

Williamson, Trey Jones, Zach Grubbs, Taylor Minatre, Lamontre Stephens, and Athletic Trainer Matt Dyson.

The players themselves who prepared diligently enduring through strains, pains, and grueling practices and emerged again as champions included Tramaine Butler, Keileon Johnson, Tay Green, Jaire Jackson, Pedro Rodriguez, Keylon Johnson, Kaleb Haynes, Eric Stephens III, Kevy Luster, Lucas Norton, Logan Hughes, Dylan Harkrider, Jason Jinks, Chan Amie, Latavius Stephens, TK Hamilton, Mike Reason, Jacob Reeves, Tramel Butler, Chris Pacheco, Kyle Mcinnis, Chris Stafford, Victor Tapia, Bryan Holland, Vicente Segura, Dalton Adams, Brighton Harris, Morgan Browning, Bradley Cochran, Dylan Powell, Logan O'Connor, Christian Smith, Xzavian Russell, Jack Smith, Josh Mauldin, Ashton Thulen, Jacob Bennett, Rowdy Martin, Cody Kyker, Kevin Sanford, Raymond Ramirez, Jacob Norris, Ty Carter, Hunter Johnson, Jay Reeves, Josh Cole, and K.T. Ceaser.

A team and its coaches cannot soar to the heights of champions without the encouragement and full support of the school itself starting at the top with Superintendent Jimmy E. Cox and Principal Kassie Watson, to whom a debt of gratitude is also owed. Additional laudatory acclaim and gratitude must also go to the entire city of Waskom which once again revealed itself to be a tight knit community of undying support for the champion Wildcats.

May God continue to bless these young people, their families, friends and all those who refer to Waskom as their home. It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the 2015 State Champion Waskom Wildcats, as their legacy is now preserved in the United States Congressional Record which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRESH START ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fresh Start Act, a bill I reintroduced earlier today.

If enacted, it would allow certain individuals who have been convicted of nonviolent offenses, have paid their debt to society, and are now law-abiding members of the community to petition courts to have their nonviolent conviction expunged from their records.

A criminal record, even for a minor, non-violent offense, can pose a barrier to employment, education and housing opportunities—the very things necessary to start one's life over.

This is not only bad for rehabilitated offenders, it is bad for their families and for the community in which they live.

The Fresh Start Act would give nonviolent offenders a chance to start over again, a chance to become productive members of society.

The bill allows offenders to apply for expungement to the court where they were sentenced and allows the United States Attorney for that District to submit recommendations to the court. Applicants who are denied could reapply once every two years. Once

seven years have elapsed since an offender has completed their sentence, expungement would be automatically granted. However, sex offenders and those who commit crimes causing a loss of over \$25,000 would not be eligible for automatic expungement.

Finally, the bill would also encourage states to pass their own expungement laws for state offenses. States that pass a substantially similar law would receive a 5 percent increase in their Byrne funding while those that do not would lose 5 percent of their Byrne funds.

It is one thing to convict someone of a non-violent crime. It is quite another to condemn him to a de facto life sentence for it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 2016 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Catholic schools and parishes within Central Illinois and across the country as we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. Parochial education holds a special place in American history as a long established alternative for parents who desire a religious component to their child's education. As part of this tradition, every year starting on the last Sunday of January, Catholic schools all across the nation celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

There are 6,568 Catholic schools in the United States including both elementary and secondary schools that serve urban, suburban and rural communities. Catholic school graduation rates are over 99 percent and of those graduating students, 85.7 percent attend college. My home state of Illinois is one of the top ten states in the country with the highest enrollment in Catholic schools and my district is home to 28 Catholic schools that will be participating in activities throughout the week.

I myself am a proud graduate of Catholic grade school, high school, and college and the religious values I learned through my Catholic education have stayed with me throughout my life. Additionally, my wife and I and our three sons are current parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Peoria and our boys attend school there. I am so thankful for my education and that America is a country where families have the freedom and choice to send their children to a Catholic or other parochial school.

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." Students, teachers, parishioners, and clergy from across America will celebrate together as a community, recognizing God's mission through the pillars of faith, knowledge and service, as well as promoting the Church's values of volunteering, vocations and family. During National Catholic Schools Week, I am pleased to highlight the Catholic educational system and look forward to many more years of continued success and celebration.

FORT BEND PROMISE CEMENTS ITS COMMITMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fort Bend Promise Center on building a new and impressive 4,000-square-foot facility to serve the homeless.

When the Fort Bend program opened 10 years ago, it was originally located at the New Hope Lutheran Church. Now, their newly opened, community-funded center is a place where families can come fulfill day to day activities and utilize available programs including counseling and support. In the last five years alone, the Fort Bend program has helped 194 families in our community. Our community is so thankful for all of the work the Fort Bend Center is doing for our neighbors in need. The compassion and dedication expressed through Fort Bend Promise defines the compassion of all Texans.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend Promise Center on their new facility. Thank you for providing support to the lives of so many families here in Fort Bend County.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS ANTHONY THOMAS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Lake Elsinore, California are exceptional. On Saturday, January 23, 2016, Tom Thomas received the Citizen of the Year award from the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

Tom was born and raised just over the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County, where he graduated from Newport Harbor High School. After high school, Tom earned his Associate Degree from Orange Coast College and then attended Cal-State Fullerton before he became interested in working at the TV studios of Newport Cablevision. That job was the start of a lifelong attraction to the cable television business and a career that would take Tom to Alaska, New York and all around the country. Tom eventually planted his roots in Lake Elsinore and ended up living at the "ranch" on the Ortega's along with his wife, Dee. Tom and Dee have been married for 33 years and their adult son, Matt, currently resides in Sacramento.

