

wish the National CARES Mentoring Movement well as it strives to end intergenerational poverty in our African-American communities.

HONORING CORBEN CRITES

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corben Crites of Farmington, Missouri for his outstanding achievement of receiving his Eagle Scout Award. This award is not easily attained and cannot be achieved without a steadfast determination to succeed.

In order to receive this award, Corben completed an Eagle project that exemplifies patriotism and his commitment to serve others. To help better meet the needs of Farmington area students, Corben constructed a 166-foot walkway and two benches in a designated student pickup area at the Farmington Senior High School.

At a young age Corben has shown values such as honesty, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. He has shown commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education. By learning important survival skills and first aid, he has made himself an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Corben is a role model for young and old alike and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ROBERT T. E. KAO FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Robert T. E. Kao for his service and selfless contributions to the community of Guam. Robert has dedicated his life to helping others as a true humanitarian and philanthropist.

Robert was born in China in 1939. He grew up in the eastern province of Shandong where he developed his knowledge of Confucius teachings. Robert and his siblings were raised by an older brother in Taiwan after their parents passed away when Robert was just a toddler.

Robert was a teacher in Taiwan and he married his wife, Anna in 1967. The Kaos moved to Guam in 1971 when Anna accepted a military contract position for furniture concession. Within a year Anna opened Genghis Khan Furniture and by 1995 her business became the premier Asian and contemporary furniture store in Guam. She opened ten stores between 1972 and 1995 in Guam, California and China. Anna contributes the success of the family to the support of her husband who served as the vice president of Genghis Khan Furniture while guiding their children and doing charitable work. Together they have two children and now three grandchildren. Both of their children have found success in their professions in the United States mainland.

During a very difficult time for many people of Taiwan, Robert served as Overseas China's Affairs Commissioner. He used his personal resources to locate and reunite hundreds of families who were separated from their families in China. Many families were separated for more than 30 years and forbidden to communicate by both China and Taiwan laws. Robert put himself at great risk to assist and reconnect thousands of people.

Additionally, Robert has been a member of the fraternal organization the Freemasons for over 40 years, and has supported the Shriners Hospital through his position as a Noble of the Mystic Shrine of North America. He has served twice as the president of the Chinese Association of Guam and the president of the Confucian Society of Guam. During his term as president of the Confucian Society of Guam, he lobbied the Guam Legislature to declare September 28, Confucius' birthday, as Teachers' Appreciation Day to remind all students of the value of honoring educators. Robert was also a founding member and first president of the Federation of Asian People. He has also assisted with building the Chinese School of Guam and the Tamuning Chinese Park in Guam. Robert has helped students acquire scholarships to attend the University of Taiwan and has supported numerous local and national charities.

Robert worked diligently throughout his time on Guam and demonstrated true and genuine care for the people he gave his time to serve. I congratulate Mr. Robert T. E. Kao for his life and I join the people of Guam in commending him, his wife Anna and their family for their many contributions.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNMENTAL PRAYER BREAKFAST OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Governmental Prayer Breakfast of Pensacola, Florida.

The hand of God has guided this country from the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620 through today. Without God and faith, our Nation simply would not exist. Indeed, our Founders pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the Declaration of Independence "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence," and we can look back far past 1776 to see that God has always been a part of the fabric of American life. One hundred fifty-six years before the Declaration of Independence, the first Pilgrims at the Plymouth Colony signed the Mayflower Compact affirming that the very reason for settling in what would become the United States was "for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith."

The Constitution may make no specific mention of God, but it reflects the religious principles that a diverse group of thinkers used to guide this country throughout history. While there are some Americans who think that politics and faith cannot coexist and believe that prayer and public service do not mix,

many of us believe that our Nation's leaders need faith as a guide. We need it because man alone is imperfect and flawed. We need God's direction in our lives because our American freedom rests not on the written words of our founding documents, but on the moral strength of the American people. George Washington believed that "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible." Freedom is only possible if men believe in God and seek to do His will in their lives and for this country.

In order to live our lives as servants of the Lord, our Founders recognized that we must look to prayer. Prayer has been a guiding principle of private citizens and public officials alike, and prayer has long been used to open important public meetings and events. In fact, the tradition dates back to at least September 7, 1774, when Reverend Jacob Duche delivered a prayer to open the First Continental Congress. This tradition continues today, with Congress opening its daily sessions with a prayer offered by the House Chaplain or a guest chaplain, and the religious history of our Nation is also reflected in our National Motto—"In God We Trust"—the National Day of Prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance, amongst many others.

Just as our Founders looked to prayer, elected officials and community leaders at all levels of life and government continue the sacred tradition of prayer. This is the very essence behind the founding of the Governmental Prayer Breakfast of Pensacola. Since it was established four decades ago by a group of ministers from the Greater Cantonment-Ensley Ministerial Alliance in Escambia County, Florida, this annual tradition has gathered hundreds of Northwest Floridians, including elected and appointed officials, together to pray for our Nation and all levels of our government.

Our Father gave America its democracy, its prosperity, and its liberty because America has embraced God's will for its future. But we must continue to keep our faith in God in order to keep our faith in government. It was not our Founders' intent to keep God out of government, but to keep the government out of the church. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The constitutional freedom of religion is the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights." We establish no religion in this country, nor should we. But we continue to honor the Lord and the blessings of liberty and freedom that he has bestowed upon this Nation, and by bringing together leaders of Faith from all levels, Pensacola's Governmental Prayer Breakfast honors the Lord and the founding principles of this great Nation.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the Governmental Prayer Breakfast's founding members and those who have followed in their footsteps in helping to preserve its original mission of encouraging moral and spiritual values in government. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all of its members and past participants on this important milestone and thanking them all for their service to God and country. We wish them continued success, and may God continue to bless Northwest Florida, leaders of all levels of government, and all Americans across this great Nation.