

for formerly homeless veterans. Both of these populations are vulnerable to a return to homelessness. Ensuring they can go to school while maintaining access to affordable housing can help prevent this regression and promote financial independence.

These small changes can provide immeasurable help and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in passing this legislation.

CONGRATULATING NAPSEC ON 45  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) for their 45 years of excellent service and academic dedication to our country's individuals with disabilities. NAPSEC's educational therapeutic services, combined with over four decades of experience, are invaluable to the education community across the United States and to the many partners in my home state of New Jersey.

Established in 1971, NAPSEC represents private specialized education programs including early intervention services, school programs, residential therapeutic centers, and college experience and adult living programs for individuals with disabilities and their families. The majority of NAPSEC's member programs provide services to publicly placed students with disabilities through the Continuum of Alternative Placements and Services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Originally enacted into law in 1975, IDEA is the primary federal statute governing special education for children from birth through age 21 and guaranteeing the rights of children with disabilities to a free public education that suits their needs.

Nationwide, 6.6 million students with disabilities are ensured of and receive an education because of IDEA. While many of these children are successfully integrated into public schools and typical classrooms, IDEA requires that a variety of options are available to meet the individual needs of disabled students. Of these students, 3.4 percent are served in private specialized day and/or residential programs. NAPSEC member programs meet a vital need for individuals who are not able to thrive in a typical classroom environment, acknowledging each individual's unique experience, because every child has the right to an education that empowers them to succeed.

NAPSEC's hundreds of affiliates bridge the gap and offer much needed services to publically and privately placed individuals. In addition to K-12 education, these services also include early intervention services for infants and toddlers. As co-chair of the Coalition on Autism Research and Education (CARE), I've seen firsthand the impact that early intervention makes in successful outcomes for children and applaud this attention to early intervention.

Additionally, NAPSEC programs provide postsecondary college experience and adult living programs that serve individuals who have aged out of their school based supports and are no longer eligible for services under

IDEA. As 50,000 individuals with autism, and many more with other disabilities, age out of their education based supports every year, supports and services for these individuals are critically necessary in ensuring that young adults with disabilities can successfully transition into the next phase of their lives. Their services needs do not end when they turn 21.

NAPSEC programs improve educational outcomes for people with disabilities and empower them to achieve their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society. When individuals with disabilities are empowered to achieve, we all benefit.

I remain impressed by the quality of care and expertise NAPSEC's partners provide to America's students with disabilities, including those with autism. Again, I offer NAPSEC my sincerest congratulations and gratitude for their 45 years of service to the disabilities community and look forward to NAPSEC's continued progress in the future.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL (NVFC)

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

This important organization represents the interests of volunteer fire, EMS and rescue workers, who make up approximately 69 percent of the nation's fire service. As co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to work with the National Volunteer Fire Council to advocate for the interests of these brave men and women who volunteer their time and risk their lives for our communities.

The NVFC has been a powerful voice for the volunteer firefighter, EMT and rescue service. Since the Council began, fire death rate per million population declined by 70 percent and on-duty firefighter fatalities have dropped by half. The Council's efforts to promote safety and fire prevention are also noteworthy. The number of fire calls per year is less than half of what it was in 1980.

In the last few decades, we have learned more about the additional grave dangers that firefighters face, including cancer, PTSD, vehicle crashes, and heart events. I will continue to work with the NVFC to advocate for the health and safety of the volunteer fire service community.

The National Volunteer Fire Council has come a long way since its founding in 1976 and I know it will continue to serve its membership and the greater community well for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VICKIE AND ED  
ELWOOD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vickie and Ed

Elwood of Griswold, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 10, 2016.

Ed and Vickie's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

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

HONORING SETH TOWERY ON  
BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Junction High School student Seth Towery, of Joplin, Missouri, on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Towery who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Seth Towery has displayed the ability to not only excel in the classroom, but to balance his interests in science and medicine with his athletic endeavors. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for this achievement. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I wish Seth the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO SERVE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Police Week, I rise to recognize the brave men and women who serve in law enforcement.

Since 1962, this week has been reserved to commemorate the law enforcement officers who serve and protect our communities and

honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Every day, our cities and towns are kept safe by these individuals who put the safety of others before their own. I want to take this time to recognize a few of the 13th District's finest:

Officer Michael Bauer in Collinsville, Illinois, just recently pulled a man out of a burning building before firefighters were able to arrive.

