

with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received \$23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN RATHJEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Susan Rathjen for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Vice President and Private Banker at Bankers Trust, Susan has worked tirelessly to keep her company ahead of the curve on technological advances, especially those that can provide a smoother customer experience. She has also been dedicated to finding the best and brightest employees to help move the company forward. Susan is also passionately involved in advocating for those who suffer from mental illness and serves on the board of Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa. Her dedication to her work as well as to her community is a true testament to Susan's Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Susan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Susan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

THE RISE OF ISIS ESSAY BY  
MELISSA LEE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight

from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Melissa Lee is a student from Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: The rise of ISIS.

The United States has always been wary of the Middle East. With an almost decade-long occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan in addition to sanctions on Iran, America has attempted to delicately balance prevention of future attacks as well as peaceful relations with other world leaders. The U.S. has experienced unstable footing in this particular area due to untimely action and a lack of understanding of Middle Eastern culture. A series of terrorist attacks in Paris last year became a new spark to a longstanding debate of how to protect the nation, establish justice, and promote healthy ties with other countries. The attacks caused the U.S. to rethink its position on issues such as immigration and foreign policy. Though the bombings were tragic and a forever reminder of the darkness of human nature, they ignited a healthy dialogue about the future of America.

On November 13, 2015, three teams of radical men purportedly aligned with ISIS launched six attacks in and around Paris. One hundred thirty people were killed and many more injured. As the world watched the bloody scene unravel, many questioned the effectiveness of America's foreign policy. Should the U.S. crack down on the Islamic State and increase support for rebels fighting this extremist group? Or should it avoid interfering with the Middle East so as not to arouse anger or hatred towards America? Foreign policy assurances intended to assuage these fears proved empty as they turned out to be mere words than action. However, nobody raised an uproar; the Middle East seemed too far away and the carnage of terrorist attacks was too distant from the comforts of American life. But the U.S. received its wake-up call on December 2, 2015. A radicalized health department employee accompanied by his wife opened fire at a holiday party in San Bernardino, killing 14 and seriously injuring 22 people. The attackers had been inspired by foreign terrorist groups and had committed to jihadism. Suddenly, Americans realized the growing threat of extremists in the Middle East and the extent of their influence on Muslims around the world.

The Paris attacks followed by those in San Bernardino made it clear to a growing number of people that the danger of radical jihadists is not a distant problem. Many still want to turn their heads away from the tangled web of terrorism, corruption, ineffective peace talks, and false promises encountered overseas. But as Americans have observed acts of terrorism grow closer and closer to home, they are confronted with the emerging reality that, unless the U.S. takes action promptly, these threats will travel to its shores and mature into a monster of evil, killing the innocent and having no mercy upon those who do not hold the same beliefs as the terrorists.

DC GRAY'S BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the DC Gray's baseball team for being accepted to run Major League Baseball's (MLB) Reviving Baseball in the Inner City (RBI) Washington, D.C. program. The new initiative, "DC Grays RBI," will be a free middle school summer baseball and softball program for kids living in underserved communities in the District of Columbia.

The DC Grays is a talented collegiate summer baseball team that, in addition to competing in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, strives to engage inner-city youth and their families with baseball. Their mission is to be "ambassadors for baseball" in the District by running summer baseball camps and clinics for D.C. youth.

The DC Grays' partnership with MLB will further help its mission of providing disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of baseball. The programs help motivate young players to stay in school and pursue secondary education. MLB's RBI program helps teach youth not only the importance of success on the field but also in the classroom and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending the DC Grays for the important work it has done and continues to do in the community. We wish it luck in continuing to inspire and engage disadvantaged youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK SANFORD**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 142, between a pair of procedural votes on the rule for H.R. 2666, I left the floor of the House to meet with a group of constituents from back home. Accordingly, after our visit I went back to the floor as quickly as I could, but when I returned time had expired.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA)

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marked the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. In 2015, Taiwan became the United States' ninth largest trading partner. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped to encourage a particularly strong economic partnership.