrorist activity.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004 more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. It is simply intolerable that more than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to purchase guns in the last 11 years walked away with the weapon they wanted, with just 190 rejected despite their ominous histories.

This legislation was originally crafted in 2007 and endorsed by President Bush's Justice Department, has bipartisan support in the House, and is supported by prominent Republicans and counter-terrorism & law enforcement experts.

H.R. 1076 greatly reduces the likelihood that terrorists can obtain some of the most lethal weapons in America. Right now a terrorist can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against H.R. 1076. I thank Congressmen PETER KING (R-NY) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1076).

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1076 will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners. It deserves a vote in the House.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 HONOREES
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2015 Honorees of the Fairfax County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Fairfax Branch is recognized as the NAACP's first rural chapter. In 1915, a few brave African American citizens in Falls Church, Virginia, fought a proposed ordinance that would have segregated housing. They called themselves the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL) and the group evolved to become the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP. Since its inception, the NAACP has promoted equal rights and justice for all and has shown a spotlight on issues of great importance including civil rights, education, voting rights, desegregation, and prison reform. I have been honored to work with this organization and pledge my continued support of our shared goals.

Each year, the Fairfax County NAACP honors several deserving individuals and organizations that have shown extraordinary support of the Branch or the community. I am honored to submit the names of the following award winners:

President's Awardees:

Cassie Marcotty, Abby Conde, Anna Rowan, Lidia Amanuel, and Marley Finley. These high school student leaders formed "Students of Change," now known as CAALM (an acronym of their initials), to spearhead the initiative to rename JEB Stuart High School as Thurgood Marshall High and to remove all symbols and mascots that honor the Confederate Legacy.

The President's Award will also be presented to Virginia House of Delegates member Scott A. Surovell of the 44th District, for his exceptional leadership and support to the communities of Hybla Valley and Gum Springs in southern Fairfax County.

Community Service Awardees:

Debbie Kilpatrick for her exceptional leadership, advocacy, and dedication as President of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Celeste Peterson for establishing the Erin Peterson Scholarship Fund and her devotion to the Young Men's Leadership Group at Westfield High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2015 honorees of the Fairfax County NAACP and in thanking them for their tremendous contributions to our youth and our community.

SISTER CITY AGREEMENT BE-
TWEEN COLUMBUS AND ACCRA,
GHANA

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the signing of a sister city agreement between

the City of Columbus and Accra, Ghana on November 30, 2015.

This is Columbus' tenth sister city agreement, but it is momentous because it is the city's first such agreement with a city on the African continent. I was privileged to attend and participate in the signing ceremony between Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and Accra Mayor Alfred Vanderpuije.

Columbus, a diverse city, is home to nearly 10,000 people of Ghanaian descent and this partnership reinforces already firmly established ties between Columbus and Accra building economic, educational and cultural diversity between the two municipalities.

I am also proud to inform my colleagues that Franklin University and The Ohio State University are working with educational institutions in Ghana to create even greater academic and cultural exchanges.

As a City known for the Arts, Columbus' King Arts Complex is also working on a formal agreement to foster a relationship with the Ghana National Theatre.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the cities of Columbus, Ohio and Accra, Ghana for this historic agreement and look forward to a long and prosperous partnership.

S. 1177, THE EVERY STUDENT
SUCCEEDS ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report for S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act, a bill which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through 2020 and replaces the misguided No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policy.

This bill makes important changes to ESEA by including student and school supports in state accountability plans, supporting responsible efforts to reduce over-testing, and requiring states to provide the public with information on school discipline and expulsion rates, which we know disproportionately impacts students of color. S. 1177 also maintains critical provisions about overall student performance by setting clear goals for achievement and graduation rates, targeting funds to at-risk children such as English Language Learners, and helping states to increase teacher quality by providing on-going professional development.

Yet I am concerned that this bill shifts the majority of power and oversight from the federal government to the states and does not do enough to protect disadvantaged, minority, LGBT, low-income, and migrant students. A strong Federal role is critical to ensuring that minority and underserved students get the support they need to succeed. And as a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am concerned that this bill fails to include a requirement to disaggregate data within groups of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. This is critical to ensuring that AAPI students receive the support they need. Moreover, S. 1177 fails to include strong accountability measures to ensure that schools address resource equity gaps.

As Members of Congress, we have a shared obligation to ensure that our education

system provides equity and excellence for all students, closes the achievement gap, and prepares our students for a 21st century workforce.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD AND LYLA
MCCURDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold and Lyla McCurdy for their service to the Congregate Meals Program of Panorama, Iowa.

