

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bonnie and the U.S. track and field team for a terrific performance in the Summer Games. Bonnie and her team have not only brought pride to the State of Connecticut, but to the entire nation.

ELDON LAIDIG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eldon Laidig for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

Known for his passion for education and community service, Eldon has been a pillar of the Jefferson County community for more than fifty years. Before becoming a financial planner, Eldon spent 42 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and 27 years working for Jefferson County Public Schools, 25 of which were spent as a middle school principal.

In 1990, Eldon started Personal Benefit Services Wealth Management, which has been recognized by 5280 Magazine and the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Eldon's involvement in the Arvada community is unparalleled. He was named the Arvada Sentinel's Man of the Year, has served as club president of the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities and Arvada Rotary Club and Friendship Force of Greater Denver, as well as vice president of the Arvada Historical Society. In his five decades in the Jefferson County area, Eldon has worked tirelessly to improve the City of Arvada through community service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eldon Laidig for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY AND DON
GODFREY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ruby and Don Godfrey of Emerson, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 2, 1946 at Henderson Christian Church in Henderson, Iowa.

Ruby and Don's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Richard and Darrell, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories, may their commitment grow even stronger, and may they continue to love and cherish one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERSILIA
MARIA ANTONIA VERONICA
GHIRLANDA MONETT BALCAEN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge one of my constituents, Ersilia Balcaen, who will be turning 105 this upcoming September the 17th. Mrs. Balcaen's life has been a truly American story in that despite coming from far away, she made the United States her home. Facing some of the most uncertain times in American history, she not only endured, but flourished.

Ersilia was born in the small comune of Sesta Godano in Italy. She was only five years old when she made the dangerous journey to America with her family. She quickly proved her tenaciousness in her work ethic before she had even grown up through helping her family look after their animals and grow crops, and even held several jobs while studying in high school. She later moved to San Francisco and began work for an insurance company where she inspirationally fought to keep her job despite her recent marriage and did so successfully, only finally being let go after seven months of pregnancy.

Ersilia's tireless aspirations did not end there. She eventually showed her aptitude by doing a test for the civil service and was soon hired by the U.S. Army as a stenographer with the Army's Overseas Supply Division at Presidio, California. During her time in service to her nation, she was part of the first evacuations from Pearl Harbor while attempting to bring back the wounded from the attacks. Her career eventually took her back to California where she helped many veterans and civil servants find work following the end to the war. She was heavily praised for her selfless efforts in caring for all those who worked for her. Despite some levels of discrimination she received, she endured and persisted, leading a highly notable career which she retired from in 1972, after 31 years. Her public service did not end upon retirement. Mrs. Balcaen continued to serve her community through her involvement in local charities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a woman of extreme courage and fortitude, whose tireless efforts in spite of discrimination and difficulties, serves as an inspiration to all. She has spent nearly her entire life in service to others and her selflessness should be acknowledged for all to witness. I would ask my fellow members to stand with me and applaud Mrs. Balcaen and wish her well.

BEAUTY BEHIND BARS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a wonderful event that 94 FM the Fish hosted called Beauty Behind Bars. This event took place on July 30th of this year at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center. It was an excellent opportunity for women in the community to be transformed, inspired, and empowered.

Beauty Behind Bars is an organization designed to help women and girls break away from mental incarceration and self-imprisonment of low self-esteem, doubt, depression, suicide, and dream killing. They also teach the importance of forgiveness, accountability, and the significance of loving self from the inside out. They educate the community by providing seminars and conferences.

I commend Beauty Behind Bars and 94 FM the Fish for their willingness to host a free training workshop that will continue to influence and change women for the rest of their lives. They have set an excellent example of what it means to "set the captives free." My hope is that they will continue to bring freedom to women of all ages and for generations to come.

MR. SHAYAK SENGUPTA RECEIVES
PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shayak Sengupta of Sugar Land, TX for receiving a Fulbright award for his energy research in India during the 2015 through 2016 academic year.

Each year the Fulbright Program grants students with the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships. Shayak graduated from Hightower High School and attended Rice University. Under the Fulbright program, he studied the effectiveness and cost of air pollution control technologies in Indian coal power plants.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Shayak Sengupta for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRESNO
POLICE CHIEF JERRY DYER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Jerry Dyer of Fresno, California. Chief Dyer is being honored by the Fresno Police Department in appreciation of his 15 years of service as Police Chief. The Fresno community is fortunate to have someone who has devoted his career to serving as an advocate for our city.

Chief Dyer attended California State University, Fresno where he would receive his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. He would go on to obtain a Master's Degree in Management from California Polytechnic University at Pomona and graduate from the California Command College for law enforcement leaders. He began his service with the Fresno Police Department in 1979.