

HONORING DIRECTOR ELIZABETH  
JOYCE FREEMAN

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MCNERNEY and Congressman SWALWELL to acknowledge and honor Director Elizabeth Joyce Freeman for her many years of service to the Palo Alto Veteran Affairs health care system. Director Freeman has worked nobly in serving veterans since 1983, and after 33 years of honorable service to the VA she has announced her retirement on June 7, 2016.

Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1983, Ms. Freeman obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She returned to school in 1987 at Louisiana Tech University where she graduated with her Master's Degree in Business Administration.

In 1983, Ms. Freeman's began her extensive career with the VA as a Resident Engineer at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City. She moved up the ranks quickly and became the Senior Resident Engineer in Oklahoma City and later moved to Shreveport, Louisiana. Other positions she held with the VA include the following: Project Manager of the VA Central Office Southern Region; Health System Administrator Trainee of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System; Chief Operating Officer of the VA Sierra Pacific Network Office in San Francisco, California; Associate Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System; and Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

In 2001, Ms. Freeman was appointed to Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, and since then has efficiently and successfully overseen the complex organization. In her capacity as Director she is tasked with overseeing an annual budget of over \$1 billion, a capital portfolio of \$2.6 billion, and more than 7,000 staff and volunteers.

In addition to Ms. Freeman's numerous professional achievements, we would like to highlight some of the work that Ms. Freeman did outside the VA Office. She served on many boards and committees, such as the Palo Alto Veterans Institute for Research and the Quality Board, Patient Care, and Patient Experience Committee of the El Camino Hospital Board. She was a member of the California Hospital Association's Santa Clara County Section, and served on the Board of Directors for the Hospital Council in 2006. She should be commended for her outstanding involvement in the community.

The abundance of awards Ms. Freeman has received demonstrates her exceptional leadership and proven work ethic. Ms. Freeman received the Presidential Rank Award at the meritorious level in 2005 and the distinguished level in 2009, she was a recipient of the Leadership VA Senior Executive Leadership Award, she received the VA Alumni Association's Honorary Leadership Award in 2005, and was named one of the top 100 influential women in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Director Elizabeth Freeman's leadership that brought invaluable institutional knowledge to the VA Palo Alto Health Care

System. We thank her for her unwavering leadership, devoted service and contributions on behalf of the community and the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT BRYCE  
NORMAN BERTHUSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryce Norman Berthusen of Waukee, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Bryce is a member of Boy Scout Troop 178. The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Approximately two percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout Project to benefit the community. For Bryce's project, he designed and constructed outdoor fitness stations at the local Waukee Y.M.C.A. Bryce is a freshman at Waukee High School with a great interest in science, engineering and music. He is also on the Waukee High School baseball team and spends time with his church's youth group.

The work ethic Bryce has shown in his Eagle Scout Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family and community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Bryce Norman Berthusen and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP  
CHAPEL

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fellowship Chapel on their 50th anniversary. The accomplishments of this long-standing institution exemplify the importance and strength of community, fellowship, and service.

Founded in 1966 by Reverend James E. Wadsworth Jr. and around one-hundred founding members, Fellowship Chapel came from humble beginnings at a small funeral home. Through tireless service, its membership and ministries have continued to grow, making it necessary to repeatedly expand. In January of 2002, members and friends of Fel-

lowship Chapel fulfilled Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony's vision of a new village with the historic groundbreaking for the present church building on West Outer Drive. The building was dedicated on June 5th, 2005, as thousands marched from the old location to the new, demonstrating the significance of Fellowship Chapel within the community.

Fellowship Chapel has a strong and growing congregation built on a foundation of faith and trust which has been built through the years under the visionary leadership of Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony. Along with faithfully leading his congregation, Reverend Anthony is a powerful voice for positive change in Metro Detroit. As the President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, Reverend Anthony has led the fight for civil rights, good jobs, and safe communities in Detroit. As Reverend Anthony has fought hard for social change, Fellowship Chapel has become a place where members of the community gather to discuss the important issues whether they are on a local, state, or national level, to ensure members of the community have a better understanding of what is happening and how to engage to make our world a better place. In that way, Fellowship Chapel is a powerful symbol for what we believe and what we should strive for as a people.

Fellowship Chapel's leaders and volunteers have continued to faithfully provide much-needed services to the local community, including full-time outreach ministry programs, computer programming, adult education, Narcotics and Alcoholics anonymous, homeless assistance, and standardized test-coaching for college-bound students. For 50 years, Fellowship Chapel has held itself to the highest standards to ensure that local residents would always have somewhere to turn during both good times and bad. As a sanctuary of spiritual and social progress, it has served as a pillar of the local community for half a century, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Fellowship Chapel on their 50th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

**MARIYA PEREZ**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariya Perez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mariya Perez is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariya Perez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mariya Perez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## TRIBUTE TO JIM O'BRIEN

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a wonderful neighbor and friend, Jim O'Brien, who passed away over the weekend after a brave battle with cancer.