Lyla got her start at Congregate Meals as a part-time kitchen worker and bookkeeper. She is now responsible for all of the bookkeeping, organization, and set up each day. Her husband Harold now volunteers his time by organizing the carryout meals and doing what he can to help in the kitchen. The Congregate Meal program was created around 40 years ago in Panorama. They now prepare hot and healthy meals each day for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Harold and Lyla's willingness to donate their time and talents to this program is a great testament to the Iowa spirit. I am honored to represent them and Iowans like them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Harold and Lyla for their service and wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GUY LEWIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Thanksgiving is meant to remind us of all the things in our lives we're grateful for. For many, this year's Thanksgiving came and went in its usual form: spent in the presence of loved ones and those who are closest to our hearts. But for others, this Thanksgiving was spent under a bittersweet shadow. Early that morning, Houstonians, Cougar alumni, basketball fans, and many others bid farewell to a legend: Guy Lewis.

Guy Lewis was more than just a basketball coach. His innovations, both on and off the court, left ripples in our society that we still feel today. He was born in a tiny town in East Texas, where he lived until enlisting in the Army during World War II. Following the war, Lewis enrolled at the University of Houston, my alma mater, and joined the basketball team. He was instantly one of the best players on the team, averaging over 21 points per game as he led the Cougars to a conference championship. After college he worked as an assistant coach at UH under then-coach Alden Pasche. After Pasche's retirement in 1956, Lewis was appointed the new head coach of the Cougars; and the rest, as they say, is history.

Under Lewis' 30-year watch, the Cougars enjoyed one of the best spells in collegiate basketball history. He led his teams to 27 straight winning seasons, 14 NCAA tournament appearances, 5 Final Fours, and two

NCAA title games. Though he never won a national title, he is still universally recognized as one of the greatest coaches in the history of the game. Despite all of his successes on the court, it was his actions off the court that many use to define Coach Lewis' lasting legacy.

Prior to Guy Lewis, the University of Houston had never had an African-American player in its basketball program. According to former All-American, NBA All-Star, and member of Houston's first desegregated basketball team, Elvin Hayes, Lewis "put everything on the line to step out and integrate his program." It was trailblazing like this and his fearless attitude that set Coach Lewis apart from the rest. Guy Lewis didn't care about what people thought, but he cared about doing what was right for his players and his school. He dedicated 40 years to the university as a student and as a coach, from his first day of college in 1946 through his last day as a coach in 1986. Even after his retirement Lewis was heavily involved with the school and its athletic department. His dedication to the institution he called home, the institution he helped evolve for the better, never once wavered.

I remember sitting in the stands of the Astrodome in 1968 watching the "Game of the Century" that Coach Lewis helped organize. The undefeated UCLA Bruins, led by legendary coach John Wooden, came into the game riding a 47-game winning streak. This was the first nationally televised regular season collegiate basketball game in the history of the sport. Over 52,000 fans—myself included—went to the game, which set the record for the largest basketball crowd in history. I remember that game fondly. I can still see Coach Lewis on the sideline waving his red, polka-dotted towel that he seemed to always have with him. Led by the previously mentioned Elvin Hayes, the Houston Cougars went on to win 71–69.

After coaching the Cougars to back-to-back Final Fours in 1967 and '68, he then guided his team to a trio of Final Fours in 1982, '83, and '84. Those teams, known simply as "Phi Slama Jama," featured superstars Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, two members of both the NCAA and NBA Halls of Fame. Those teams emphasized a fast-paced, exciting style of play that helped revolutionize the game forever.

When remembering Coach Lewis, we needn't just remember the legendary wins or the legendary players that he coached, but also his integrity and dedication. Whether it was his innovative work on the court or off, all of us familiar with the life of Coach Lewis have nothing but fond memories of the man. His legacy will live on.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE
HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL
BLACK CATS FOR THEIR SECOND
PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MISSOURI
CLASS 2 GIRLS CROSS
COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in con-

gratulating the Herculanum Black Cats for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 State Girls Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the second place win to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Herculanum Black Cats for a job well done.

GLENN HALL ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, heartiest congratulations to Glenn Hall on the occasion of his 90th birthday and a lifetime of teaching and learning. His career in education began in a one-room schoolhouse in 1954, but he has taught every grade level, including graduate school, since then. While teaching at a Florida community college, in 1961, he received a Fulbright grant to teach English and American history in the Netherlands. Upon his return, he heard of the opening of a new community college in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and in 1965 was among the first instructors hired. During a 35-year teaching career at Bucks County Community College in Newtown Township, he also was Dean of Academic Affairs for 14 years. And in 1976 he was among the first group of educators to visit China after the communist takeover in 1949. As we congratulate Glenn Hall on this milestone birthday, we express our gratitude for his honorable service in the U.S. Navy and his contributions to the academic community and especially the students he inspired. May his future be filled with good health, happiness and new adventures.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 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 \$18,789,064,366,804.18. We've added \$8,162,187,317,891.10 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE EL PASO
VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program, presided over by the Honorable Angie Juarez Barill and

operating out of the 346th District Court of El Paso, Texas. I am pleased to recognize the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program as an initiative that works hard to "leave no veteran behind and honor their service."