In Lake Elsinore, Tom dedicated himself to the community by serving multiple years on the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce Board, including two terms as President, as well as almost 15 years with the Lake Elsinore Rotary Club, where he also served twice as President. Tom has served on the Lake Elsinore Unified School District Board of Trustees since 2004 and as Executive Director of Cops for Kids at the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's station. In recognition of his selfless service to his community, Tom has been recognized with

many awards, including the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce John Packman Memorial Award Winner in 1988, and being named the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen in 2007.

In light of all that Tom Thomas has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County and the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce, it is only fitting to name him as Citizen of the Year. Through his involvement and dedication, Tom has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. On behalf of the 42nd Congressional District, I want to express my appreciation and pride in Tom on this special occasion. I add my voice to the many who paid tribute to Tom for receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN J.
PRINGLE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Stephen J. Pringle, Associate Director of Government Affairs for Texas Farm Bureau.

Mr. Pringle was born on the 5th of May, 1949 in Marlin, Texas. He was raised in Hill County where he attended Hubbard High School. He then received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and upon graduation, served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army at the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Depot in Indian Head, Maryland.

Mr. Pringle's passion for agriculture began in 1973, when he served as a staff member to the United States House Committee on Agriculture. While working for the committee he had the honor of attending the World Food Conference in Rome and was present on the House floor during the swearing in of Vice-President, Gerald Ford. After leaving the committee, Mr. Pringle worked as an assistant to the President of Texas A&M, served as State Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and worked at the International Association of Drilling Contractors in Houston.

From there, Mr. Pringle went on to spend 26 years at the Texas Farm Bureau where he worked tirelessly to support and protect the livelihoods of Texas' many farmers and ranchers. Mr. Pringle also built lasting relationships with countless members of Congress and the Texas Legislature during his tenure at the Texas Farm Bureau and it was a privilege to work with him.

Over the course of his career, he has also been involved in his local community. He served as President of his local Texas A&M Alumni Association, President and Board Member of the Waco Camp Fire Organization, served on the original Waco Education Association, and has been active in the Government Relations Council for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Pringle is a proud husband and father. He has been happily married to his wife Linda for forty years and their daughter, Lara, has grown up to be a successful attorney in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate the work of my friend Stephen J. Pringle. His passion and commitment to the farmers and ranchers of Texas will long be remembered and I congratulate him on his retirement.

NEEDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FFA
WINS BIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Needville High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) livestock judging team who recently won Reserve Grand National Champion at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The team, comprised of Kutter Korczynski, Myles Hackstedt, Craig Todd and Ty Thomas, competed against other teams from around the country in the livestock judging contest. The teammates evaluated and ranked 40 different animals in 10 classes. After evaluating the livestock, the team had to prepare a series of speeches to explain their evaluations. This is a great victory for their agriculture science teacher, Michael Poe, and the rest of the Blue Jay community. We are excited to see them represent Texas at the world competition in Scotland.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Needville High livestock judging team. They have made the community proud.

THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO
ENSURE THAT ASSETS OF NA-
TIONAL BANKS IN CIS COUN-
TRIES ARE NOT USED TO BEN-
EFIT TERRORIST ORGANIZA-
TIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the banking industry in former CIS countries involving a bank in Latvia, ABLV. I have learned that ABLV was found to have not engaged in any activity regarding the Government of Moldova and/or activities related to the misappropriation of government funds and that there has been a thorough investigation of this matter and ABLV was not implicated in any wrongdoing with regard to this or any other matter in Moldova.

In Moldova more than \$1 billion was stolen from the Moldovan national treasury and a large portion of that money appears to have ended up in EU banks in Latvia.

I still call upon the Administration and the Congress to investigate whether assets of the other national banks of countries of the former Soviet Union are not being plundered and used, knowingly or unknowingly, to benefit terrorist organizations.

BIG TIME GROWTH FOR HOUSTON
MARINERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College for their success in opening a new 45,000 square-foot maritime training center.

San Jacinto College sits next to the Port of Houston, which gives students prime opportunity to further their maritime career through interaction with community and industry partners. With its history dating back to the 1960s, San Jacinto College is now home to almost 30,000 students across 3 campuses and 12 extension centers. The new maritime training center is an excellent addition to their already successful campuses. This new facility contains three ship simulators, an engineering room with hydraulics, a swimming pool, and much more. San Jacinto College is a great place for students to grow and to develop critical education and workforce skills. We're proud of the many opportunities it offers to students in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to San Jacinto College for their new training center. We can't wait to see what happens next.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act (H.R. 3662). Had I been present for the vote, roll call vote number 44, I would have voted no.

NATURALLY BECK BUILDS TO
SUCCESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Beck Junior High Robotics team, Naturally Beck, for winning the Katy Qualifier Robotics Tournament. This achievement allowed them to advance to the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) LEGO League Championship in Stafford, Texas.

Naturally Beck, won the first place championship for the second year in a row, defeating 23 other teams from all over Houston at the Katy tournament. The Naturally Beck team consists of five members and two mentors for the 2015–2016 roster. Students competing at the FIRST LEGO League really put their engineering skills to the test by using LEGO Mindstorms NXT technologies to craft the perfect robot for research purposes. This year, Naturally Beck's research project consisted of an inventive solution to address the way the