For many years, Jim and his wife Barb lived in Taylorville, always bringing smiles to the faces in town. My daughter, Toryn, loved the pink house he and Barb lived in with their Yorkie, Maggie.

What I will remember most about Jim is his kindness and generosity. Driven by faith, family, and community, Jim spent nearly all of his time serving others. He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Taylorville, coached Little League, delivered Meals on Wheels, and served as an after-school mentor for children. When Taylorville opened its SHADOW home, a residential faith-based program for women and children, Jim dedicated much of his time making the home a comfortable place for those in need.

In his free time, Jim served as the president of the park district board and frequently attended high school basketball and football games, cheering on the Tornadoes whenever he could.

There is no doubt that Jim made Taylorville a wonderful place to call home. His love for the community and his service to others will always be remembered. He will be greatly missed by me, my family, and by all those who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Barb, and their family.

HONORING THE NOMINEES FOR  
KANE COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE  
ASSOCIATION'S 2015 LOUIS  
SPUHLER OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
FOR KANE COUNTY AWARD

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the 2015 Kane County Chiefs of Police Association's Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County Award.

The award, presented by the Batavia Moose Lodge Number 682 and the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association, recognizes the outstanding achievements of police officers who protect our community. The men and women who wear the badge provide our families with security while putting their own lives on the line and deserve our admiration and thanks.

I would like to congratulate the winner of the 2015 Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County, Officer Dean M. Tucker, as well as his fellow nominees: Sergeant Elizabeth Palko, Lieutenant Brian McCarty, Lieutenant Anthony Gorski, Officer Ronald F. McNeff, Sergeant Eric Blowers, Officer Erika Stover, Officer Justin Howe, Officer Chris Potthoff, Officer Mark Skorup, Trooper Gregory Melzer, and Detective Andrew Houghton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the nominees for the 2015 Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County Award and thanking them for their continued dedication to the safety and security of our community.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY AND BILL  
HARPER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dorothy and Bill Harper of Peru, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bill and Dorothy's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY  
STEVENS, A DISTINGUISHED  
MEMBER OF THE GARLAND POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the Garland Police Department, Officer Gregory Stevens, for receiving the Medal of Valor at the White House. On May 3, 2015, two gunmen opened fire at an event in Garland with the sole intent of harming and taking the lives of every single person inside. Luckily, Officer Stevens was standing guard that night. As the shooters opened fire on the auditorium, Officer Stevens swiftly acted to protect the people of Garland from what could have been a devastating situation. His actions not only saved countless innocent lives, they also sent a clear message that Texans will not stand down in the face of terror.

I am extremely proud to have such exceptional men and women who faithfully serve and protect our communities. Officer Stevens, thank you for your selfless service and your unwavering commitment to protect the wonderful people of North Texas. God Bless our Police Officers, God Bless Texas, and God Bless America.

HONORING MICHAEL P. REESE

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Michael P. Reese for his

extraordinary contributions to the community of El Paso and honorable service to our nation. Mr. Reese stands apart for his distinguished service as a teacher in the El Paso community and soldier for the United States Army.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1979, Michael P. Reese has dedicated both his life and career to the service of others. After graduating from the Texas Lutheran University in 2001, Mr. Reese worked as a counselor to troubled youth at a therapeutic wilderness camp in Lockhart, Texas. In 2003, he joined the United States Army, where he served honorably through 2005. During his service, Mr. Reese was stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas and deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005 with the First Brigade Combat Team of the First Cavalry Division. While deployed, Mr. Reese earned the Combat Medical Badge for satisfactorily performing medical duties while his unit was engaged in ground combat.

After completing his term of enlistment, Michael Reese moved to El Paso when he was accepted into the University of Texas at El Paso's History Graduate Program. Since graduating in 2009, Mr. Reese has worked as a high school teacher in El Paso and earned several awards for his refusal to dumb down challenging issues and ability to bring out the best in his students, including Campus Teacher of the Year at Andress High School. Michael P. Reese's creative use of technology to inspire his students and encourage discussion, exemplifies the vision required to educate the youth of El Paso in the 21st century. This year, the El Paso Independent School District named Mr. Reese Secondary Teacher of the Year for his work as a Social Studies and Broadcast Journalism teacher at El Paso High School.

Michael P. Reese's commitment to helping others is an inspiration to the El Paso community. I am honored to recognize him for his service to our country both in the military and classroom.

HONORING ROMAN MAZUR ON HIS  
COMPANY'S ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2016*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Roman Mazur on bringing his dance company's annual dance festival, this year entitled, "Melodies from My Grandmother's Chest" to the Theatre of Buffalo Grove Community Art Center on the weekend of May 28th. I'm excited to convey my support for a vibrant cultural event hosted in the center of my district.

The tenth congressional district is a hub of cultural diversity, and events like Mr. Mazur's Dance Festival encapsulate this. The Festival highlights the hard work, creative endurance, and dedication of veteran dancers as they bring the rich tradition of 1930s and 40s dancing and music to the audience.

It is truly my pleasure to commend Mr. Mazur on many years of outstanding work with the Mazur Dance School. I congratulate him and his company on the Festival, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.