As the second program of its kind in the state of Texas, the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program has provided resources to numerous Veterans in the criminal justice system. Since 2009, the initiative has aided eligible Veterans and active duty Service Members who are charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses; in 2012 the program was expanded to include felony criminal offenses. The participants are diverted from the traditional criminal justice system and are assessed for substance abuse and mental health issues. Upon meeting program entrance requirements, participants receive an individualized treatment plan and attend frequent review hearings before the program judge.

In addition to providing comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, the five phase program also includes officials from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the Veteran participants' eligibility for further aid. The Veterans Benefits Administration assesses the Veteran for disability compensation, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation qualifications. The Veterans Health Administration also assesses the Veteran to determine eligibility for housing and medical services. The program operates on a personal level as well, in order to address employment opportunities and individual needs.

The El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program provides an alternative route for Veterans and active duty Service Members in the criminal justice system. The initiative practices a holistic approach, providing resources, addressing treatment concerns and engaging in judicial monitoring. These necessary tools help participants engage in society as law-abiding citizens. The initiative has been widely successful in El Paso and recently received the prestigious Texas Veterans Commission Patriot Award in recognition of their diligence. I am proud that programs such as the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court exist in my district and are available to help those who served our country.

BRINGING FFA GOLD TO
PEARLAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evann Wehman of Turner High School for winning her second state championship at the Texas Future Farmers of America (FFA) Leadership Development Events Competition.

Evann, who is also her school's FFA President, won the state competition last weekend at Sam Houston State University. Her victory at the state competition earned her a spot at the National FFA Convention next October in Indianapolis. Evann has a history of success as part of the horse judging team that won the first ever state championship by Pearland FFA students. That team went on to national success and placed eighth in the nation. Her impressive accomplishments reflect her hard

work and will carry her far in her future endeavors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Evann on her second state FFA championship. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of its 2015 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church, that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In fiscal year 14, the Arts Council awarded more than \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances, which were attended by more than 1 million people. I also would like to express my appreciation to the Arts Council for its steadfast support of the 11th District Congressional Arts Competition, which has helped make it one of the largest and most successful in the country.

The annual Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Emerging Arts Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2015 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Earle C. Williams, the former president and chief executive officer of BDM International, for his outstanding leadership and advocacy in the arts and in the Campaign for Wolf Trap.

The 2015 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to Rebecca Kamen, a contemporary visual artist, sculptor, and a pioneer of the STEAM effort to integrate Arts in the traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM fields, for her outstanding achievements bridging the arts and education with chemistry, neuroscience, and astrophysics.

The 2015 Emerging Arts Award will be presented to the Vienna Jammers for providing exemplary outreach to area youth and participating in community building activities in the Town of Vienna and the Washington, D.C. area.

The 2015 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Richard Hausler, co-founder and CEO of Insight Property Group, for his vision,

commitment, and leadership in establishing a new arts facility, the Workhouse Arts Center, in southern Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2015 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO ED AND LOIS FIGGINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ed and Lois Figgins of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Ed and Lois' lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Figgins family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of this great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

REMEMBERING FRANK HERHOLD

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Fort Lauderdale resident who dedicated his life to serving his family and community: Frank Herhold, who passed away at the age of 76 on Saturday, December 5th.

Frank was a devoted family man and prominent member of the South Florida boating community. He started his career in the marine industry as the owner of the Anchorage Yacht Basin in Melbourne, Florida and later became the executive director of Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), where he worked until he retired.

In his retirement, Frank's passion for boating continued. Prior to his passing, Frank attended the 2015 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show and served on the city of Fort Lauderdale's marine advisory board. In 2010, Frank was the commodore of the Winterfest Boat Parade and recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the city of Fort Lauderdale in 2007.

Frank is survived by many loved ones. I offer my condolences to Frank's wife Mary Jo, his daughter Pam, and all his friends and family. I know that his legacy will continue to live on and inspire future generations.

SERBIA STEPS UP AT A CRITICAL TIME

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Serbia's recent donation of \$5.4 million to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, where thousands of Muslims were killed in the Yugoslav Wars, is a clear sign that the Serbian Government wants to do what they can to improve relationships with countries in the region. Mending these relationships is especially important as the Balkans are on the front lines of the refugee crisis. As of the beginning of November, the same month that President Vucic announced this large donation, over 300,000 refugees had flowed through the country since the beginning of the year. Most refugees are fleeing Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and travelling to Europe to seek asylum. Serbia is doing their part to process and protect these people. In October alone, 180,307 refugees were processed compared to 51,048 in September because of Serbia's commitment to improving capacity.