Officers Jonathan McCauley and Aaron Rowe in Normal, Illinois saved the life of a young man after a tragic swimming accident. Disregarding their own safety, these officers took swift action to save the life of a stranger.

And Chief Deputy Bruce Engeling in my hometown of Taylorville was awarded Officer of the Year for his outstanding service and his commitment to the Christian County Sheriff's Department.

While these are just a few examples of the outstanding officers in my district, police officers and their families throughout our nation make sacrifices on a daily basis. I am incredibly thankful to all of the men and women in blue who dedicate their lives to protecting others. I know our communities are in good hands thanks to the work they do each and every day.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU AND MERLIN KRAUS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary Lou and Merlin Kraus of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 24, 1956 at the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Mt. Carmel, Iowa.

Mary Lou and Merlin's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Debbie, Donna, Darlene, Mike, Annette, and the late Barbara, thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories and continued hope for the future.

I salute this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN RIVERS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center on celebrating their 65th anniversary serving the healthcare needs of Kennett, Dunklin County, and the surrounding areas.

The hospital opened its doors and admitted its first patient on May 21, 1951 under the

name Dunklin County Memorial Hospital. Since then, it has been renamed and grown into a fully licensed, 116-bed facility that offers an extensive range of services including inpatient and outpatient, medical, surgical, obstetric, behavioral health, diagnostic and emergency care as well as primary care and family care clinics.

The medical center provides a full continuum of care to patients through a dedicated team of physicians, nurses, and staff. Every year, the hospital serves approximately 50,000 patients from six different counties. This includes the 15,000 Medicare beneficiaries and 20,000 Medicaid beneficiaries that are also served by the medical center.

Throughout its years of service, the hospital has remained dedicated to exceeding patient expectations while delivering compassionate, safe, quality care. Therefore, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center on celebrating their 65th anniversary before the U.S. House of Representatives.

ZIKA RESPONSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of H.R. 5243, the Zika Response Appropriations Act of 2016. It is a tepid response to an alarming public health crisis, only providing a small fraction of the amount requested by President Obama and public health experts.

The Zika virus poses a severe threat to Americans, especially pregnant women. It has been linked to the birth defect microcephaly, and even death. As we approach the summer months, the prevalence of mosquitoes in our backyards will increase, and more and more Americans will become exposed to the virus. We must provide sufficient emergency funding to contain the spread and develop a vaccine for this virus.

Unfortunately, today's bill would only provide approximately \$622 million to fight Zika, less than one-third of what public health experts like those at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say is needed. Making matters worse, this bill offsets the cost of fighting Zika by taking vital resources away from addressing other public health crises.

Additionally, House Republicans have continued their attack on women's access to health care in this bill by incorporating restrictions on abortion coverage. It is shameful that anti-choice Members have used the urgency of the Zika virus to limit access to a woman's constitutionally affirmed right to choose.

It is dangerous to pretend that Congress has addressed this crisis. That illusion creates a false sense of comfort. For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this bill and demand appropriate funding to guard Americans from this public health crisis.

STAFFORD HIGH TRACK & FIELD TEAM RUNS TO TITLE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stafford High School Boys Track & Field Team from Stafford, TX for winning the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Class 4A 2016 State championship in Track & Field.

Despite some inclement weather and difficult opponents, the Stafford Spartan Boys Track & Field Team brought home the school's first state title since 1992. The team won the championship by defeating 57 other schools. The effort was led by impressive performances in the 100 meter dash (1st), the 4x200 relay (2nd), the 4x100 relay (4th), the 110 hurdles (1st), and the High Jump (3rd). We are proud of what these young men were able to accomplish and are excited to see what lies ahead for them.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Stafford High School Boys Track & Field Team for all of their success at the UIL State Championships. Keep up the great work.

HONORING HANNAH STANSBURY ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neosho High School student Hannah Stansbury on her being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Stansbury who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, as a perennial Honor Roll student at her high school, Hannah Stansbury has displayed elite academic qualifications, which will undoubtedly serve her future aspirations well. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for this achievement. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I wish Hannah the best of luck in all her future endeavors.