

work with Vet to Vet, along with a check for \$10,000 for the program. Hastings was one of 26 MVP recipients; a record number of 450 volunteers throughout New England were nominated for the awards this year.

Vet to Vet volunteers, who are all veterans themselves, visit aging or disabled veterans in their homes at least twice a month. The volunteers provide companionship to the veterans they visit and often become close friends. Hastings has worked specifically with three veterans and currently spends several hours each week talking with a group of veterans at the Sam L. Cohen Center in Biddeford.

"Vet to Vet is one of the best things I have ever been involved in," Hastings said. "It is rewarding and helps give meaning to my life. The program enables veteran volunteers, like myself, to enrich the lives of veterans, often severely disabled, in their final days. My visits are the highlight of my week, and I have found this to be true for the veterans I visit."

Mr. Speaker, I truly admire Mr. Hastings for his incredible service and dedication, and would like to thank him wholeheartedly for the difference he has made in the lives of Maine veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRENTON  
WEECE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Major Brenton Weece of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Weece will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to serve as an officer in the Oklahoma National Guard.

A native of Miami, Oklahoma, Brent was commissioned through the Oklahoma State University Army ROTC Program in 2005 and subsequently assigned to the Oklahoma National Guard. Since then, Brent has served in multiple staff and leadership positions in the Oklahoma National Guard, including two deployments with Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In 2008, he deployed to Iraq as the aide-de-camp to the commander of the Joint Area Support Group—Central in Baghdad and in 2011 and 2012, he commanded an infantry company in eastern Afghanistan.

During the course of Major Weece's service to this Nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Action Badge, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

In 2015, Brent was selected to serve as a Congressional Liaison in the US Army House Liaison Division. Army Congressional Liaison Officers provide Members and staff insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. His service in the House of Representatives has proven invaluable to both the Department of Defense and Congress. Brent was

especially effective in his service to Members and staff as he escorted them on fact-finding missions to multiple countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Major Weece during his time as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer in the House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Brenton Weece, his wife, Emily, and their children Lily and Graham. I wish them the very best as they continue to dedicate their lives to the service of our Nation.

DR. VERA WEHRING RETIRES  
FROM B.F. TERRY HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Vera Wehring on her retirement from B.F. Terry High School in Rosenberg, Texas, after serving 22 years.

During Dr. Wehring's time at Terry High School she inspired students first as a math teacher and assistant principal, then later as principal of the high school. Some of Dr. Wehring's greatest accomplishments include being named as a Breakthrough School and when she was invited to participate in the National Principals Association in Cuba. The students of Terry High School have been well served by her leadership in helping ensure a strong education for our students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations and thank you to Dr. Vera Wehring for her 22 years of service to Rosenberg and the entire Lamar Consolidated Independent School District. We appreciate her service and dedication.

HONORING MR. JAMES MALLET

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community servant, Mr. James Mallett. Mr. Mallett has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

James Mallett was born in the Carter community to Edward and Ethel Mallett. James' family lived on a plantation called Clark and Cato. He grew up in a small church called Mt. Salem. He learned many life lessons from working on the family farm.

James graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1983. James attended Jackson State University, but returned home to take a job with Yazoo Industries, where he remained for ten years.

In 1990 Chief BJ Wright offered James a job at the Yazoo City Fire Department. Through the years, James also had the opportunity to work under Charles Moore, Mike Woodard, Roy Wilson and Terry Harber.

James credits his wife, Alma, for supporting him as he worked for the Yazoo City Fire Department for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Mallett for his dedication and loyalty to Yazoo City.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE AND RICHARD  
OSBORN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alice and Richard Osborn of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 28, 2016.

Alice and Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I salute 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 will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CSU—PUEBLO

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colorado State University—Pueblo for its recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency. CSU—Pueblo will hold this honor for the next five years.

Technological advancement has made the modern American economy possible, and we all rely on technology to succeed in today's world. Equally important is ensuring we maintain the technical ability to protect the systems that support the technology we interface with every day, and providing that protection has become more and more challenging. The NSA partners with institutions of higher learning to help research and promote cyber security and defense education to help meet the ever rising demand qualified candidates in the cyber security field.

The National Science Foundation gives students the opportunity to earn scholarships and grants through Centers for Academic Excellence while pursuing a greater education in cyber defense. This CAE designation is very important for the university and its students in Pueblo and the surrounding areas who wish to pursue a career within cyber security.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work that CSU—Pueblo faculty has done to achieve this prestigious designation. The students enrolled in the program will be receiving the highest quality education in the field. Congratulations to CSU—Pueblo for this accomplishment. I am proud to honor the staff and students that make the university great.