It is critical for countries in the region to work together to process the influx of refugees while ensuring the safety of their own countries and the world. The Balkans are a transit region making it important for all the countries to have an open line of communication in order to ensure the ordered, safe, and peaceful flow of people and is especially important for bordering countries.

Serbia's gesture to Bosnia is hopefully a signal of relationships on the mend at this very tense time in the world. While the importance of Balkan countries working together cannot be underemphasized, it is also of utmost importance for all freedom-loving countries throughout the world to work together to fight ISIS, a big factor in the flow of migrants and a threat to our way of life, in which all lives are cherished. Every country must do their part. We must all come together and obliterate this scourge on our world.

As co-chair of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, I commend the Serbian Government for all that they have done to mend their relationships in the region and for their leadership during this incredibly trying time.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING BIRTH OF BLAKELY ELIZABETH HERBERT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Legislative Director, Jason Herbert, and his wife, Erin Kathleen Herbert, on the birth of their daughter, Blakely Elizabeth Herbert.

Blakely was born at 2:17 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Miss Blakely weighed in at a perfect 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

As my Legislative Director, Blakely's father, Jason, has been key to my legislative operation. Jason's stalwart attention to details, and his remarkable ability to stay alert during long and late night Rules Committee hearings and floor debates will serve him well as a father.

My entire staff has awaited this good news with eager anticipation of Jason and Erin becoming parents. Blakely is fortunate to have such a loving father and mother.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jason and Erin and their entire family on this wonderful addition.

CONGRATULATING THE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL COUGARS FOR THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lutheran High School Cougars for their first place win in the 2015 Class 2 Volleyball State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Lutheran High School Cougars for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO CHET ROED

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chet Roed of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Chet taught industrial arts at the Mount Ayr school system for over 30 years. He is credited by many in the community for teaching them how to take care of their homes, and to this day, years after his retirement, Chet remains highly respected by his former students for the knowledge he imparted onto them. He not only contributed to the Mount Ayr community in the classroom, but also in athletics. For years he led the track and football teams to postseason success.

Mr. Speaker, Chad's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Chet for his achievements and wishing him nothing but continued success.

DEMANDING A MEANINGFUL STRATEGY TO DEFEAT ISIS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the President has repeatedly underestimated ISIS, and under-responded to the threat they pose. The American people have lost confidence.

For months we have heard the same refrain from the White House. They say, "We will de-grade and ultimately destroy ISIS."

There has been little progress, if any. Top U.S. military officials have confirmed that ISIS is far from contained.

When the President addressed the nation from the Oval Office on Sunday, Americans needed to hear a real strategy to eradicate ISIS. The speech came just days after an act of terror here at home. Instead of a plan, our Commander in Chief delivered the same empty rhetoric.

The United States must show our international partners that we are committed to defeating ISIS. The first step is for the President to outline a plan to destroy them . . . not degrade them.

Until that point, the vacuum of American leadership will continue to grow, and so will the influence of ISIS.

IN HONOR OF TOM AND CHARLOTTE OLEINIK'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if there was a first couple of servant leadership and a model for a successful marriage, it would be Tom and Charlotte Oleinik of Huntsville, Texas. Today, I have the pleasure of honoring them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and sharing just a bit of their half a century long love story.

Tom was born the fifth of 12 children in Rosholt, Wisconsin, worked on his family's dairy farm and attended a one-room schoolhouse. He served his country in Korea, at Fort Devins, and Fort Drum, before returning to the farm and then applying to protect and serve as a member of the Wisconsin Highway Patrol.

Native Texan Charlotte Fisher was a Christmastime gift to her parents, who ran a Goose Creek rice farm where she grew up with her two younger siblings. She went to work and then college in Florida after graduating from high school. That decision to attend Florida College and to spend a summer in Wisconsin with her roommate would change the course of her life forever.

That summer Charlotte worked days at American Motors and nights and weekends, she waitressed at the Timber Ridge Café where little did she know then a 50 year love story was about to begin when a handsome young state patrolman walked through the door.

Tom, being a very smart man, asked the beautiful waitress on a date, but after a few dates, Charlotte took ill and needed surgery. While she was hospitalized, a certain man in uniform was a frequent visitor, often arriving with flowers.

According to Tom it took a lot of proposing—and a lot of no's—to get a yes from his beloved Charlotte. Charlotte remembers it a little differently, but after Tom was baptized in 1965, this happy young couple got engaged and wed in Kenosha, Wisconsin on December 17, 1965.

They went back to Florida College together and then moved to Texas where Tom worked

with Charlotte's father while waiting to attend and graduate from the Academy. After receiving his badge as a Texas trooper, Tom and Charlotte settled in Corrigan, Texas, where they raised three boys of their own and took in many troubled teenagers in a home full of love and operated a family business in addition to their full time jobs.

