

Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute and bid fond farewell to Sharef Al Najjar, an exceptional young man who has done incredible work in my office in service to my constituents in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas. Sharef's, who joined my team in 2011, will be relocating to Atlanta, Georgia with his fiancée, Gillian Robinson, where they will both pursue graduate studies at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

From the moment he joined my staff, Sharef's talents and aptitude for logistics, information technology, project management, and administration were apparent for all to observe. These gifts, combined with Sharef's winning personality and cooperative spirit made him an invaluable teammate, mentor, and valued friend to his colleagues, who all will miss his good cheer and Zen but wish him and Gillian well in their future endeavors, which I am confident will include continued service in furtherance of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I sought public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are many other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism of young people like Sharef Al Najjar, and those working in the offices of my colleagues, help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like Sharef Al Najjar and Gillian Robinson the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women like Sharef Al Najjar and Gillian Robinson can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

CONGRATULATING EDEN PRAIRIE
SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Eden Prairie Girls' Synchronized Swimming Team, who recently won the Minnesota High School State Championship.

The Eagles triumphed at Friday's state meet, where two Eden Prairie routines—short trio team and long team—were rewarded first-place finishes. It was a close competition, but Eden Prairie's excellent figure scores put them over the edge to secure both wins.

This Eden Prairie team was determined to defy odds from the start of the season. They competed in a number of close battles this spring, including one against Hopkins High School where they won by 0.02 points. They ended the season with a strong stroke to bring home a championship for the school and for the community.

Mr. Speaker, this synchronized swimming team is fortunate to have so many talented members who have worked hard to get to this point. But even more than that, we commend these student athletes for living up to their obligations in both the classroom and in our community.

Congratulations again to the athletes, coaches, families, and fans of the Eden Prairie High School Synchronized Swimming Team.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
GLENWOOD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Glenwood, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of Glenwood has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide. When communities like Glenwood are recognized it makes me proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the City of Glenwood and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them for receiving this award and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING RYAN GATTERMEIR ON
BEING NAMED PRESIDENT OF
THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Gattermeir, who has recently been named President of the Missouri Association of REALTORS.

The president serves as a part of the 5-member leadership council for the Missouri Association of REALTORS, which is an advocacy group representing the interests of realtors in our state. The president serves on a volunteer basis for a one year term, and is a role that is instrumental in the day-to-day operations and policy goals of the organization.

Ryan has long been an influential force in the Missouri real estate community. Growing up as the son of a realtor, he has been immersed in the industry since he was young. After graduating from Westminster College in 1996, he went to work with his father's real estate business. Eight years later, he struck out on his own and was met with great success. In addition to his thriving real estate business, Ryan is on the Board of Directors for the National Association of REALTORS, as well as chairing five committees in the local Missouri chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Gattermeir has built a long and successful career in the real estate industry, and has proven to be a capable leader among his peers. I'm confident that he will represent the realtors of Missouri to the very best of his ability and will spare no effort in advocating on their behalf. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ryan on his appointment, and wish him luck over his term as president.

HONORING MR. PAUL SCHAPIRO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Schapiro, who passed away on June 3, 2016, after 58 remarkable years.

Paul left an indelible mark on our Napa Valley community with his friendly demeanor and profound generosity. He volunteered his time for civic causes with the American Canyon Lions Club, and was a leader in the local Democratic community, serving as Treasurer for the Napa County Democratic Central Committee. He was an outspoken activist and regularly attended peace vigils to bring awareness to causes close to his heart.

Paul's dedication to bringing about meaningful change in our society set an impressive example that we should all strive to emulate. A passionate proponent of sustainability, Paul rode his bike to work every day, eventually winning the Napa County Bicycle Coalition's Bicycle Commuter of the Year Award in 2014. Impressively, his bike had more mileage on it than his car.

Those close to Paul agree he was a joy to be around and had a welcoming and gentle