

The members of the family honored as recipients include Dr. Samuel Shaheen and his wife, Holly, brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Kari Shaheen, sister and brother-in-law, Sabrina and Kevin Cronin, and parents Patricia and the late Dr. Samuel "Doc" Shaheen.

As the Member of Congress representing the Fifth District of Michigan, I am honored to have constituents like Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family. Much can be said of the many charitable accomplishments of this wonderful family. The Temple Theatre, the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum and the Saginaw Art Museum have all benefited so much as a result of Dr. Shaheen's personal contributions of time, effort, fundraising and selfless giving.

Through his efforts with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and Saginaw Future, Sam has also worked diligently for the economic betterment of the local community—developing both a thriving surgical practice and building a dynamic real estate development company. These results have provided community leaders with inspiration, hope and an unprecedented level of optimism.

Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family are people of tremendous substance and accomplishment. Sam has vision and makes things happen through an unwavering commitment to achieving results for his community. The charitable impact he has made is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family for their strong leadership and unyielding commitment to philanthropy.

CONGRATULATING JEFF KESTER
ON WINNING THE R. LAYNE MORRILL
AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeff Kester, current board president of the Greater Springfield Board of REALTORS, on being presented the R. Layne Morrill Award by the Member Boards and Associations of the Missouri REALTORS.

The R. Layne Morrill Award aims to recognize one person who has made it their goal, through political involvement, to advance REALTORS in Missouri's legislative agenda.

Jeff Kester has spent 21 years as an advocate for Missouri REALTORS.

I am honored to recognize Jeff Kester, and I congratulate him on receiving the 2016 R. Layne Morrill Award.

FRANCESC DE PAULA SOLER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Francesc de Paula Soler, a gifted and world-renowned musician.

Mr. Soler grew up in Spain and comes from a Catalan family of well-known artists. He began studying the guitar at the age of six and was completely immersed in it by age 11,

earning the highest honors in the prestigious Conservatorio Superior de Musica in Barcelona, Spain. Mr. Soler received rigorous training from legendary guitarists Andres Segovia, known as the "Father of Classical Guitar," and Narciso Yepes.

Mr. Soler has become a legend in his own right due to his unique skills in conveying emotions through the strings of his guitar. Mr. Soler has performed in music halls and auditoriums throughout the United States and Europe for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Some of the venues include the Library of Congress, the Levine School of Music and the Acheson Auditorium at the United States Department of State.

Commonly known as the "Poet of the Guitar," Mr. Soler has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: Medal of St. Vladimir of the Russian Orthodox Church, Honorary Citizen of Dallas, Honorary Citizen of Corpus Christi, Golden Key of the Corpus Christi City, Medal of the U.S. Military Academy and the Plaque of the Catalan Catholic Church Council.

In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the positive contributions of Hispanic-Americans throughout our nation's history, Mr. Soler will once again grace the Library of Congress with his music. I encourage all of my colleagues to attend Mr. Soler's concert on September 16, 2016 as we commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of the most influential work of literature in the Spanish language—Don Quijote de la Mancha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Francesc de Paula Soler for his contributions to the world of music.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GARY
ESAJIAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Gary Esajian on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Mr. Gary Esajian's family has lived in the Central Valley since the 1920's, and as a third generation Kings County farmer, he has greatly contributed to the community throughout his life. Mr. Esajian has shown dedication to his hometown of Lemoore and the Central Valley for decades through both his community work and success as a farmer. As a farmer, Mr. Esajian grows many different crops including almonds, pistachios, garlic, tomatoes, wine grapes, walnuts, and onions.

Mr. Esajian has further shown his service to the community by serving as the Westlands Water District Board of Directors for fourteen years, as a Board member of the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board, and as the Director of a Suncrest Bank in Visalia. In regards to California's current drought issue, Mr. Esajian conducted a study on water in California, specifically the impacts to Kings and Fresno Counties, which has benefited his peers greatly.

Known for being unassuming and humble, upon receiving his award Mr. Esajian credited his family's long agricultural history and not his own success. He is also known for being a

hardworking and organized man, who successfully achieves whatever he puts his mind to.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Gary Esajian on his dedicated service to the Central Valley and on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO KIM AVEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kim Avey for being honored in her community as the 2016 Good Egg Days Citizen of the Year.

Ms. Avey is a great volunteer throughout the community, helping at Scoop the Loop and the local skating rink. She also works as a rural mail delivery person, well-known to go out of her way to make sure her route patrons get their mail in the best shape and in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Kim Avey in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 8, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed a roll call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on roll call vote No. 491.

IN RECOGNITION OF OTIS
REDDING, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brilliant artist, homegrown legend, and loving father, the Late Great Otis Redding, Jr. In recognition of Otis Redding's contribution to music that touched souls across the world, the Redding Foundation will be celebrating what would be his 75th birthday the weekend of September 9 through September 11, 2016 in Macon, Georgia.

Otis Redding was born in Dawson, Georgia on September 9, 1941. At a young age, he and his family moved to Macon, where he began singing at Vineville Baptist Church. Embracing his budding musicianship, he joined the school band at Ballard-Hudson High School and competed in the Douglass Theatre talent show. After winning the talent show fifteen consecutive times, he was no longer allowed to compete. However, this certainly did