After a transfer to Brazoria County, Charlotte worked in the Angleton School District while their boys finished school. Then Tom retired and Huntsville won the lottery which this wonderful couple chose to call the town home.

Charlotte and Tom's impact on Walker County has been lasting, after moving to Huntsville they created the HEARTS Veterans Museum, a gem for the Texas 8th and continue to this day to be pillars in the community. Their servant leadership in our Lord's name and the love they radiate has set an amazing example for us all.

And I believe their 3 children, 17 grandchildren, a great grandson and the many troubled teens they have cared for would agree. The U.S. House congratulates you on celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1217 "PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2015"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been marked by senseless violence and tragedy across the globe and in our own country from Tuscon, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, and now most recently in San Bernardino, California.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop.

The senseless mass shooting in San Bernardino reminds us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country.

And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015" (H.R. 1217).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to be an original co-sponsor, will help prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals and reinforce the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Expanding the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015 ensures that criminals and the dangerously mentally ill cannot slip through background check loopholes that endanger the safety and rights of every American.

H.R. 1217 greatly reduces the number of places where a criminal can buy a gun.

Right now a criminal can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

The bill closes these loopholes while ensuring that background checks are conducted in the same way federally licensed dealers have for more than 40 years.

The legislation also strengthens the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners by banning the government from creating a federal registry and makes the misuse of records a felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

It provides reasonable exceptions for family and friend transfers and allows active military personnel to buy guns in the state they are stationed.

It lets gun owners use a state concealed carry permit issued within the last five years in lieu of a background check and permits interstate handgun sales from licensed dealers.

The bill also improves the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by incentivizing states to improve reporting of criminals and the dangerously mentally ill and by directing future grant funds toward better record-sharing systems.

H.R. 1217 will also reduce federal funds to states that do not comply.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against background checks.

I thank Congressmen PETER KING (R-NY) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1217), which is the House companion to an identical bipartisan bill introduced previously by Senators JOE MANCHIN (D-WV) and PAT TOOMEY (R-PA).

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1217 is anti-crime, pro-lawful gun owner and pro-Second Amendment.

It will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

It deserves a vote in the House.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 MVLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2015 MVLE Annual Award Recipients.

For 44 years, MVLE has provided employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities and thereby created an environment which has allowed its clients to live in dignity and as independently as possible. MVLE has achieved this success by partnering with local businesses as well as with government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations to maximize the benefits of its various programs and services. MVLE, its staff, and dedicated volunteers and supporters can be proud that they are making a positive difference in someone's life every day.

Each year, MVLE honors individual participants, as well as business and community partners, who exemplify MVLE's ideals. I am pleased to submit the names of the following 2015 award recipients:

The President's Award is presented to individuals who have shown outstanding progress toward gaining independence and self-sufficiency through participation in employment and community services. The 2015 President's Award recipients are Anis Iqbal, Steven Pennington, and Josh Renggli.

The Chairman's Award is presented to an outstanding business partner who has shown

excellence in hiring practices, creating supportive work environments, and supporting the mission of MVLE. The 2015 Chairman's Award recipients are Ah Love Oil and Embassy Suites Springfield.

MVLE also presents four Community Awards in honor of the four components of our community: Government, Employment, Social Responsibility, and Integration.

The Government Champion Award is presented to Parsons in recognition of its commitment to the creation of meaningful employment opportunities across government and business sectors.

The Employment Partner Award is presented to the Arlington County Equipment Bureau in recognition of its efforts in creating meaningful community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and military veterans.

The Advocacy Champion Award is being presented to state Senator Barbara Favola, who represents Virginia's 31st district. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who advocates for community integration by fostering partnerships across sectors to create new opportunities one person at a time.

There are two recipients of the Social Responsibility Award: Digital Office Products and Supply World. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who supports MVLE and our community through contributions and volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending MVLE for its success in helping individuals with disabilities achieve independence and in congratulating the 2015 MVLE Annual Award recipients. The efforts of MVLE, its supporters, community partners, and clients are an inspiration to all and are truly worthy of our highest praise.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL SHAM- ROCKS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MIS- SOURI CLASS 2 VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Haven High School Shamrocks for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 Volleyball State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the second place win to their school and community.

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

TRIBUTE TO KENNON BALSTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kennon Balster of Blanchard, Iowa, for his induction into the

Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame. Kennon has been the coach of the Large Group and Director of Theatre at Clarinda High School for over 30 years.

The Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame was established in 1976 to recognize distinguished individuals of statewide reputation for their outstanding accomplishments. Inductees are selected for going above and beyond expectations with their contributions, service, dedication, and commitment to the Association. It is the highest honor the Association can confer on an individual.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kennon for earning this award. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can positively affect the future of our youth. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kennon for his contributions to the speech and education community in the state of Iowa. I wish him nothing but continued success.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: THE CHINESE GOVERN- MENT HARVESTS THE ORGANS OF THE FALUN GONG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is the 65th International Human Rights Day.

It is fitting that we remember how the Chinese Government has denied the human rights of so many of Falun Gong, their family members and their friends.

The most basic human right is the right to live free.

Today, there are more Falun Gong practitioners in prison in China than any other persecuted group.

The Chinese Government's top priority is not to take care of its people; it is to stay in power. It sees Falun Gong rise in popularity in the 1990s as a threat. In reality, Falun Gong just wanted to be left alone.

To silence this threat, the Chinese Government murders Falun Gong members, harvesting their organs to give to others deemed more worthy.

We know this because brave men and women have come forward and reported these crimes, refusing to be silent. Those who have spoken out include the wife of a doctor who was forced to perform surgeries to remove the organs. A security guard who was ordered to stand watch while the surgeries take place has also spoken out about these practices. The evidence is undeniable of this detestable, inhumane practice by the Chinese Government.

The practice is a billion dollar business for the Chinese Government. Organ harvesting is the number one source of revenue for Chinese medical centers. A medical center is supposed to save lives, not take lives. Apparently, in China, the lives of the Falun Gong do not matter. Reports indicate that more than 10,000 have been killed by these barbaric medical procedures; they have been murdered for their organs.

The Chinese Government makes a profit and silences any group it sees as threatening. But they can't silence the Falun Gong nor

human rights advocates. We know what they are up to. We cannot let this continue.

The Chinese Government is an enemy of human rights. It is the enemy of its own people.

As a former judge in Texas, I know a thing or two about justice. And, justice has not been served to the Falun Gong community.

Over the years, Falun Gong followers have been imprisoned, tortured, and killed. But, despite Beijing's abuse, they continue to fight back.

Today, China must end its persecution of the Falun Gong.

The world leaders have been talking about climate change in Paris.

There needs to be a "climate" change in China. The air is polluted with the cries of the innocents murdered by the government.

The land is defiled by the acts of torture and organ harvesting.

The blood of the Falun Gong is on the hands of the Chinese officials.

I hope that one day soon all Chinese people will have the basic human right that the Creator endows to all creation: life.

The Falun Gong deserves to live free of oppression and murder.

They are courageous men and women.

The Chinese Government, in its zeal to keep power, kills its own people.

Power, not people, is the quest of the Chinese Government.

If the Chinese Government was put on trial before the world of free peoples and tried for its violations of human rights, it would be found guilty of terrorism. Its government officials would be in prison. They would be locked up. They would not see the light of the morning sun. They would be in the cold damp darkness of the jailhouse—the place reserved for the evil ones who harvest the organs of the Falun Gong.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF MR. TONY HADDAD
OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I commemorate the life of Mr. Tony Haddad, a restaurateur and local icon of Peoria, Illinois, who passed away this past Saturday at the age of 78.

Immigrating to Peoria from Lebanon in 1977, Mr. Haddad and his family arrived in the United States with only thirty dollars in his pocket. Although far from home, Haddad brought his culture to life through the food he sold from a pushcart in downtown Peoria for almost 35 years, which he later expanded into his own local restaurant. Mr. Haddad was the personification of the American dream.

His empathy and generosity made those who visited his food cart and restaurant not only his patrons, but his friends. Tony was always charitable, giving a meal to someone even if he knew they would not be able to repay him and, and he made time to listen to his customers' problems.

Alongside his work, the cornerstone to Haddad's life was the love and friendship of

his wife of 60 years, Loreece. Together, they came to America and created their own legacy, raising six children, 18 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Although he will be greatly missed, he will be remembered fondly and remain an icon of the 18th District.

TRIBUTE TO DULA AND BETTY THOMPSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dula and Betty Thompson of Lewis, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They married on October 11, 1945 in Troy, Kansas.

Dula and Betty's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Marvin, Bill, Lanette, and Ken, along with their grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Thompsons that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call vote 682. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

HONORING BETTE STOLTZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, neighbor and activist who dedicated her life to improving South Brooklyn. On November 19, longtime neighborhood activist Bette Stoltz passed away. This Saturday, Brooklynites will come together to celebrate the life of this dedicated advocate and leader.

Bette made countless contributions to South Brooklyn, helping bring vitality, energy and entrepreneurship to the area. She worked to sure-up small businesses at a time of disinvestment. She was instrumental to revitalizing Smith Street and helping organize the Merchants Association in the 1980s, which fostered so much cultural life and vibrancy in the area. She organized the Smith Street Fes-

tivals in the fall and the Bastille Day Pétanque Tournament. She worked tirelessly to ensure Smith Street thrived, and most recently she was organizing to create a Business Improvement District on Smith and nearby Court Streets.

Her efforts extended well beyond the commercial corridors. By starting the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, she worked steadfastly to defend industrial businesses in Red Hook and Gowanus and expand opportunity and commerce throughout Brooklyn. Bette helped organize Friends of Greater Gowanus and served on the EPA Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group, working on multiple fronts to push to remediate and restore the Gowanus Canal in a green, sustainable manner.

Bette created partnerships to connect low-income and public housing residents to businesses and jobs. She created internships for youth and a Culinary Arts Curriculum at the High School for International Studies on Baltic Street. Bette also helped develop adult training programs to better connect people to good-paying jobs in the trades, industry and with local merchants. For years, Bette served as a member of Community Board 6, ensuring her neighbors' voices were heard in development decisions shaping our area's physical, cultural and economic future.

Ultimately, South Brooklyn would not be as vibrant, diverse and culturally rich without Bette's hard work and many endeavors. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Michael, her children and her beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, New York City's communities and, indeed, our local neighborhoods throughout the country are only as strong as the local residents who are willing to put in personal time and effort to organize and improve the areas in which we live. Every community would be lucky to have a community leader as vocal, engaged, dedicated and personally warm as Bette. She leaves behind a proud legacy, one that we will honor by continuing to improve our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory.

CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY ARTISTS TAKE TOP HONOR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three talented students from Challenger Elementary School in Pearland for winning top honors in the Texas Renaissance Festival's art contest.

In the drawing category, Brendon Thai took home first place and Amanda Yee took home third place. Katherine Tran took home second place in the painting category. Challenger Elementary is lucky to have such talented young artists and an incredible teacher, Lori Ellis, who does a great job of helping her students find their creativity.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Brendon, Amanda, and Katherine for their award-winning art.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND GLORIA
SOUTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry and Gloria South of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1960.

Larry and Gloria's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Dee, Tammie, Judy, Margaret and Alice, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Souths that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE OCCASION OF MR. PAT
CORELLA'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate Mr. Pat Corella on the occasion of his retirement from his post as Deputy Director of the Pima County Library.

Mr. Corella has dedicated over fifty years to serving his community with distinction. Born from humble beginnings, Mr. Corella has become a symbol of hard work, perseverance, and selflessness. A Tucson native, Mr. Corella is one of six siblings with strong family ties. Since a young age, Mr. Corella has borne much responsibility whether helping his family harvest crops in California during the summers to becoming an independent young man. He graduated from Pueblo High School in 1965 and soon began his involvement with the Pima County Public Library system. As a library page, he assisted in shelving, book circulation, operating equipment and researching.

In 1970 after marrying and beginning a family, he enrolled in the University of Arizona as a full-time student. In less than four years, Mr. Corella earned his bachelor's degree in Government and Public Administration. During that time, it was his job to drive the "bookmobile" to areas in Tucson and Pima County where he provided imperative library services to low-income and underrepresented communities.

Mr. Corella was instrumental in the opening of library branches in Tucson's barrios and surrounding rural communities. Due in part to his leadership, nineteen library branches were opened and sixteen others were either expanded or remodeled. Mr. Corella has always understood that libraries were educational institutions full of opportunity for underserved communities. He helped transition these library branches to modern technology and expanded the role of providing more services and resources beyond books. Today, Pima County branch libraries provide literacy programs for adults and children, after-school tu-

toring and access to computers and community services.

Mr. Corella's final day was November 26, 2015, exactly fifty years to the day he began as a library page.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to recognize the commitment and dedication to our Southern Arizona community and the library system that Mr. Corella has demonstrated for well over fifty years.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Northern Virginia Community College. Over the past two decades, the National Capital Region, especially Northern Virginia, has experienced explosive growth, becoming one of the most economically vibrant and diverse regions in the country. Northern Virginia Community College has been a major contributing factor to this success.

Established in 1964 under the name Northern Virginia Technical College, the school opened with 761 students in a single building in Bailey's Crossroads. Renamed in 1966, Northern Virginia Community College, known locally as NOVA, now serves more than 100,000 full and part-time students at six campuses and three satellite educational centers, and through online learning.

NOVA graduates who receive passing grades in designated courses are guaranteed admission to more than 40 area four-year colleges and universities. An in-state student can save approximately \$15,000, or 30% of tuition and fees, for a baccalaureate degree by attending NOVA for two years and then transferring to a public four-year institution. High school students can take advantage of this opportunity beginning at age 16.

It is the largest public educational institution in Virginia and the second-largest community college in the United States. It is also one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the nation, with 20% of the student population consisting of individuals from more than 180 countries. Nearly 4,000 faculty and staff members serve the students and the broader community. Nearly 300,000 individuals attend community activities on NOVA campuses each year.

NOVA offers a wide variety of programs that support academic achievement and personal growth, and that promote civic engagement, leadership development, community involvement, health & wellness, and culture. Dozens of student-led organizations enrich campus life and specialized populations such as the disabled or current and former members of the military receive services tailored to their unique circumstances.

Our local economy and our nation's security have benefitted from NOVA's innovative workforce development programs and cybersecurity curricula. Employers can rely on new-hires with credentials from NOVA and can partner with NOVA to develop customized training solutions so that recent graduates or current em-

ployees possess cutting edge skills required to succeed in a dynamic economy. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated NOVA as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, and representatives from the intelligence community routinely recruit graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Cybersecurity from NOVA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NOVA on 50 years of delivering world-class post-secondary education and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia continue to have such a highly-educated population and a globally competitive workforce. NOVA truly exemplifies the crucial role that publicly-supported higher education plays in our society. I look forward to seeing what NOVA will accomplish in the next 50 years.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S
PLAN TO DEFEAT ISIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday evening, President Obama addressed the nation and detailed his four-part plan, as Commander-in-Chief, to keep the American people safe from terrorist acts committed by terrorist groups like ISIL and al Qaeda or by persons abroad or lone wolf "franchise terrorists" at home who are inspired by groups that profane the peaceful religion of Islam.

First, the plan calls for our military to continue hunting down terrorist plotters in any country where it is necessary.

In Iraq and Syria, American airpower has been used to great effect, taking out ISIL leaders, heavy weapons, oil tankers, and infrastructure.

Second, the plan calls for the United States to take away safe havens for terrorists by continuing to provide training and equipment to the tens of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian forces fighting ISIL.

The third part of the plan involves working with friends and allies to disrupt ISIL's operations by cutting off access to financing and disrupting recruitment efforts.

Finally, the plan calls for continued American leadership, working in conjunction with the international community, to establish a process—and timeline—to pursue ceasefires and a political resolution to the Syrian civil war.

Ending the civil war in Syria will allow the Syrian people, our allies, and also Russia, to focus on the common goal of destroying ISIL.

Critics have every right to disagree with the President's approach but they also have an obligation to propose realistic and practical alternatives to the President's plan, which, by the way, has been designed by American military commanders and counterterrorism experts and supported by the 65 countries that are part of the American-led coalition.

Our quarrel is not with Islam so I also commend the President's appeal for calm, unity, and cooperation among all persons of goodwill both in the United States and around the world.

The terrorist attacks in San Bernardino were horrific acts on innocent civilians perpetrated

by depraved individuals who pledge allegiance to organizations that misuse the peaceful religion of Islam for their own misguided purposes.

Such horrible and heinous acts are the responsibility of the perpetrators, and theirs alone, and for which they can be assured that they alone will be held accountable.

This was one of the central messages conveyed during the Prayer Vigil and Unity Press Conference I led last Sunday afternoon in Houston, the 4th largest and most diverse city in the United States.

In addition to the steps laid out by the President, I also believe there are additional steps the Congress should take, including bringing to the floor for debate and vote to pass H.R. 48, the "No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act," that I introduced earlier this year.

This legislation would require TSA to check the Terrorist Screening Database and the terrorist watch list used in determining whether to permit a passenger to board a U.S.-bound or domestic flight and to take appropriate steps to ensure that those who pose a threat to aviation safety or national security are included in the Terrorism Database.

I ask a moment of silence for the victims killed and injured in the attacks by franchise terrorists last Wednesday in San Bernardino, California.

IN HONOR OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF RAYMOND COCHRAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Pastor Raymond Cochran on his 80th birthday on December 13th.

Raymond was born in Lee County, Alabama in 1935 to John and Lucille Cochran.

Mr. Cochran found a passion for religion at an early age, having joined the Ebenezer Baptist Church at age seven. He holds Bachelors and Masters of Bible Theology degrees from the International Institute and Seminary in Plymouth, Florida, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Selma University in Selma, Alabama.

He also holds two honorary doctorates, in divinity and law, from the Union Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Cochran has received numerous awards in recognition of his long service, and is involved in numerous community groups.

He served as the Pastor of seven different churches throughout Alabama and Georgia, before joining the Franchise Missionary Baptist in Phenix City, Alabama, where he has been the pastor for the past 47 years. Mr. Cochran and his wife Mary have six daughters, two sons, nineteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Raymond Cochran and wishing him a happy 80th birthday!

TRIBUTE TO MARK LARSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Larsen, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Mark was hired as a math teacher and girls' basketball and track coach at Mount Ayr Schools in 1970. He coached six-on-six, and later five-on-five basketball, winning 286 games in total. His girls basketball teams won six conference titles and qualified for the state tournament in 1998. His girls track teams claimed 15 conference titles and four district championships. He also started the girls softball program in 1972, and on the softball diamond his teams amassed over 700 wins. Mark was inducted in to the Iowa Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998 and was elected to the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Mark's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. As a coach, teacher, and athletic director, he has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of Iowa's young people. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mark for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.